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EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

A meeting of the Education & Human Services Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on January 31, 2017.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Monica Martinez, Chairperson
Leg. Thomas F. Barraga, Vice Chair (excused absence)
Leg. Kate Browning
Leg. Robert Calarco, DPO
Leg. Kara Hahn
Leg. Leslie Kennedy

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Amy Ellis, Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature
Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office
Jeff Tempera, Suffolk Community College
Ben Zwirn, Suffolk Community College
Kevin Peterman, Suffolk Community College
Katie Horst, County Executive's Office
John Marafino, County Executive's Office
Lisa Pinkard, Aide to Leg. Martinez
Seth Squicciarino, Aide to Leg. Hahn
Ali Nazir, Aide to Leg. Kennedy
Michael Pitcher, Director of Communications/PO
Rick Brand, Newsday
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

1 THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:37 PM

2
3 **CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

4 Can I have all Legislators to the horseshoe, please? Good
5 afternoon and welcome to today's committee of the Education and
6 Human Services. If we could all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance
7 to be led by Legislator Kennedy.

8
9 **SALUTATION**

10
11 Thank you. Okay, we have not received any correspondence. Madam
12 Clerk, do we have any cards?

13
14 **MS. ELLIS:**

15 No, we do not.

16
17 **CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

18 Thank you. We do not have any presentations. We also do not have
19 any Tabled Resolutions so we will go to our agenda of Introductory
20 Resolutions.

21
22 **INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

23
24 And we have one, which is 1020, and that's **Authorizing the County**
25 **Executive to execute an agreement with the Suffolk County Community**
26 **College, and the Suffolk County Association of Municipal Employees**
27 **College White Collar Bargaining Unit, College Blue Collar**
28 **Bargaining Unit, and College Aide Bargaining Unit, covering terms**
29 **and conditions of employment for employees for the period of**
30 **January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2016. (Co. Exec.)**

31
32 I would like to make a motion to approve; second by Legislator
33 Hahn. But before we continue with the vote, I would like to have
34 BRO, if you could just discuss the terms of the contract with us.
35 And I also know that we have Labor Relations from the College, Jeff
36 Tempera, if we have any questions please help us out in -- in
37 answering those. Thank you.

38
39 **MR. PERNICE:**

12:38PM 40 To summarize, it mirrors, for the large part, the County contract
41 with AME. According to the College there's about 411 AME employees
42 there and it's -- covers the period of 2013 through 2016; and
43 similar to the County contract it's a 0% increase in 2013, a 0%
44 increase in 2014, a 1% increase on July of 2015 and a 1% increase
45 on December of 2015 and a 3% increase on July 1st of 2016.

46
47 It also includes a provision of deferrals as the County contract
48 did, which was -- originally was a lag payroll and ended up being
49 deferment -- deferral of benefit fund contributions. And this,
12:39PM 50 likewise, also has a provision like that.

51
52 **CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

53 Thank you. Jeff, if you do not mind kind of going a little deeper
54 in what BRO just said. So in terms of your 411 members, can you
55 just give us as to how it's going to affect the -- the members now.

1 **MR. TEMPERA:**

2 Okay. The contract was ratified by the membership back in November,
3 November 10th. It was approved by our board of trustees on
4 December 8th. It's now before the Legislature. If this Committee
5 approves it, hopefully, it'll go before the full Leg on Tuesday.
6 And after that happens, the County Exec signs it, that'll be the
7 date of full ratification. And we'll move to implement the wage
8 increases hopefully immediately and then we'll work on a
9 retroactive payments for the -- for the members.

10
11 As Benny said, this agreement mirrors what was approved in the --
12 in the County, containing the same wage increases, the same -- the
13 implementation of a delay in the steps for new employees hired
14 after the full implementation where rather than a year it'll go to
15 18 months. The Benefit Fund, there's some things unique to the
16 College, some provisions in there such as dealing with essential
17 employees and weather emergencies and how they get notified; the
18 assignment of College vehicles; only the president can have
19 employees stay home or close the College without having to charge
12:41PM 20 their accruals. But those are things that were unique to the
21 College that we negotiated. We changed the way they -- they also
22 select vacation so it'll be on academic year, the same as the rest
23 of the College employees.

24
25 **CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

26 Thank you. Legislator Browning.

27
28 **LEG. BROWNING:**

29 Hi, Jeff.

12:41PM 30
31 **MR. TEMPERA:**

32 Good morning.

33
34 **LEG. BROWNING:**

35 So, yeah, I see it's from 2013 to 2106.

36
37 **MR. TEMPERA:**

38 Correct.

39
40 **LEG. BROWNING:**

41 So are you now back at the table to talk? Because I know AME's
42 going to be having the same issue so are you now back at the table
43 before it --

44
45 **MR. TEMPERA:**

46 Actually we have a session scheduled for this Friday to commence
47 negotiations. As was said, this contract was from 1/1/13 to
48 12/31/16 so it's already expired. And similar to the County
49 contract that expired the same date, but we are commencing
12:42PM 50 negotiations starting this Friday.

51
52 **LEG. BROWNING:**

53 Okay. And being that you have more autotomy now than what you had
54 in the past, and you're saying the County Executive has to sign
55 this, so hopefully he will, what role are they playing these days
56 in your contract negotiations?

1 **MR. TEMPERA:**

2 Well, in accordance with the Taylor Law, the College and the County
3 are joint employers. So there's actually three parties to this
4 contract and any contract with the College. So it takes agreement
5 between the College union, this case AME, the president of the
6 College, through the board of trustees and the president, as well
7 as the County Executive through his Director of Labor Relations.
8 So we cannot settle any agreements at the College with -- whether
9 it's the faculty association, the Guild or AME without the County
10 being our partner and sitting at the table so they -- they will
11 have to be there, they'll have to at least sign off on the
12 agreement.

13
14 **LEG. BROWNING:**

15 Okay. And I'm assuming that Labor Relations on the County side, on
16 the County Exec's side is not here, so I'm assuming the County
17 Exec's side must be okay with this.

18
19 **MR. TEMPERA:**

20 They've signed off on it. I've been in contact with them. So,
21 yes, they're in full agreement. And, again, it mirrors what was
22 negotiated with County and AME.

23
24 **LEG. BROWNING:**

25 Okay, thank you.

26
27 **CHAIRPERSON MARTINEZ:**

28 Thank you. Any other questions? All right, so we do have a
29 motion to approve and a second. All in favor? Opposed?

30 Abstention? Motion carries. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEG. BARRAGA**
31 **NOT PRESENT)**

32
33 This concludes today's agenda. Have a great day.

34
35 **THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12:43 PM**
36 **{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**

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