Vestal Central School District

Vestal, New York

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

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| **THIS MEETING WAS CLOSED PHYSICALLY TO THE PUBLIC.** | |
| PRESENT: | ALSO PRESENT: |
| Mark Browning – ABSENT | Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Ahearn |
| Linda Daino\* | Asst Supt for Finance, Operations & Personnel Cliff Kasson\* |
| John Hroncich – ABSENT | Asst Superintendent for Instruction Laura Lamash\* |
| Lynne Majewski - ABSENT | School Attorney Michael Sherwood |
| Dinno Nistico | School Business Executive Matthew Bechtel\* |
| Mario Nunes | District Clerk Kay Ellis |
| Christina Pierce– ABSENT |  |
| Sylvia Place |  |
| Tony Turnbull\* | About 10 Visitors (via Zoom) |
| **\*BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF ATTENDED VIA ZOOM** | |

**THIS MEETING WAS HELD DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. BY AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ISSUED BY THE**

**GOVERNOR ON MARCH 13, 2020, A PORTION OF THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW WAS WAIVED. SPECIFICALLY:**

***“Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such***

***actions authorized by the law without permitting in pubic in-person access to meetings and authorizing such***

***meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to***

***view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed.”***

**This meeting was also streamed live on YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/L869qfhiBRw>

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| The Board meeting was called to order at 6:05PM by Board President Mario Nunes in the South Conference Room of the Administration Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. | #431-20  Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance |

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| Superintendent Jeffrey Ahearn opened the public hearing on the proposed budget for 2020-21. He announced that we will present a balanced budget that maintains services, programs and staff. In these uncertain times, we will have plans in place so we can address unexpected needs if necessary.  School Business Executive Matthew Bechtel reviewed a powerpoint of information regarding the expenses and projected revenues. The budget of $80,582,589 is a 2.8% increase in spending over last year. The tax levy is at the cap of 2.17% over the 2019-20 budget. Some reserve funds are being used to help balance the budget. | #432 -20  Public Hearing on 2020-21 Budget |

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| Stakeholders were able to email questions after the presentation.  Kelli & Chad Smith, 833 Overbrook Drive, Vestal, asked if the district was prepared for the obvious implications do to closure like, social distancing, increased and improved use of remote learning, staggered school days, staggered teams, etc. Assistant Superintendent Kasson and Superintendent Ahearn responded.  Carol Strano, Rebecca Drive, Apalachin, wanted to know about the increase in unemployment. Matthew Bechtel responded to her question.  Leslie Lander, Murray Hill Road, Vestal, asked about the cost to provide tablet/computers to students. Assistant Superintendent Kasson replied to him.  Bill Morabito wrote in questions: What is the fund balance; what is the student population for the last 5 years, and has the district considered closing or consolidating any school buildings. Matthew Bechtel and Cliff Kasson responded to the first one; the District will supply the answer to the second and the answer to the third question was no.  Leslie Lander asked if students have shown a greater need for counseling or psychiatric help. Cliff Kasson, Assistant Superintendent Laura Lamash, and Jeffrey Ahearn responded. | #432 -20  Voice of the Public  (Questions) |
| With no more questions coming in, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:40pm. |  |

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| FUTURE MEETINGS:  **THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020 @ 10:00AM Regular Meeting**  South Conference Room and via Zoom, You.Tube  **Tuesday, June 23, 2020 @ 6:00PM Regular Meeting**  South Conference Room and via Zoom, You.Tube | #433-20  Future Meetings |
| On motion by Sylvia Place, second by Linda Daino, the Board voted 5 to 0 to adjourn immediately. | #430-20  Adjournment |
| The meeting was adjourned at 6:43PM. |  |

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Kay Ellis

District Clerk