

0:00:00.000,0:00:00.500

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

0:00:00.500,0:00:10.519

Carrie Otty (CO): Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

0:00:10.519,0:00:11.570

In unison: I pledge

0:00:11.570,0:00:13.570

allegiance to the flag

0:00:13.570,0:00:15.570

of the United States of America

0:00:15.570,0:00:17.570

and to the Republic

0:00:17.570,0:00:19.570

for which it stands

0:00:19.570,0:00:21.570

on Nation

0:00:21.570,0:00:23.570

under God

0:00:23.570,0:00:25.570

indivisible

0:00:25.570,0:00:27.570

with Liberty

0:00:27.570,0:00:29.570

and Justice

0:00:29.570,0:00:31.570

for all.

0:00:31.570,0:00:33.570

CO: Leslie, would you like to take roll call?

0:00:33.570,0:00:44.309

Leslie Coons (LC): I will. Sage Carter? I know she's here. Sage Carter (SC): I'm here. LC: OK.

0:00:44.309,0:00:56.120

Justin Elliot? Justin Elliott (JE): Here. LC: Linda Hopkins? Linda Hopkins (LH): Here  
LC: Willette Jones? Willette Jones (WJ): Here

0:00:56.120,0:01:08.210

LC: Carrie Otty? CO: Here. Charles Parmentier? Charles Parmentier (CP): Here. LC: Lucinda Segar? Lucinda Segar (LS): Here. LC: We are all set.

to Seeger here hey Rosa

0:01:09.140,0:01:15.360

CO: I'd like to make a motion to accept the budget hearing continuation agenda.

0:01:15.860,0:01:29.570

LS: Second. CO: All in favor? SC: Yes. All show hands (SC does not have video). SC: Thank You Sage. sage yep

0:01:29.570,0:01:38.270

CO: I'd like to make a motion to open the public hearing continuation at 6:32 p.m.

0:01:38.510,0:01:46.910

LC: Can I have a second? LS: Second. CO: All in favor? SC: Yes. All show hands.

0:01:46.970,0:01:53.460

LC: Thank you. CO: I would like to turn the meeting over to Dr. Suttmeier at this point

0:01:53.460,0:01:59.460

please. Dr. Maria Suttmeier (Dr. S): So good evening everyone. Before we begin I know that we have members of

0:01:59.460,0:02:02.729

our public that are live streaming in tonight. This is the first time that

0:02:02.729,0:02:06.750

we're using this new platform and that is due to the interruption that we

0:02:06.750,0:02:11.190

received at the June 2 meeting. So we're going to be picking up where we

0:02:11.190,0:02:14.130

left off. There will be a video of the previous

0:02:14.130,0:02:20.010

meeting uploaded to our website that can be viewed and before we get started I do

0:02:20.010,0:02:25.470

want to introduce a few new faces that are on the screen. We have Kevin Brown

0:02:25.470,0:02:29.100

with us to oversee this meeting to make sure that everything in our IT

0:02:29.100,0:02:35.670

department for this livestream board

meeting goes as expected. So we have IT

0:02:35.670,0:02:41.850

looking in to secure our meeting tonight. We also have Cheryl Rabinowitz,

0:02:41.850,0:02:47.160

who is on our personnel agenda, who will become our new IT manager as of July 1.

0:02:47.160,0:02:50.910

We know that we've been rebuilding that department. We've been talking about that

0:02:50.910,0:02:55.590

through our budget workshops, so Cheryl has been cordially invited to this

0:02:55.590,0:02:59.430

meeting so that she can be properly introduced to the board and to the

0:02:59.430,0:03:04.079

public. And then we also have Heather, your last name there is Lincoln but I

0:03:04.079,0:03:07.980

know there's also another last name there too.

0:03:07.980,0:03:14.040

So she will be approved as our certified social worker to replace a social worker

0:03:14.040,0:03:18.780

that had retired in the school year and she'll be working across the district

0:03:18.780,0:03:22.769

with our homeless population and that's an essential position that we are

0:03:22.769,0:03:27.959

replacing this year. There are several retirements and a resignation and other

0:03:27.959,0:03:31.470

positions that we are not filling this year, but this is an essential position

0:03:31.470,0:03:35.850

that will be filled. So I just wanted to make sure that those three faces that

0:03:35.850,0:03:40.080

are on the screen were recognizable and why they've been invited to be here with

0:03:40.080,0:03:45.480

us. So we're going to begin. I'm going to turn this over to Mr.

0:03:45.480,0:03:51.120

Boehme, who was going through two questions that were left on the board floor at our

0:03:51.120,0:03:56.880

first public hearing on May 26. So I'm going to turn it over to him so he can

0:03:56.880,0:04:01.500

fully answer those questions that were not fully answered at our June 2

0:04:01.500,0:04:04.430

continuation of the public hearing. Mr. Boehme (JB).

0:04:04.430,0:04:10.709

JB: Thank you Dr. Suttmeier. The first question that we had was kind of the

0:04:10.709,0:04:17.519

process regarding how uncollected taxes. So first the the county

0:04:17.519,0:04:22.290

treasurer collects unpaid school taxes typically during the last two weeks of

0:04:22.290,0:04:28.169

November and continues to try and collect the taxes for about two weeks. If they're

0:04:28.169,0:04:34.260

unsuccessful then the school taxes that remain unpaid they end up on the

0:04:34.260,0:04:40.919

January town and counties tax bill with additional penalties. Now in the past, the

0:04:40.919,0:04:47.100

uncollected taxes from the school was paid back by the county. Again this would

0:04:47.100,0:04:53.070

happened in the past and in this current pandemic situation I'm sure if the

0:04:53.070,0:04:59.280

county is well or is able to make us whole like they have in the past. There

0:04:59.280,0:05:06.000

has been no comment from the county in regards to if they're able to or not. So

0:05:06.000,0:05:20.100

any questions regarding uncollected tax process? OK. I will move on to the

0:05:20.100,0:05:22.610

next one.

0:05:26.050,0:05:30.970

All right. Can everybody see my screen? I

0:05:31.090,0:05:40.610

can't see you guys so I need to here a yes. In unison: I can see it. JB: Thank you. So another question

0:05:40.610,0:05:44.150

was regarding how the tax burden is equally dispersed throughout the

0:05:44.150,0:05:49.700

counties and towns. So tonight I want to explain how equalization works.

0:05:49.700,0:05:53.840

Equalization rates work, how they keep the tax rates between the cities and

0:05:53.840,0:06:00.110

towns the same. So the numbers on this sheet are estimated numbers. This is

0:06:00.110,0:06:03.530

not any actual numbers. I made an estimate to make it easier for everybody

0:06:03.530,0:06:08.540

to follow. So please notice on this slide that the towns and cities all are

0:06:08.540,0:06:14.360

assessed at \$100,000 and the equalization rate are all at 1. And

0:06:14.360,0:06:24.560

notice the tax rates are all same at \$14.29. So on this

0:06:24.560,0:06:29.150

spreadsheet, you'll notice that not all the equalization rates are the same but

0:06:29.150,0:06:34.370

the towns and cities are still assessed at \$100,000, but please know as the a tax

0:06:34.370,0:06:38.990

rates change, it's because of the equalization rates. And this is how this

0:06:38.990,0:06:45.050

is how this whole process works. So the first column is taxable value. That's a

0:06:45.050,0:06:49.580

total assessed number from all the homes and businesses in each individual city

0:06:49.580,0:06:55.010

or town. This is calculations done by the town and city assessors. Each

0:06:55.010,0:07:01.190

individual town has a different assessor. The second column is the equalization

0:07:01.190,0:07:05.480

rates for each town and city. These are calculated by the State and they're

0:07:05.480,0:07:10.010

based on market value of the homes in the given town or city.

0:07:10.010,0:07:14.140

An equalization rate of 1 would mean that the homes are assessed at market value.

0:07:14.140,0:07:20.690

An equalization rate of 0.99 and below means the homes are being under assessed,

0:07:20.690,0:07:25.580

or their assessment is below market value. Finally if there's one home on

0:07:25.580,0:07:30.710

there that as 1.01 or higher that means the homes are over assessed compared to

0:07:30.710,0:07:37.190

market value. The third column is full assessment, which is a taxable value

0:07:37.190,0:07:42.160

divided by the equalization rate. Please notice that Hudson with a

0:07:42.160,0:07:48.200

1.00 equalization rate didn't change. The towns are below 1, like Clavarack and Ghent,

0:07:48.200,0:07:52.700

their assessment went up. And Taghkanic, which has an equalization rate of above

0:07:52.700,0:07:57.530

1, their assessment went down. Now this is how equalizations keep up with all

0:07:57.530,0:08:01.040

the different towns paying the same rate even though the towns or cities are

0:08:01.040,0:08:05.560

assessed by different assessors. The fourth column is the full value

0:08:05.560,0:08:10.100

percentage. That is the percentage of the schools levy amount the town and cities

0:08:10.100,0:08:16.850

are responsible for. The fifth column is the actual amount that the taxpayers owe in

0:08:16.850,0:08:21.470

the given town or city. You get this amount by multiplying the full value

0:08:21.470,0:08:28.190

percentage by the total taxes to be levied. In this example, I used 10

0:08:28.190,0:08:37.030

million dollars just to make it a little bit easier to follow. And again this is

0:08:37.030,0:08:42.500

the only area where school districts have any control over it.

0:08:42.500,0:08:46.160

We are the only ones that can levy that amount, but all these other

0:08:46.160,0:08:51.500

numbers are controlled by a different entity. The sixth column is a tax rate

0:08:51.500,0:08:56.090

for the town or city. We get this by dividing the amount to be risen by the

0:08:56.090,0:09:04.750

taxable value. The seventh column is the taxes due on tax assessed at \$100,000.

0:09:04.750,0:09:09.020

And you get this amount by multiplying the tax rate by the assessed value of

0:09:09.020,0:09:14.120

the home and then you divide it by 1,000. Notice the homes and the towns

0:09:14.120,0:09:17.630

that were under assessed homes like Greenport and Livingston, it looks like

0:09:17.630,0:09:22.100

they're paying a higher tax rate, but actually the rate is just adjusted for

0:09:22.100,0:09:27.980

the under assessment. So the last column shows what happens when you back out the

0:09:27.980,0:09:34.520

equalization rate. So if you take, if you multiply the equalization rate by

0:09:34.520,0:09:39.650

the current tax rate, it all comes back to that 13.09, which

0:09:39.650,0:09:46.100

shows that everything is all based on the same rate. So I know that's a lot of

0:09:46.100,0:09:51.200

information. I kind of wanted to show the process to it so you guys

0:09:51.200,0:10:06.160

understand it's not just the very simple formula. Can you guys hear me?

0:10:07.179,0:10:24.319

In Unison: Yes, we can hear you. JB: OK. So is there any questions on that? OK, so another question we had



0:10:24.319,0:10:30.289

was how and when do we plan on going to the public to begin funding the capital

0:10:30.289,0:10:33.410

reserve, and if you don't plan to do that

0:10:33.410,0:10:37.910

what is the funding plan for this reserve? So the proposition for this

0:10:37.910,0:10:41.419

capital reserve and it's just to establish it. I've mentioned that a

0:10:41.419,0:10:45.470

couple times at a couple different presentations that I've made. It's not to

0:10:45.470,0:10:50.839

fund it. But to answer the question, with the current economic situation the State is

0:10:50.839,0:10:56.679

facing, it may be many, many years before we're able to fund this reserve.

0:10:56.679,0:11:02.419

But if we're able to, we would like to do it with excess funds from our general fund.

0:11:02.419,0:11:07.339

As I mentioned before, this reserve is a set up to lower the burden on

0:11:07.339,0:11:14.869

taxpayers, when we go out for our next capital project. Our capital aid from the state

0:11:14.869,0:11:19.720

aid is right around 70% on capital projects, so the remaining amount

0:11:19.720,0:11:25.029

needs to come from local costs. So if we're able to save a little bit of money,

0:11:25.029,0:11:31.549

it would help offset that cost down the line. Are there any questions regarding that

0:11:31.549,0:11:41.199

one? JE: Jesse, I have a question? JB: Sure. JE: Say two years from now we do have an excess,

0:11:41.199,0:11:49.759

how would we go about funding that? Does that have to go to the voters? JB: No that would be up

0:11:49.759,0:11:54.289

to the Board of Education. To expend it, yes it would have to go out to vote. so

0:11:54.289,0:11:58.699

yeah, you, the Board of Education would make the decision if we were to transfer

0:11:58.699,0:12:04.100

that into that fund, but you're correct the taxpayers would have to approve us

0:12:04.100,0:12:11.540

spending, taking the money out of that fund. JE: All right. Thank you. JB: Yep any other questions?

0:12:11.540,0:12:20.329

OK I'm gonna send it back to Dr. Suttmeier to answer a couple more

0:12:20.329,0:12:26.660

questions. Dr. S.: So there was a question about just receiving ballots today and if all

0:12:26.660,0:12:31.819

votes are going to count. So I want to be sure to say that all votes will be

0:12:31.819,0:12:38.180

counted that are received by the deadline of June 9 at 5:00 p.m. To

0:12:38.180,0:12:42.829

ensure that we do receive them by the deadline, people should fill them out,

0:12:42.829,0:12:48.559

make sure they sign the back of their oath envelope, put it in the stamped

0:12:48.559,0:12:53.720

self-addressed envelope, and directly hand it to their postmaster. But we've

0:12:53.720,0:13:00.139

also put in place, five different drop boxes that are secured across our

0:13:00.139,0:13:07.399

district. And they are at the Junior/Senior High Campus at 215 Harry

0:13:07.399,0:13:14.329

Howard Avenue and also at John L. Edwards Primary School at 360 State Street in

0:13:14.329,0:13:21.889  
Hudson, the AB Shaw firehouse  
67 Route 23 in Claverack, the

0:13:21.889,0:13:27.350  
Central Fire Station at 77 North 7th  
Street in Hudson, as well as the

0:13:27.350,0:13:33.110  
Greenport Community Center located at 500 Town Hall in Greenport. So you can drop

0:13:33.110,0:13:39.139  
them off any time between 8:00 and 5:00  
p.m. on Monday, June 8 and Tuesday, June

0:13:39.139,0:13:44.629  
9. We will make sure that everything  
that is received by our board clerk by

0:13:44.629,0:13:50.990  
that timeframe on that date of June 9,  
will be counted. You must fill out your

0:13:50.990,0:13:55.339  
ballot and you must sign your oath  
envelope in order for ballots to be

0:13:55.339,0:14:01.309  
counted. We have written a letter to our senators. We had a meeting yesterday

0:14:01.309,0:14:07.129  
to describe what has happened with the  
shortage of materials across this region,

0:14:07.129,0:14:12.980  
the mid-hudson the region, as well as  
western New York, and the Capital Region.

0:14:12.980,0:14:17.750  
There were the same size envelopes that  
were needed throughout the state and

0:14:17.750,0:14:23.730  
there was a shortage due to the  
pandemic and delivery delays. So that's

0:14:23.730,0:14:32.190  
why we put in the drop box option, but we  
are also writing to our our senators and

0:14:32.190,0:14:36.510  
our superintendents are writing to the  
governor's office, asking that they at

0:14:36.510,0:14:45.240

least allow us to count ballots that are postmarked by June 9 not just received.

0:14:45.240,0:14:50.840

by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, but without an executive order we need to continue

0:14:50.840,0:14:57.150

through June 9 at 5 p.m. We cannot go outside of the law that the governor has

0:14:57.150,0:15:02.820

given us in his executive order unless there's a change and there is a rally to

0:15:02.820,0:15:09.120

help districts like ours that got their budgets out, their ballots out late. So

0:15:09.120,0:15:12.960

all those will count, but that's how we need to do it at this time. We're hoping

0:15:12.960,0:15:18.870

that the governor does hear from the Senators and make that change. We had a

0:15:18.870,0:15:23.730

couple of other questions, but I do have someone that is looking to get into the

0:15:23.730,0:15:32.070

meeting so if I could just reply to them I just want to give them the the link so

0:15:32.070,0:15:34.970

just give me a moment.

0:15:39.880,0:15:46.420

OK. JE: Maria had a quick question about the topic of ballots when

0:15:46.420,0:15:53.980

you're ready. Dr. S: Go ahead. JE: So one of the concerns I had, and I'm sure some other will as

0:15:53.980,0:15:59.380

well as well, your name has to be on the envelope with your address and

0:15:59.380,0:16:03.180

I understand that's for verifying that the person submitted is actually

0:16:03.180,0:16:10.329

resident of our district. Can we ensure that when the ballots are counted that like

0:16:10.329,0:16:15.610

our non-interested party that's gonna be there is the one that verifies the

0:16:15.610,0:16:20.410

address, opens the envelope, for instance, and then gives that ballot to say Leslie.

0:16:20.410,0:16:27.639

I trust Leslie. I know she's gonna do a great job, but she, in theory, could read

0:16:27.639,0:16:35.230

my name, open the envelope, and read my ballot, and know how I voted. Dr. S: Right. So we

0:16:35.230,0:16:40.060

have not only, Leslie, but we have an experienced poll worker that will be

0:16:40.060,0:16:45.189

working with us. So there's a process. The first thing that happens is the outside

0:16:45.189,0:16:49.389

envelope so when you return it in this envelope it's an outside envelope that

0:16:49.389,0:16:54.759

we open up and then the identifying um I don't know if you can see that but this

0:16:54.759,0:16:57.730

is the official ballot so that has my name on it.

0:16:57.730,0:17:05.020

This does not get open until 5:01 p.m. on June 9. When this is opened the ballot

0:17:05.020,0:17:10.419

inside stays folded so that you cannot see. There's no identification on the

0:17:10.419,0:17:15.490

ballot itself. So the envelope goes in one pile that has the identifying

0:17:15.490,0:17:21.189

information. The ballot goes into another pile and then they're moved forward so

0:17:21.189,0:17:26.530

that by the time this ballot is opened, there is no envelope associated with it

0:17:26.530,0:17:31.630

aligned with it so that you cannot tell who voted and how they voted because

0:17:31.630,0:17:37.330

there's no identifying information on the ballot itself. So the the oath is

0:17:37.330,0:17:42.760

only to verify that that is an eligible and registered voter in our district.

0:17:42.760,0:17:47.200

Once that's verified, that envelope is separated from the ballot and by the

0:17:47.200,0:17:53.290

time the ballot is opened there is no identification of who actually voted. So

0:17:53.290,0:17:55.539

thank for asking. That's an important question.

0:17:55.539,0:18:00.130

JE: No thank you, I'm sure it was, you know, that process was thought out long ago. I

0:18:00.130,0:18:05.799

just wanted to reassure several people that you know it is gonna be separated

0:18:05.799,0:18:10.570

and district employees are not gonna be looking at how Maria voted.

0:18:10.570,0:18:14.049

Dr. S: Absolutely not. There's no way to do that. There's a lot of

0:18:14.049,0:18:18.429

checks and balances. We have several people that are working. Two at a table,

0:18:18.429,0:18:22.299

and they have, it's like an assembly line. This is your job, you split open the

0:18:22.299,0:18:26.230

envelopes, you separate the envelopes, you move it forward. So the same person

0:18:26.230,0:18:30.610

opening the mail and looking at the ballots is not. And then when they're

0:18:30.610,0:18:35.950

looking at the ballots it is just to record, how they voted for the board members, how

0:18:35.950,0:18:40.590

they voted for proposition one, and proposition two, with no identification.

0:18:40.590,0:18:45.610

JE: Thank you. Dr. S: You're welcome.

LS: That was very helpful. Thanks Justin

0:18:45.610,0:18:52.779

for asking that. Dr. S: So we had a couple of other questions that were answered as a

0:18:52.779,0:18:59.110

part of our budget summary that was provided on both May 26, as well as June

0:18:59.110,0:19:04.960

2, but there were a couple of other questions that were provided to us today,

0:19:04.960,0:19:10.600

and I wanted to make sure that we did answer them. So we had asked people to

0:19:10.600,0:19:17.740

submit, with this new platform, their questions to us by 4 o'clock, and we

0:19:17.740,0:19:21.850

received one that said letters to the governor's office so I just went through

0:19:21.850,0:19:27.610

that that there are requests that the ballots that are received postmarked

0:19:27.610,0:19:33.039

June 9 be counted, so that we can continue to put aside any mail that we

0:19:33.039,0:19:40.890

receive after 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9 to be counted. And then all votes will

0:19:40.890,0:19:47.289

continue to be counted in the way that we are provided by law, but if there is

0:19:47.289,0:19:51.789

some sort of a change, and then we would definitely make sure that we counted the

0:19:51.789,0:19:56.260

ballots if the governor said we could count those that are postmarked by June

0:19:56.260,0:20:00.429

9, but the best way for voters to make sure their ballots are counted is to

0:20:00.429,0:20:05.559

hand it to their post office as soon as they receive it, or bring it to those

0:20:05.559,0:20:09.340

drop boxes on Monday and Tuesday, June 8 and June 9 between

0:20:09.340,0:20:16.150

the hours of 8 and 5. Public use of facilities was another question that we

0:20:16.150,0:20:20.200

had. People looking for clarification because as part of our contingency

0:20:20.200,0:20:25.330

budget one of the things that the board would need to decide is the public use

0:20:25.330,0:20:29.140

of facilities. It cannot cost the district money to

0:20:29.140,0:20:34.540

allow the public the use of our facilities, so we consulted with our

0:20:34.540,0:20:39.100

attorneys and I'm going to read a statement from them so that it's very

0:20:39.100,0:20:45.100

clear of what we can and cannot do if we find ourselves in a position that we are

0:20:45.100,0:20:49.990

truly hoping we don't find ourselves in and that is accepting a contingency



0:20:49.990,0:20:54.340

budget because the voters don't support our school budget. As you know, we don't

0:20:54.340,0:20:59.920

have time right now with the way that the executive order is designed, to go

0:20:59.920,0:21:04.120

out with a revote. So you usually have three options: go back out with the same

0:21:04.120,0:21:09.790

exact budget advertised or you know in educate your public and engage with your

0:21:09.790,0:21:14.590

public more so they understand what you're asking them to support; or shave

0:21:14.590,0:21:19.900

down your budget and listen to where they feel that they can't can't support

0:21:19.900,0:21:25.030

the district and put it back up for a revote at a lower tax rate; or go

0:21:25.030,0:21:30.940

straight to contingency. So without that provision for us to be able to go

0:21:30.940,0:21:36.070

out with a revote with the timeframe, we would have to go right to contingency. So

0:21:36.070,0:21:42.850

I was asked if we could please verify the use of facilities. So let me read

0:21:42.850,0:21:49.870

what our attorneys have advised us: Generally costs incurred by non-school

0:21:49.870,0:21:55.860

related organization usage, are non-contingent unless there is no

0:21:55.860,0:22:01.870

identifiable extra cost to the district or the costs are fully funded in advance

0:22:01.870,0:22:07.510

by the user. However meeting expenses for the PTA, PTO,

0:22:07.510,0:22:13.630

and other school related organizations, would be treated as contingent, unless

0:22:13.630,0:22:18.220

they are incurred in connection with sponsoring a social or entertainment

0:22:18.220,0:22:21.970

program on school grounds. The education law

0:22:21.970,0:22:26.260

permits school districts to determine the terms and conditions for using

0:22:26.260,0:22:32.170

school facilities, as long as it is non-discriminatory basis, including

0:22:32.170,0:22:40.060

rental fees for sufficient to cover all resulting expenses. So you know I take

0:22:40.060,0:22:44.530

that as it wouldn't cost us anything to allow people to walk around the track, as

0:22:44.530,0:22:49.630

we are now, or to play tennis, as we are now. But if there's any structured use

0:22:49.630,0:22:54.670

that would incur expenses such as the use of lights, or a custodian, and

0:22:54.670,0:22:59.590

cleaning up after people, that we now ask them to fill out a facilities use form

0:22:59.590,0:23:03.520

for, that would be something that the board would have to consider how to move

0:23:03.520,0:23:08.340

forward with. So it's depending on whether it's considered contingent or

0:23:08.340,0:23:12.820

non-contingent expenses, and it directly is related to the expenses incurred by

0:23:12.820,0:23:18.730

the school district. So if somebody's putting on a performance and you know

0:23:18.730,0:23:22.960

they need the lighting and it's really following our facilities use form and

0:23:22.960,0:23:29.080

making sure that we are safeguarding the school funds, because we are in

0:23:29.080,0:23:35.610

contingency. Any questions about the response that we received on that?

0:23:37.920,0:23:44.380

Another question was if we plan to issue a statement as required by law on the

0:23:44.380,0:23:50.800

contingency budget and any underlying assumptions. So that was included in our

0:23:50.800,0:23:55.150

newsletter. Our budget notice is imbedded in our newsletter that went out to

0:23:55.150,0:24:01.270

taxpayers. The 6-day budget notice includes the projected contingency

0:24:01.270,0:24:07.360

budget, separated into the three required components: program, administrative, and

0:24:07.360,0:24:12.250

capital. And a statement of assumptions into calculating that projected

0:24:12.250,0:24:18.550

contingency budget. Education law is also explicit that the projected contingency

0:24:18.550,0:24:23.860

budget in the budget notice is based on the assumption that it is adopted on the

0:24:23.860,0:24:30.790

same day as the budget vote. Our attorneys went on to explain that in the

0:24:30.790,0:24:35.020

event the budget is not adopted by the voters, the Board of

0:24:35.020,0:24:40.810

Education is not required to adopt the

projected contingency budget on the same

0:24:40.810,0:24:48.130

day. The Board has until June 30 to adopt a contingency budget and depending

0:24:48.130,0:24:54.880

upon a number of unanticipated factors such as a change in the 2020-2021

0:24:54.880,0:24:59.530

state aid, as we know that's hanging over our heads. We don't know what's coming up

0:24:59.530,0:25:03.280

in the future. We know that we have been told that there could be an additional

0:25:03.280,0:25:09.820

reduction in state aid coming, or a sudden increase in enrollment and such

0:25:09.820,0:25:15.610

factors that affect the school district. The projected contingency budget numbers

0:25:15.610,0:25:21.400

may change, as well as the breakdown between categories, as long as the total

0:25:21.400,0:25:28.660

contingency budget does not exceed the 2019-2020 tax levy, the administrative

0:25:28.660,0:25:34.600

component does not exceed the lesser of: 1. the percentage of the

0:25:34.600,0:25:40.180

administrative component to the preceding year's budget excluding the

0:25:40.180,0:25:46.390

capital component, 2. the percentage of the administrative

0:25:46.390,0:25:53.220

component to the last proposed defeated budget, excluding the capital component.

0:25:53.220,0:25:59.170

So I know it's a little confusing for me to be reading this. It's very complicated.

0:25:59.170,0:26:04.630

It's a lot of legal language. We can actually post the question and the

0:26:04.630,0:26:09.430

answers to this on our website so people can read them, because I think it's a

0:26:09.430,0:26:14.560

little hard to just hear them in a live stream meeting like this. I don't have

0:26:14.560,0:26:18.760

any other questions that have not already been answered either

0:26:18.760,0:26:24.160

through our presentations or by directly answering the questions that have been

0:26:24.160,0:26:30.700

posed that we received by four o'clock today. Mr. Boehme, I don't know if you

0:26:30.700,0:26:37.320

received any additional questions that you wanted to go over tonight.

0:26:40.519,0:26:45.279

JB: I haven't, no. Dr. S.: OK.

0:26:45.909,0:26:53.179

I'm just looking here. Someone also asked, I just remembered, somebody had also

0:26:53.179,0:26:58.339

asked what the increase is. So in case they've missed our presentations or

0:26:58.339,0:27:00.950

don't have access to our website where that is located

0:27:00.950,0:27:06.440

I just want to reiterate our budget summary for the 20-21 school budget the

0:27:06.440,0:27:10.129

proposed budget is \$50,684,738

0:27:10.129,0:27:15.049

that is a budget to budget increase of

0:27:15.049,0:27:21.259

1.79% which equals \$892,075.

0:27:21.259,0:27:26.419

The  
maximum tax levy calculation for this

0:27:26.419,0:27:31.690

school district was 2.43%. For the fourth consecutive year

0:27:31.690,0:27:38.239

we have gone out below our tax levy  
limit, and we have shaved that down to

0:27:38.239,0:27:44.869

the same exact tax levy that we asked  
last year for our taxpayers to support

0:27:44.869,0:27:50.179

and that was 1.99%. That's the equivalent of \$29.84

0:27:50.179,0:27:55.369

as an annual increase on a home that is

0:27:55.369,0:28:01.759

assessed at a value of \$100,000. That's  
\$2.49 a month

0:28:01.759,0:28:10.489

and then you would have to multiply for  
any homes you know by two for \$200,000, by three for \$300,000.  
hundred thousand and so forth to get the

0:28:10.489,0:28:15.739

Increase for homes that are assessed  
above \$100,000 the

0:28:15.739,0:28:25.940

levy to levy increase is \$471,082. Again this budget is being  
proposed to our tax payers calculated

0:28:25.940,0:28:31.339

below the tax levy limit. The tax levy  
limit was 2.43%,

0:28:31.339,0:28:36.969

and we have reduced that to 1.99%.

0:28:42.169,0:28:56.730

Any other questions, comments? You know I'm a little apprehensive and knowing

0:28:56.730,0:29:00.320

like you can't tell if the public is  
listening because they're live-streaming.

0:29:00.320,0:29:06.299

So you know it's a little disconcerting  
I'm talking to you as the board to

0:29:06.299,0:29:10.559  
understand you know this budget and I  
know you've heard it multiple times, but

0:29:10.559,0:29:15.620  
this is the opportunity for our  
public to hear about the budget to ask

0:29:15.620,0:29:20.880  
questions. We asked them to submit them by 4 o'clock today and it's unfortunate

0:29:20.880,0:29:26.760  
that we had to switch. We are one of few  
school districts, I'll be honest with you.

0:29:26.760,0:29:33.179  
When the pandemic came upon us and we  
needed to move to an online platform for

0:29:33.179,0:29:38.610  
the board meetings, many school districts  
said no public comments. No public

0:29:38.610,0:29:42.240  
comments during public hearing, no public  
comments during the board meetings. They

0:29:42.240,0:29:46.470  
must submit them in writing or put them  
in the chat box because they were warned

0:29:46.470,0:29:51.419  
that what happened to us on Tuesday  
evening, a zoom bomber with very

0:29:51.419,0:29:58.080  
disturbing content, could come into our  
meeting. We still felt very strongly as a

0:29:58.080,0:30:01.649  
school district and a Board of Education  
that we wanted to continue to engage our

0:30:01.649,0:30:06.240  
public, but after what happened on  
Tuesday evening, our attorneys, our IT

0:30:06.240,0:30:10.770  
department told us that our only  
opportunity was to go live-streaming

0:30:10.770,0:30:14.940

tonight. So I hope members of our public that we're able to sign on this evening

0:30:14.940,0:30:18.990

that are listening to us understand that we were left with no other option than

0:30:18.990,0:30:24.240

to do it this way this evening. We are always here to take emails, to take

0:30:24.240,0:30:29.789

questions. If you have not received a ballot, like I said people received them

0:30:29.789,0:30:34.890

yesterday. Many people received them today. I would imagine the rest of the

0:30:34.890,0:30:39.720

ballots will be received to mailboxes tomorrow, but if you do not receive a

0:30:39.720,0:30:44.159

ballot, and you believe that you are an eligible, registered voter in the Hudson

0:30:44.159,0:30:50.720

City School District, please contact our board clerk Mrs. Leslie Coons at [coonslx@hudsoncsd.org](mailto:coonslx@hudsoncsd.org)

0:30:50.720,0:30:55.870

and request a ballot

0:30:55.870,0:31:03.880

or call her at 518-828-4360 extension 2100

0:31:03.880,0:31:08.980

and she will make sure that you receive a ballot, so that you have time to fill

0:31:08.980,0:31:13.780

it out, sign the oath envelope, and get it to us by the deadline that currently

0:31:13.780,0:31:26.770

exists June 9 at 5:00 p.m.

0:31:26.770,0:31:31.000

Mrs. Otty, I'm done with the questions and answers if there's no other questions or comments

0:31:31.000,0:31:39.309



from the board. CO: Thank You Maria. I would like to make a motion. Did somebody say something? Dr. S.: You

0:31:39.309,0:31:43.960

need to close the public hearing. CO:  
Yeah OK. I'd like to make a motion to

0:31:43.960,0:31:51.429

close the public hearing  
continuation at 7:02 p.m. WJ: Second.  
CO: All

0:31:51.429,0:32:02.440

in favor? SC: Yes. (Unanimous show of hands.) CO. That brings us to the personnel agenda.

0:32:02.440,0:32:06.669

I'd like to make a motion to accept  
the personnel agenda items A

0:32:06.669,0:32:19.020

through E. LS: Second. CO: All in favor?  
SC: Yes. (Unanimous show of hands.) LC: Thank you.  
you

0:32:19.020,0:32:29.460

CO: That brings us to welcome to new staff. Dr. S.: So Leslie, can you unmute Cheryl? LC: She should be able to,

0:32:29.460,0:32:33.360

Dr. S.: Cheryl, can you unmute yourself?

0:32:43.060,0:32:49.280

There you go. OK, so it is my  
pleasure to introduce Cheryl Rabinowitz,

0:32:49.280,0:32:55.340

who will be serving as the district's IT  
manager, and she will be starting with us

0:32:55.340,0:33:01.970

on July 1. As you know this is an area  
of growth for our district. We have not

0:33:01.970,0:33:06.020

only with the on-line platform that we needed to turn on a dime or provide to our

0:33:06.020,0:33:10.700

students as of March 18, but prior to that we have been bringing

0:33:10.700,0:33:17.240

Promethean boards and been working on  
using our technology with a Google

0:33:17.240,0:33:22.340

platform and we know that we need  
someone that is very talented like

0:33:22.340,0:33:29.420

Cheryl is to manage that department. It's really a a high-stakes Department right

0:33:29.420,0:33:35.090

now with the way that education is going. Even more so now with knowing that even

0:33:35.090,0:33:39.860

in the fall we'll have to be working with some sort of an online platform, whether

0:33:39.860,0:33:45.650

that's a hybrid model or completely online. So Cheryl, if you could address the board a

0:33:45.650,0:33:48.230

little bit and introduce yourself I would appreciate that.

0:33:48.230,0:33:52.520

Cheryl Rabinowitz: Sure. Thank you, Dr. Suttmeier. Good evening Board of Education members and

0:33:52.520,0:33:56.750

community and staff and any students and families watching. Thank you for

0:33:56.750,0:34:01.250

welcoming me into the Hudson City School District. I'm very excited to become part

0:34:01.250,0:34:05.990

of the team and serve the district, and I look forward to meeting you in person

0:34:05.990,0:34:12.520

one day soon. Dr. S.: Thank you it's a pleasure to have you and we'll see you July 1.

0:34:12.520,0:34:21.290

Cheryl: Thank you. CO: Welcome. Cheryl: Thank you very much. I'm very excited. Dr. S.: So now if you could mute

0:34:21.290,0:34:26.320

yourself, and we can unmute Heather. Cheryl: Sure.

0:34:31.230,0:34:39.869

If you move your cursor to the bottom of your. Heather: Got it. Dr. S.: So welcome, certified social worker

0:34:39.869,0:34:45.780

and what's wonderful about Miss Heather is that she has already worked with many

0:34:45.780,0:34:50.520

of our Hudson students in the Warren Street Academy. So as a social worker

0:34:50.520,0:34:55.679

there she's gotten to know our students, many of which do suffer from some sort

0:34:55.679,0:35:01.079

of trauma, school anxiety, and you know she has really been a shepherd to make

0:35:01.079,0:35:04.410

sure that they know that they have someone that cares about them, that will

0:35:04.410,0:35:08.490

listen to them, and really champion for them, to make sure they stay in school

0:35:08.490,0:35:12.570

and earn their diploma. So we're delighted to have her join our BlueHawk

0:35:12.570,0:35:17.250

family and she'll be working, like I said, across the district with our homeless

0:35:17.250,0:35:21.839

population, as well as other students that need her special talents. So if you

0:35:21.839,0:35:25.349

could please introduce yourself Heather. And I'm sorry I don't have your proper

0:35:25.349,0:35:30.450

last name, because I only have a simple agenda in front of me, not the full. Heather LIncoln: Sorry

0:35:30.450,0:35:34.500

for the confusion. It's Heather Lincoln. I was formerly Heather Schultz.

0:35:34.500,0:35:42.060

So sorry if I'm there anywhere that. Dr. S.: I did give you a great name. Heather: So I'm super

0:35:42.060,0:35:47.910

excited to start in September and to be a part of you know helping the

0:35:47.910,0:35:52.140

school reach its goals of social and emotional learning and also to support

0:35:52.140,0:35:58.339

the students. I can't wait. I'm very excited. I'm very pleased. I look forward to

0:35:58.339,0:36:03.540

meeting all of you in person. Dr. S.: After the way the spring is ending we are very

0:36:03.540,0:36:07.410

happy to be welcoming you in the fall as soon as we can and to welcome you into

0:36:07.410,0:36:13.410

our BlueHawk family. So thank you for being with us this evening and you're welcome to

0:36:13.410,0:36:17.040

stay for the rest of the meeting or to go back to your personal

0:36:17.040,0:36:22.530

responsibilities. That is truly up to you. If we see that you disappear, we will not

0:36:22.530,0:36:29.359

take insult by it. Heather: I'm gonna go feed my kids. Dr. S.: OK take care. Thank you. Heather: Bye. Thank you.

0:36:32.950,0:36:37.750

CO: Well, we have ability for a public forum, so that brings us to the consensus

0:36:37.750,0:36:48.040

agenda. I make a motion to accept the consensus agenda items A & B at 7:07 p.m. SC: I'll

0:36:48.040,0:37:04.000

second that. It's Sage, I'll second that.

CO: All in favor? SC: Yes. (Unanimous show of hands.) LC: Thank you.

0:37:04.000,0:37:10.300

CO: We have no need for an executive session. Oh wait, meeting dates first. Board of education

0:37:10.300,0:37:16.210

meetings June 9 special meeting via zoom or some other platform 9 p.m.

0:37:16.210,0:37:22.450

Budget Vote updated on ballots. Absentee ballot to central office by 5 p.m. June

0:37:22.450,0:37:26.560

16, Regular meeting via zoom or some other platform, 6:30 p.m.

0:37:26.560,0:37:31.930

Adopt budget vote results. Committee meetings: Policy committee is scheduled

0:37:31.930,0:37:36.160

to meet the second Monday of each month  
the next meeting is Monday June 8, 4:30

0:37:36.160,0:37:43.660

to 5:30 via zoom at this point in time.  
So we need no we don't need an executive

0:37:43.660,0:37:52.030

session tonight. Dr. S: So we did have a few people, I got an email here that other

0:37:52.030,0:37:59.770

people who are having a hard time  
signing on to the live stream, so I think

0:37:59.770,0:38:02.830

what we're going to have to do is post  
the questions that were answered here

0:38:02.830,0:38:07.420

tonight as soon as possible, because that  
is not our intent. We want to engage the

0:38:07.420,0:38:12.070

public. We want to answer their questions  
and this is a new platform for us as

0:38:12.070,0:38:18.130

well as our public. So I've been sending  
link, as I'm trying to conduct the

0:38:18.130,0:38:21.370

meeting and be responsive to people that  
are emailing me, that they can't get on

0:38:21.370,0:38:27.760

to the meeting and I don't know where  
the trouble lies because we did multiple

0:38:27.760,0:38:32.830

tests today to make sure that we could  
get into the live streaming and asking

0:38:32.830,0:38:36.790

other people to get into the live  
streaming and it worked perfectly, so I

0:38:36.790,0:38:42.370

don't know why there's trouble  
linking to the live stream this evening.

0:38:42.370,0:38:46.780

So we'll have to address that on a  
case-by-case basis.

0:38:46.780,0:38:55.900

LS: Is it possible to post a recording of the video to the website. Dr. S.: Yes. Rachel Risetto: I still

0:38:55.900,0:39:04.030

have my livestream going on my other device and it is working. Dr. S.: Yeah. I

0:39:04.030,0:39:07.540

took the link from our website and sent it to them and they're still having

0:39:07.540,0:39:16.599

trouble getting in and the person does have a gmail account. So we will be able

0:39:16.599,0:39:27.070

to get this up as soon as possible Mrs. Coons. LC: Hopefully. Hopefully. Dr. S.: I know

0:39:27.070,0:39:29.920

you haven't used this platform before so you don't know how it's going to

0:39:29.920,0:39:35.980

translate it has to be ADA compliant so that's it's not so easy just to take

0:39:35.980,0:39:49.810

the video and say here you go. It has to have a transcript. CO: OK well that brings

0:39:49.810,0:39:54.130

us to adjournment. I make a motion motion to adjourn budget hearing

0:39:54.130,0:40:04.420

continuation meeting at 7:11 p.m. LH: Excuse me before we go, I was just noticing that

0:40:04.420,0:40:11.530

I could turn on captions at the bottom and when Carrie was just speaking, the

0:40:11.530,0:40:18.420

words were popping up at the bottom for me. Maybe in the future we can do that to help with the video.

0:40:23.460,0:40:29.050

LC: Our communication specialist will have the captions turned on automatically before

0:40:29.050,0:40:35.230

we post video. That is what will take so long to get it posted. I have to go through and

0:40:35.230,0:40:39.820

edit all the captions, so there's nothing inappropriate and I have to identify who

0:40:39.820,0:40:47.800

speaking for the transcript. LH: I was just thinking for the video that's gonna go

0:40:47.800,0:40:55.210

up and a live stream it's possible to have those going and then identifies the

0:40:55.210,0:40:59.440

speaker. SC: Any user who's watching can turn that on

0:40:59.440,0:41:06.520

for themselves. LH: On the live stream? SC: I believe so yes. LH: Oh. SC: So it's up to the user.

0:41:06.520,0:41:11.290

to turn that on. LH: Rachel is that something you can do

0:41:11.290,0:41:24.730

on your live stream. RR: I don't have that feature on mine no. Dr. S.: I'm wondering is it

0:41:24.730,0:41:30.180

different for the live stream as it is for the recording. I do have that option.

0:41:30.180,0:41:42.400

right it's in the bottom bar. LH: For future reference. Dr. S.: Well we thought we had

0:41:42.400,0:41:49.900

Zoom down and now we have to learn how to do this one. So there are no further

0:41:49.900,0:41:54.520

meetings until our June 9 meeting for the ballot count> And I will see you all

0:41:54.520,0:41:58.270

Tuesday at 9 p.m. CO: We didn't finish the motion.

0:41:58.270,0:42:03.910

Dr. S.: I know making sure that we know that. CO: Don't leave yet. LH: I will second the motion.

0:42:03.910,0:42:16.020

CO: Thank You Linda. All in favor. SC: Yes. (Unanimous show of hands.) LC: Thank you guys have a wonderful night.

0:42:16.020,0:42:20.070

Dr. S: Thank you. CO: Thank you. LS: Thank you.

0:42:27.900,0:42:30.900

goodnight