

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
HALF HOLLOW HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET WORKSESSION MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2015**

APPROVED AS WRITTEN – MARCH 23, 2015 – OFFICIAL COPY

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Geringswald, President
Betty DeSabato, Vice President
Diana Acampora
Frank Grimaldi
David Kaston
Paul Peller, M.D.
James Ptucha

ALSO PRESENT: Kelly Fallon, Superintendent
Patrick Harrigan, Deputy Superintendent
Anne Marie Marrone Caliendo, Assistant Superintendent for
Finance and Facilities
John O'Farrell, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education
Mary Rettaliata, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
Rosanne Marini, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER: The Budget Worksession, held at the Fran Greenspan Administration Center, was called to order by Mr. Geringswald at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Geringswald explained that the purpose of this evening's Budget Worksession is for the Board to interact with the administrators presenting. There will be no public comment during the budget worksession.

Mrs. Fallon stated that the individuals here this evening do tremendous work in their fields, helping to move Half Hollow Hills forward. They have been invited here this evening to discuss curriculum initiatives for the 2015-2016 school year. Mrs. Fallon extended a special thank you for their attendance at tonight's Budget Worksession.

Mr. Ian Dunst, Director of Math, could not be here this evening. Mr. O'Farrell spoke about the STEM Initiatives in the mathematics department. The current computer programming courses offered to high school students will be expanded. Five courses will be offered culminating in AP Computer Science. The department would like to introduce Lego Robotics into our introductory course, solely focusing on the programming aspect of these resources. We are looking to apply for a grant for the professional development and curriculum development for the new courses. Training would begin this summer.

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Mr. Christian Fogarazzo, Director of Science, recommended the development of a middle school robotics program. This program would provide middle school students similar opportunities as high school students to design, build and program robots. The plan for this program involves the use of the Lego MINDSTORMS Education EV3 core sets. Middle School Robotics would be offered as an afterschool program for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. The introduction of the middle school robotics program would serve as a bridge, connecting the elementary engineering afterschool program with the high school robotics programs.

Dr. Darlene Lilla, Director of Fine Arts, proposed curriculum writing/professional development for new and revised Art courses. New courses would include Digital Design I and II, Introduction to Digital Game Design, Advertising Design for the 21st Century, Mural Design and Painting. Revision of existing courses in Digital Filmmaking I – IV, Ceramics and Sculpture I – III, Photography I – IV. Additionally, there is a large need for a Stagecraft Club. We have many students at both High School East and High School West who work on the drama and musical productions, but have no venue to develop their interest and their craft throughout the year. A skilled stagecraft advisor would be able to work with students throughout the year, benefiting both the students and the District.

Mr. Patrick Murphy, Director of Health and Physical Education, proposed physical education curriculum enhancements, introducing three actual strands or electives in order to peak the interest of students and increase participation at the secondary level. The strands would be: Team Activities, Individual Activities, and Outdoor Education. Additionally, a gym curtain wall at High School East main and auxillary gyms is needed to better support Physical Education options for students.

Mrs. Lorraine Lupinskie, Director of Social Studies, outlined her Social Studies initiatives for the 2015-2016 school year. She would like to implement a full year of focused high quality professional development that will deepen and broaden the knowledge and skills of the teachers in the Social Studies Department. Changes mandated by the adoption of the new New York State Social Studies Framework and the shared goal of promoting historical thinking will guide the work that they do. Mrs. Lupinskie can lead the Professional Development consisting of full days with teachers by grade level and course.

Ms. Deborah Ostrosky, Principal of Signal Hill Elementary School, proposed a new Elementary After School Support Program – Independent Study at each elementary school to support at risk students. The program would run twice a week and be staffed by a teacher in the building who would address the diverse individual needs of identified students. The program will consist of

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three sessions, one per marking period for students in grades 2-5. It would provide a safe environment for students who may be in need of social-emotional support, homework support, academic support and mentoring. Criteria used to identify students would include district wide assessments data, Instructional Support Team findings and principal recommendation.

Mrs. Jolyn Sapia, Director of Instructional Computing/Business, proposed a Staff Developer who would ensure that technology is integrated throughout all grade levels. This could be funded through BOCES. Mrs. Sapia also demonstrated myON Software to support literacy development for all students K-5. The interactive digital library with over 4,000 online books is geared for Pre-k through 12th grade. It is easy-to-use and personalized for each student to strengthen reading proficiency and stamina as well as growth in reading and digital literacy.

Mr. Milton Strong, Principal of West Hollow Middle School, and Mrs. Allison Beyersdorf, Assistant Principal of West Hollow Middle School, proposed to extend learning beyond the walls of the classroom. They are looking to transform areas within the cafeteria, atrium, library and halls to build more communal spaces (cybercafes) for students and teachers. The creation of these spaces will inspire greater creativity and collaboration. This includes the addition of charging ports and outlets for devices along with tables and seating for the use of tablets, laptops and spaces to host new initiatives such as the middle school robotics club. The “cybercafe” is a vision of Dr. Catapano’s at High School West to be more supportive of technology.

Mrs. Fallon stated that the talent and commitment of this administrative group is incredible. They make things happen for kids and for our District. Mrs. Fallon thanked all of the administrators who presented this evening.

ADJOURNMENT:

A Motion was made by Mr. Kaston, seconded by Dr. Peller, and carried unanimously (7-0) to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Marini, District Clerk