

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

DATE: MARCH 22, 2023

BUDGET PLANNING MEETING

MINUTES

THE BUDGET PLANNING MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, was duly called and held on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 in the Large Board 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

Board of Education

Ms. Jennifer Messina, President
Ms. Peggy Marenghi, 1st Vice-President
Ms. Christina Lang, 2nd Vice-President
Ms. Marianne Adrian, Trustee
Mr. Dillon Cain, Trustee
Mr. James Moran, Trustee (Excused absence)
Mr. Michael Pappas, Trustee

Administration

Mr. Todd Winch, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael Fabiano, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance
Ms. Debbie Rifkin, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Dr. Beth Ziropiannis, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Others:

Ms. Suzanne Mallozzi, District Clerk

Ms. Messina opened the meeting at 6:30pm. On a motion by Marianne Adrian, Seconded by Dillon Cain.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Trustee
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain, Trustee
AYES:	Pappas, Adrian, Messina, Marenghi, Lang, Cain
ABSENT:	Moran

Ms. Messina asked for a motion to adjourn to executive session.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER:	Michael Pappas, Trustee
SECONDER:	Christina Lang, 2 nd Vice-President
AYES:	Pappas, Adrian, Messina, Marenghi, Lang, Cain
ABSENT:	Moran

Budget planning meeting reconvened at 7:30pm.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Trustee
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain, Trustee
AYES:	Pappas, Adrian, Messina, Marengi, Lang, Cain
ABSENT:	Moran

A. Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence:

Ms. Messina invited the Valedictorians and Salutatorians from Division HS and MacArthur HS to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Messina also asked for a moment of silence to remember all those fighting for our country at home and abroad. In addition, Ms. Messina thanked the students of Lee Road for their beautiful card referencing music week. It will be hung in the Board room for all to see.

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. PTA Council/PTA Presidents/Food Service Committee

Mr. Winch, Central Office and the Board of Education honored PTA Council Board and PTA Presidents for their dedication to the students of this community. Those honored were, from PTA Council, President Marianne Ganga, 1st VP Carol Sciotto, 2nd VP Beth Lyons, Recording Secretary Lisa Glynn, Corresponding Secretary Karen Martinez, Treasurer Kathleen Pedrick and Immediate Past President Tina Bodkin. PTA Presidents: Susanne Gallina (Abbey Lane), Krista Hill (DAHS), Jackie Schultz and Penny Kane (EB), Darlene Porcelli and Michelle Siegel (Gardiners), Lauren Lestingi and Amanda Sanchez (Lee Road), Yeliz Cipriano and Barbara Buckley (Northside), Donna Ganairis and Grace DiNorcia (Salk/Mac), Lauren Kircher and Jennifer Messina (SEPTA), Kim Webb and Brittany Pagan (Summit Lane) and Kathleen Pedrick (WLMS).

Food Service Committee members were recognized for their participation in making the important food choices and listening to the community regarding the foods our students eat. Jeanine Quigley, Karent Martinez, Bia Adames, Theres Henschel, Jennifer Trezza, Yeliz Cipriano, Ilene Lynch and Susanne Gallina. The student representatives on this committee include Benjamin Campbell, Alex Healy, Meagan Francois, Lora Flanagan and Kayla Miranda. Mr. Winch thanked Linda Dolecek and Kim Volpe from the Business Office for their help in leading this committee. All

All in attendance were presented certificates with the utmost thanks from Central Office and the Board of Ed.

B. Valedictorian/Salutatorian Recognition

Mr. Winch introduced the Principals of Division Avenue HS (Mr. John Coscian) and MacArthur HS (Mr. Joseph Sheehan) to honor their respective Salutatorians and Valedictorians for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mr. John Coscia: "Our salutatorian for the class of 2023 is none other than Yasseen Bayoumy with a 103.9378 GPA. Yasseen has proven to be an exceptional young man with outstanding character who's a vital member of Division Avenue High school and someone we've come to rely a lot upon. Since he began his four year career at Division Avenue High School, he has risen to the to be one of the best in his class by doing nothing short of giving his very best. Yasseen has chosen to live his life through the advice that his father has given him as a young boy, "life is black and white, not gray" and he uses this advice to help him become a strong, decisive person, and to make those decisions with conviction . This

in turn has helped him become a very confident person and he has earned that right as he became an AP scholar with distinction by enrolling in the most difficult AP classes and honors classes over his four year career and becoming a leader in an abundance of extracurricular activities. In addition to his outstanding academic achievement, Yasseen has been an integral member of the student council where he contributed to the construction of the dragon path, organized pep rally, homecoming and spirit week. Yasseen especially excels in Science Olympiad where he earned 7 medals and serving as a key contributor on a team that has made the State finals for 15 straight years. Where he honed his leadership and service skills are DECA, the wrestling team, big dragons little dragons, the physics Olympiad team where he served as Vice President, peer leaders, mathletes, and the National Honor Society. Yasseen also values giving back to his community by volunteering with the key club and serving as a member of the Levittown Young Organizers United to Help (Lyouth) drug prevention group. For key club, he participated in Spookyfest, the King Kullen Food drive and Leukemia Light the Night Walk. As a member of Lyouth, he participated in Red Ribbon week and attended monthly meetings for focus groups. Lastly, during the summer in the sweltering days of July, he volunteered as a STEM camp counselor for elementary and middle school children to give them the opportunity to learn concepts in science, technology engineering and math. When Yasseen graduates he is looking to major in Mechanical Engineering and has already been accepted into Stony Brook University and Binghamton with many more on the way I'm sure. Once again, we would like to congratulate Yasseen Bayoumy for earning the right to be named the Salutatorian for the class of 2023.

The Division Avenue Valedictorian for the class of 2023 is none other than **Aakash Veeravalli** with an astounding GPA of 104.2112. Aakash is one of the finest students to have graced Division Avenue High School in recent memory. Staff members describe him as quietly confident, humble, personable and as a highly motivated, very conscientious student, who always thrives to be his best and cares about his community. Throughout the course of his four years at Division Avenue High School, he has become an invaluable part of the fabric of Division Avenue Character. He can be seen throughout the course of the year painting banners for homecoming, decorating the hallway for the Class of 2023 and at Spirit Night contributing to a senior class victory. However, his spirit is not only defined by how he contributes to this outstanding class. His academic honors are second to none and have led him to the top of the class. He was named a commended student for the National Merit Scholarship Program, he is an AP scholar with distinction, an AP capstone diploma recipient, he has qualified for the states in DECA, qualified for the FIRST LEGO world championship qualification, is a member of the all-district orchestra, has earned over 13 Science Olympiad medals contributing to his team's outstanding run, and is a member of numerous honor societies including the World Language Honor Society, Business Honor Society and of course the National Honor Society. Aakash's sense of humility has lent itself to a keen sense of community service. If he is not seen studying or helping his classmates, he can be seen giving back to his community as a camp invention counselor where he took care of children and help teachers with tasks. He also served as a member of Lyouth where he worked to stop under age, drinking and drug use in the Levittown community. He also tirelessly worked to organize for the Thanksgiving food drive for the Wisdom Lane Food Pantry. Aakash simply didn't participate in so many activities but his competence, acumen and selflessness were recognized by his peers as he was chosen for leadership positions in many of his activities. For Science Olympiad, he was the president in his senior year, he was named the National Honor Society Treasurer for his junior and senior year, the Business Honors Society Vice President his senior year, the Mathletes treasurer his senior year, Physics Olympiad secretary, and named captain for the Robotics team and badminton. Needless to say, when he moves in June, he will be sorely missed. When Aakash graduates he is looking to major in computer science with his top choices being Georgia tech and Carnegie Mellon University.”

Mr. Joseph Sheehan: “The MacArthur High School Class of 2023's Salutatorian is one amazing and incredible young lady. Throughout her four-year tenure at MacArthur, she has obtained a plethora of honors, accolades and accomplishments. Her overall weighted grade point average is an astounding 103.68. She is a four-year member of our Principal's High Honor Roll, four-year Platinum Renaissance Scholar symbolizing academic excellence, member of our TRI-M Music and National Honor Societies, and is a National AP Scholar. In addition, she is the team captain of our Science Research team where she participated and won awards in several prestigious competitions such as the

Medical Marvels and Spark Challenge. She also led our team to honorable mention accolades in the highly touted Toshiba Exploravision National Competition. If that wasn't impressive enough, she spent the past two summers participating in the Simons Fellow and Post-Fellow internship program at Stony Brook University, where she engineered an accessible magnetron sputtering system for the biological applications of optical tweezers for future publication (Just normal summer for an average teenager!) I would also like to mention that this young lady is an accomplished vocalist as she sang at several school and community events in select acapella and all district choirs, and performed solos at annual performances including NYSSMA festivals. Believe it or not, she even finds time to participate and volunteer in school and community service events. She is an integral member of our Peer Leader program, student representative on our School Development Committee, and was a camp counselor for the Levittown School District Marine Biology Camp the summer of her Junior year. I recently had a conversation with Science Research co-advisor, Mr. Zausin regarding this special young lady and he stated: "Sometimes I think Ana's name is short for Analytical. She is always thinking and always focused on something. Not only is she at the top of her class academically, she is also a wonderful person". Well said Mr. Zausin. She is currently still undecided as to which college she will be attending in the Fall, and plans on majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Please join me in congratulating the MacArthur HS Class of 2023 Salutatorian, **Ana Compton.**

When I think of the MacArthur High School's Class of 2023 Valedictorian, I can't help but think of a quote from legendary race car driver Mario Andretti, and he said: "Desire is the key to motivation, but it's determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal - a commitment to excellence that will enable you to attain success you seek." As with our Salutatorian, this young lady has also amassed an impressive academic resume over the past 4 years. She has obtained an overall weighted Grade Point Average of a mindboggling 103.95 and is Vice President of our Math Honor Society, as well as President of our National Honor Society. In addition, she is a top-tier member of our Science Research team, Co-President of our Science Olympiad team, a platinum Renaissance Scholar symbolizing academic excellence, is a National Merit "Commended Student", and is an AP Scholar with distinction. Without question, the high-octane fuel that is embedded in the internal drive and passion of this young lady is Science Research. Recently, her research paper on the historical climatology of 19th century United States was published in the prestigious Middle States Geographer's Journal, and during her Junior year, she participated in the Long Island Youth Summit where she was awarded 1st place honors for her research on the analysis of eating disorders and young adult fiction. And in the Summer of 2022, as a result of her award-winning research at the Long Island Youth Summit, she was invited to the Harvard Club in Manhattan where she again captured top honors in their Research Division competition. She is also musically gifted as she's an integral member of our Winter Wind Ensemble where she excels at playing the flute, and is a drum major in our Marching Band. I know you'll be shocked, but she even finds time to volunteer for the benefit of our school and community as she lent her expertise at the Camp Invention last summer by helping elementary school children understand the Science research process, helped Middle School students obtain an understanding of wildlife in oceans and ecosystems, and visited Ronald McDonald House to present ill children and their families with gifts for the holidays. Science Research Co-Advisor, Dr. Friedman said it best, "She excels in everything she does while being a Renaissance woman who cannot be neatly placed in a subject specific box. Her driver, determination, and compassion make her an extremely special young lady." She also is currently undecided on which college she will be attending in the Fall and plans on majoring in Chemistry. As you can see, this is one amazing young lady. Please join me in congratulating the MacArthur HS Class of 2023 Valedictoria, **Mia Frattura.**

The Board of Education and Central Office congratulated these incredible students for their outstanding work. Each was presented with a plaque to mark the occasion.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

i. Staffing and Enrollment - D. Rifkin

Ms. Rifkin presented the Department of Human Resources, staffing and enrollment budget for the 2023-2024 school year. The entire presentation can be found on the District website. She began her presentation explaining the enrollment projection methodology to project our enrollment going forward. Assumptions can include that the population will remain stable, however there has been a turnover of existing housing which may bring younger families into the District. Kindergarten cohorts should remain stable, but a drop is expected in 2026. Non-public school enrollment will remain steady as well. The following slide shows the projected enrollment trend data for Elementary and Secondary:

Projected Enrollment Trend Data - Elementary

	Abbey	East Bdwy	Gardiners	Lee	Northside	Summit	TOTAL
2022-23 (actual)	651	677	502	282	575	404	3091
2023-24	638	677	496	284	550	390	3035
2024-25	637	670	493	295	550	393	3038
2025-26	642	679	487	284	554	400	3046
2026-27	631	646	501	282	548	400	3008
2027-28	623	664	503	284	536	395	3005
2028-29	619	661	502	282	535	393	2992
2029-30	612	657	496	279	530	390	2964
2030-31	605	650	490	276	525	387	2933
2031-32	599	644	486	273	521	384	2907

Projected Enrollment Trend Data - Secondary

	Salk	Wisdom	Division	MacArthur	TOTAL
2022-23 (actual)	948	754	1049	1287	4038
2023-24	930	763	1030	1269	3992
2024-25	904	474	1043	1304	3998
2025-26	890	741	1034	1287	3952
2026-27	900	741	1007	1275	3923
2027-28	875	758	1029	1265	3927
2028-29	867	771	998	1242	3878
2029-30	858	770	1010	1234	3872
2030-31	886	754	1025	1208	3873
2031-32	888	755	1022	1203	3868

The pink areas indicate the highest enrollment projections per year. Mr. Pappas asked about the accuracy of these projects. Ms. Rifkin responded that it is approximately 85% accurate but there really no way to get to 100%.

STAFFING OVERVIEW

Proposed staffing changes for 2023-24:

- Reduction of elementary class size
- Additional elementary assistant principal
- Elementary instructional coaches
- Additional security staffing
- Additional maintainers (painters)
- Additional staffing for CPSE
- Additional 6:1:1 and 8:1:1 classes
- Contractual obligations
- Mental health grant positions included in general budget
 - Guidance
 - Psychologists
 - Social workers
- New programs (Summer College Tours, Adult Ed, Outdoor Learning Center)

New programs are being introduced and we are happy to be able to include them in the budget. Teaching sections at this time, are not projected to change.

Elementary Classroom Teaching Sections

School	2022-23 Sections	Projected 2023-24 Sections
Abbey	29	27
East Broadway	29	29
Gardiners	22	23
Lee	12	13
Northside	24	24
Summit	18	18
Salk - 6th grade	13	13
Wisdom - 6th grade	11	11
TOTAL	158	158

Employee Wellness program initiatives are in place; employee assistance plan, food and fitness program and flexible spending account.

Ms. Marengi – “Do we have any sections that are high at this present moment?”

Ms. Rifkin – “A few sections that are on the higher side and they are monitored closely.”

Ms. Marengi: “Splitting class in August is a nightmare. Do we have precautions in place for that?”

Ms. Rifkin – “we are always watching this and if we see issues, they are addressed immediately.”

The Board thanked Ms. Rifkin for her diligence.

ii. Review Final Budget and Five Year Capital Plan

Mr. Fabiano reviewed the budget planning calendar, reviewing the additional 2 propositions that will be on the ballot for this upcoming budget vote on May 16, 2023.

Proposition 2 (Expend the Capital Reserves from 2013, 2017 & 2021) and Proposition 3 (Establish a 2023 capital reserve). Comparison below shows Levittown SD Tax Levy increase is more than half the Nassau County average:

Comparison to the County		
As of March 1st, 2023	Tax Levy	Budget to Budget
Nassau County Average	2.06%	5.055%
Levittown UFSD	0.99%	5.198%

2022-23: \$239,351,010
2023-24: \$251,792,906
Year-to-Year Change: \$12,441,896 or 5.198%

These are the numbers for the 5-year capital facilities plan by building: Special thanks to Craig Cammarata and Logan Lippolt for helping to solidify these numbers, indicating what the District priorities should be going forward.

5-Year Capital Facilities Plan by Building

Building	Building Condition Survey	Percent of Total
ABBEY	\$5,403,642	5.8%
DIVISION	\$12,458,617	13.4%
EAST BROADWAY	\$5,066,300	5.4%
GARDINERS	\$6,214,901	6.7%
LEE	\$2,577,756	2.8%
LMEC	\$6,487,124	7.0%
MacARTHUR	\$14,905,294	16.0%
NORTHSIDE	\$3,428,642	3.7%
SALK	\$8,683,734	9.3%
SUMMIT	\$6,098,810	6.6%
WISDOM	\$14,499,476	15.6%
LAUREL	\$1,176,262	1.3%
SEAMAN	\$6,105,762	6.6%
Total Building Costs	\$93,106,320	100.0%

These numbers exceed what capital funding is available right now, but moving forward, we hope to have these additional monies available.

Mr. Pappas asked what the difference between the \$94m and the capital reserve, in the 5 year period, how much of that will be offset with the return of the state aid? Either way, if we use that for the general budget or other items, it will be 75-80% of the state aid return.

Mr. Fabiano replied that will be a revenue item, and if we elect to put that back into the system, we could absolutely close that gap.

Mr. Winch - this is a 5 year plan and avoid having to go out for a bond.

Mr. Pappas - in 25 years, when our buildings are close to a century old, people will look back and remark that we did a good job.

Capital Propositions:

Capital Propositions

There will be two propositions on the ballot for approval.

One will be for voter approval to utilize capital reserve funds to support the **5 year Capital Project Plan** the Board has adopted. This will include:

- Replacement/Upgrade of all school building public address systems
- Replacement/Upgrade of all school building fire alarm systems
- Installation of "one button" lock down systems
- Replacement/Reconditioning of district roofs
- Interior and exterior masonry repairs
- Locker room renovations at Wisdom and MacArthur (Division and Salk were done just prior to COVID)
- Playground upgrades at all elementary schools
- Completion of air conditioning project
- Potential reconstruction of Salk Middle School bus circle
- Potential track and field upgrades at Wisdom Lane Middle School

Note: **The approval of this capital proposition will not affect the tax levy.**

Mr. Winch noted that this is money that already exists in the District. Mr. Pappas added that this is NOT a tax increase, we are just creating a "bucket" for the money to go until it is expended it at a later date.

Proposition II: Authorize to Expend

Source of Funds	Amount	Status
2013, 2017, and 2021 Capital Reserves	\$48,208,292	Pending Voter Approval May 16, 2023
Debt Service Reserve and Unassigned Fund Balance	7,791,708	Pending Voter Approval May 16, 2023
Total	\$56,000,000	

iii. Budget Adoption & Capital Plan Adoption

Mr. Winch - summarizes that we will be adopting the budget and capital plan at the meeting immediately following this one.

IV. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ms. Messina asked for a motion to adjourn the Budget Planning meeting:

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Trustee
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain, Trustee
AYES:	Pappas, Adrian, Messina, Marengi, Lang, Cain
ABSENT:	Moran

Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm

Suzanne Mallozzi
District Clerk