

Transcript

00:04
good evening and welcome to the virtual 72nd annual meeting of the seven
00:09
Westchester BOCES I am Valerie Cermele district clerk for the BOCES I would
00:14
like to review the procedures for the public that will take place on Tuesday
00:17
April 1st 2020. Ok can I have a Call to Order. I'm
00:30
gonna say Cathy Draper (I am here.) John Filiberti (present) John DeSantis Sheryl Brady
00:43
present Lynn McBride present Robert Johnson Bob well we know it's here in
00:58
Georgia Riedel and Valarie Williams here okay do you want me to do Jackie and
01:11
everybody just the Board of Education okay thank you
01:17
so good evening welcome to the virtual 72nd annual meeting of the
01:22
southern westchester BOCES I am Valerie Cermele district clerk for the
01:26
BOCES i would like to review the procedures for the vote that will take
01:30
place on Tuesday April 21st 2020 at which time our component school
01:35
districts will vote on the 2021 proposed southern Westchester BOCES administrative
01:42
budget and for two board of Education trustees there are three open seats and two candidates
01:50
have been nominated to serve the candidates are Cheryl Brady and
01:54
Valarie D. Williams whom are both seeking election for the first time
02:01
nominees all candidates are seeking a three-year term beginning July 1st 2020
02:07
and ending June 30th 2023 also for your information on Board Docs is a memo from
02:14
the New York State Commissioner education thank you for your attention I
02:19
would now like to turn the meeting over to mrs. Catherine Draper president of
02:23
the SW BOCES Board of Education um so I guess we're a little bit out of the
02:30
order of my agenda but I think it's probably time to rise for the Pledge of
02:33
Allegiance yes go please do that I
02:38
(Pledge of Allegiance)
02:55
the pictures were hilarious I don't know that this is really the best way to do things but
02:58
thank you for doing that Val I think you have a letter of greeting from the
03:03
Commissioner that you're supposed to just mention yes I did mention it and
03:08
I'm sorry I missed that it stated on it's on Board Docs as an
03:11
attachment okay okay so my job is to welcome all of you
03:18
and it's it's truly a pleasure to welcome you to a whole new format and I
03:23
thank all of you for doing what I'm doing which is learning how to do
03:26
something new I feel like I'm a bit of an old dog to be learning these new
03:29
tricks but over the last couple of days I've started feeling a little bit more
03:33
proficient with zoom so I thank all of you for taking the time and making the
03:38
effort to participate in the meeting this way special thanks to well first of
03:45
all I'm so glad to see all of you are here and looking healthy and just

03:49
getting through what we're doing these days
03:51
and I want to thank both board and staff members for what I know have been
03:56
extraordinary efforts over the last couple of weeks I've been speaking on a
04:00
very regular basis with Jackie and I know how hard especially the
04:05
administrative staff has been working some of them literally pulling
04:08
all-nighters to figure out how we're going to deal with a really difficult
04:11
situation so all this has just reinforced to me what a wonderful
04:17
organization we have an incredible board such dedication such a wonderful staff
04:21
and so really my introduction and welcome tonight is about thanking all of
04:26
you for the efforts that you've made during this time and that I know
04:29
we'll continue to make for some time to come because we're certainly not out of
04:34
this so our first order of business is the approval of the minutes of the 71st
04:41
annual meeting are there any Corrections to those minutes I can't vote you cannot
04:50
vote that's correct and also Sheryl I believe cannot vote I think she was not
04:56
yet on the board no I was not I need a motion from one of you who is eligible
05:01
to vote so move in a second moved all those in favor aye aye
05:10
anybody opposed okay thank you very much next we have sort of a special
05:16
resolution tonight because of the fact that we are doing this meeting in an
05:21
electronic format that is I'll read it to you resolved that the Board of
05:26
Cooperative Educational Services Sole Supervisory District of Westchester County
05:30
hereby suspends board policy 2220 public participation at board meetings which
05:36
allows public comment during meetings of the board until further notice during
05:40
the current COVID-19 crisis I may have a motion? so moved. second? second. all
05:49
those in favor aye anybody opposed okay thank you very much
05:55
and now I would like to welcome Dr. Harold Coles. I want to thank you
06:01
and welcome everyone to tonight's a 72nd annual budget meeting I'd like to
06:07
introduce the executive team first personally introduced is Jackie
06:11
O'Donnell our chief operating officer and deputy district superintendent
06:15
second I'd like to introduce James Gratto Jr. our assistant superintendent
06:20
for educational services next person is Kathy Conley our executive director of
06:25
the lower Hudson Regional Information Center and last I'd like to introduce
06:29
Steven Tibbets he's an assistant superintendent for business
06:32
administration administrative services and he's going to be the one presenting
06:38
to us the 2020 2021 tentative Southern Westchester BOCES budget Steve
06:47
Thank You Harold good evening everyone I hope you're all safe and and doing well
06:52
as well as your families that's certainly a challenging time for
06:55
everyone so I'm happy to present the proposed administrative and capital
07:01

budgets which this should be on your screen hopefully in the large section
07:06
that you can see it and so first going to the first slide this is how the BOCES
07:16
budget works so the administrative budget is the only budget that's voted
07:20
on by our component districts so our board local boards will hopefully gather
07:26
and vote on a designated day on our administrative budget the capital budget
07:32
being a component of a BOCES its assessed to all of the districts as well
07:37
as the program budget is based on whether districts participate in a
07:44
particular service there's a charge for services depending on what type of
07:48
service could be a tuition or a license subscription for a technology service
07:53
all the hosts of our services that we provide to districts have costs
08:00
associated with them and that comprises our program budget you can see on the
08:04
bottom there tonight is our annual meeting based on the guidance we have
08:09
right now which is still being debated our budget vote is still scheduled for
08:14
April 21st there's a potential that this might change but we do not have
08:19
definitive information yet as to whether that will change or not all of our local
08:25
school districts the earliest that their budget votes as well as elections would
08:31
take place is June 1st and we are still seeking clarity as to whether the BOCES
08:36
would fall into that category as of now we believe we don't so we still plan on
08:42
having our boat our vote on April 21st so just looking at our this is the total
08:51
BOCES budget which is approximately 192 million dollars proposed for next year
08:57
you can see the largest percentage of that is the program budgets that I spoke
09:03
about earlier the services that are our component districts as well as
09:07
surrounding districts purchase only 8% of our proposed budget relates to the
09:14
administrative and capital portions of our budget so looking at our
09:22
administrative budget again this would be the budget that our districts are
09:25
voting on in a couple of weeks there's really two main sections to that
09:30
particular budget one is the day-to-day operations and the other is the retiree
09:34
health insurance so the day-to-day operations comprises expenses for our
09:38
board of education our legal expenses our audit expenses things like that that
09:43
are categorized under the board of education expenses as the board
09:50
responsibility to make sure we're legally complying with things and as
09:54
well as that were under audit the district superintendent expenses and you
09:59
can see the other areas they're listed primarily the operations of Berkley
10:03
Drive the expenses associated with the departments at Berkley Drive the
10:07
business office Human Resources those expenses are accounted for in our
10:11
day-to-day operations the other side of the equation is the retiree health
10:16
insurance so based on current rules for BOCES if an employee based on a
10:23
contractual agreement or a terms and conditions of employment upon retirement

10:26
if they're eligible for retiree health insurance those costs must be accounted
10:31
for in the administrative budget so just looking at the day-to-day side which was
10:37
the left side of the previous slide we've been doing a really good job in
10:42
keeping this to a bare minimum increase over the past probably about 10 years so
10:47
you can see that the day-to-day operations we ever proposed 0.87 percent
10:53
budget to budget increase in those day-to-day operations looking at what's
11:00
driving that increase contractual budgeted contractual and to terms and
11:07
conditions of employment compensation increases fringe benefit costs
11:11
which is pension system contributions as well as health insurance one piece that
11:17
is a significant increase in our budget is the costs associated for the
11:22
website ADA compliance so all public websites are required to be ADA
11:29
accessible and this is something that we didn't budget for last year and so we
11:35
had to include in the budget this year to make sure that our we run our website
11:41
through various programs to make sure that it's compliant for ADA
11:45
purposes so the cost associated with all of the BOCES websites to Southern
11:51
Westchester websites for our different departments the costs are accounted for
11:54
in our administrative budget for the website compliance so looking at our FTE
12:01
count in the administrative budget you can see that over the past eight years
12:06
it has trended downwards we've we've certainly felt the pain that our
12:11
districts have felt over that time with the pet tax cap and we've been able to
12:16
reduce and consolidate a lot of our or some of our FTEs here at Berkley Drive
12:22
primarily we have a support staff that support three people now they're
12:26
interested it's a lot of sharing that goes on and even prior to the 13-14 year
12:31
our FTE was around 28 so we've cut about 5 FTEs almost 20% of our FTEs over the
12:39
past 10 years from the administrative budget looking at our day-to-day budget
12:46
breakdown by expense category or classification of expense you can see
12:51
the largest pieces of the pie relate to the salaries of individuals who work in
12:56
those departments as well as the fringe benefits the pieces of the pie the small
13:01
little slices there are the furniture equipment and materials and supplies so
13:05
there's other than personnel there's there's not much that that could be cut
13:11
from the budget so our our furniture and equipment and materials in supplies it's
13:16
just a very small piece of that particular budget flipping to
13:23
the other side of that previous slide of the pieces of the administrative budget
13:28
the retiree health insurance piece is really driven by the demographics of our
13:35
employees so it's whether they're entitled to health insurance and then we
13:39
have to project in how many people we think are going to retire so looking at
13:43
this pie chart that hopefully you can all see the solid pieces of the pie
13:49

chart represent any individual who is currently employed whose 55 or older and
13:56
that's significant because that's the minimum age for retirement purposes for
14:01
the pension system so anyone that's 55 or over as long as they invested in the
14:06
system is eligible for retirement doesn't mean that everyone's entitled to
14:11
health insurance in retirement but that's a piece that we look at so that
14:15
the solid pieces of the pie are actually getting smaller than what it has been in
14:20
the past couple years a few years back we were nearly at 50% of our works of
14:25
our employees at 55 or older so it's it's not intentional it's just people
14:31
are retiring you know based on their their desire to retire which we all hope
14:37
to do someday so it's just a we've been hiring new staff again not intentional
14:44
but just that our new staff is not in the retirement eligible category so this
14:56
looking at our retiree headcount numbers you can see that it's still trending
15:00
upwards there's no doubt that people are living longer the retiree numbers have
15:07
increased about 10 years ago we were around 350 retirees so our numbers
15:13
continue to increase even though our work FTE our our employee count has
15:18
remained relatively stable over the past 10 years the retiree number continues to
15:22
grow based on people living longer as well as the demographics of our
15:27
employees so just looking at some of the retiree budget facts as I said earlier
15:35
all of the cost / BOCES handbook regulations which are
15:38
the rules of accounting for BOCES finance the costs associated with those
15:44
are required to be captured in the administrative budget and you can see
15:50
that each retiree adds about 13,000 a little over 13,000 dollars of expense
15:56
one thing that does help is lower premiums when an individual becomes
16:00
Medicare primary which is age 65 or older the premiums do drop from our NYSHIP
16:06
plan they reduce so looking at the retiree budget again primarily it's it's
16:15
all health insurance related based on contractual obligations this is the
16:19
significant driver of our budget so you can see the proposed budget increase is
16:24
three point seven six percent and it's based on the premium projected premium
16:28
increases as well as the projected increase of eleven budget budget budget
16:34
a budget 11 person increase in our headcount so that number the three point
16:42
seven six is actually dramatically lower than it's been in the past few years we
16:48
had some numbers that were in the double digits in that in our the reason that
16:55
it's been able to go down is are we kind of had a little bubble of retirees which
17:00
has passed as well as the premiums for the past couple years have sort of
17:04
leveled out where they were increasing substantially substantially a few years
17:09
back so looking at our total administrative budget the proposed
17:17
budget for next year a change of about three hundred and ten thousand dollars a
17:21
budget budget increase and the 2.6 percent increased figure that's what

17:28
they're our budget are actually our districts our component districts we'll
17:32
be voting on on the vote date so that is our proposed budget for the 2020 21-year
17:39
from the administrative side looking at the pieces of the budget and this is the
17:46
total administrative budget you can see 62 percent significant
17:50
portion of the pie is retiree health insurance related that number was just
17:55
50% a few years ago so that continues to outpace the budget increases in all of
18:02
those other areas so everything above the retiree health insurance on the
18:06
right side those those increases have certainly been kept at a minimum as best
18:12
we can over the past few years but the health insurance the trend has been
18:16
about a 7% increase in the premium rates
18:24
flipping to the capital budget and this is an assessment to our component
18:28
districts so it's not voted on by the districts but basically the in the
18:34
capital budget it's any expense that BOCES has for leasing spaces for
18:41
obviously properties we don't own so this would be for 450 Mamaroneck Avenue
18:45
the Tappan Hill School in Tarrytown st. Matthews and White Plains and as well as
18:51
st. Gabriel's in New Rochelle those are spaces that we rent to provide
18:56
programming for for our districts and and the community so any costs
19:02
associated with the rental of the of that space the lease payments are
19:07
accounted for in the capital budget we also have a transfer to capital fund to
19:11
fund projects that have been identified in our facilities inspections that go on
19:18
each year as well as the annual performance contract payment which we
19:23
are nearing the end of about another six years of payments for that and then that
19:29
will come off the books so looking at the drivers of our capital budget the
19:36
the leased facility that we have at 450 Mamaroneck Avenue in Harrison has
19:40
certainly provided a lot of stability to the capital budget and we just have
19:44
minor the increases in that rent averaged about 1.5 percent per year and
19:51
then we have projected increases for classrooms space rentals as well as the
19:57
continued contribution to the capital fund an aged performance contract so
20:00
those are the factors that are driving the increase in
20:04
the capital budget so again looking at the total capital budget about a \$40,000
20:11
proposed budget to budget increase a little over 1% as compared to this year
20:19
so looking at the five-year budget comparison you can see that this really
20:24
tells the story where on the left side it's the administrative budget which has
20:28
remained relatively flat over the past five years as well as our capital budget
20:33
has remained almost essentially flat it's almost at the same number it was
20:37
five years ago so the real driver of our budget and you
20:41
can see it's almost a perfect step up is the retiree health insurance and that
20:46

that is a figure that will continue to increase just based on the premiums
20:50
increasing for that so where does the money come from for the budget
20:58
everything up to this point has been speaking about the expenditures so for
21:02
our administrative budget a significant portion the large green piece of that
21:07
pie comes from our component district so that's assessments that we that our
21:12
districts would pay or Billings that they pay if the if the budget is passed
21:19
as it stands now eighty one percent of our budget would be supported by our
21:25
component districts you can see the other sources of revenue there we have a
21:29
post employment accrued liability which you've been running down for a number of
21:33
years that's almost gonna be at zero soon as well as we charge out any
21:39
district that is not a component of southern Westchester BOCES they might be
21:44
a component of another BOCES but not our BOCES we do assess a two percent charge
21:48
to those so that's the piece of the pie which is labeled as non components and
21:53
that also includes services to Yonkers and Mamaroneck which are not a component
21:57
of any BOCES so these are the figures that behind that pie chart so you can
22:04
see that the largest decrease is that post employment revenue coming into the
22:09
budget as I said we've been running that down for about seven or eight years now
22:14
and so that amount is almost gone which really
22:19
continues to drive up the assessments for our component district so that's why
22:25
the even though the budget is proposed at two point six four percent budget a
22:29
budget the assessment to our component districts is a little bit more than that
22:33
it's a six percent because of the because of the decrease in the post
22:41
employment funds look in their capital budget a very similar pie chart where
22:49
the significant majority of revenue for that budget is from our component
22:54
districts the large green section the other BOCES who participate in we do
23:00
charge out rental for facilities that support multiple BOCES regions so for
23:07
example the Regional Information Center and our Interscholastic Athletics program
23:11
support Rockland and Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES for the RIC and then
23:16
those two BOCES as well as Dutchess BOCES for Interscholastic athletics so a
23:21
portion of the rental fee that we pay for those where those programs are
23:25
housed we charge out to those BOCES in addition for any of our adult education
23:31
programs primarily st. Gabriel's we're required to account for those costs in
23:37
our administer I'm sorry in the capital budget for the rental expenses but we
23:42
charge those programs back for the revenue to come in and offset the
23:48
expense so our component districts are not paying the rental fees associated
23:53
with the adult education program so
23:59
these are the assessments kind of the numbers behind that pie chart so you can
24:04
see that the component assessment in this case is actually lower than what

24:09
the overall budget increases so the budget is 1.22 and the component
24:14
assessments is the 0.8 figure there that you could see this so the
24:18
assessment because of the other revenues coming into the budget were able to
24:23
assess our districts less than what the budget increase is
24:30
so everyone's favorite term RWADA which is the resident weighted average
24:36
daily attendance this is how the assessment of both the administrative
24:40
and the capital budgets are done out to the districts so you can see how the you
24:45
can read how the RWADA is calculated it basically weights your 7 to 12th
24:52
graders at our 1.25 and your K to 6 at a 1 so it does somewhat relate to the
24:59
enrollment of a district but also depends on what grades the students are
25:03
in in those particular districts as to what the district's RWADA is and so the
25:09
assessment to the district is done based on taking the total RWADA for our 32
25:14
component districts and so the numerator in the equation is the local districts
25:20
RWADA figure and the denominator is the total RWADA whatever that
25:25
percentage equates to be that's the assessment percentage for the
25:31
administrative and capital budgets so looking at it and obviously the change
25:39
depends on what the district's assessment is based on what their change
25:46
in RWADA is so the average assessment increased our district is six
25:49
point three two percent for the capital budget is 0.86% so combining those
25:56
together is a five point two two percent proposed increase on an average district
26:02
assuming that their average their their change in RWADA was a decrease of
26:08
0.62 so if a districts RWADA decreased more than that their share in
26:13
the budget would be less than that five point two two percent increase if there
26:17
RWADA increased or increase or was less I'm not even sure how to say it less
26:26
negative I guess I'm or if there RWADA change was greater than a decrease
26:33
of point six two in any way their assessment would go up more than the
26:37
five point two two percent
26:41
so just looking at we really have four classifications of districts kind of in
26:46
our region we have six special act districts which have a very small
26:49
RWADA then we have some small medium and large districts so you can see what the
26:54
average assessments for those particular sized districts where the three large
26:59
districts and then medium is about seven or eight districts and then the
27:04
remainder of our 32 components other than special acts are the small size
27:09
districts so you can see that that that's just a average increase of what
27:15
if the budget passes as is what their assessment increases would be I'm so
27:24
I'll be happy to take any questions from the board of education at this time I
27:30
think Victor's unmuting everyone so just just a moment please first Steve I'd
27:39

like to thank you for a great presentation as always it's really clear
27:42
and succinct it tells us what we sort of spent three nights of December thinking
27:47
about and it all comes down to this which is great I'm disappointed that we
27:52
don't have members from component districts and superintendents joining us
27:56
for a delicious meal so they can watch this along with us as much fun to do it
28:01
but it's also I'm very efficient so thank you for doing such a great job and
28:07
I know your staff put a lot of hard work into this to other board members have
28:11
questions before I ask one no anybody no okay well I do have one
28:22
and this one it's you may not really have an answer but I guess the question
28:27
is what kind of a position are we in doing this knowing that this state
28:33
budget which at least an hour ago had not yet been adopted could look very
28:37
different from what we're accustomed to seeing and some of our districts may
28:40
really be struggling to you know figure out whether they can afford tuition to
28:44
CTE programs or or whatever it may be that they're going to be looking at yeah
28:49
so the the the state actually sent out the budget runs and so so I guess one one good piece of news at least from what I
29:01
saw was that the BOCES aid and transportation aid and so forth they were
29:06
they remained similar calculations to what it is for this year so there was a
29:12
proposal to roll them all into one and make it part of foundation aid from what
29:17
I've seen it doesn't look like that's going to take place which is a good
29:20
thing for district districts are really unsure as to what their what their
29:29
budgets going to look like from an aid perspective for next year at this point
29:33
because the runs did come out but they there's a lot of asterisks on them
29:37
saying caution so but that what's that gonna mean for the BOCES I mean we've
29:43
put together our budget I think we've put together a budget that's fair and
29:47
reasonable it's it's a challenge especially in the special ed area
29:50
because we can't increase class sizes it's just not allowable so you know I
29:58
it's hard to tell what districts how they're going to you know what choices
30:05
they're gonna have to make but I feel that our services are valued and
30:09
competitively priced for the needs of all of our component districts
30:15
okay thank you and then there is some good news you said and what came out in
30:19
the budget runs today so that's good hopefully it will stay that way I don't
30:22
think anybody has the appetite to negotiate much right now yeah exactly
30:27
any other board questions comments hey can I be heard? yes John just for the
30:38
record my mic was muted by the host but I did participate or watch the whole
30:46
budget for presentation great job Steve but I just wanted to put me down that I
30:51
attended the meeting at 6:05. Thanks John. We are actually all muted by the host so that we would have some control over the meeting so
31:01
wasn't just you okay thank you I will add to the compliments in just
31:08
that was a really clear presentation so thank you thank you okay anything else

31:15
before we go on to the next item on the agenda okay so the the next item is we
31:24
have candidate statements two candidates first one being our own Cheryl Brady who
31:29
was nominated by the White Plains Board of Education so Cheryl I think if I look
31:36
down a little I am reading something that I prepared so I'm proud to be
31:41
serving on the southern West Chester BOCES board of education since August of
31:45
this past year and I look forward to being able to continue the work that I
31:49
have really just begun it's a privilege to serve with the outstanding members of
31:55
the board Kathy John John Lynn Georgia Bob as well as to work with our
32:01
excellent district clerk Valerie I am so fortunate to collaborate with the
32:06
exceptional incredibly dedicated senior administrative team:Harold
32:12
Jackie Jim Steve Kathy Suzanne Victor who are all here tonight too many others
32:19
to mention and I don't want to leave people out but really the outstanding
32:23
team administrators and members of their staffs who lead this forward-thinking
32:28
high quality and innovative organization and to commit countless hours to support
32:35
school-age students and adult learners faculty administrators and staff from
32:41
school districts all through the county in a myriad of ways I have known BOCES most
32:46
of my life growing up as a local student and as an adult and I have experienced
32:52
and admired firsthand some of the many opportunities offered in professional
32:58
development and adult education as well as benefited from the partnership
33:03
support provided by southern Westchester BOCES as a member of the White Plains
33:08
City School District Board of Education public education has been and continues
33:13
to be my passion I consider my school board service both on the southern Westchester BOCES
33:19
school board and on the White Plains school board to be the most significant
33:24
work that I do and it has been exciting and meaningful to be on the southern
33:28
Westchester BOCES Board where I have a positive impact on an even broader array
33:34
of school districts students educational professionals and the public I hope to
33:40
be elected to this position and to be able to continue contributing to the
33:44
important work that we do thank you
33:50
so next we will have a statement from our guest tonight Valerie who is
33:56
nominated by the New Rochelle Board of Education Valerie Williams, thank you for being with us
34:02
Good evening everyone I would like to thank the City School District
34:12
of New Rochelle Board of Education for nominating me for a position on the
34:16
southern Westchester BOCES school board I've been an educator for 25 years in
34:25
the Greenburgh Central School District for 23 years and other places in the
34:30
city and also in Westchester County and I am just so grateful to Southern
34:35
Westchester BOCES for all of the leadership and supports that are offered
34:40
to our schools I was just elected to the school board
34:44

in New Rochelle and I would like to thank dr. Harold Cole's for all of the
34:49
work that he has done his leadership and support of our school district and also
34:54
I had the opportunity to work with him in the Greenburgh Central School District
34:59
and in the Abbott School District and I'm just really happy to have this
35:09
opportunity to have served on this board at this time because at this time with
35:16
the COVID-19 pandemic school boards are very important to our children and
35:24
public education with southern Westchester BOCES and school boards we
35:31
make sure that our children are educated in that they're fed
35:37
their that they're safe and they're kept healthy so as an educator I have taught
35:46
for 25 years in both public schools and special act schools and my experience
35:53
with BOCES, I've had direct experience with BOCES through the leadership in my
36:00
school buildings and with my NYSUT Teachers Union BOCES has been
36:10
instrumental in providing data warehouses so that we could see our data
36:16
and we could use that data to improve student achievement also with testing I
36:24
was the coordinator for both the Common Core of math and ela testing grades four
36:32
through six at RJ Bailey school in the Greenburgh Central School District and
36:36
through BOCES BOCES worked with our district collaboratively and we were
36:42
able to receive our testing materials and also training for all of the
36:48
teachers so that we could score the test for our students also with the
36:53
programming so the last few programming programs that have been trained in our
37:01
PBIS MTSS and countless other programs that have been trained in through the
37:09
BOCES and I feel as a teacher I feel very confident in my skill set and also
37:16
in the skill sets of my colleagues and administrators when I decided to to run
37:28
for the school board in Rochelle I wanted to use what I have learned to
37:37
serve my community in my master's program in school administration through
37:44
the College of New Rochelle and the Edith Winthrop
37:49
teacher center and also I have experience with creating budgets through
37:59
my work through the college of New Rochelle the Edith Winthrop teacher center and
38:07
also my doctoral work at st. John Fisher College in executive leadership and also
38:14
I have experience with policy
38:20
just to recap I've been an educator for 26 years in both special acts districts and
38:29
general education districts and I've had wonderful experiences with Southern
38:35
Westchester BOCES with data warehousing where we actually use the data to
38:41
improve student achievement testing I was the testing coordinator for a four
38:49
six school in the Greenburgh Central School District for math and ela and
38:54
with that experience we received training and how to score the tests and
38:59
also we received all of the materials that we needed for the children and also
39:04
as far as professional development like PBIS MTSS Wilson programs you know the

39:13
gamut so that in my district I along with the administrators and the other
39:19
educators we were able to raise student achievement and also one of the reasons
39:28
why I decided to run for the Board of Education is that I wanted to use my
39:32
skillset as a service for my community of New Rochelle I'm a lifelong New
39:38
Rochellian I Love New Rochelle and I received a world-class education in the
39:43
New Rochelle public school system and I want to ensure that current students and future
39:48
generations of students have the same opportunity one of my skill sets and one
39:54
of the responsibilities of being a school board member is hiring
39:58
Superintendent and I have training in hiring different professionals in my
40:08
experience in the Greenburgh Central School District and also I learned about
40:14
hiring and human resources development through my master's degree in school
40:22
administration through the college of New Rochelle and my executive leadership Ed.D.
40:29
training through st. John Fisher College and I have been on interview committees
40:37
to hire assistant principals principals teachers and I've done that as a lead
40:46
teacher as a union representative and the summer school principal I was a
40:51
summer school principal for four years for the Greenburgh Summer Academy which
40:56
is a summer school program for our extended year special education students
41:02
as well as our AIS students who were in general education and ENL students and I
41:12
also have experience with developing a budget both academically through my
41:19
experience in school administration with a master's degree and the Ed.D. degree and
41:25
also as the summer school principal I needed to prepare a budget for over two
41:32
hundred plus students and also another responsibility of a school board member
41:40
is to set policy and my work at st. John Fisher I have training in research and
41:51
theory and applied research in theory so that will be instrumental in my work
41:59
with policy and just in general being in Westchester we have such great public
42:08
officials volunteers and community organizations
42:14
during this pandemic COVID-19 it's like we have the mantra in New Rochelle and
42:22
we always believe that #NewRoStrong and we are coming together
42:28
with Westcop with feeding programs with the Department of Public Housing and our
42:40
school district to make sure that our children are fed and that our community
42:47
is fed as well and we're coming together and we're working together and BOCES is
42:53
helping us BOCES helps us with our search for administrators for our
43:01
programming and also very importantly BOCES is going to help us with our state
43:09
aid as long as well as all of the districts that need the support so this
43:16
is a great time to be a member of the New Rochelle School Board and hopefully
43:22
a member of the southern Westchester BOCES board as well and thank you very
43:28
much for having me this evening
43:34

okay Victor had to unmute me

43:39

Thank You Valerie we're really looking forward to having you join us and we

43:43

hope that the next experience you have with us will be a little smoother than this one

43:50

Before I adjourn the meeting which is the next thing on the agenda is there anything I've

43:54

forgotten that we need to do for an annual meeting no I just wanted to say

44:03

that I've known Valarie for quite some time we worked together in several

44:07

organizations and she will be an excellent board member to the southern

44:13

westchester BOCES. Welcome. Thank you, Lynn. I was so excited to see my caucus sister ms. Lynn McBride as a member of the board so it's definitely organization that I want to be a part of

44:27

and also I'm a New Rochellian but New Rochelle's city sister is Mount Vernon so Lynne's my sister from another city

44:40

that's great I'm sandwiched between the two of you in Pelham. It's a good place to be. So I look forward to working with you Ms. Valarie.

Thank you I'm looking forward to working with you as well.

44:57

I see a cat in the picture there too this is nice I had

45:00

earlier meeting today with the dog that kept jumping into the frame It's nice to know

45:04

people are living their real lives so okay so if there's nothing else I would like

45:09

a motion to adjourn. so moved. And a second? second. All in favor? Aye Aye Aye. all right thank you very much

45:20

for going through this for the first time a little bumpy but we will learn

45:24

will be better the next time assuming there is the next time of doing this and

45:27

thank you all for going on this interesting journey with me tonight

45:32

thank you everybody stay safe