

**SEWANHAKA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ELMONT, FLORAL PARK, FRANKLIN SQUARE AND NEW HYDE PARK**

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**ADDITIONAL MEETING, MARCH 14, 2012**

An Additional Meeting of the Board of Education of the Sewanhaka Central High School District of Elmont, Floral Park, Franklin Square and New Hyde Park was held at Sewanhaka High School, 500 Tulip Avenue, Floral Park, New York, on Wednesday, March 14, 2012.

At 7:00 p.m. President Fichtl called the meeting to order and requested an Executive Session to discuss matters involving particular personnel and matters within the attorney-client relationship. This was granted on a motion by Mr. Armocida, seconded by Mrs. Romagnoli and unanimously carried.

At 8:00 p.m., on a motion by Mrs. Ferone, seconded by Mrs. Romagnoli and unanimously carried, the Board came out of Executive Session. No action was taken during or after Executive Session. The Board and the Central administrators then proceeded to the auditorium for a Budget Workshop Meeting.

At 8:10 p.m., President Fichtl called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, with the following members present:

Jean Fichtl	President
David T. Fowler	Vice President
Joseph Armocida	Trustee
David Del Santo	Trustee
Laura Ferone	Trustee
Joan Romagnoli	Trustee
Absent:	
Lorraine Ferrigno	Trustee
Michael Jaime	Trustee

Also present were the following staff members:

Dr. Ralph Ferrie, Maureen F. Kenney, Douglas Monaghan, Regina M. Agrusa, Fred Raulli, Dr. Victoria Tripodi, Richard Zwycewicz, Matt Castelluzzo

Also present were:

Douglas E. Libby, Esq.	Attorney
Bernadette Gallagher-Gaffney, Esq.	School Attorney
Joanne Cunningham	District Clerk

Mrs. Fichtl welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Dr. Ferrie to proceed.

Dr. Ferrie stated that this was the second budget meeting of the Board of Education and he would be using a PowerPoint presentation to inform the public with regard to the budget. It is still a work in progress. He explained the budget development process and also described the method that he and the central staff used, along with the building principals, to complete the Budget Development Decision Analysis. Dr. Ferrie then reviewed each page of the PowerPoint presentation, which is on the district's website.

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Dr. Ferrie presented a recap of potential budget scenarios (Page 21 of the PowerPoint presentation.)

Projected Tax Levy: Increase of 4.0%  
Projected 3.47% Increase: \$727,000 reduction required (Super majority - 60% required for approval)  
Projected 2.28% Increase (tax levy cap): Additional \$1,510,568 required (or \$2,237,568 total reduction) (50% + 1 required for approval.)

At the conclusion of the presentation, Dr. Ferrie asked that if anyone has any questions, please use one of the podiums that are equipped with a microphone in two of the aisles.

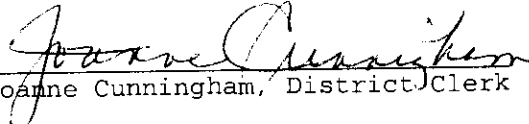
Parents, residents, staff and students came forward to express their concerns and ask questions about the budget. There was a concern that the district does not post contracts on its website and that there is not enough transparency. Others expressed their concern that certain programs and extracurricular programs may be canceled. Residents expressed their concern that taxes are too high and that every year, school taxes increase. Have we considered consolidating services with our district and/or Nassau BOCES?

The budget is a work in progress and should the district get additional state aid, the numbers will be adjusted accordingly. At the Board meeting on March 27, 2012, it is anticipated that the Board will adopt the budget for 2012-13. Please look for the budget issue of the SCOOP for detailed information. Dr. Ferrie thanked everyone for their input. This dialogue is important as we move forward to meet the needs of our students.

President Fichtl stated that she understands the concerns of all present. She further stated that she, as all of the Board members, live in the district and their taxes have gone up as well. She stated that the Board does not want to go over the 2% tax levy limit; however, the Board and the administration very much want to retain the services and the quality education we provide to all students of the district. We are examining the figures and will do the best we can. Thank you for attending this important meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Fowler, seconded by Mr. Armocida and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joanne Cunningham, District Clerk