



Board of Trustees of the Hendrick Hudson Free Library  
Special Meeting

May 7, 2020  
Via GoToMeeting

- Jill Davis  
So I started the recording after the Pledge of Allegiance, so I will note that we did say the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Francoise LeGoues  
Yes.
- Cynthia Neff  
Perfect.
- Jill Davis  
All right, Cindy
- Cynthia Neff  
Yes.
- Jill Davis  
So, do you want to just explain why we chose to continue to have this meeting?
- Cynthia Neff  
Ok, we needed to call this meeting this evening because it came to our attention that there's going to be a vote on the Hendrick Hudson School District budget as well as the Hendrick Hudson Free Library Budget. And we were informed by the superintendent of schools that we needed to make a decision whether we were going to have our budget vote included as part of the school district vote, or if we chose to not be a part of that budget vote.
- Jill Davis  
So, I think I said when I sent the e-mail around, there were three options. We could put our vote up, like we normally do with the school district, on June 9th, we could hold our own vote on, I think it is September 15th, or we have the option as an Association Library to not put our levy on the ballot and just accept the same payment that we received last year. So that was the premise of the meeting on Wednesday when Cindy called for a special meeting, but since then I received an e-mail from the superintendent yesterday at about 11 30 that said they had miscalculated the reporting times to get their

budget information out to the public, and he needed to know by 3 PM yesterday as to whether or not we wanted to be on the June 9th ballot.

- **Jill Davis**

So, I had a conversation with Cindy and decided that the only decision that could be made is that our proposition should go as proposed and presented to the board of education at the March meeting, because we had no way to get the board together to reverse or change that decision before the 3 pm deadline. So, I let the school district, know that we were going to go ahead and enter our proposition on the June 9th ballot, which will be a paper ballot mailed to every eligible voter in the school district with a return postage paid envelope.

- **Jill Davis**

Cindy thought that it was still important that we at least meet, so that everybody understood why we made the decision we made and to answer any questions.

- **Francoise LeGoues**

I was going to say that I wouldn't see the downside of doing it the way we generally do.

- **Phil Brandon**

Does this effectively just extend the current budget to the next year?

If we're taking the budget, which was budget proposal number three, I guess, with the \$50,500 increase, is this what we're referring to.

- **Francoise LeGoues**

Yeah.

- **Phil Brandon**

Yeah, and that's the one that we had planned to be on the ballot on June 9<sup>th</sup>. But it can't be you are saying.

- **Jill Davis**

No. You have it correctly. It can be, that's the budget that was approved, by the board, and would have gone on the ballot in May.

- **Jill Davis**

Now it's going to be a paper ballot.

- **Jill Davis**

We should, at least as a board, decide, did we want to do it that way? We could have come to this decision anyhow but I wanted to make sure that everybody understood the options that we had. We could have held our own vote in September or we always have the option to accept the last voter approved levy which would have been last year's amount, if we did not increase our levy.

- **Phil Brandon**  
That's what I assume would be the case and then we would revisit this budget that was about to be voted on next March. I think.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Our proposed budget has been included on the ballot, only postponed a couple of weeks. So we didn't change our decisions at all, the only thing that's been changed is the date of the vote.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
So I don't see any problem with that whatsoever, because there is absolutely no downside if for some reason it didn't pass, then we receive the amount of the last budget anyway. So, that's great.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Well, the only downside, if you will, is the perception of the possibility of voters, saying no to our budget, regardless of what they decide to do for the school district. We historically don't have that happen.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
Now, I understand, but if they do, we revert to this year's budget, so it's not like we lose money.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
In that regard, you're correct. I think there's a very good possibility that voters will say no to all of it because of everyone is in financial circumstances.
- **Phil Brandon**  
I can even envision a scenario; whereby budgets will be mandated to decrease somehow some way, because of the extraordinary circumstances.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Now, I'm not a financial expert here, but the State is already warning school districts that they might be getting less than they anticipated in January. That included more money from the State than they may be getting, it could put them in a more difficult financial position.
- **Kevin Quigley**  
You know, Jill, out of curiosity the past three months we have been closed has there been any cost savings in electricity or utilities or layoffs of people that we could put towards next year if this doesn't work out?
- **Jill Davis**  
Jenny, why don't you unmute yourself and then you can weigh in on this because I believe we just paid some monthly bills like Con Ed.

- **Jenny Kolesar**  
With Con Ed our usage was down a lot. We had a \$300 credit from our solar production and I think our bill was only a few hundred dollars for what we actually used in electricity. I think our total electric cost was under \$200, but we had to add the gas usage to that. But we definitely had a huge savings in electricity usage.
- **Kevin Quigley**  
Is there a savings in the hourly workers, or maintenance, or anything like that?
- **Jenny Kolesar**  
As for our maintenance, they are all salaried and we've been keeping salaries as is. We've been paying everybody their scheduled hours. So, the only thing we would be saving on is if somebody at a higher rate was covering for somebody else or something like that. But for the most part, salaries have been pretty much what they usually are, OK.
- **Kevin Quigley**  
Was there any budgeted maintenance that we did not do in the past couple of months that we had planned on doing? I'm just trying to think of other savings.
- **Jenny Kolesar**  
So we've actually had some work done in the building. Ssince we've been close, it's easier to get it done when the building is empty. We have had a couple of faucets replace in the bathrooms and things like that.
- **Jill Davis**  
I don't think we have spent our entire capital line for this year, so there will be money in this line at the end of June, I'm sure that there will be some savings there.
- **Kevin Quigley**  
I was just asking because, you know, the levy increase is only 50 grand, I didn't know how much of that we can offset. You know, we lose the vote and we still have to go back to what our original budget was.
- **Jill Davis**  
I don't really have a concern about that we couldn't operate if we receive the same amount as last year. We would still be buying books and materials but we would probably save money on programming, as virtual programming seems to be a bit less expensive. If we end up doing summer reading virtually we will save money there plus who knows what kind of prizes we will be giving out. These could all save us money. So I think that that we would be 100% OK having the same levy amount in 2020-2021 as we have in 2019-2020.
- **Kevin Quigley**  
Ok, thank you.

- **Jenny Kolesar**  
We will definitely be saving on things like supplies for the bathroom.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
Do you have any read at this point, about opening? Or do we just not know yet?
- **Jill Davis**  
I was part of a conversation this morning that the Chamber put together and George Latimer spoke, and there are a lot of things that are being looked at. There's criteria that has been put out by the State that each County has to meet before they even begin to enter into the phases of re-opening. George Latimer said today that of the seven of them, right now, the County is comfortable with four of them. There are some that are going to be very difficult for them to achieve, like they want them to have 90 days' worth of PPE on hand at all hospitals for hospital personnel. Right now they're happy and comfortable to know that they have about five days.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Yeah.
- **Jill Davis**  
So, there's a lot that will go into when we can start to re-open as a library. Libraries are in phase four of reopening with education. The State library is trying to get curbside and limited services by libraries moved into phase one. George Latimer said this morning, he doesn't foresee the County being able to meet the State's seven criteria for beginning the phases until at least June 1<sup>st</sup> and maybe longer. If you go onto the state website, you can read all the criteria, and I can probably send you a link to it, but some of it is very difficult for them to do. And there's also the challenge that I believe we've been put into the Mid-Hudson economic development section for re-opening. And so there is a little bit of push and pull going on there because Putnam and Dutchess Counties, they do not want to be lumped in with Westchester because we have so many more people than they do, but Westchester doesn't want to be lumped in with Long Island or the city. There's a lot still in play.
- **Jill Davis**  
But that does not mean that we have not started the process of formulating some re-opening strategies and phases for the Hendrick Hudson Free Library and on a larger scale with the Westchester Library System. So, there's definitely work going on. There's definitely going to be work to be done. I'm going to need to call a policy meeting, before Agnes goes because we're going to need to have some policies put in place for not only staff returning, but for the public returning, even if they're temporary policies. Policy is definitely one of the criteria we are going to have to meet before we can open our doors to anybody.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
There's a lot, there's a lot involved.

- **Jill Davis**  
There is a lot involved.
- **Phil Brandon**  
I'd like to set this meeting back a little bit and restate my question at the outset that I still, frankly, obviously, am missing something, don't get. We are delaying the proposal until March 2021, after we present it to the board of education?
- **Jill Davis**  
No, we presented this budget to the board of education back in March. It was to be voted on at the May 21<sup>st</sup> budget vote that budget vote has been pushed off to June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **Phil Brandon**  
Ok, I thought you said something about March delaying until March, or is it was only a reference to the past March?
- **Jill Davis**  
That was last March is when we presented our budget.
- **Phil Brandon**  
Correct?
- **Jill Davis**  
Yes, so all we're saying is basically our budget that we presented in March for our 20/21 fiscal year will be voted on with the school district budget, via paper ballot.
- **Phil Brandon**  
Ok, I misunderstood, which March you referring to. It sounded to me that you were talking about pushing all this stuff up and re-presenting it in March of 2021, and I just didn't get that. I didn't understand why that would be. Like it was said, we really can't lose because if worst comes to worst you revert to the prior budget bill.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
Jill and I had talked a little bit back and forth about the pros and cons of going ahead and putting our proposed budget up for vote, because, like I said, we have a very good track record of our budget always passing, even if the school district didn't ours has always been approved by the voters. Did we want to, not to be on the ballot, and just go with last year's levy amount so that we don't have a failing budget on the library record? But the decision is already made I'm just, sharing our conversation and our thoughts.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
I'm completely in agreement with what you did.

- **Jenny Kolesar**  
I think it's just the pride we have in not having a failing budget, is it worth \$50,000, because there is a very good chance that it will impact the results.
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
It's just the circumstance and if the budget doesn't pass, it doesn't.
- **Mark**  
It's moot now because the budget will be voted on as we passed it. We will find out the results of the election.
- **Phil Brandon**  
Ok.
- **Jill Davis**  
Ok, I think I think that's it. Unless anybody has anything else, we should be set, I will be sending out some dates for the policy committee to meet and some information about what types of policies we need to think about, and I'll also direct you to sites where you can see some sample policies, because there's a lot of stuff out there. I am going to put into place a board meeting. It'll probably be mid-June, so I'll send out a doodle meeting so we can pick a convenient date for everybody.
- **Agnes Leyden**  
Will it likely be a virtual one as well?
- **Jill Davis**  
I would say that that will probably needs to be a virtual one as well. Yes.
- **Cynthia Neff**  
**What is your process currently extended through?**  
For the State it is June 15, even though schools are closed schools.
- **Jenny Kolesar**  
I thought that schools are closed to the end of the year?
- **Francoise LeGoues**  
I was going to suggest since a policy thing is going to be difficult, I can't help with the legal stuff but I could help with proofreading, if that makes sense to people?
- **Jill Davis**  
I'd be happy to send the information to everyone and then anyone who wants to jump in and help can. Then we can get something out to the full board.

- Agnes Leyden  
Currently the policy committee is still myself, Mark, and Kevin.
- Kevin Quigley  
I don't know.
- Agnes Leyden  
It's much, much easier for three people to agree on the policy and then presented to the rest of the board and then have a discussion if there's anything additional, rather than trying to make a full board policy meeting; it just might get too unwieldy.
- Kevin Quigley  
Ok.
- Jill Davis  
Ok.
- Cynthia Neff  
Ok, OK.
- Francoise LeGoues  
Good.
- Jill Davis  
Does anybody have anything else, or Cindy, do you want to close the meeting?
- Cynthia Neff  
20:51 - 21:00  
I think unless there's a question or just a comment, otherwise, I think I can go ahead and close our meeting. It is 7:26 PM.