

**EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE
of the
Suffolk County Legislature**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Education and Youth Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on Tuesday, **March 27, 2001** at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Vivian Fisher, Chairperson
Legislator Angie Carpenter, Vice-Chair
Legislator Jonathan Cooper
Legislator Brian Foley
Legislator Andrew Crecca

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Sabatino, Counsel to the Legislature
Elizabeth Nostrand, Aide to Legislator Fisher
Fred Pollert, Director, Budget Review Office
Barbara LoMoriello, Aide to Legislator Cooper
Nicole DeAngelo, Intergovernmental Relations/County Executive's Office
Kevin Peterman, Faculty Association SCC Exec. V.P.

NOT PRESENT:

Legislator Fred Towle

Minutes Taken By:

Kimberly Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

(The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m.)

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Welcome to the Education and Youth Committee. We don't have many speakers here. I would like to ask Legislator Foley to lead us in the pledge.

(Salutation)

Our first speaker is Kevin Peterman.

MR. PETERMAN:

Thank you, Legislator Fisher.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Is your mike on, Kevin? I can't hear you very well.

MR. PETERMAN:

It is on. Thank you very much for letting me speak this afternoon. My name is Kevin Peterman. I am the Executive Vice President of the Faculty Association at Suffolk Community College representing the 425 full-time and roughly 1,000 part-time faculty at the college.

The reason I wanted to speak this afternoon was to let you know about some of the problems at the college and one of the issues happens to be the initiative we had last year with the support not only of the County Executive, but the Legislature and the State officials to hire more full-time faculty at the college. Thanks to your initiative last August, we were able to hire, give authorization to hire 21 additional full-time faculty lines.

One of the problems that we are having is those people were hired with a commitment of one year, which is standard procedure at the college. We did a national search. We brought in people from all over the country, and because of some of the budget problems this spring, the resolution at the college's Board of Trustees meeting on March 8th, which would have renewed those faculty members for an additional year, was tabled. Those individuals right now are in limbo. They are not sure whether they have a job in September.

It is my understanding that the college did address its budget problems and it is still working on them, and it is our hope, and it is our hope that the intent of the Legislature when they included those additional lines was not for a one year commitment, that we would be maintaining them and employing for more than one year.

I would just like to go on the record and ask the Legislators if that was your intent when you did have those 21 lines put into the college budget to make that more than a one year commitment.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Clearly that is a correct assumption. Our legislative intent and certainly our philosophy and policy statement was that we work at having a more equitable ration of full-time faculty – not equitable, but a more favorable ration of full-time faculty members to adjuncts because of the educational advantage of having full-time faculty members who become part of the college pedagogy and the educational structure and all of the important things that occur in a department when you do have full-time members as opposed to adjuncts who come, teach one class, and then leave the campus. It was certainly not meant to be a one year program.

In recruiting full-time faculty members, those of us who are in professional positions in other areas know that in recruiting quality professionals that you do want to offer someone more than a one year stint. So clearly our legislative intent here was that these be bona fide positions, not simply a one year temporary position, but rather that it would become a line that someone could continue in a tenure track, perhaps, in that position. You certainly were correct in your assumption.

We've spoken about the fact that there is the labor practice which demands that teachers, that professors be notified by is it March first at the college?

MR. PETERMAN:

April 1st is the contractual language in our contract mentions that faculty that are on that are on non-tenured, that are on what we call term appointments, the first year that they are hired they have to be told by April 1st one of two things. First, which obviously would be the best, would be that they have another one year position and the other possibility, which is

what the college is considering right now, would be to send them letters of intent. What that means is that they have the intention of re-employing them in September, but that is no guarantee.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

And there are 34 people who have received letters of intent?

MR. PETERMAN:

My understanding is that the letters will be going out. I can't speak for the college. I do know that the 34 individuals that were hired in September, I was told that they will be getting a letter of intent. But I want to say that the College Board of Trustees is meeting right now, and I am hopeful that maybe, maybe, one of those Trustees would take that tabled resolution from the March meeting and maybe vote on it today. If I could have a wish, that would be it. Excuse me?

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

The meeting is going on right now he said.

MR. PETERMAN:

No, no. It is a week from Friday. I believe it is April 6th. I think that is the Friday.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

But that would be coming after the due date for the letter of intent.

MR. PETERMAN:

That is correct. So that is why I would be hopeful that maybe they would vote on it today. If they don't, obviously the college has a legal obligation to send them the letter of intent, which I am sure the college will do.

I understand that there are a couple of things that came up. I believe that Ellen Shuler Mauk, the President, testified before Finance yesterday, and there was some question about whether legally the individual had to be employed for more than a year. I don't want to get into the legality of it, but I want to get into the policy issue. If the college is going to take a commitment and say we are going to hire more full-time faculty, or hire any faculty member, that it shouldn't be a statement saying well, it is going to be for a year. I think there has to be a policy decision that we make a commitment for someone – we have a faculty member that came from California.

One of the other problems with higher education is it is not a weekly job search. Faculty members that are looking for positions, they send their resumes out in October and November and the search process goes on in December and January and the commitment is made to the individual on a national level by January or February for that following September. These 34 faculty members, if they are not re-employed, they have already

missed it. They have missed their chance for full-time positions this fall. I just think it is unconscionable.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Thank you, Kevin. Legislator Foley.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Kevin, what I find equally unconscionable is the fact that there is no one from the college administration here at this committee meeting, not only to hear what you are saying, but to answer some questions that no doubt your testimony has generated a number of questions that they need to answer, and the record should reflect the fact that this emergency meeting of the Board of Trustees to go over the budget was something that was put together give or take within the last week or so, maybe a little bit longer. But the fact of the matter is those at the college knew that today is the day for the Education Committee meeting. They certainly could have chosen either early in the day or another part of the week to hold the meeting so they could first come to this committee meeting as they did to Finance earlier in the week.

Let me just say this through the Chair, if I may. The Budget Review Office has distributed to each of the committee here an operating budget projection. When you read the fact that the college, the most recent projection provided to us by the college is a projected surplus now, a projected surplus of \$404,090. And I know that is a fluctuating number. I know one of the other issues is that the multipurpose technology building on the western campus is bringing in far more revenues than was projected. It is well over \$600,000 I understand as we speak, which is – I don't know, Fred, whether you could give us off the top of your head what the projected revenues were from the field house. But I know for a fact that it's – what the projected were when we adopted the budget, but I know it is well over, in a positive way, well over the projections.

So when you put all of those things together, it would appear as one person, this is why I wanted to have the college here today, that there are monies available, in other words, to employ these 34 new professors next year, and they shouldn't be left swinging in the breeze until late in the spring semester about whether or not they are going to have a job in the fall semester. I would agree with you that I would hope they would do something today. Was there any communications made to the board to impress upon them the need to vote today by the Faculty Association?

MR. PETERMAN:

I can just tell you that Ellen and I have spoken to some board members suggesting that it might be a good idea to take that resolution off the table.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Okay. So again, facts as presented to us by the college that there is a surplus, that being the case, and there is other additional revenues coming in, and there is going to, in fact, be a lowered or a reduced charge backs for health insurance, I think it puts the college in a much better position to employing those term positions, again.

Now, if I could ask this through the Chair. Those are 34 new faculty positions. Are there other term positions that are also in the mix?

MR. PETERMAN:

The other term positions – contractually people that are on payroll more than a year, they have an earlier window, if you will. They had to be notified by I believe February 15th, so they were dealt with at the January and February meetings, and those people were approved.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

They were approved. So we are looking at 34 positions?

MR. PETERMAN:

Yes.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Give or take. And those are full-time –

MR. PETERMAN:

To be totally accurate, there were 40 names on the resolution, 34 of them are brand new people. The other six were for whatever reason left off the January meeting.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Okay. So is it 40 or is 30 – approximately.

MR. PETERMAN:

I want to be really correct here. There were 40 people, their names are in the resolution, but 34 of them are brand new people.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

And those are full-time faculty positions.

MR. PETERMAN:

Correct.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

There were cuts in some of the course offerings in some of the sections available in various

courses; were there not?

MR. PETERMAN:

Having been at the last board meetings, I know it was announced. I believe it was 253 sections were cut for the spring semester.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

What the assumption is that the impact would – that they would have expected some impact on these new faculty members. Is that the assumption, that because of those course cuts?

MR. PETERMAN:

I believe it meant that we just hired less adjuncts.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Well, that is what I was hoping it meant. But I am asking you if this impact is –

MR. PETERMAN:

I can just tell you from the union database that we have, that this semester there were 950 adjuncts as opposed to about 1,100 or 1,050, and I am just rounding off, last semester. I believe that this semester there are 950 adjuncts.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

What I am trying to get at is trying to understand why we are looking at the possibility of these 34 new full-time faculty members receiving letters of intent in April. Is it due to the fact that there were course sections that were cut?

MR. PETERMAN:

That is not my understanding. My understanding, having been a witness at the last board meeting on March 8th is that the rationale given was that they weren't sure about the money for this year and next year's budget and until that was cleared up, they wanted to table that resolution. That is what was said.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Okay. Thank you, Kevin. Are there any other questions? Thank you very much. Is there anyone else here who wishes to speak? We will move to the agenda.

TABLED PRIME

2007-00 Reappointing Charles L. Lauer to the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees.

I will make a motion to table subject to call.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Foley. **(Vote: 5/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Towle)**

1171-01 Accepting and appropriating a grant award from the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation for a Made-It Program 100% reimbursed by private funds at Suffolk County Community College. (Co. Exec.)

Motion by Legislator Foley, seconded by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Opposed? 1171 is approved. **(Vote: 5/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Towle)**

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

I make a motion to put it on the consent calendar.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Second the motion.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Motion to put on the consent calendar made by Legislator Crecca, seconded by Legislator Foley. All in favor? Opposed? 1171 will appear on the consent calendar.

1172-01 Accepting and appropriating an amendment to the College Budget for a grant award from the Rochester Institute of Technology for a Professional Development for Educational Interpreters Long Island Site 50% reimbursed by State funds at Suffolk County Community College. (Co. Exec.)

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Motion.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Motion by Legislator Foley, seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? 1172 is approved. **(Vote: 5/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Towle)**

1229-01 Accepting and appropriating an amendment to the College Budget for a grant award from the State Education Department of the State University of New York for a New York State Adult Literacy Education Program 100% reimbursed by State Funds at Suffolk County Community College. (Co. Exec.)

Motion by Legislator Crecca, seconded by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote: 5/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Towle)**. And we will put that on the consent calendar as well. Motion by the Chair, seconded by Legislator Crecca. All in favor? Opposed? 1229 will appear on the consent calendar on Tuesday.

1246-01 Authorizing the County Executive to amend the Plan C Agreement between the County of Suffolk and the Suffolk County Community College. (Foley)

Explanation, please.

MR. SABATINO:

This legislation would direct the County Executive to enter into an agreement with the Community College subject to Board of Trustee approval to amend the Plan C Agreement for two things. One, to have all operating budget transfers reported to the County Executive's Budget Office and Budget Review in the Legislature within three business days, and then to also have a requirement to submit a multi-year proposed operating budget at the time that the operating budget is submitted. Those are the two suggested changes that are being requested by the legislation.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Legislator Foley.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Thank you. One of the reasons for – the main reason for this resolution is what we are going through right now. Over a period of time a lot of confusing information was coming from the college about the budgets. Both the Budget Review Office as well as the Executive's Budget Office have in the past been very helpful to the college to sort out their budgetary difficulties. What has happened of late is information that BRO was requesting in order to be of assistance either was very late in coming or it never arrived to their office.

One of the primary reasons for the reason is to in fact institutionalize that flow of information so that it will go to those two budgetary offices on a regular basis so that they can be better apprised of the budgetary situation at the college because what has been shown over time is that, particularly this Budget Review Office has been not only the most helpful, but the most accurate when it comes to the budget at the college. And if they are going to continue in that capacity, particularly their oversight capacity to help us in our oversight capacity, it is my belief that this resolution will help them fulfill that responsibility. Especially when in the past, as I say, there have been a number of occasions where information that would have been helpful to them in their oversight capacity was not forthcoming from the college.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Are there any caps on the amounts of the transfers? In other words, are there any minimums or minimum amounts? Because it would seem that it could be micromanaging if you are talking about transferring from one account to another.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Just to give you an example. There is, and Fred, if you can chime in. There is a \$10,000 threshold, but one of the issues that has arisen, in fact, it came up in the Finance Committee, is that in the past year there was between 200 and 300 transfers of monies less than \$10,000. So it could be 9,000, it could be 9,500, it could be \$100. But the fact – it is not so much micromanaging because we are not telling them what they should transfer. What it is, is to give our office, our Budget Review Office as well as the Executive's Office the information that these transfers are occurring so that they, they meaning the two budget offices, can update their information when they are overseeing the budget at the community college. So it is not to tell them not to transfer or to transfer, it is just to give them timely information about the transfers. Because if you are doing two or three hundred a year, you are talking about some substantial changes in the budget that we had originally approved for them.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Okay. Just bear with me because I wasn't on this committee last year and I am not that familiar with plan C. So this doesn't require any approval. This is strictly informational.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Correct.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Legislator Crecca.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

The first question is Fred, have you had a problem getting information when you needed it, especially lately?

MR. POLLERT:

Generally neither the Budget Review Office nor the Budget Office receives notification of the transfers of less than \$10,000. The transfers of greater than \$10,000 are provided with ten days notification by the Community College.

One of the difficulties is when you are monitoring the operating budget you are looking for surpluses and you are looking for shortfalls. You're ten days out of whack with respect to working with most current type of data so that you could contact the community college and say, gee, it looks like you have a surplus in a particular area, but the funds have already been transferred out. So, because most of the transfers take place electronically, it shouldn't really be a problem to them to be able to provide that type of data to both the Budget Office and to the Budget Review Office. It is just an electronic notification that the following transfers have taken place.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Legislator Carpenter.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

I had – that's okay, actually. I'll yield, and if I need to, I'll speak after Legislator Carpenter.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Okay. Sorry.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

I have to agree with the Chair's first assessment of this. It appears to me that it is micromanaging. We have trustees in place and we had an administration in place and they are charged with the responsibility of managing the money that we give to them. But to speak to the issue of the Plan C Agreement, and I would ask Paul this question, can the Legislature unilaterally amend the Plan C Agreement?

MR. SABATINO:

That is what I said before, it is subject to the Board of Trustees agreeing. So it would not be unilateral in position, it would be this is the outline of the two items that the Legislature would like to see happen. If the Board of Trustees signs-off, then it will become part of Plan C. If they don't, it won't.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

What about the issue of the State with the Plan C Agreement? Again, is this something – I didn't think that –

MR. SABATINO:

I know what you are referring to. Years ago when we did – 1995 – when we had done a series of amendments, there was a State observer who attended, because I think the Board of Trustees just wanted to have somebody from the State be present, but there was no legal requirement.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Okay.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

If I can just jump back in, Madam Chairman.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Sure.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

Two questions. I guess the first one is, is this something, rather than do this by resolution, is this something that you as Chair, which I don't think you have, or Brian, have you spoken to the Trustees about doing this voluntarily without the need to pass legislation? Because it sounds like it is something within their domain.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

But from what Counsel has said, it seems that it wouldn't be unilateral, that they would have to agree to it. So I suppose the resolution would be a legislative statement that this is what we are looking for.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

But I am saying as a committee shouldn't we discuss that with them first and say –

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

They are not here, though.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

They are not here.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

I understand they are not here. But I am saying –

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

It is a good point, if you want me to follow-up on it.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

I do.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

As mentioned earlier, the two budget offices have been asked over a period of time to help straighten out the budgetary mess at the college; okay? In trying to help, they have not been given all the information that they have requested in a timely fashion. That being the case, what the resolution tries to do is to, again, to take the personalities out of it and just to institutionalize an approach where there would be a freer flow of information so that whether it is the County Executive's Budget Office or this Budget Office, while it is not micromanaging because they are not saying you can't do it, just that they have – that they are kept in a loop on a timely fashion for the transfers.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

I don't disagree with what you are saying.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

In the past, to answer your question, no, they haven't given the information in a timely fashion.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

Right. What I am saying is before we go and put legislation forth stating this is what we want, we may be being a little confrontational by doing that. Just let me finish. I would think it would make more sense to sit down and Fred could be a part of that, Ken Weiss could be a part of that, and the college, and say hey guys, what do you think about doing this, and at least give them the opportunity to say no before we have to pass legislation.

We have had, I think, under the new Chairman and even prior to that at the end of last year we have had a good working – and not that we didn't have a good working relationship before that, but certainly we have had a good, open dialogue. It certainly – I don't know, I think it has been pretty good lately with the College Trustees. I would like to continue that and try to work on this as a group plan.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Well, the fact is that it is not confrontational because what it simply does is it directs the County Executive to in essence negotiate. Negotiations don't necessarily need to be confrontational.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Would you consider tabling it one round so that we could invite them with the proviso that this will be something that will be discussed at this committee meeting next time?

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Before we make the tabling motion I would just like to get all the questions out about it.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Okay, but it is something else that we might throw out that Legislator Crecca might – Andrew?

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

What's that? I'm sorry, I was talking. And I apologize.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Madam Chair, can I answer Legislator Crecca?

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Certainly.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

You speak of better cooperation. There has been some, but in many other areas there hasn't been any improvements made. That is one of the reasons why the resolution was put forward, because the flow of information is not moving not only towards us, but it is not even moving towards a number of members who are on the Board of Trustees.

What is happening is there is a log jam of information that is not being shared with people who are making decisions. And for us, particularly for our two budget offices, who have been of great help to the college in sorting out their budgetary problems. But the fact of the matter is, if they want our help, which they have had in the past, then at the same time they have to be more forthcoming with information.

So, to answer your question, repeatedly information has been asked of them, and because it hasn't come in a timely fashion is why this resolution was put forward.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

Just so you understand, too, I am just saying let's at least give them the opportunity to talk to us about it first before we vote on it.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

I can anticipate that they will tell us that they will be as cooperative as they can be, but you are not going to see the same flow of information without this resolution as you would with it.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

I understand. It is a valid point.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Madam Chair, if you want to table it for one round considering the fact –

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

That there is nobody here and my hope is that the reason members of the college administration are not here is because they were so pressed to attend this budget meeting. I am hoping optimistically that it is because of that pressure, that time pressure, that they are not here.

I will reach out and ask members of the college administration to be here so that we can

discuss this in committee. This is why we have this committee, so that we can have the kind of dialogue that Legislator Crecca is referring to.

I have been attending the trustees meeting, as much of the meetings as I can, and Legislator Carpenter is also there. I find it very educational to be there and see how the meetings are run and the types of items on their agenda. Because dialogue is important to me, I think that it would be good if you could as the sponsor be willing to table this so that we could have that dialogue next time.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Reluctantly, but for one round that would be fine.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

So there is a motion to table by Legislator Foley, seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? 1246 is tabled for one round. **(Vote: 5/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Towle)**

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Madam Chair, before we leave the agenda if we could hear from Mr. Pollert about the memo that he had distributed to us on the operating budget projections. Fred, if you could just highlight the information as you see it, without the benefit of knowing how many transfers were made below \$10,000.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

And Fred, while you are thinking about all that, before you begin I just wanted to underscore the \$400,000 that was requested. I know that those figures have now changed, but if you could refer to that for the health insurance costs.

MR. POLLERT:

At the request of the Education Committee as well as the Finance Committee, we have continued to work with the Community College to monitor how their operating budget is for this year.

Currently based upon data from the Community College, it appears that they are going to have a surplus of that \$404,000 based upon the reductions that have taken place in expenditures as well as improvements in a variety of different revenue accounts.

It was mentioned at yesterday's Finance Committee meeting that the Community College will in all probability moderate the plan because I don't believe that they want to continue to reduce costs. To wind up with a surplus they want to be at a break even type of a level.

The Community College was not aware of the fact that the County Executive's Budget Office is going to be lowering the charge back rates for health insurance. Therefore, they were carrying a projected shortfall of approximately 380,000. That is going to be moderated by the fact that the charge back rates are going to be lower to the Community College.

What is important to note is that the Board of Trustees had requested that the County provide them with an additional \$383,000, the amount that they are short on the health insurance premiums to the County, but as was pointed out at yesterday's Finance Committee meeting, at the same time that they are short \$383,000 on the health insurance premiums, the County legislative budget that was adopted for the Community College includes \$447,000 worth of surplus in other benefits. So that if you look at employee benefits as a whole including FICA and workmen's compensation and the health insurance, there is in fact a surplus of appropriations.

The college, despite having the savings plan, is going to continue to be short of appropriations. The reason for that is they are relying on approximately \$1.3 million worth of additional revenues. According to New York State Law, they can't spend those additional revenues until all the revenues materialize. Therefore, they will require a 14 vote resolution on the part of the Legislature to do two things.

Number one, they are relying upon surpluses in locked box types of items. As you heard just before, not all of the positions which were provided by the Legislature have been filled. There are surpluses therefore in the salary accounts that were locked box for the hiring of full-time faculty. The college will need to access that to transfer the funds elsewhere within the budget, number one. And number two, they are also going to require a transfer from their reserve account because they don't have enough appropriations to meet payroll, they can't spend the extra revenues as they are coming in. So, hopefully they will do a resolution which takes money from the reserve account and then in turn replenishes it with the extra revenues which they are anticipating.

Just as an aside, this budget plan deals with 2000/2001. One of the major advantages of introductory resolution 1246 would be if the Community College prepared a multi-year forecast. Both the Budget Office and Budget Review Office do it for the County as a whole, but it is almost impossible to have a County department with a \$100 million operating budget operate just on a one year budget forecast. That is how you wind up with problems like the faculty with the 34 individuals. You really need a multi-year plan, and that really needs to be presented both to the Executive and the Legislature, especially as the reserve funds are starting to get depleted.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Just on that, if I may interrupt just on that point. When we speak of a multi-year budget presentation by the college, again, from a public administration, from a budgetary point of view, it is not a terribly difficult and complicated budget that the college has.

MR. POLLERT:

No, roughly 80% of the costs are personnel driven, which makes it a relatively easy budget. Likewise that they don't have a lot of different types of revenue sources. There are only three or four major revenue sources.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Then you would not consider this an onerous request that we would make for them to go to a two year approach.

MR. POLLERT:

No. In fact, for probably the last ten years we have – the Budget Review Office has a multi-year forecast for the Community College. We really have to know what is going on with the Community College to be able to do the County's overall forecast.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Could you backtrack just a second? You have a forecast for the Community College?

MR. POLLERT:

Probably for the last ten years we have had a computer model that forecasts the next three years for the Community College.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

And how often or what kind of use does the college make of that information? Do they reach out to you for that kind of projection to help them establish their parameters, programs?

MR. POLLERT:

Probably the last time that they reached out to us we went to a retreat at the Board of Trustees that they had out in Sag Harbor, that was probably five or six years ago, was the last time that we –

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

So they don't avail themselves of that information that you have in your projections.

MR. POLLERT:

No.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

And the County Executive's Budget Office also does projections?

MR. POLLERT:

Yes, they do.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Or is it just the Budget Review Office.

MR. POLLERT:

No, no. It is also done by the Budget Office. I know that Ken also has a budget model.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

And do you compare one another's projections?

MR. POLLERT:

We compare just the bottom lines where the County contribution will be for the coming year. If you look at the Budget Review Office computer model for next year, they are going to have a very difficult time preparing a budget request that stays within the 4% cap. One of the difficulties is there is a proposed increase in FTE aid from New York State. However, because of the lateness of the budget, it is going to be a speculative revenue to have the Community College included in their budget request or the County Executive's Office. And if the budget is as late as everyone is talking about, the County Executive may not be able to include that revenue source when he submits his budget to the County Legislature.

At this point in time, our budget model is looking at a fairly chaotic year next year at the Community College, only because they can't factor in the additional New York State aid and –

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

They can't anticipate it?

MR. POLLERT:

Well, it would be a speculative revenue. You wouldn't want to include a revenue and then not have the revenue come about, especially since you are only fixing the contribution to the community college one time during the year. Likewise, the reserve account has been depleted over the years, so that if the aid did not come in, they wouldn't be able to rely upon the reserve account to make them whole.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

And then what happens when the aid does come in? This is very confusing, because we know that there is going to be some FTE from the State.

MR. POLLERT:

Right.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

The question is how much.

MR. POLLERT:

Hopefully before the Legislature adopts the budget the State aid will be known and then we can include it in our budget. But based upon discussions with Ken Weiss, Ken does not want to include a speculative type of revenue for the Community College. So in all probability unless the budget's in place by the time he submits a budget to the County Legislature, at this point in time he is not anticipating that he will be able to include the State aid because it would be speculative.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Thank you. That's not good news. Legislator Carpenter, did you have a question? Thank you very much, Fred. Are there any other questions for Budget Review? We certainly can have a lot of questions and maybe not a lot of answers, Fred. It seems like there may be some questions without answers when you are talking about the State aid.

We have some non-prime resolutions.

NON-PRIME INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

1209-01 Designating Week of May 6th as "Cooley's Anemia Awareness Week." Assigned to Health and Education & Youth. (Crecca)

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

It is actually May 27th. It was approved at another committee. We are not prime, but it was approved out of Health already and there was an amendment to May 27th to conform with some scheduling.

MR. SABATINO:

The corrected copy was filed in a timely fashion.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

So you want to make a motion to approve?

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

Sure. Motion to approve.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Foley. All in favor? Opposed? 1209 is approved. **(Vote: 5/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Towle)**

1250-01 Amending the Truth and Accuracy in Property Tax Billing Policy. Assigned to Finance & Financial Services and Education & Youth. (Foley)

Did it pass in those other committees?

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Yes. It was approved out of Finance.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Seconded by the Chair. All in favor? Opposed?

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

Explanation.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

This resolution is approved out of Finance. Basically what this will do is create on the property tax bill a separate line for the Community College property taxes. Right now it is folded into the general fund property tax line. In order to give the public a more accurate picture of County expenditures, I thought it would make sense to do what other counties and other towns in other parts of the state do, which is to have the Community College as its own line so people can see, particularly in our case, just how small a portion of the bill actually goes to the Community College. Because many times what happens, ladies and gentlemen, a large part of the property tax bill is for their local school districts, and some at different times are under the mistaken belief that our Community College taxes are similar to or in the same neighborhood as our primary and secondary school districts. This would clearly show, clearly show, just how small a part of the overall tax bill is our Community College and how important it is that we properly fund the college. I think it will reflect maybe anywhere from \$7 on a bill to maybe \$20. So it really is a very, very small amount. But again, it is to show the public that there is a very efficient use, if we can use that word, of taxpayer dollars when it comes to funding the Community College.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

There is a motion and a second to approve. All in favor? Opposed? 1250 is approved. **(Vote: 5/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Towle)**

SENSE RESOLUTIONS

4-2001 Memorializing resolution requesting Governor of the State of New York to extend project labor agreement requirements to local school districts. (Haley)

I make a motion to table. Seconded by Legislator Crecca.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

No, that was Cooper.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Second by Legislator Cooper, sorry. All in favor? Opposed? 4-2001 is tabled. **(Vote: 5/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Towle).**

If there is no further business, I make a motion to adjourn today's meeting.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Foley. All in favor? Opposed? The meeting is adjourned. Have a wonderful afternoon. It is getting warmer.

(The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.)