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**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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May 11, 2015

Board Meeting Highlights

This year's Budget Hearing took place on May 11th. The 2015-16 budget is \$27,363,316 and was adopted by the School Board on April 20th. "We are pleased that the members of the Board of Education adopted the budget," said Superintendent John J. Finello. "This budget allows for the continuation of an educational program of excellence for our students while staying within the limits of the tax levy cap. We think we're in pretty good shape, but it is a tight budget."

The budget stays within the tax cap due to a reduction in pension costs, tuition rate reduction at the high school, reductions found in Charter School-related services, tutoring costs, and professional development reductions. District Treasurer Thomas Primiano remarked that the 5-year tuition agreement with East Hampton High School is saving the school \$12,000.

Because the District has met the tax cap limitation for two consecutive years, this will result in a "tax-freeze credit" rebate check mailed to STAR-eligible taxpayers of the Springs community.

A proposition will be included on this year's ballot for voter approval to release \$2 million from the Capital Reserve to fund capital projects, such as re-configuring car line, moving the existing

two ball fields, and modifying the rear parking lot. More information on this reconfiguration can be found below, and also under "Quick Links" on the Springs School homepage.

Board Vice-President John Grant's term is expiring in June and he will not be running for re-election. Barbara Dayton, who has a child in Springs School and also at East Hampton High School, is running unopposed in this year's trustee election.

During the board meeting, Principal Eric Casale reported on the latest enrollment numbers. There are currently 745 students enrolled in grades kindergarten through eighth, which is 15 more students from this time last year. "We have reached a plateau," said Mr. Casale. Board President Liz Mendelman reported that Springs School has received a \$5,000 gift certificate to Book Hampton from the actor Alec Baldwin. "This money will be well spent to fill our classrooms with books, and we thank Mr. Baldwin," said Mrs. Mendelman. The Board also announced a donation of \$5,000 from the Anna Lytton Foundation, half of which will be used exclusively for payment of the seventh and eighth grade poetry and book-making project led by local poet Megan Chasky. The remaining \$2,500 will help fund other wellness programs through the Foundation. Ms. Chasky recently taught junior high students about poetry and how to create their own bound books, which included stitching and stamping their own books. The foundation, formed in honor of the late Anna Lytton, a Springs School student, engages students in the importance of art, poetry, and wellness.

PTA President Lisa Matz reported on the success of this year's World's Fair and the Mystery Art Sale. She also encouraged everyone to attend the Special Olympics Spring Games at Southampton High School on Sunday, May 17th. Ms. Matz also announced upcoming PTA-sponsored events, including the buy-one-get-one-free Book Fair, the luau-themed eighth grade dance at Springs Firehouse on June 25th, and the kindergarten graduation. Board member Jeffrey Miller stated that the Facilities Committee has been formed, and consists of 11 members, six from the school and five from the community, and will be meeting soon to discuss the future expansion of the school.

The Budget Vote and Trustee Election will be Tuesday, May 19th in the school's library from 1:00 - 9:00 p.m. June's board meeting will take place on Monday, June 8th and will take place in the school's library at 7:00 p.m.

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*Mission Statement*

*“Springs School is dedicated to providing a foundation for personal and social growth in order to develop students of exemplary character who become responsible, productive and caring citizens.”*