

**ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MARCH 10, 2014**

President Neil Martin called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. at Central Administration Office, 144 Todd Hill Road, LaGrangeville, NY 12540.

1) Call to Order

2) Pledge of Allegiance

- 3) Roll Call** Board Members present were Mrs. Baxter, Mr. Johnston, Mrs. Lappan, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCormick, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Rossi, and Mr. Shuttleworth. Board Member absent was Mrs. Eraca. Also present were Dr. Lyons, Mr. Benante, and Ms. Zimmerman.

4) Reading of Mission Statement Neil Martin

- 5) Veteran's Tax Exemption** Motion by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. McCormick, to open the Public Hearing. The motion was carried unanimously.

Public Hearing Public Hearing was opened. There was an audience of approximately 35.

Neil Martin stated the following:

"THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION GREATLY RESPECT THE SERVICE OF ALL VETERANS TO THIS COUNTRY. AS A BOARD WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT THIS VETERANS TAX CREDIT ISSUE AND WILL BE DECIDING ON WHETHER TO IMPLEMENT IN THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT. AS A BOARD WE NEED TO WEIGH THE IMPACT THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM WILL HAVE ON ALL OF OUR ARLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXPAYERS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF THE VETERANS MAY BE DISAPPOINTED THAT WE WERE UNABLE TO HAVE ALREADY VOTED ON A VETERANS TAX CREDIT RESOLUTION PRIOR TO THE MARCH 1 DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION TO AFFECT THIS NEXT TAX YEAR HOWEVER, WE OWE ALL TAXPAYERS THE SERVICE OF PROPERLY LEARNING ABOUT THIS ISSUE, LISTENING TO WHAT THE PUBLIC HAS TO SAY AND THOROUGHLY DISCUSSING THE TOPIC PRIOR TO MAKING A FINAL DECISION. THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN VERY PROACTIVE IN PREPARING THE ISSUE FOR DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD. THE TIMELINE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

12/18- LAW IS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE AND SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR. OUR DISTRICT ATTORNEYS BEGAN THE REVIEW OF THE LEGISLATION.

1/14- DR. LYONS RECEIVED THE INTERPRETATION OF THE LAW FROM OUR ATTORNEYS AND GUIDED THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR BUSINESS TO PREPARE A LAYMAN'S EXPLANATION OF THE LEGISLATION AND ITS IMPACTS FOR BOARD REVIEW.

1/31- THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR BUSINESS' REPORT WAS INCLUDED IN THE FRIDAY REPORT TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS.

2/11- THE TOPIC WAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND MOVED TO A PUBLIC HEARING TO GAIN THE PUBLIC'S FEELINGS ON THE TOPIC.

THE BOARD OWES ALL TAXPAYERS THE PROPER DUE DILIGENCE OF ANY ISSUE PRIOR TO VOTING.

Ms. Zimmerman gave a presentation entitled "Alternative Veterans' Exemption." She reviewed how it works and what does "period of war" apply to. She also reviewed who qualifies for the exemption, what limits school districts can select, and the impact on non-Veterans. She shared information that was provided by the County and based on this information, she created scenarios of possibilities to the tax payer.

Public Comment: Mr. Dale Borchert, County Legislature, spoke in favor of the Veterans' Tax Exemption. Many veterans were in attendance. About 25 veterans spoke in favor of the exemption. Many shared stories of their time at war. They urged the Board to grant the tax exemption. Several stated that they live on fixed incomes and should be repaid for their sacrifices. Many asked the board members not to wait too long.

After much discussion the Board would like Ms. Zimmerman to present again when she receives more accurate information from the County. A future date will be scheduled regarding the Veterans' Tax Exemption.

Motion by Ms. Baxter, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to close the Public Hearing at 9:00 pm. The motion was carried unanimously.

Margie Flynn, District Clerk