

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEVITTOWN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEVITTOWN, NY**

DATE: FEBRUARY 7, 2024

BUDGET MEETING

MINUTES

THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, was duly called and held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 in the Board Meeting Room of the Levittown Memorial Education Center.

CERTIFICATION:

The District Clerk certified that pursuant to Section 104, Open Meetings Law, notice of meeting was sent to the local newspapers, the Public Library and posted on the district's website. Further, all members of the Board of Education had due notice of said meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Messina asked for a Motion to convene the Budget Planning Session at 8:49 PM

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	James Moran
SECONDER:	Peggy Marenghi
AYES:	Phyllis Dalton, Marianne Adrian, Jennifer Messina, Christine Lang, James Moran, Peggy Marenghi
ABSENT:	Michael Pappas

II. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

A. Draft Budget

- i. Preliminary Revenue and Tax Cap Calculations
- ii. Reserve and Fund Balance Plan

B. Update on Strategic Plan

Mr. Winch introduced Mr. Fabiano to present the draft budget.

Mr. Fabiano stated that at the first presentation there were some questions asked regarding Boces and he had a short video explaining what Boces is and what it does, link is available below with this video.

He explained that Boces was created by the NYS Legislature so local school districts could save money and access resources that may not have been otherwise available and is utilized by 56 school districts. He stated that Levittown utilizes 18 million dollars of BOCES services each year, including but not limited to transportation, special education and technology resources.

Mr. Fabiano presented the Preliminary Revenue & Tax Cap Calculation. He reminded everyone of the budget vote that is to be held on May 21, 2024. He said that the Governor's proposal included dramatic changes to foundation aid, eliminated a "save harmless" provision and did not provide additional funding or guidance for the electrification of bus fleets.

Mr. Fabiano stated that Our State Aid run budget is good news as we would get an additional 3.1 million dollars. He is hopeful that Levittown will still receive a 6.4 percent increase in aid.

Mr. Fabiano discussed the school property tax cap and that there is a 2 percent cap on property taxes and that all the school board controls is the tax levy, Nassau County controls all other property tax assessments. Mr. Fabiano said that Nassau County apportionments states that 90.3 percent of the district tax base is homeowners. Mr. Fabiano showed a graph of the inflation factors and that over the last three years the CPI has risen by 18 percent and that the loss of purchasing power is greater than 28 million dollars.

Mr. Fabiano moved on to the presentation of the financial reserve plan. He explained that the reserves are to save for future projects. He stated that Levittown does not have to issue debt for tax anticipation notes due to the good standing in reserves that we have.

Mr. Fabiano stated that there are 11 reserve funds that schools are entitled to have. Levittown has a workers compensation, retirement contribution, employee benefit, unemployment, capital reserve and debt service reserve. The workers compensation has added \$263,704. The retirement has added \$2,186,287. The employee benefit has decreased by \$3,053,002. The unemployment reserve has decreased by \$469,542. The Capital reserve has decreased by \$38,694,970. The debt reserve has stayed the same at \$2,704,377.

Ms. Messina asked if the debt reserve is just an account there in case needed. Mr. Fabiano stated that it is there and earning interest and will work itself into infrastructure into the buildings.

Mr. Cohen said this is now a surplus and they were able to put it into the capital account. Mr. Fabiano said that the 2024-2025 reserve budget's goal is to appropriate the same level of reserves as in 2023-2024. He is pleased with the past years use of reserves.

<https://www.levittownschoools.com/boe/>

Mr. Winch stated that the March 6th meeting will have more information on budget information. Mr. Winch also stated that he has a presentation in which he briefly introduced the Levittown Strategic Plan Update. He said that the Board developed goals and his slideshow displays the goals and the status of all, which are color coordinated by status. More information will be provided at the next meetings.

They are also able to be viewed in the link below as well as on the school district website. <https://www.levittownschoools.com/boe/>

Mr. Moran asked Dr. Zirotiannis where the college tour will take place this year. Dr. Zirotiannis said that the tour will be going to mid Atlantic- PA, NJ, and Delaware on July 22-24th.

III. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ms. Messina asked to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	James Moran
SECONDER:	Peggy Marengi
AYES:	Phyllis Dalton, Marianne Adrian, Jennifer Messina, Christine Lang, James Moran, Peggy Marengi
ABSENT:	Michael Pappas