

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

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Education and Youth Committee was held at the William H. Rogers Legislative Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York in the Rose Y. Caracappa Auditorium on Wednesday, **April 18, 2001** at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Vivian Fisher, Chairperson
Legislator Angie Carpenter, Vice-Chair
Legislator Jon Cooper
Legislator Brian Foley
Legislator Fred Towle
Legislator Andrew Crecca

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Sabatino, Counsel to the Legislature
Fred Pollert, Director, Budget Review Office
Linda Bay, Legislative Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna
Elizabeth Nostrand, Legislative Aide to Legislator Fisher
Barbara LoMoriello, Legislative Aide to Legislator Cooper
David L. Reese, Asst. to Pres. SCCC
Nicole DeAngelo, IR/County Executive's Office
Jon DeMaio, Suffolk Community College

NOT PRESENT:

Legislator Fred Towle

Minutes Taken By:

Kimberly Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Welcome to the committee meeting of Education and Youth. The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by myself.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

Is there anyone who would like to speak before the committee? In that case, we will move to the agenda.

TABLED PRIME

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

LEGISLATOR COOPER:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Seconded by the Chair. All in favor? Opposed?

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

1246 is approved. Please note the vote in opposition. Oh, we don't have four. That's right.

I am sorry.

MR. SABATINO:

I think two people are out. You need four votes with the prime.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

We need Towle and Crecca, okay.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Can we make a motion to table, then?

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Do we have to do a motion to reconsider first?

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Motion to reconsider.

MR. SABATINO:

Motion to reconsider because the vote was called.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I will second the motion to reconsider. All in favor? Opposed?

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

I will make the motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Second.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Just on the tabling motion, Madam Chair. This resolution doesn't force the college to change any agreements. What it simply does, and it is part and parcel of the approach, and one can undertake part of the Plan C agreement, is for the Legislature to authorize the County Executive to negotiate with the Community College to change part of the agreement as read, or as written, in this particular resolution. So if people are hesitant or opposed to it because of a concern that it is going to foist upon the college some change without the agreement, it doesn't do that.

What this simply does, it is an authorization resolution to begin negotiations between the college and the County Executive to make two very important changes, and these two important changes, as I said at the last meeting, are what I would consider good budgeting as well as good government changes.

The first change would require that all operating budget transfers would be reported both to the County Executive as well as to the Legislature. And why it is important to have those not just above \$10,000 that are currently being reported, but those below 10,000. We heard from testimony at our last committee meeting upwards of 200 to 300 transfers were made under \$10,000, and if you were to add those up punitively, that was a substantial amount of money. And if the college on the one hand is asking, as they have, asking for both the Executive's Budget Office as well as the Budget Review Office for their help in monitoring their own budget and help in reviewing budgets going forward, then it makes sense to me that in return the college should be totally forthcoming with all the information that the two budget offices have requested. The requests in the past have not always been timely honored, and this is one reason why I tell that we need to have the County Executive negotiate this point because both his Budget Office as well as ours needs this information on a more timely basis than they are receiving now, particularly for the transfers under 10,000.

Now, the second area that would be negotiated, an area of negotiation, is to have, again, it is basic budgeting, it is good budgeting, for whatever reason it is not being done at the college at this time, is to require the college to submit a multi-year proposed operating budget.

These are not, you know, complicated requests. These are not complicated budget requests. It is being done by the rest of County government. We simply want the college to be on the same footing.

So that said, Madam Chair, I reluctantly make the motion to table. Just to put everyone on notice, I will be trying to discharge this from committee on Tuesday, and if at that time or presently those who oppose the bill would give some reasons as to why they oppose the bill, I would be more than happy to hear those and to see if can address those concerns. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Any other comments? There is a motion to table, seconded by the Chair. All in favor? Opposed? 1246 is tabled. **(Vote: 5/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Towle)**. And because of the full membership not being present, if you do want to move forward with a discharge petition, I would be happy to support that.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

1304-01 Accepting and appropriating 100% reimbursable funds in the Youth Bureau to continue a Youth Development Program during non-school hours. (Co. Exec.)

I would make a motion to approve. Seconded by Legislator Cooper. I would like to put that on the consent calendar. It is 100% reimbursable funds. All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote: 5/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Towle)**.

1305-01 Accepting and appropriating a Toyota T-Ten Program through Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc. 100% reimbursed by private funds at Suffolk County Community College. (Co. Exec.)

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Motion to approve and place on the consent calendar.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? 1305 is approved and placed on the consent calendar. **(Vote: 5/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Towle)**.

SENSE RESOLUTIONS

26-2001 Memorializing resolution requesting State of New York to keep Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Center as a hospital that serves Suffolk County children. (Cooper)

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Legislator Cooper.

LEGISLATOR COOPER:

I would like to make a motion to approve Sense 26.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? 26-2001 is approved. **(Vote: 5/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Towle)**.

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

I will make a motion to table.

LEGISLATOR COOPER:

Second.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Madam Chair, have we heard from the sponsor of the bill on why he sees the need for the County Legislature to request a requirement on local school districts?

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

He hasn't made any communication.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Hearing that, it might be helpful to have him attend one of our committee meetings about this. I know he is also a former school board member, so I don't know how school boards would take kindly to an issue of requiring them to do something. We in the County do this, and the record should be clear on that, we do have project labor agreements.

In fact, some had to do with some Community College buildings, and there is good reasons for project labor agreements, however, I don't think we would like to have the State Legislature to require us to do it and when it is at our discretion to do it, and I think the same would hold true for school districts as well. So, until we hear from the sponsor –

(Legislator Crecca entered the meeting at 1:42 p.m.)

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

We will wait until Legislator Crecca sits so he can vote on this last resolution.

We are voting on the tabled memorializing Resolution 4-2001, which is a resolution requiring – requesting that the State of New York extend project labor agreement requirements to local school districts. There is a tabling motion and a second.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

There was no motion to approve that?

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

No.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

We want to hear from the sponsor of the bill.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

All in favor? Opposed? (**Vote: 5/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Towle**). I'll invite Legislator Haley to come to our next meeting so that he could support this.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

Madam Chair, can I ask that we just reconsider the two introductory resolutions for the purpose of recording my vote with the majority?

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Yes.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Well, Madam Chair, you'd have to go back to the tabled prime resolution as well.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay. 1246. There is as motion to reconsider. Can we --

MR. SABATINO:

As long as it is somebody that was either on the prevailing side or not present. He was not present, so he can make the motion.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Seconded by the Chair. 1246 is again before us. Motion – would you like to make a motion to –

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

We have a majority and I would like to make a motion to approve, but frankly, I don't know where Mr. Crecca stands on the resolution. I would like to – for the purpose of discussion, I am going to make a motion to approve.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

Actually, I would not be voting in favor of it, Legislator Foley, at this time. I would entertain a motion to table. I was here last time when we did have –

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Do you think you will be able to be ready to vote on it in two weeks hence? All it does, I know you weren't in the room at the time, and I don't mean to repeat myself but I need to because this member has just arrived to the committee meeting.

This doesn't force the college to undertake anything. What this simply does is direct the County Executive to negotiate with the college on two very basic budget points that are being utilized throughout the rest of the County budget and we are asking the Community College to do the same. One is to make – well, I know you have read the resolution.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

I have, and actually I was here last time, just so you know Legislator Foley, when there was discussion, so I am familiar with it. I don't want to misrepresent my position. I mean, I don't think I would entertain a motion to approve. I don't see myself even in the future voting for this. I am not closing the door on that, but you know.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Given the fact that the President is not here today and we have been told, Madam Chair, that he will be here in two weeks –

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

He will be here at the next meeting.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

So I will make the motion to table.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

I certainly would be influenced by what they had to say though, Legislator Foley.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Good.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

I don't want you to think I have a closed mind on it.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Very good.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Just like you'll be influenced by the State Attorney General, too, right Legislator Crecca?

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I will make a motion to table. Seconded by Legislator Foley. All in favor? Opposed? 1246 is tabled. **(Vote: 5/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Towle).**

If you could just record your vote with the majority. These next two resolutions are approved and are on the consent calendar.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

Correct. I would vote in the affirmative on those. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

If there is anyone in the audience who would like to make a comment? If there are no further comments –

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Madam Chair, before we leave. I know the Chair has a copy of it, of a letter I had sent to the President last week, April 10th, requesting his attendance to speak on the surplus monies that are in the permanent salary account for full-time --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

The President has indicated to me that he will come here with a response and he will give me a written response, and at that time we'll address the letter and the responses to that letter.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

If there is no further –

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Madam Chair. I just wanted to check on what the policy -- if you have made a change in it. But it is my understanding in situations like this if we are going to be inviting speakers to come down, especially the President of the college when we oversee the Community College as the Education Committee, that this really should go through the Chair and individual committee members shouldn't be going forward unless done on your behalf.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Well, I had discussed this with Legislator Foley and I have spoken with President LaLima.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

We have a very democratic way of, small d, democratic way of moving forward with the committee.

LEGISLATOR CRECCA:

And I would ask that the Clerk record me as a cosponsor on Sense Resolution 26-2001.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I appreciate your comments and because of that I have spoken to President LaLima before this meeting.

If there is no further business, I move to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Legislator Cooper. The meeting is adjourned.

(The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.)