



General Library Item

Name March 27, 2017

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Scarsdale Board of Education Meeting Highlights March 27, 2017

Budget Forum

At 6:30 p.m. Leila Maude, Board of Education President, called the meeting to order. Dr. Hagerman acknowledged the work of Stuart Matthey, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Facilities, and Jeff Martin, District Treasurer, in preparing the 2017-18 budget. Mr. Matthey presented an overview of the draft budget, after which Ms. Maude opened the floor to comments from community groups and individuals. There were six comments:

- Diane Greenwald, speaking on behalf of the School Budget Committee of the League of Women Voters of Scarsdale, reported that the League supports the budget and urges residents to vote 'yes' on May 16. She went on to enumerate the various ways the proposed budget supports Scarsdale's educational values as expressed in the Scarsdale Education for Tomorrow (SET 2.0), including: adherence to established elementary school class size maximums; maintenance of the Middle School house system; commitment to the High School class size norm; expanded curriculum and support in elementary literacy and K-12 STEAM programs; ongoing commitment to special education offerings; hiring of a second nurse in the High School; and funding of security and sustainability programs. Some of the recommendations made by the League for the budget process next year include; adding items to the budget document, such as gifts from the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation, PTAs, local organizations, and individuals, as an addendum; and releasing the Budget Book earlier in the process.
- Kathleen Munguia, speaking on behalf of the Scarsdale Teen Center, presented an open letter to the Board (also addressed to the Village Board of Trustees) concerning the end of support for the Teen Center.
- Dan Hochvert, 62 Woods Lane, noted that he could not speak officially for the Scarsdale Education Forum as it did not have sufficient time to consider the proposed budget; he urged the Board to provide a preliminary draft earlier in the process next year, but also noted that personally, he was largely in agreement with the remarks made by Ms. Greenwald supporting the budget.
- Kathleen Munguia, speaking on behalf of the Yale Westchester Alumni Association, noted that Yale Professor Paul Freedman was to speak at the Scarsdale Public Library on March 30 on the topic of his new book, *Ten Restaurants that Changed America*.
- Claudine Gecel, speaking as Co-chair of the PTA Budget Committee, reported that the Committee supports the budget, describing it as financially responsible while supporting excellent public education.
- Sharon Higgins, 5 Sage Terrace, Middle School PTA Chair, expressed mixed feelings about the Mandarin enrichment program being introduced at the Middle School next year, because parent surveys had indicated a preference for District funds to be used on other priorities such as STEAM, and because of concerns for the program's long-term viability.

The Board then announced upcoming meeting dates, and adjourned into Executive Session to discuss litigation matters.