

**BOARD OF EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
BUDGET & FACILITIES MEETING
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 7, 2015
8:15 a.m. Daly Annex – BOE Conference Room**

Attendance: BOE Members – Karen Sloan, Chris Nadolne, Lawrence Greenstein, Nora Johnson, Beth Weisburd, Dr. Kathleen Mooney, Superintendent of Schools, Mary Callahan, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Jim Ristano, Director of Facilities, Stephanie Joannon, Director of Athletics, Edward Escobar, Mineola UFSD, Jack Waters, Mineola UFSD, and Nicole Matzer, Mineola UFSD. Approximately five residents also attended.

Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

NYS Tax Law 606

Mary Callahan reported that there has been a change to the NYS Tax Law 606. This law now provides an income tax credit for taxpayer with a gross income no greater than \$275,000.00. The credit is calculated from a percentage of the STAR savings and one's income level. In addition, no credit will be allowed if the taxpayer's school district adopts a budget in excess of the tax levy limit or if their school district is successful in "piercing the cap."

Fiscal Stress

The New York State Comptroller's Office will deliver stress figures to school districts in January 2016. Previously, our district was at 15%. Based on the Boards fund balance of \$3.9 million from district funds, this stress factor brings us up to 31%. In terms of the state's calculations we are moving up higher and are susceptible to fiscal stress.

Parking

The district has currently rented eight out of ten parking spots to local commuters at a fee of \$150.00 per month. Board members were in agreement adjust the monthly parking rental fee to \$175.00 per month for out-of-district residents seeking to rent parking spots. In an effort to offer more parking options to local residents, the district is currently examining ideas for an expansion of the parking area in the Monfort Lot.

Update on Window Replacement at High School

The windows at Schreiber High School are currently being examined to determine if each window needs to be either repaired or replaced entirely. It was noted that state aid is provided if there is a project planned for construction outside as well as inside at the same time. The January Budget & Facilities Meeting will be devoted to discussions of bond phasing work.

LIPA

At the present time, there are more legal issues involved with LIPA and problems could create at \$3.9 million short fall in Port Washington and could affect the tax levy in all Nassau school districts.

Grassroots Environmental Education Presentation

The committee requested a presentation by Grassroots Environmental Education, Executive Director, Patty Wood, focused on environmental friendly infill options for the district athletic fields. Ms. Wood focused on her organizations views that potential health findings of artificial crumb rubber turf infill:

- Heat Hazards: Temperatures on a synthetic turf field are higher and could possibly make it uncomfortably hot for young athletes. Athletes can even experience burns from falls which leave scars.
- MIRSAs: Open skin burns can spread body fluids and can cause infections.
- Bacterial Infections: Blood, sweat and vomit on artificial turf are not cleaned and disinfected the way it should in order to prevent bacterial infections.
- Crumb Rubber: There are high levels toxic chemicals in crumb rubber. Due to their smaller size, children tend to take in more toxins in their bodies than an older person.
- Cancers: Recycled tires contain many carcinogens and have been linked to cause cancers including Lymphoma.
- Long Term Chronic Issues: Respiratory and allergic reactions.

Grassroots Environmental Education is a local non-profit organization with a goal to to inform the public about the health risks of common environmental exposures. The organization works locally with Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington and has developed local programs such as the Dodge Farm and Framers Market. They have offices in Albany, NY and Hartford, CT and have worked with well-known toxicologists in the field. The organization and Ms. Wood are concerned for the safety and the children in Port Washington and feel the decision of turf field infill must be considered carefully.

The meeting ended at 9:45 a.m.

Next Meeting – Monday, December 14, 2015 @ 8:00 a.m. - Athletic Field Organic Infill Presentation