

**Westport Central School District
Special Board of Education Meeting**

Place: Superintendent's Office Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Time: 9:00 AM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

at: 9:11 AM

by: President LaRock

A. Roll Call

√ Alice LaRock

√ Kathleen carterMartinez

Dwayne Stevens - absent

√ Jim Carroll

Sue Russell – absent

B. Introduction of Attendees

Also Present: John W. Gallagher, Ed. D., Superintendent

Visitors: None

Jana Atwell, District Clerk

Michele Friedman, Principal

C. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Comment (5 minutes)

Our agenda offers two Public Comment sections, one at the beginning of the meeting and the other at the end. At this time we have set aside a 5 minute period giving anyone in the audience time to share their thoughts with us. Your opinions, ideas and concerns will be considered and taken under advisement. Questions or concerns needing an explanation or further information will be addressed at our next regular meeting.

Floor opened for public comment, none voiced.

3. Financials

Tax Levy

RESOLUTION: Confirming the tax rolls and authorizing the tax levy:

The Board of Education has been authorized by the voters at the Annual Meeting to raise for the current budget for the 2009-2010 school year a sum not to exceed \$2,885,677.00.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board fix equalized tax rates by the towns and confirm the extension of taxes as they appear on the attached roll (form for equalizing taxes):

AND BE IT HEREBY DIRECTED THAT THE DELINQUENT TAX PENALTIES SHALL BE FILED AS FOLLOWS:

September 1 – September 30, 2009, no penalty

October 1 – October 31, 2009, 2% penalty

November 1 – November 5, 2009, 3% penalty

RESOLUTION: Authorizing the issuance of the tax warrant

WHEREAS: Chapter 73 of the laws of 1977, amended section 1318, subdivision 1 of the Real Property Tax Law; and

WHEREAS: The entire unreserved fund balance at the close of the last fiscal year must be applied in determining the amount of the school tax levy except for an amount not to exceed the maximum percent allowed by of the current school year budget; and

WHEREAS: This later amount may be held as surplus funds during the current school year; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education retain as reserve funds approximately \$850,000 from the total approximate fund balance of \$950,000 thereby applying zero dollars to the reduction of the tax levy.

BE IT ADDITIONALLY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS: To the collector of Westport Central School District No. 1, town(s) of Elizabethtown, Essex, Lewis, Moriah and Westport, County of Essex, New York State, you are commanded:

1. To give notice and start collection on September 1, 2009 (in accordance with provisions of section 1322 of the Real Property Tax Law).
2. To give notice that the tax collection will end on November 5, 2009.
3. To collect taxes in the amount of \$2,885,677 in the manner collectors are authorized to collect town and county taxes in accordance with the provisions of section 1318 of the Real Property Tax Law and as approved by the voters at the annual meeting to collect taxes in the amount of \$22,000 for the public libraries and to turn over to the Westport Library Association \$15,000 and to the Wadhams Free Library \$7,000.
4. To make no changes or alterations in the tax warrant or the attached tax rolls but shall return the same to the Board of Education. The board may recall its warrant and tax roll for correction of errors or omission in accordance with the provision of section 553 of the Real Property Tax Law.
5. To forward by mail to each owner of real property listed on the tax rolls within ten days after the start of collection a statement of taxes due on his property on pressed-numbered tax bill forms provided by the school district in accordance with the provisions of section 922 of the Real Property Tax Law. To forward by mail, without interest penalties to the office of the county treasurer, a detailed tax bill of all state land parcels liable for taxes on the school tax rolls in accordance with provisions of section 540 and 5445 of the Real Property Tax Law.
6. To receive from each of the taxable corporations and natural persons the sum listed on the attached tax rolls without interest penalties where such sums are paid before the end of the first month of tax collection. To add 2% interest penalties to all taxes collected during the second month of the tax collection and to add 3% interest penalties to all taxes collected during any part of the third month of the tax collection period and to account for such as income due to the school district.
7. To issue press-number receipts only on forms provided by the school district in acknowledgment of receipt of payments of taxes and to retain, preserve and file exact copies of all such receipts issued as required by section 987 of the Real Property Tax Law.
8. To promptly return the warrant at its expiration and if any taxes on the attached tax rolls shall be unpaid at that time, deliver an accounting on forms showing by town the total assessed valuation, tax rate, and total tax levy, the total amounts remaining uncollected as required by section 1330 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The warrant is issued pursuant to sections 910, 912, and 914 of the Real Property Tax Law and is delivered in accordance with sections 1306 and 1318 of this law. It is effective immediately after it is properly signed by a majority of the Board of Education. This warrant shall expire on the dates dated above unless a renewal or extension has been endorsed on the face of this warrant in writing with section 1318, subdivision 2 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Motion: Kathleen carterMartinez Seconded: Jim Carroll Yes: 3 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

4. Additional Items to Discuss

Dr. Gallagher received an email communication from Mr. Hoffman thanking him for sharing his question with the Board of Education at the August 13th meeting.

A letter was received from James Van Hoven requesting a representative from the school community participate in a local arts community meeting a few times a year to coordinate calendars and implement ways to support and enhance each other's programs. Jim Carroll volunteered to participate. The first meeting will be held on October 8th at 3:30 PM at Persell hall, St. John's Episcopal Church in Essex.

5. Public Comment (5 minutes)

Principal Friedman reported that the fall newsletter has been sent for publication, the Parent/Student Handbook has been updated for the 2009-2010 school year, the Welcome Back Evening has been scheduled for Thursday, September 3rd at 5:30 PM, the special education grant is currently under review in Albany and the Title I grant is in progress.

6. Adjournment

Time: 9:23 AM

Motion: Jim Carroll

Seconded: Kathleen carterMartinez

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 17, 2009 Regular Meeting 6:30 PM Library

Date Approved by the BOE: September 17, 2009