

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION & ENERGY COMMITTEE

LABOR, WORKFORCE & AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

OF THE

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES**

A special joint meeting of the Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy Committee and Labor, Workforce & Affordable Housing 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 May 20, 2008 to discuss the matter of the Capital Budget.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Wayne R. Horsley, Chairman of Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy Committee
Leg. Steven H. Stern, Vice Chair of Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy Committee
Leg. Lou D'Amaro, member of Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy Committee
Leg. Kate M. Browning, Chairperson of Labor, Workforce & Affordable Housing Committee
Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman, member of Labor, Workforce & Affordable Housing Committee
Leg. John M. Kennedy, member of Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy Committee
Leg. Brian Beedenbender, member of Labor, Workforce & Affordable Housing Committee

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Leg. Lynne C. Nowick, Thirteenth District
Ben Zwirn, Deputy County Executive
Gail Vizzini, Director of Budget Review Office
Robert Lipp, Deputy Director of Budget Review Office
Lance Reinheimer, Assistant Director of Budget Review Office
Tom Cunningham, Budget Review Office
Joe Schroeder, Energy Specialist, Budget Review Office
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office
Tony Ceglio, Manager of Gabreski Airport
Carolyn Fahey, Affordable Housing
Dr. Shirley Pippins, President of Suffolk County Community College
Charles Stein, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, Suffolk County Community College
George Gatta, Vice President
Dr. McKay, Suffolk County Community College
Kevin Peterman, Suffolk County Community College Librarian
Joanne Braxton, Suffolk County Community College
Anne Shabanko Moore, Suffolk County Community College
Edward Pruitt, Hauppauge Industrial Association
Rob Hallock, Suffolk Community College Student
Andre Perez, Suffolk Community College Student
Giovanna Romero-Gil, Suffolk Community College Student
Arthur Valentino, Suffolk County Community College Student
Matthew Jennings, Suffolk County Community College Student
Danielle Chin, Suffolk County Community College Student
Deborah Arayo, Suffolk County Community College Student
John Lombardo
Other Interested Parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:11 PM)

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to the EEE, Energy, Education and Economic Development Capital Budget hearing for the 2009 Capital Budget, as well as my colleague, Labor, Workforce & Affordable Housing. We're joining forces today to have a double hearing and we certainly do welcome you. And since you're all standing and you're all ready, let's do the pledge.

SALUTATION

Please be seated. Carolyn Fahey, why don't you come on up. Since you are the first "E" of EEE, Economic Development, I thought we might start with your report to the --

MS. FAHEY:

Honestly, Legislator, you have our Capital Program. We reviewed the comments by Budget Review. We're happy with the program the County Executive submitted, we're content with the comments of the Budget Review Office. And if there are any specific questions, we'd be more than happy to answer.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Ms. Vizzini, would you like to talk to us a little bit about Economic Development?

MR. REINHEIMER:

There's two areas for Economic Development; downtown revitalization and the airport. The airport pretty much got what they asked for with the exception of a snow removal truck in subsequent years and improvements to the runways and also improvements to the aviation park for the T hangars. Other than that, I think they pretty much got what they asked for.

The runways and the snow truck are federally funded so there is two ways to look at it. As a planning document it would be prudent to put it in there to show the intent that we're going forward with these things; however if you do get federal funding, those funds could be appropriated when we receive the federal funding which possibly is unknown. It comes, you know, as a surprise sometimes. So to put it in a particular year may not be the year in which we get it anyway.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So is your recommendation not to put it in or put it in?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Our recommendation as a planning document, it should show the intent to go forward with these projects; however, practically in terms of applications and appropriating the funding and having a project go if they get the federal funds, you can appropriate it the year in which they get the funds.

MS. FAHEY:

Legislator, the FAA likes to see a capital project adopted when they look to fund a specific project at the airport. They don't necessarily need to see money appropriated or money adopted. They just like to see an active project. So if we have a capital project that's up and going, whether or not there's money actually budgeted isn't an issue for them. They just like to see that the County is committed to having that project exist. So one of the projects that Lance was talking about for snow removal equipment, we don't have to have any money funded in there. They just like to see that the County is willing to accept money by having an open project. Does that make sense?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes, it did. It actually did make sense. I'm just --

MS. FAHEY:

Oh, you sound surprised.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

No, I'm trying to picture -- right. That sounds like our kind of appropriation. We want it, but we want it free. That's basically what you're saying.

MS. FAHEY:

Well, and we typically do get it free from the -- you know, the FAA has been great.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. So, Ms. Vizzini, that is not in the -- at this point in time. Was that opinion expressed to the working group?

MS. VIZZINI:

We haven't gotten that far but our recommendation is to put the \$400,000 in the subsequent years component to demonstrate that we're seeking the federal funding.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We like it, we want it, but we want it for free.

MS. VIZZINI:

Well, for free is a relative term. It's 95% federally funded assuming that it's eligible. But again, it would demonstrate our efforts to pursue the money and the planning document that it should be.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. And you'll bring that up at tomorrow's hearing; tomorrow's meeting?

MS. VIZZINI:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Good. Okay, thanks. Downtowns, want to give us a little report on downtowns?

MS. FAHEY:

In November of '07, the Legislature adopted the recommendations of the Downtown Citizens Advisory Panel off of capital project 6412 and capital project 6418, the Legislatures' Downtown Program and the County Executive's. Again this year combined we have a million dollars that the panel will be again submitting recommendations to the Legislature on. Budget Review had recommended that we update the Legislature on the previous rounds prior to the next appropriation and we'll be planning to do that.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Very good. Thank you. Are there any questions on Economic development? Okay. Legislator Browning.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah. The \$5 million for the Workforce Housing Incentive Fund?

MS. FAHEY:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

How much have we spent over the past year, two years?

MS. FAHEY:

I don't think we've spent any of it. We're actually in the process of preparing resolutions to come forward out of that money.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Say that again? I'm sorry, I missed you there.

MS. FAHEY:

We haven't actually spent any money. The money has been appropriated but we need to come back to the Legislature for bonding resolutions on specific projects. And we're just getting to the phase of one or two projects to do the bonding, so you'll be seeing them shortly.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So over the past -- because we've had that money in place before in prior years.

MS. FAHEY:

It's been appropriated but not bonded, correct. But it allows us to move forward and then start making the commitments. And it's hard to make the commitments without having the money appropriated. So we have the money appropriated. Our Director is working on the commitments and we'll come back to the Legislature with the bonding.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And as far as the incubators for businesses in distressed areas. Can you give me a little bit of information on that?

MS. FAHEY:

Sure. There are three or four incubators being proposed in different communities throughout the County, two which have moved significantly along; one by the Urban League in Central Islip and the other by the North Amityville Community Economic Council in North Amityville. Then the Huntington Station project is probably the furthest along. This money allows us to help do some infrastructure improvements for the facilitation of business incubators.

You will be seeing probably within the next six, eight weeks a resolution requesting funds for the Huntington incubator out of that appropriation. Again, it's hard for us to move forward with commitments until we have the money appropriated. You will then see the bonding on that also. It's working the same as the Workforce Housing Infrastructure Program.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So that's the only two at this time?

MS. FAHEY:

Three. Central Islip, North Amityville and Huntington.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I'm sorry, I missed that one.

MS. FAHEY:

That's okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Carolyn, that will be '08 monies or '09 monies?

MS. FAHEY:

It's actually '06, I believe.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

'06 monies, okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah.

MS. FAHEY:

It was appropriated, I believe, in December of '06. And in '07 we worked with these three community groups to move them further along in the process. Huntington is now ready to come before you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

It's like a little chess game, who's going to be first. I've been watching this over the years.

MS. FAHEY:

As long as someone's first and we move forward.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Sounds good. All right. Would anyone else like to be heard on Economic Development? On Economic Development? Very good.

MS. FAHEY:

Can I just add one thing?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You may.

MS. FAHEY:

Tony Ceglie came on as our airport manager four years ago. And for the past four years, those of you who attended the tour of the Gabreski Airport a few months ago, what you hadn't seen is what it looked like prior to Tony coming on. In addition to the infrastructure improvements and the professionalism he brought to the airport, Tony's been extremely aggressive in getting grants that help supplement the County's Capital Program. How much?

MR. CEGLIO:

In the state, for instance, in the last two years we got about a million dollars a year, which is more than any airport on Long Island, I think. And more than most of them Upstate so actually we have been very successful, at least in the state program. We're working on grants from the Federal Aviation Administration, too, to improve the runway which we talked about today to the tune of about \$10 million, which would be enormous for an airport this size; just to improve the airport itself, not to make it grow or anything else, but just to maintain it in its existing state.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

This is actually repairs to the runway itself?

MR. CEGLIO:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I recall the condition.

MR. CEGLIO:

Yeah, the original runway was built '40's. It was last rehabbed back in the mid-eighties. And pavement lasts usually about 20 years so we're a little beyond the pavement life. So we're working aggressively with the FAA to try to get funds for that.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Does it have to be concrete? I'm just curious. Or does -- I know it's concrete now but you don't pave it with asphalt, do you?

MR. CEGLIO:

Well, actually in the mid-eighties it went from an all concrete runway to an asphalt overlay on a portion of it. So right now it's asphalt and concrete.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I must have missed that part.

MR. CEGLIO:

Yeah, yeah. The middle section is the asphalt section which is really starting to fall apart. And some of the concrete sections are also now.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Very good.

MS. FAHEY:

And those grants we get from the federal government. Ninety-five percent from the federal government and two and a half percent from the state, so the County's input is only two-and-a-half percent on a project. So it's a significant supplement to our budget.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Excellent. Well, thank you very much. I thought Carolyn was going to ask for you for a raise but --

MR. CEGLIO:

We'll work on that next.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

-- it was a good lead up, though. Thank you very much. And, Tony, good work.

All right. Would anyone like to be heard on energy issues? Energy issues we just talk out. We just criticize. Where's Vinny, is he still here?

I'd would like to now address the --

MS. VIZZINI:

Mr. Chair?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes.

MS. VIZZINI:

Regarding energy?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes.

MS. VIZZINI:

The Budget Review Office report has done an extensive review of energy. It's addressed not only in

the individual capital project 1664, but also on page 44 is a discussion of energy prices, gasoline, natural gas, etcetera, etcetera.

We make several overall recommendations, but specific to the Energy Conservation Project in the capital program, the County Executive has provided a commitment of almost \$2 million in each year of 2009, 2010, with an additional \$230,000 in 2011 and in subsequent years.

In our opinion this is not sufficient to address the escalating cost of energy, not only the increase in the surcharges from LIPA in regards to electricity, but the increase in heating fuel which is -- oil is, Mr. Schroeder tells me, over \$127 a barrel. And similarly there is increases in natural gas.

So what we have recommended is additional funds to do two major things. One is to assure that energy conservation measures are taken in our -- through this capital project to assure that the County itself can reduce consumption and conserve energy in order to mitigate the escalating costs.

The other thing is that we set aside a substantial amount of money in this capital project to assure that when projects such as the replacement Yaphank Jail, the LEEDS qualified police precinct, the North County Complex Project, that in order for them sometimes to stay within budget, often they are value engineered; and that a component of 1664 be designated for these landmark projects, that it would be a pot of money for Public Works to go so as not to value engineer these specific projects.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And the dollars in which you're referring to, I understand what is in the budget but --

MS. VIZZINI:

They are substantial. The dollars are substantial. We're recommending -- specifically these recommendations are on page 122 of our report. Eight-hundred and seventy thousand dollars for planning and an additional 2.7 million to do an assessment of all 50 buildings to determine where we can identify these efficiencies and augment the conservation efforts that are included in the recommended Capital Program. Furthermore, we recommend planning monies, 650,000 and a million five for construction in 2010 for alternative energy projects. And additional planning funds of 170,000 and 1.2 million to reduce our energy consumption by 30 percent.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Excellent. The two million seven in which you're recommending, what -- would you be putting that into the '09?

MS. VIZZINI:

We think we should start as soon as possible, so our recommendation --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I would agree, but I'm just --

MS. VIZZINI:

Our recommendation would be '09, but we would like to see it included in the Capital Program.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Very good. Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Vizzini. And I certainly know the program. Joe, have we moved forward with the program on the assessment of the County buildings? Since that meeting that we had in the basement I haven't heard a thing.

MR. SCHROEDER:

We're still working on how that might be facilitated. But, yes, we are still working on that. Just on a preliminary note, and there is a comment made in the review here, an on line ranking of this building yielded a ranking of 28 on a scale of one to 100, which means out of a scale -- the scale is

created by the EPA and it's based on a national assessment of buildings of certain types.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Star, was it?

MR. SCHROEDER:

Well, it's part of the Energy Star Ranking System, yes. To be Energy Star rated you have to achieve at least 75 on a scale of 1 to 100. This building ranked 28.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We have some work to do.

MR. SCHROEDER:

Well, considering this building is one of the latest renovated buildings in the County, and just on face value it would appear to be one of the better buildings that the County has in its inventory, that speaks volumes to what maybe we could be doing better.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And how much money we could save.

MR. SCHROEDER:

Significant.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Thank you very much and well taken. Glad to see it included in our thinking. All right. Anyone else like to talk about energy? We're good?

All right. Let's talk about the Suffolk County Community College. May I ask Dr. Pippins and/or your representatives?

DR. PIPPINS:

Good afternoon. It's a pleasure to again address two committees of the Suffolk County Legislature. I want to begin, of course, by thanking -- I think, I'll go back and thank you first, and thank the members of the Suffolk County Legislature for your continuous support of the college. I also want to thank the Budget Review Office for its support and its analysis.

(SLIDE SHOW PRESENTATION)

This afternoon I come with good news. Despite the challenging fiscal environment at the state level, we have secured \$28 million in state support for the Learning Resource Center at Grant, the Health and Fitness facility at East and the renovation to the Sagtikos Building at the Grant Campus. To put that accomplishment in context, seven other community colleges were unsuccessful in having their projects restored. But Suffolk County's project are in the state's new five-year capital program.

The Vice Chancellor has directed the community colleges to advance projects included in the state's 203, 208 capital program so that those projects might be bonded. And for us that means renovations to Crailing Hall and partial renovations to the Peconic Building on the eastern campus.

In addition, we submitted two new projects, one for safety and security and one for infrastructure. And if that looks strange, that's a bumpy road that needs repair. The County Executive's recommended Capital Budget has eliminated the three new projects in the state's capital program. It has delayed the projects that the Vice Chancellor has requested that we advance and it has reduced the scope of the two new projects that the college introduced.

I ask that the Legislature take a look at our Capital Program in the context of the goals that we jointly set several years ago. I believe, in fact, this chart is dated 02/27/04. And at that time as a

community we established the goal of having the college recognized as an institution of excellence locally, nationally and internationally. And I believe, in fact, we've made significant progress. Our stature has been affirmed by Middle States, our accrediting body. Our students see us as being the best value in America. Our graduates are being courted by the most prestigious institutions in the country. And recently we had direct contact from Columbia, Cornell and for the first time we have a student transferring to Morehouse, which is one of the most prestigious HBCU's in the country and we're really proud of that. We're also receiving grants from the most prestigious institutions in the country, National Science Foundation and Department of Labor.

We recognize that these are challenging times, but many believe that in difficult times you cut surgically and you invest strategically. You invest in those structures and those systems that will move the organization forward. And the data reveals that there is no other investment like an investment in higher education. And we, in fact, have recent independent data that shows that for every dollar appropriated by state and local government our taxpayers will see a return of \$2.40. And that state and local government will receive a rate of return of nine percent on their investments in Suffolk County Community College.

We further believe that our ability to leverage your capital investments demonstrates the value of your commitment to the college. And excellent example is the downtown Sayville Center. The Legislature appropriated \$100,000. We secured 150,000 from the Assembly, \$100,000 from the Senate, and we leveraged that through partnerships with area hospitals to now generate \$4.4 million, allowing us to have the largest nursing program in New York State and also to move forward with our LPN program.

The Culinary Arts and Hospitalities Center is another example by leveraging your capital investments. We have support from the State Senate, from the State Assembly, from Sub-Zero Wolf, from the Par Organization and from Eastern Long Island Executives. And then there's our most recent gift, the largest in the history of the college. And we have leveraged that to provide scholarships for additional students.

If you look at the pyramid again you see that there are clearly areas that would be impacted by capital investments; beautiful state of the art learning environments, state of the art equipment, buildings and attractive grounds, improved working conditions, use of technology, increased effectiveness and efficiency, stewardship of resources. And I believe that as a result of the very strong and positive advocacy efforts of the college community, of our unions, FA, the Guild, AME and our legislative delegation, we are prepared to make the next step and make longer term investments and facilities for the college.

With your support and that of the state delegation, we have, in fact, made significant progress in this area. We have, of course, renovated buildings. The Smithtown Science Building and Islip Arts Building is an excellent example. We built new buildings. And I believe the Culinary Art Center is an excellent example.

Facilities and excellent programs do make a difference. They make a difference in terms of regional, national, internal competitiveness, in terms of the self-perceptions of our students, their self concepts and their morale. Buildings encourage student engagement and retention. They maximize efficiency and effectiveness. They expand the range of teaching options and they impact student preparedness and success.

If you look at the regional national and international competitiveness of our institution, you can see that reflected in the growth of our honors program, the strength of our articulation agreements and in terms of enrollment. So our honor students are some of our best and brightest, the young people you want to keep on Long Island. And that program has grown tremendously. We now have 600 honors program students. And just this week we received a letter from Cornell inviting us to partner

with them in an articulation agreement that's supported by a national foundation. This is a real star in the crown of Suffolk County Community College.

Look at what's happening in terms of international students. That's grown from 114 students to 173 students. And these students pay two times the tuition. And the Grant Campus data supports the investment in the health and sports facility. Since that facility opened in the fall of 2000, facilities in combination with excellent programs have resulted in a 35 percent increase in enrollment at that facility. Clearly student perceptions and self-concept are impacted by facilities. You can imagine the difference between a student walking into the library, and this is what the furniture looked like up until two years ago, the original furniture, but with your support recently we were able to put in new furniture and even create private study areas.

And just imagine again the impact of a student walking on Veterans Plaza and seeing that renovated space. And recently one of our students I think said it very well; a place like Suffolk County Community College, which represents so much of our community, needs to be just as beautiful outside as it is inside. Veterans Plaza now is the heart of the college and gives a prestige I would expect at an out of state university. And she concludes by saying that a modern campus encourages attendance of bright young minds and top-notch faculty.

Student engagement and retention, all of these things are encouraged by facilities. The research shows that engagement and time on campus lead to retention. And we have limited student space on both the Eastern and the Grant Campus. And these will be larger issues as the gas crisis mounts.

Renovation of the Peconic Building, building the Learning Resource Center, building the Health and Fitness facility, these will provide space for group study activities, academic support, co-curricular activities and expand access to health and wellness opportunities, not just for our students but also for other county residents.

The Learning Resource Center at Grant is another example. The library space in that building was designed to be temporary when it was built years ago. At that point we had 3500 students on that campus. Now we have 8,000 students. And we have insufficient space for computers for students, for instructional space and for group activities. Middle States also took note of the challenges we face. Efficiency and effectiveness, these areas are impacted by facilities. Our current buildings provide disjointed services. So sometimes admissions, testing, advising, counseling and career services are found in different locations, sometimes even in different buildings.

The renovation of the Peconic Building will allow us to centralize our services to students and provide more study space, more recreational space and more space for relaxation. It's clear that flexible state of the art learning spaces will improve the teaching and learning environment at Suffolk County Community College. Our old and flexible spaces limit our options and limit our ability to use technology and limit our ability to focus on group and team activities.

In our new facilities we will have learning center classroom designs. Even some of our remodeled classrooms are not flexible. They don't provide space for computers and notes, group and team activities, the ability to have technology right at the students hands as they learn. Student center libraries, more group center designs, technology in person and through distance.

Facilities also support transfer and job readiness. And I believe the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center and the Sayville Center are excellent examples. Just walk with me for one minute through the Sayville Center. You will see state of the art facilities, a nursing simulation lab, facilities that support group work in a biology lab, better use of computers. This, believe it or not, is the former culinary arts facility.

And just walk with me for a second through the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center. And there you see appropriate facilities, state of the art facilities that help students achieve their dreams.

Just in summary, approval of this capital budget will allow for regional, national and international competitiveness, positive student perceptions, student engagement and retention, effectiveness and efficiency, a broader range of teaching strategies and student preparedness and success.

I want only the best for the students at Suffolk County Community College and I believe that you do also. And what we have here is a unique opportunity in a very difficult fiscal environment and a very important opportunity to invest in the future of Suffolk County residents. We recognize as an institution that these are difficult fiscal times and we have asked for a zero increase in County support for our operating budget, but we believe this opportunity presented by our capital budget is too important an opportunity to be missed.

Our recent headline in the New York Times describes Suffolk County Community College as a college where \$5 million makes a difference. Just imagine for a moment what a difference the County's capital investment in the college will make. Let's keep that \$28 million for Suffolk County Community College. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Dr. Pippins. As always, very professionally done and we enjoyed it immensely. Mr. Gatta, did you have anything that you'd like to add?

MR. GATTA:

Just briefly, in addition to all of the academic and student success reasons that Dr. Pippins has presented for the County to match the newly approved \$28 million that the state has put in our budget this year, and I would just note that it's really taken the college with the Legislature's support the last four years to have the state finally approve that. And it was only because the Legislature included these projects, the library at the Grant Campus and the Health and Fitness facility at East and the renovations to Sagtikos Arts. It's only because the Legislature has included those year after year that we were finally able to convince the state delegation to fund those projects.

Just -- I know there are a number of other interested individuals here today that want to speak on and give you a different perspective on behalf of the college, but we did consult with a noted local economist, Dr. Pearl Kamer, who's the former Chief Economist to the Long Island Regional Planning Board and is currently the Chief Economist to the Long Island Association.

From an economic development perspective this investment of 28 million of state money and 28 million of County money generates 16 jobs for every one million dollars in capital investments in these projects. And total regional output through the regional multiplier effect increases regional output by \$2.07 for every dollar that's invested. So just for those projects we're talking about \$116 million leverage to regional output. And we're talking about an additional 900 jobs associated with those projects both primary through construction and secondary through the multiplier effect.

If we add the other smaller projects that are discussed in the Capital Program, that brings the total investment on the state and the County to close to \$69 million, 50 percent from each. You're looking at \$142 million impact on the regional economy and close to 1100 jobs created as a result of those projects. So it works not just from an academic and a student success point of view, but at this time when the economy is sluggish, it also works from an economic development and labor and workforce point of view.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you, George. That was as important, yes. Mr. Stein.

MR. STEIN:

I'm just going to take a moment. I have a statement that I'm going to hand out that will cover

everything. But I just wanted to stress the importance of putting these projects back into the Capital Program.

First of all, I want to thank the Budget Review Office in its report for recognizing the importance of these buildings and recommending that they be placed back into the program. I can't stress enough how difficult it was to get these projects included in the state's five year plan. It's no secret this year, this budget year in the state was interesting to say the least, and had it's ups and downs almost on a daily basis. Projects were in, projects were out. Back and forth.

The result was that these -- our projects were included in the state's five-year plan. Dr. Pippins pointed out that there were seven community colleges that were completely frozen out. Let me assure you if these projects are not placed back into the County's capital plan, most assuredly those other schools are going to jump in and claim that money. It's vitally important to maintain this \$28 million from the state. Otherwise, it could very well be gone in a flash. And that's all I'm going to say. And I'm going to hand out my statement.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

On this matter, Mr. Stein, what do you feel was the waiting factor? And it could be to any -- that the state decided that Suffolk Community College needed this 28 million versus those other state community colleges. Why us, not them? What was their rationale of why we needed more than other areas? Was it just your doggedness or our needs? What were the reasons?

MR. STEIN:

Well, I could say that there's a recognition about our school being the great school that it is. But --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So making it better. We got a great school, let's make it better?

MR. STEIN:

But I think it's important to also note as this Legislature deliberates and contemplates and makes decisions, so does the State Legislature. And I'll leave it at that.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY

Okay. That was a good answer.

DR. PIPPINS:

I would add that we also have some very strong advocates for the college.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And I believe you're probably one of the them; one of the strongest. Okay. Well, thank you very much. We do appreciate it. Ms. Vizzini, would you like to give our BRO approach?

MS. VIZZINI:

We have several specific project recommendations in our review. Our total recommendations for the college include an additional million nine in '09, 14.6 million in 2010, 4 million in 2011. And the restoration of the three projects that were discontinued in subsequent years, that and other projects, include a recommendation for 61.1 million in subsequent years.

We were very pleased to see the infrastructure improvement college wide new project included albeit beginning in -- we would like to see an additional \$6 million in subsequent years. There is eight million in subsequent years, but there are three campuses. This is a college wide project and we believe that the college's estimates in terms of what is needed for that project are closer to what should be included.

We're suggesting there is money in the cooling systems in subsequent years. We believe that that should be done sooner rather than later. We are recommending that monies be advanced from

subsequent years from project 2138 to 2010 so we can make some progress on that.

And the last comment in terms of the Learning Resource Center for Eastern, a modest amount of money but similar to the contingency plan for the Riverhead County Center, we're recommending the addition of \$1.9 million in 2009 due to cost escalations in regards to the Learning Resource Center at Eastern.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So that would -- then the understanding would be that you would be supportive of the 28 million then first.

MS. VIZZINI:

That's a separate project.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I know it's a separate project but you have to have one without the other?

MS. VIZZINI:

This is an ongoing project for which monies have been appropriated. No, we're supportive of restoring the Learning Center at Grant, the gym at Eastern and the renovations to the Sagtikos Building in order to be able to not only pursue the state funding, as Mr. Stein said, to put it into in the SUNY new five-year plan, but also the influx of those federal dollars has an economic benefit to our County.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. Yes. Mr. D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. Okay. Good morning and thank you for your presentation. I had a couple of questions about those three discontinued projects. I remember hearing the testimony last year about getting it in that state five-year plan and I was questioning that at the time. And according to the memo here by Mr. Stein, you've been now successful in getting all three of the projects that are discontinued in the recommended budget, capital budget, into the state program; is that correct?

MR. STEIN:

That's correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. So that's the Health and Sports facility, the Grant Campus Learning Resource Center and the renovation to the Sagtikos Building. Those are the three projects that we're talking about?

MR. STEIN:

Correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. Now those were previously included as capital projects in our budget. But there's been -- we haven't put a shovel in the ground on any of these projects yet, have we?

MR. STEIN:

No.

LEG. D'AMARO:

No. Okay. So, how long does it remain in the state capital program?

MR. STEIN:

The state just set up its five-year program. It goes from 2009 out through 2013. And if you recall

last year, we stressed the importance of including it in the County's Capital Program as a demonstration to the state so they would consider those projects for their five-year plan.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Now, that would be 50% match?

MR. STEIN:

Correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So you take the total cost of the project and 50% of that is now included in the state budget? Is that correct?

MR. STEIN:

Correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. So assuming if we adopt the capital budget here and restore those projects, when would the projects actually commence?

MR. STEIN:

Well, one of the things is we've asked that the design funds be placed in 2009 to advance them so that we can start the process. And we could say to the state don't give this -- don't even think about giving this money away, we're starting that process. We would design it and then in a subsequent period, either 2010, 2011, do the construction.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So you would start the design phase relatively soon?

MR. STEIN:

It's really in your hands.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

MR. STEIN:

It's what year you decide to put it in.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. Now, my next question is can the state -- let's say we commit to the projects in our adopted Capital Budget for '09 and you begin the design phase. Can the state on an annual basis alter their five-year plan?

MR. STEIN:

I don't know the answer to that. All I know is that they have now locked in that five-year plan, so I can't answer you.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I'm not familiar with what would be customary or how the state deals with a five-year capital plan.

MR. STEIN:

I don't think it's ever happened.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. But we don't really know. I would just be concerned that, you know, you put these projects

in and then down the road the state moves away from their commitment. Is that a possibility?

MR. GATTA:

The way that SUNY operates is once the local sponsor, once the County appropriates the money for the project, even if it's in the design phase, then that money is then locked in at SUNY. So once this local body has approved that money and the project starts, we've never been aware of an instance where SUNY would then or the state would then pull their commitment back. It's already in the adopted budget. The money is there. Once we've locked in with an appropriating resolution here, then that money is basically in a trust.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. Thank you for that. And my next question is to Budget Review Office. What's the total commitment of Suffolk County if we restore these three projects?

MS. VIZZINI:

Well, it's 50% of the total so it approaches the \$28 million number.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. So if we include those three projects back into our Capital Budget and the projects go forward, our commitment would be roughly \$28 million to those three projects?

MS. VIZZINI:

Customarily you would include the full -- you would show in the presentation the state and the County share, so it would be double that amount. And the majority of this is in the subsequent year category. The 2012, the 20 --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, because we would start with design which is a lower amount. And then in subsequent years when you start construction or renovation, that's when you go into the higher amounts.

MS. VIZZINI:

Right. Unless, as Mr. Stein says, you're going to lock in the design monies.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. So we would show the \$56 million commitment, but we anticipate because of the state capital program, the five-year program, that 50% of that would be picked by the State of New York?

MS. VIZZINI:

Correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So if the projects, the three of them went to fruition, we would then only be paying interest on our bonds on \$28 million.

MS. VIZZINI:

Typically what we do is we do a short term borrowing in anticipation of the federal or state funds which would be a one year borrowing. And we do the serial bonds for our own component piece.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Now, let me ask you this. We have an existing capital program in place, 2008 is being implemented this year. Can you tell me what is the current debt service out of our Operating Budget for all of the capital projects for the college in '08?

MS. VIZZINI:

I can tell you that debt service hovers around \$90 million. Six million is directly related to the

college.

LEG. D'AMARO:

What was the 90 million; that was County-wide? The whole --

MS. VIZZINI:

That's everything; land, you know, jail.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So it's fair to say that the -- as expressed as a percentage, the debt service for community college projects out of our Operating Budget is roughly 5 or 6% of total debt service?

MR. LIPP:

Actually the Community College debt service is paid in a different line item in the budget. The debt service is like \$91 million is non-college projects. There's an interfund transfer from the general fund to the college that is just about completely all debt service for the college.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. All right. But the college debt service in '08 is roughly \$6 million.

MR. LIPP:

Correct. Correct.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You're right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. All right. And then expressed as a percentage of total debt service that we pay from our Operating Budget roughly, you know, how much is that as a percentage?

MR. LIPP:

About 6.2%.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. And do you have in front of you or can you get me what the trend has been over, say, the last three years?

MR. LIPP:

I guess we could get it to you, but I think it's been relatively flat. It's probably trickled up, but I don't think the numbers are significant, though.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Excuse me, Bob. On that issue, on the trend upwards, would that include the \$28 million or not?

MR. LIPP:

Well, I think the question was what the past trend has been as opposed to a projection for the future. So if you're looking for a projection that would be an additional question we could -- well, we'd have to look at that, though.

MR. STEIN:

Excuse me. You'd also have to take into account any projects that would be completed and falling off the debt service schedule so --

MR. LIPP:

Yeah, we have the data on that.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Spoken as a true financier. Okay. Mr. Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Doctor, you send us correspondence recently, and I think I'd like to talk just a little bit about this commitment from State Education for these three projects in a state based environment. I believe that someone communicated to us that there were several community colleges that had sought funding for projects within their own counties, and that there was quite a bit of competition for funding which is committed to us at this point or there's been decision that has gone on at State Ed. How does that process go?

DR. PIPPINS:

What you see is really the result of the significant advocacy efforts on the part of the college community including our unions and our legislative delegation staff, really selling our programs and how important they are in terms of service to students and economic development in our region and also in the state. So I served on the task, the Capital Task Force for SUNY community colleges so I know a little bit of the discussion that took place there. And we really worked hard to have our projects ranked at high enough priority that they would be considered and then we worked to make sure that people knew about them and kept them in the budget.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, from that perspective then in your opinion, if we did not do the restoration for our local share for this funding, what would be the likelihood that that funding would be there for us to say commit to or keep retained in our next Capital Budget cycle?

DR. PIPPINS:

I think the projects would be in significant jeopardy. There's been lots of discussion among the presidents about the importance of making sure we use the dollars that are appropriated; otherwise the Legislature at the state level thinks that we don't really need it. So we've talked about what happens if money isn't used by one locality and the importance of moving it to a place where the college has local sponsor support.

LEG. KENNEDY:

You made a good case as far the need academically for these buildings. But in particular the Grant campus, tell me what are you trending as far as enrollment over, let's say, the next five or ten years? We're at 8,000 now. Where do you project this will go?

DR. PIPPINS:

The Grant Campus is our fastest growing campus. And what you probably would see is a reflection of the demographics of the high schools and the work that we're doing in terms of economic development that brings a number of programs into that building. I believe the campus dean is here. He might want to answer that question. He'll be back in a minute. I'll hold that question for you. I would think that there would be a positive trend because there's been a significant growth in that area. It's probably our fastest growing campus at this point in time.

LEG. KENNEDY:

You have a couple of specialized programs on the Grant Campus as well, I believe, that are non-traditional academic but nevertheless in demand, I believe, more along the lines from occupational training.

DR. PIPPINS:

Well, our Workforce Development Center is housed at that facility. The HVAC facility is planned for opening at that facility. I think those programs will help encourage growth there. We also have a strategic language initiative that's in the works that will be operating out of that campus. So, again, that would contribute to growth at that facility. But even if there weren't any more growth, that campus already does not have sufficient space to meet the needs of the students currently attending the campus.

LEG. KENNEDY:

You also have a very active English As A Second Language program at the Grant Campus as well.

DR. PIPPINS:

Right. That's another strong program there. Did you want to add something?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Do you have something to add, Mr. Gatta?

MR. GATTA:

In addition, we have a tremendous outreach to both -- in terms of high school partnerships partnering with the high schools in that region in terms of early college programs in terms of bringing our college courses to their classrooms. Dr. McKay and his staff have done a great job with that. Our corporate training center, John Lombardo's here with us today, Ed Pruitt from the Hauppauge Industrial Association is with us today. They can speak to the very strong college industry partnerships working both in terms of manufacturing. And Dr. Pippins showed in her grant a phase two in our federal dollars that we've just brought in, an additional \$1.7 to strengthen that partnership, the marriage of the HVAC program and manufacturing technology which will be housed in the new Workforce Development Technology Building, which we discussed several years ago which was originally proposed to be just a HVAC building.

So there's a tremendous dynamic going on on that campus. And when you add to that the fact that there's a demographic in that area, which is now coming to college for the first time, many immigrants to this country are now sending their children back to school. ESL is very popular; hundreds and hundreds of students going through all five modules of that. So there are many, many, many factors that focus in on why the Grant Campus is really growing exponentially. Dr. McKay.

DR. McKAY:

I don't believe I can add anything extra to what Vice President Gatta just stated. But I think the emphasis that we have on making sure all resources are available to constituents, which again, when you look around the Grant Campus, we find what's happening is that our programs are unique to the workforce development that's happening in that area. I'm not sure if you mentioned the manufacturing technology initiatives and workforce and the HVAC programs.

But again, our enrollment trends are following an operate training process because we are working closely with workforce development, we're listening to the businesses, we're talking to the school districts and we're out into the school systems itself bringing most students on to the campus. So the more they get exposed to our programs and the more they get access and they're getting immersed into our academic programs, the more we see the trending towards attending the college.

So again, it's a very aggressive movement that we're making to get more County residents to get on to campus, to have an experience in regards to what we offer here. And we're thinking about keeping more folks on Long Island. So mostly we're looking at either in the technical programs or academic programs in the sense of transfer and towards degree as well.

DR. PIPPINS:

And Dr. McKay has also been very flexible in use of time so he has early morning programs, weekend programs. And those creative outreach efforts on his part have also contributed to the

growth and enrollment on that campus.

LEG. KENNEDY:

One last question. You're immediately proximate to one of the largest industrial parks on the eastern seaboard. Do you partner with the HIA or with members in the industrial association for developing specific types of applications for some of the resident manufacturers' needs?

DR. PIPPINS:

We have some representatives of the business community here and also some of some of our students that might want to add -- shed some light on the questions that you're raising. And if that's appropriate we'd like to do that.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I don't want to usurp the role of the Chair here, Doctor, but I guess my point is that by seeking these additional buildings, will that help you to progress these types of targeted applications?

DR. PIPPINS:

Definitely. It provides the type of expandable, flexible spaces that we need to respond to industry needs and respond to technology and to the trends in higher education.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So there is an employment aspect not only associated with creating these buildings but with the sustaining training for students entering the workforce?

DR. PIPPINS:

Well, the reality is that if you have state of the art facilities when the students leave the college, they're ready to go to work. When you don't have state of the art facilities, they leave the college and then their employer has to pick up the responsibility for making them job ready. So our goal is to meet the needs of the employer and produce job ready students/employees.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'll yield, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you much, Legislator Kennedy. It's my understand, Dr. McKay, that you had classes at six o'clock in the morning? Is that one of the things you mentioned one time?

DR. McKAY:

Yes, sir. And again, we're responding to what we are hearing out in the community. You know, we have, you know, folks that are either working late at night and can't get, you know, to the school in the mornings because there are no classes there. We listen to folks who are actually working, want to get a degree in two years, but in a manner that fits into their current schedule.

What we found in the first year we offered that program with no advertising at all, we had over 450 students. And the second year we offered the program we had 750. So certainly the community, they're speaking back to us telling us, look, if you give us alternate ways of coming to college, we will attend. What does that mean for workforce development? Well, we're getting them back into the workforce in a very calculated period of time at least using state of the art equipment. And simultaneously some of these programs we do have advisory boards that are members from the business and industry community also on those boards advising us in regards to the relative programs that we're offering to that constituency as well.

Today we have two members here who we work with strategically on trying to make sure our programs are relevant to what industry needs. And I'm hoping that we can have a few minutes to have them speak to us, to share with us the partnership opportunities and how pivotal it is to the community.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Dr. McKay, may I just -- would you want to do that now or you want to wait until we have some further questions? Why don't we wait. I'll open it up to if anyone would like to speak at the end -- towards the end of the hearing. Okay. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hello, everyone. Approximately, among all the three campuses, do you have any idea what the student transfer rate is? Approximately what percentage of community college students transfer to other schools?

DR. PIPPINS:

The national trend's around 40 to 50%, and I think that we're in that neighborhood.

LEG. STERN:

Do you have any breakdown as to where those schools are? I saw the list. And, of course, there's an impressive -- but I'd be interested to know of those students that do transfer, how many of them transfer to schools and stay here locally and how many transfer to other schools else where in the nation. Because we are talking about -- certainly we all agree that the efforts of the college and efforts that we make here is done in an attempt to keep our best and our brightest here at home. I'd be wondering what kind of investment we're making to send students who've had a successful community college experience who are now taking that successful experience elsewhere?

DR. PIPPINS:

I will respond in two ways. One the last data that I saw had somewhere around 90% staying on Long Island in terms of our transfer students. But the fact that a student starts here and gets really connected to Long Island and to the college, goes away to Harvard and his heart is still here, he comes back stronger and better prepared to support the citizens of Suffolk County.

LEG. STERN:

And if we can as we go on, if we can get those numbers, I would appreciate that.

DR. PIPPINS:

We can get the specific data for you.

LEG. STERN:

I wanted to go back to the \$28 million issue from before and really just pick up on something that I think part of a conversation had been started but not quite finished. I understand that what we had done here in putting it in was at least in part very important to securing those monies from the state. And I'm going back to something that Mr. Stein had mentioned, it's important to continue to show our commitment to these projects in order to retain those monies.

The question was asked before, you know, how much time do we have to be able to move forward on these projects, is there any risk of New York state pulling those monies and maybe giving them to other institutions or something else. I guess my question is, because you had put it in terms of now it's time to go forward and make some type of an appropriation, at least on the design phase. Is it important to have that triggering event? I understand that, yes, the money is placed in trust and we should be relying on the commitment that the state has made. But what if the design phase does not commence when you want it to? What if it is put over in a year and we haven't pulled the trigger on something tangible just yet? Is there any risk of losing those monies or because the commitment was made, the commitment was made regardless of when we start?

MR. STEIN:

We have the commitment now. These projects are in the five-year plan. The seven colleges that were frozen out are not going to give up. They're going to do what they can in advocating their own

cause. The safest thing to do is to start the progress.

LEG. STERN:

Understood. But what you're -- right. If we do not, what is the -- is there a realistic risk that some, if not all of that \$28 million would be back up for grabs? Or because New York State has made its commitment, is it a firm commitment?

MR. STEIN:

If you don't restore the projects to the Capital Program, then the state is going to say there's no support from the local sponsor.

LEG. STERN:

But that's not --

MR. STEIN:

If you do restore the projects to the Capital Program, and I think your question is if you restore them but you don't place design money in 2009 --

LEG. STERN:

Yes.

MR. STEIN:

That's your question.

LEG. STERN:

That's my question.

MR. STEIN:

I believe the projects will still be in, but I have to again state this was an unusual year and some strange things happened at the state level. So, you know, I can't speak for the State Legislature. I can't speak for the Governor.

LEG. STERN:

You had said earlier that in the past that's never been done but what you're also saying is that you certainly can't take anything for granted.

MR. STEIN:

It's never happened before. I don't know what else to say.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you much, Legislator Stern. Legislator Browning.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, Steve did ask similar -- yeah, because that was my question, was come -- if we don't put the design 2009 and we say okay we don't want to start design until 2010, so this is a five-year commitment from the state. So that's what, 2014?

MR. STEIN:

'13.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

'13? What year am I in? And --

MR. STEIN:

It starts in '09.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. And so that was my question, I guess, more that if we decided not to do design until 2010, we'll be -- they'll continue to roll it over and keep that money in place for you; correct?

MR. STEIN:

That's what's happened in the past.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Just out of curiosity, I know it's really not a Capital Budget but I guess it is -- kind of does apply, enrollment last year. How many new enrollees did you have to the community college last year? You don't know?

MR. STEIN:

Our FTE enrollment went from 16,851 at the end of '07 to a projected 17,430 that we're projecting to the end of August of this year.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, full-time. Okay. And part-time?

MR. STEIN:

That's FTE increase. I can't tell you from that number how many were new students that came in. You know, that would to be researched.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I was just curious if you're seeing a dramatic change in your enrollment this year because of --

MR. STEIN:

Well, we have seen a change upwards whereas our closest neighbor had difficulty in that area.

DR. PIPPINS:

And much of that change is connected to some of the innovative programing that's taking place.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And I have to say, I mean, I was at your honors -- I was amazed at how many students -- how many honor students you have. And I started at Suffolk County Community College a number of years ago and it certainly doesn't look the same today. Thank you.

DR. PIPPINS:

Thank you and we appreciated your being at that ceremony also.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Legislator. Legislator Beedenbender.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Good afternoon, Dr. Pippins. I apologize. I came in late. I just wanted to ask a question. I know we're talking about 28 million, which is half of the 56. But according to the BRO report when I looked at the total report, it looks like it would be 64 because the library's 38, the Sagtikos Building is 7 and the gym campus is 19. So that comes to about 64 so it should be 32 million as the County

--

MR. STEIN:

The Budget Review Office has recommended that adjustments be made for inflationary factors over the years. The 56 million constitutes the original amount with the adjustments that BRO has as recommended.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Okay. So the other eight would be 64. And would that -- would half of that eight still be eligible for funding by New York State or that would be an increase that would be borne 100 percent by the County?

MR. STEIN:

No, we would have to go to the state -- I mean, capital programs are 50% state, 50% local sponsor.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Okay.

MR. STEIN:

That's the way they work. But at the time it was submitted it was at the lower amount so we would have to go back to the state for the --

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

No, I understand everything's gone up. And I just wanted to talk a little bit, George, you provided some information from Dr. Kamer on job data. And my question about that is, is that construction? You said 16 jobs. That's not the construction. That's creation based upon having the facility and the tangential benefits to it?

MR. STEIN:

That's a combination of both the direct jobs that are created during construction and the regional output -- input/output model, the multiplier effect of those wages and other expenditures being filtered through the economy. So the 16 jobs is a total per million. That would be both construction and non-construction.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Okay. Because I was going to ask, I was trying to figure out how that would fit into the Health and Sports Facility but I understand a little bit better now.

And I guess the other question along with the Health and Sports Facility is when I read the BRO report and from the information I've gotten and when I've spoken to people about this, what connection -- there seems to be a connection that's been drawn between enrollment and the availability of these athletic facilities and workout facilities and things like that. First, my question would be do you believe that to be true, and is there any extent that you can give a, you know, kind of quantify that? And my question is because I could definitely be wrong, but my initial gut sense would be that at the community college at least the gym and the health facilities aren't the main attraction; it would be the classes. But if I'm incorrect -- so I mean --

MR. GATTA:

The example that Dr. Pippins gave during her presentation was for the Health Sports and Exhibition facility at the Grant Campus which also includes the Suffolk County Police Academy Wing. That building has both an instructional wing, it has the field house, the pool complex, the athletic training room, the dance studio and the police academy. So it gave us additional instructional space. It also is a -- it's sort of a landmark building on that campus. It's also provided an opportunity for us to have every year numerous business trade shows. And the HIA will be there in about a week, actually later this week with their annual trade show. It gives us opportunity to have the community become more a part of the campus. We have section eleven track and field events there all winter long. We have high school --

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

I know them well. I used to run in them.

MR. GATTA:

Right. We have high school swimming teams from high schools who don't have their own pools using that pool. Diving. We have all sorts of community groups that come and use that facility because it's there. The same thing would happen at the eastern campus on a smaller scale. But again that -- that building completes that campus. It gives it a health and fitness facility which it currently does not have; and again would open up opportunities for the community to become more a part of the life of the campus. So in that sense it builds visibility, it brings people on campus. And that in turn, we believe, drives and adds to enrollment and to the overall educational experience of the student.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Okay. And I guess the question and perhaps I should have phrased it a little bit better, but that was a good answer. Directly related to the degree, the pursuit of the Associates degree or the training program -- I mean, I know they're required to do some sort of physical education. I'm not sure to what extent it's part of the degree. That's what I was trying to figure out.

MR. GATTA:

It is required of every degree that we offer at the college, every two year degree. I believe it's only a one credit course but it is required whether it's in volleyball or badminton or tennis or golf or jogging, fitness of some sort, it is a required degree. It's part of the SUNY core requirements.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

And there's I guess some sort of makeshift way to get this done now?

MR. GATTA:

That's why we have the guinea hens out east because we have a tick problem. And when they do their jogging through the Pine Barrens trails, we need to make sure that they don't get Lyme disease, but we do accomplish it in another way but it's under adverse conditions.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Okay. The last question I had, and this kind of goes to something you just mentioned, George. I guess the overall vision of the college is that these three distinct campuses could all operate, I don't want to say independently but they could all operate in and of themselves. So somebody if they wanted to go to Suffolk County Community College and they lived in Southampton, they could get everything they want in Southampton and the same thing with Selden or the Brentwood area.

MR. GATTA:

Well, they can get a complete college experience at -- our goal is to have them get a complete experience at each campus. Not every major, because of the cost of some majors, not every major is offered at every campus. So if someone -- now we've just opened an LPN program on the east end but we do not have an RN program. They may have travel to Ammerman or to Sayville, which would be closer than Brentwood for that particular degree. But in terms of having the core elements of a campus including a state of the art learning resource center, a library which we'll be building this year and a health and fitness facility along with the other instructional and student activity spaces, that would compete that campus.

And just one point. The library for the Grant Campus and the Health and Fitness facility for the eastern campus have been on the drawing boards since the 1970's. These are not new projects. It's taken us all these years to get to this point. And thankfully with your support last year, and I mentioned, I don't want to beat a dead horse, but the State Legislature has finally given us the

money. We're at the doorstep. It would be a shame to have a misstep at this point and lose out on things that have been in the making for over 30 years.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Okay. And just the last question, Mr. Chairman. I know we're building the library at the eastern campus. We're discussing the library at the Grant Campus. And in the BRO report there's a discussion of, I guess, the library at the Ammerman Campus. So I guess really our libraries are either non-existent or in disrepair or expanding with the expansion of enrollment.

DR. PIPPINS:

Also as I mentioned in the presentation --

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

I'm sorry I was late.

DR. PIPPINS:

-- the new technology requires different types of spaces. And, therefore, you're either building new facilities or you're renovating spaces. And I think as you look at the growth in the eastern end of Long Island, I live somewhat on the eastern end and given the transportation issues, it's a real challenge for students not to have the ability to complete their degree at the eastern campus. It's important that that be a full comprehensive campus with the citizens in that part of the County.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

And the library is, I guess, it has a lot of the spaces in terms of technology and access to journal articles and all that stuff. And the reason I ask that is because as the member of this body closest to his college experience in years, I remember that towards the end -- and that wasn't a shot at anybody -- I remember that towards the end --

LEG. KENNEDY:

He wants what?

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Towards the end admittedly I wasn't going to the library as much because I could get everything in my college's library on my computer. So I guess my thought would be is this building going to be filled with books or is it going to be filled with computers? Do you understand what I'm getting at?

DR. PIPPINS:

It will be filled with people doing lots of different things. The name has changed from the library per se to a learning resource center because all types of academic support services --

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Right. And that's not a shot or anything. I'm just being inquisitive because I know that the role of a college library is a lot different than, you know, hoarding volumes now. It has a lot more access to, you know, every journal article available. So, anyway, with that I'll stop monopolizing the time.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

As with community libraries and the whole library experience across the board. Let me -- let me bring up, and this is more of a delicate question. I've been querying my fellow colleagues, you know, what do like about -- you know, how's the college doing, what do you think about different issues, the \$28 million, and are you in support of it. And it comes up over and over again, the issue of the fitness center out at the east end, you know, compared to libraries, libraries are academic; fitness center, they may be -- someone may have a different question about it.

But in looking at your presentation I saw the numbers that dealt with your sports and fitness program. Is that -- what's the -- what is your program that involves athletic training? You had it on

the board before.

DR. PIPPINS:

You saw the Health and Sports facility at the Grant Campus perhaps in this presentation.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yeah, there was a number there in your program that --

DR. PIPPINS:

Showed the growth of the Grant Campus as a result of that --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That was the number? Okay.

DR. PIPPINS:

-- facility attracting students from Nassau County and stopping our students from leaving the County and going to Nassau. Annex and outstanding programming.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yeah. I just want to make sure that your best pitch is made for the fitness center, why you need it for the eastern end when you could go to Ammerman to take golf or whatever it may be. Could you respond to that because --

DR. PIPPINS:

I drive from 73 to 62 everyday. And I'm certainly not at the furthest --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You could throw in gas and everything else if you want, too, but --

DR. PIPPINS:

The eastern most end of Long Island, but if you student who don't have cars who are involved in using public transportation, not having a complete degree opportunity at the eastern campus may mean that people do not complete their degrees because of the logistics and the costs become prohibitive.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Anything else? Would you want to make a comment on that?

DR. PIPPINS:

Yes, I'd like to provide an opportunity for individuals to speak.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I think -- okay. Then I'll go back to you, Lou. I'm sorry. I didn't mean -- I knew you had a question. Okay. Yes. Sure, please come on up.

MR. PETERMAN:

All I wanted to say is I believe there are some students here from the eastern campus and who better to ask? And also I'd like to make a statement at some point, too. But I think the students here are reserving --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Well, why don't you make your statement while you're here.

MR. PETERMAN:

All right. Thank you. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Kevin Peterman. I'm the Executive Vice President of the Faculty Association. I'm also a librarian at the Grant Campus.

First, I want to thank you for your past support, both in the Operating Budgets over the past few years and the Capital Budgets. Your help I can tell you is truly, deeply appreciated.

But I want to talk about the Budget Review's document today. I must admit my appearance is selfish, as I did say, I am a librarian. But the eastern campus is finally going to get there. But I want to first speak about the eastern campus and the fact that there is no health and sports facility. On a sunny day the students can play volleyball in a dirt field and hope they don't get any tick bites. And George and I did not rehearse this. But on a rainy day it's, oh well, we can't do anything but play in the mud or, you know, just not have any facilities. And it's troubling to me when we talk about a campus -- when students come on campus to see if they want to go there and they walk on the campus and they see there is no health facility, we're incomplete. We're not a complete campus. And I think that tells a lot about us, that we don't value having a complete campus. And I think all three campuses need to be complete.

That campus opened in 1977 and I think it's time we give that campus a little muscle. In 1993 the Grant Campus library moved out of the basement of Comset Hall, which by the way, was the morgue for the Pilgrim State Hospital. I don't know if you're aware of that. At that time Grant had about 4,000 students and we were excited to get out of the basement because, you know, we could see the light.

But we moved into the Sagtikos Building and we're just a piece of that building. We only have about a little over 15,000 square feet at that time for 4,000 students. Now here we are with 8,000 students. We have 53,000 volumes of books, Legislator Beedenbender. We do still have books.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

No, I know, I know.

MR. PETERMAN:

We have 26 computers in the reference room. When we have a class in the library, and we call it information literacy because we have all kinds of students that come to Suffolk. And we have to bring them in and we have to show them how to use a library and how to do library -- what we call library -- bibliographic instruction, how to really -- a lot of the students think they're web savvy because they can Google and do MySpace, but that doesn't make you a good college student. So we need to help students become better students by showing them how to get the proper research. Just because it's on Google doesn't mean it's real, legit or even accurate. So we spent a lot of time doing that. And we need library space to do that. When we get a class of 35 into the library to do this instruction, we have to kick everyone else out off of the computers. I don't think that's fair.

We have only 70 study carrels, individual carrels where people could study. In the reference area we have four, only four six foot tables for students to work together. We only have five round tables in a general study area for students to study as a group. We have two group study rooms in the library at the Grant Campus right now. They are 10 by 12. They fit a six foot table in there. Two group study rooms for 8,000 students. I think the students at the Grant Campus have -- they need a real library to learn, to study and to collaborate in group projects. I think it's important that you understand that all three campuses need to be complete. As I said before, I appreciate your past support and I hope that we can count on your support this time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you. Okay. Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

You know, if we have incomplete campuses or complete campuses, is one issue. The other issue I want to turn to now and switch gears a little bit is about the security notification at all of the

campuses. I'm a little -- can you explain to me you -- you've requested \$2.5 million. The memo handed in today talks about the -- and references Virginia Tech, the tragedy there. And I think that's in everybody's minds that we need to always provide for security when we have in mass County residents going to a facility like this for higher education.

You're asking for \$2.5 million. The County Executive has basically cut that to less than half. And then you've asked for the 2.5 in 2009 for next year whereas the County Executive has put only 100,000 in for, I think, planning purposes or design or however you request for proposal purposes. So why such a discrepancy between what's requested and what the recommend budget is proposing.

MR. STEIN:

Vice President Braxton's going to speak on the specifics of the program. As far as what was placed in the proposal by the Executive's Office, we didn't get any specific information as to what areas should or should not be removed from that project. I think it was just a general reduction in dollars.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Well, let me see if I can understand. Your proposal then for the 2.5 then must be backed up by specific recommendations or -- what's the word, you know, firms have already been consulted and submitted proposals.

MR. STEIN:

We have specific break downs as to what each of those dollars was for.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, because I see in the BRO report it's pretty specific how much you're earmarking for each of the different aspects of the security notification system.

MR. STEIN:

Right. And we didn't get any specificity in terms of the reduction. It was just a dollar reduction.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I want to just examine that process. How do you come about getting those proposals when, you know, you see a need for security, which I agree with. But how do you actually then solicit firms and get proposals and -- - what's the process?

DR. PIPPIN:

Would you like to respond to that, Vice President Braxton, please?

MS. BRAXTON:

Sure. Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Joanne Braxton. I'm the Vice President for Planning and Institutional Assessment. Part of my responsibilities at the college is safety and security.

In regards to the question that was asked how do we go about, there were -- I'd just like to give you a brief little history. There were several major documents that came out after the Virginia Tech incident. One was the SUNY Chancellor's Report, which was a task force which I was a member of.

The other was from the White House that came out with a document. And the other was a Virginia Tech -- the institution had a document. We reviewed those documents and there were several recommendations that were made in regards to campuses moving to another place for safety and security.

The documents talked about having what they call passive notification for emergency and active. The college has fully implemented a very vigorous what I call passive emergency notification system. We are a part of the State Emergency Management Office which is called New York Alert.

So we have the ability to do text messaging, faxing, e-mailing, things of that nature. Also within our very computer systems we have the ability to take over every computer at the college, send out notifications. Our telephone system allows us to become a PA system.

What we do not have is an active emergency notification system. One of the documents and many of the documents talked about that you must have what is called redundancy; that you must have various types of ways that individuals are notified in the event of an emergency. The college does not have the ability to notify individuals who are in classrooms if there was an emergency. We have over 23,000 students. We have over close to 3,000 plus --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Let me stop you right there. So sitting here today if there were an emergency on campus with thousands of students sitting in the classroom, no one in those classrooms would be notified of the emergency at that time?

MS. BRAXTON:

Right. They would be notified through people running through the hallways alerting them that there was an emergency. We would like to -- this proposal that is before you addresses to be able to have a PA system in the buildings to be able to notify there is an emergency, you must shelter or secure in place.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Those are more active systems --

MS. BRAXTON:

That is correct, yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

-- that are addressed in each of these reports that you've cited.

MS. BRAXTON:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Does the system, the passive systems that you have in place now, and I'm sure that you're doing everything you can with what resources you have right now, do they meet the recommendations of those reports or do these reports say based on redundancy, no, that's not enough, here's what more you need to do.

MS. BRAXTON:

The current passive systems that we have in place at the institution, in fact they go above and beyond what the reports had indicated. So the college has done everything in that realm to reach that level. The piece that's missing, as I said, is an active system.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Now you've made in the memo and in the BRO report, in various documents that I've seen, you've made a presentation as I said specifically as to what active systems you need to implement, what the projected cost would be.

MS. BRAXTON:

Absolutely.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Do you need them all?

MS. BRAXTON:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Why?

MS. BRAXTON:

Because of the fact that it's called redundancy. No one system, no two or three systems can alert that number of people at any given time. If you read any of the documents or any of the literature, it says redundancy, redundancy. If we look back in, you know, the 1950's when we all used to duck under the desks when there was an alarm, we do not have that. We don't have the ability to tell people. We have 156 acres at our Ammerman Campus, 207 acres at our eastern campus, another 202 or so at our Grant Campus. People could be in classrooms, they could be on fields, they could be in laboratories, they could be in dark rooms, they could be meeting in a space where we would need to be able to have a loud alarm system to say either stay in place or there is some particular emergency happening.

One of the things that happens is that parents are now asking us do you have an alert system? They used to ask what are your credentials of your faculty, with your library, what are those things. But they're now asking this question as well.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So you analyzed the need, you looked at these reports, you came up with these are the active systems that we feel we need for security and safety of our students. You then solicit proposals, I would assume, from various companies.

MS. BRAXTON:

That is correct, yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

What companies?

MS. BRAXTON:

I don't have the companies in front of me but I could provide you with the list of the companies that we asked them to provide us with cost estimates for these particular projects.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Is that an open process.

MS. BRAXTON:

Oh, absolutely.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Or is it you choose who to solicit?

MS. BRAXTON:

Oh, no. It's an open process. We're required by County Procurement Regulations.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I see. Okay. Now, let me ask you this. What happens if we enact the Executive recommended budget and give you 100,000 for '09? How does that help you?

MS. BRAXTON:

That basically will give us some planning money. It will not put any of the systems in place.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Are you prepared if we allocate a much larger sum up to what you requested in '09, are you prepared in calendar year 2009 to get those systems up and running, installed and in place?

MS. BRAXTON:

Absolutely.

LEG. D'AMARO:

You are?

MS. BRAXTON:

Absolutely.

LEG. D'AMARO:

You're ready to go?

MS. BRAXTON:

We're ready to go.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. And then going forward, assuming that all that infrastructure is put in place, what additional personnel would be required to keep it up and running?

MS. BRAXTON:

These particular systems would not require additional personnel. These are systems that our current -- what I call staffing would be able to support because we did look at that as well. One of the things that when we're putting together capital project, one of the questions you must ask is whether or not there are additional personnel that are required.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I see. I apologize. My phone is ringing.

MS. BRAXTON:

That's okay.

LEG. D'AMARO:

It's a good thing we're not at the movies. All right.

LEG. STERN:

Can I add something?

LEG. D'AMARO:

So once it's in place, the existing staff and personnel would be arranged in a way to maintain and monitor or whatever is done to run these systems?

MS. BRAXTON:

That is correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And put them into effect.

MS. BRAXTON:

Yes, sir.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. And sitting here today are you comfortable with the security measures you have in place right now?

MS. BRAXTON:

Absolutely, yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

You are?

MS. BRAXTON:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. Thank you.

MS. BRAXTON:

You're welcome.

DR. PIPPINS:

Mr. Chairman, we ask your indulgence to allow some of the businesspeople and students to speak. We're prepared to stay as long as possible or necessary.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

When is our next committee hearing? At two o'clock.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

We're going over.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes we are.

DR. PIPPINS:

They'll be brief.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

They'll be brief?

DR. PIPPINS:

Some of these students are from the eastern campus.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

They're going to talk to us about how the athletic facility is of importance?

DR. PIPPINS:

I'm sure that will be among the topics of discussion.

MR. PRUITT:

Actually, I'm not one of the students.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

How are you, sir?

MR. PRUITT:

Hello. Good afternoon, members of the Suffolk County Legislature. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Edward Pruitt. I'm a general partner with Cooperating Executive Organization of Melville. CEO is a full service consulting firm that work primarily with manufacturers and distribution companies to help them become more productive. I'm also a member of the Board of Directors of the Hauppauge Industrial Association. I'm also the Co-Chair the HIA's Manufacturing and Engineering Committee along with David Bottomley, who's Executive Director of ADDAPT. HIA is a 30-year old business organization with over a 1000 members. As some folks have just said, we represent one of the largest business parks on the east coast. We do have trade shows taking place this Thursday, the 22nd, at the Suffolk County Community College Campus.

ADDAPT is a non-profit organization that has been representing the Aerospace Industry on Long Island over 18 years. Between HIA and ADDAPT the manufacturing alliance represents over 200 manufacturing companies. Long Island's economic future in many ways hinges on a growing and advanced manufacturing sector that can not only provide high-wage jobs, but serve as a technology innovation center, boosting industries as diverse as health care, wireless information technology, energy and trade.

Despite rumors to the contrary, Long Island manufacturing is not dead. Manufacturing still ranks third on Long Island employment. We employ over 85,000 employees. Manufacturing ranks fourth in payroll, over \$4 billion in payroll. The average wage on a manufacturing job is close to \$60,000. Studies have shown that for every \$1 that's spent in a manufacturing sector, approximately \$1.43 is pumped into the local economy.

The continued viability of these industries depends greatly on the availability of a well trained workforce. Let me repeat that one more time. The continued viability of these industries depend greatly on availability of a well trained workforce. A strong, better educated workforce results from industry linking its needs with academia and receiving relevant programs that support and improve workers' ability to adapt to the changing needs of business.

Suffolk County Community College and its technical training programs have become an anchor for retaining manufacturing and support industries on Long Island. The existing Mechatronics program there contains 45 companies that are participating in that program and 200 incumbent workers. The positive results from this program are already being felt on the participants manufacturing program. The college requires your financial support to continue these ventures and to be able to better support the rapidly changing skills and needs of this industry. From a business perspective we have a good community college. We need a first class community college.

The state has demonstrated its commitment to economic development and workforce development by investing their money in these projects. I encourage the County to do likewise. I would like to thank the Suffolk County Legislature, New York State and the federal government for funding Suffolk County Community College Mechatronics program and ask on behalf of -- for your continued support of Suffolk County Community College. Do you have any questions?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. Dr. Pippins, I have a request from one of our Legislators, Lynne Nowick, who chairs the Parks Committee.

LEG. NOWICK:

I don't chair it, but they have to leave.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay, apparently they're trying to push us along. So if we could just make the young people's talks to us very short, if I may ask that, so that we can move this along. How about three o'clock, does that sound good?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

No, because I have to be somewhere else at four.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay, Lynne, we're trying to push this along.

MS. SCHABANKO MOORE:

Am I okay to continue or?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes. Please.

MS. SCHABANKO MOORE:

Okay. My name is Ann Shabanko Moore. I'm actually a business owner and President of GSE Dynamics here in Hauppauge. We have two facilities, two manufacturing facilities here in Hauppauge and are continuing to grow, which is why I've suddenly become a spokesman and an advocate for manufacturing on Long Island. Like Ed said, I'm one of many, many, many manufacturing companies on Long Island that need the support. There's more and more burden, financial support -- rather financial burden on the small business on Long Island. As you know, medical costs have obviously gone up. Energy costs have gone up. Again, the cost to keep a small business open on Long Island has gone up in general.

So when I see programs that Suffolk is supporting, which is the Mechatronics which is offering programs to train young people in manufacturing, what that says to me is that they're interested in the support of small businesses on Long Island, they're interested in keeping young Long Islanders here rather than training and having them depart. And they're decreasing, again, the cost of training for on site training, which is really the only other option for us if the local colleges are not doing it, which then obviously adds more stress to the small business in terms of cost.

So again, as an advocate for training, I cannot say enough about Suffolk County Community College and the programs that they are offering. Six of my members are currently in the program and have found it extremely helpful and useful. But again, the concern is that this is not an issue that can be resolved quickly. This is something, the folks in my shop are making critical parts for the Air Force, Navy and Army. These are not parts that I can grab an 18-year-old, throw a rivet gun in their hand and say go to town on this F15 or this cargo C130 part. There's tremendous amount of training that has to take place, not only the training that occurs at Suffolk, but also the mentoring in my shop.

So once they've had the training, they can come into my shop. The average age of my employee is 50 to 55. I have X number of years to get this mentoring done. All right? And again, these are critical, critical items that I'm supplying to the US military.

So again, when I emphasize the fact this is not something that can be long-range planning and say in 2015, you know, we'll begin this training. It has to happen today. It has to happen now. And that is the initiative that Suffolk took, which again I think they should be commended for that effort. And again, I represent tremendous number of manufacturing companies who clap and applaud to Suffolk for having these programs because, again, they do decrease the cost burden on us. They enable us to stay here on Long Island and employ more Long Islanders to stay here. So I will -- again, I can speak forever on this topic but as a courtesy I will stop. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. All right. This is what we're going to do, if I may. Dr. Pippins, I know this is not easy for the young people because I want them to have their chance to speak. I'm going to recess this committee meeting and let Parks take over the -- take over at this point in time. And I will hang out until -- if the young people would like to stay, and so is Legislator Browning, because they apparently said that they will be very short. But the budget process has to move forward and we've got to make sure that Parks budget is heard publicly otherwise we're going to have problems.

DR. PIPPINS:

I appreciate that and I really appreciate your sensitivity in hearing the voices of the students. It takes a great effort for them to get here and it's important that they be part the Legislative process.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you, gang. I do appreciate it. If you just hang on, we'll be glad -- we have the stenographer here, we'll take the full correspondence from them. And if you would just let Parks take over for just a very short period of time. Thank you.

I make a motion to recess this capital hearing.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All in favor?

(THE JOINT MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION & ENERGY COMMITTEE and LABOR, WORKFORCE & AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE WAS RECESSED AT 2:49 AND WAS RECONVENED AT 3:54 PM)

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right, this committee will come back into session. And I'm not sure -- I don't have a card system here, so maybe you'll be self --

LEG. D'AMARO:

How many people want to address us?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Say who you are.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Good evening.

MR. HALLOCK:

How are you? Good afternoon. Thank you for coming back into session.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Your name and address, please?

MR. HALLOCK:

Sure. My name is Rob Hallock and I reside at 12 Richmond Boulevard, Lake Grove, NY. And thank you again for letting me -- giving me the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Rob Hallock and as the President of the Student Government Association on the Ammerman Campus, I feel it is my duty to come speak about my personal experiences at Suffolk Community College. I'd like to start by pointing out the tie that I'm wearing today. I know it seems odd to call attention to my tie, but it was the tie I was wearing the day I was privileged to meet Dr. Ammerman. Dr. Ammerman was actually wearing the same exact red tie the day I got to meet him, and to me that sums up my experience at Suffolk Community. I fit in on that campus.

My Suffolk education started a few years ago where I was a recent high school graduate trying to find myself. I chose Suffolk because my parents divorced my senior year in high school and I felt the need to stay at home and be the man of the family for my mother. After joining the college's Legal Society as a paralegal student, I was quickly elected as the President of the club. Through the club, we scheduled a trip to Washington, D.C. to hear cases in front of the United States Supreme

Court. Suffolk County Community College provided that experience for me. This year in the student government, working together with our campus administration, we were able to start a recycling program. The Suffolk County Community College gave me that experience, too.

Suffolk will give me more than 64 credits and a diploma. It's given me a sense of belonging, a great education, great friends and some of the best years in my young life. So I come today in front of my County Legislators to ask you to help make freshmen next year fit in. How can you help freshmen next year fit in you ask? With improvements to roadways, security and much needed restoration of the Crailing Hall. Classrooms and infrastructure are key to a healthy college education. And I'd ask you please to adopt the Capital Budget of the Ammerman Campus. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. By the way, I am a professor also and I haven't seen many ties at all, so I'm impressed.

MR. PEREZ:

Hello. My name is Andre Perez, I'm from Quoque. I'm from the Eastern Campus. Before I even start talking about the facts, I just want to thank you guys honestly because without your support and your cooperation, many things in our college, both Grant, Ammerman -- all, at Grant, Ammerman and Eastern wouldn't be possible.

I don't have any special ties, but I do have the voice of 3,000 students who I'm representing today, 3,000 students who have to take two physical education courses in order to complete their two year Associates Degrees. And it's really something to see them run alongside the street or with cars going by 70 miles an hour. It's also something to see them playing in the summer when they have a chance to play outside by the volleyball court; I'm one of them, especially now at the end of the school year.

I'm also President of Student Government, so you can tell that I have a lot of stress on me. And to play volleyball, you know, to get down and dirty after a nice day of school releases a lot of stress. But it's really something to see two ticks crawling up your leg at the end of the game and then having to try to take them off your skin, and that's what I experienced this last weekend. So we are in deep need of a physical education building in our campus. We have to drive off campus to go to a gym in Riverhead, which if you take gas costs, that adds up over the semester.

We also have a lot of students that during the winter have to stay inside because they don't have a place to go to hang out, to play games, to play volleyball, to play dodgeball, to play ping-pong, because all the space is taken up. On days when it's raining we have the cafeteria, the lounge and the lobby, which is where the registrar's office is, all filled with students. That sound, that resonates throughout the whole building, the Peconic building, and that creates chaos and mayhem amongst teachers and students, and then the conflict of interest comes into play.

I know that you guys are doing the best you can and I know that you have the best interest of Suffolk County Community College in mind, and I thank you so much for the efforts that have gone into the Resource Center that's coming up. But I think it's in the best interest and it's an investment towards the future to have this physical education health facility come up. We have students coming from Nassau Community College to take Culinary Arts Programs. It would be nice if we had some teams of students from Nassau that would come to our campus for -- to take because of our teams. We are losing students who come from Southampton because our campus does not offer the facilities for the sports they used to take in high school, and Ammerman or Grant are too far away for them to attend, so they decide to go to a four year college. So it's in the best interest and a great investment for the future of Suffolk County Community College and the community to build this facility. Thank you.

MS. CHIN:

Hello. My name is Danielle Chin, I live in Deer Park, NY. My address is 128 Gleeland Street.

I'm the President of the Student Government Association on the Grant Campus in Brentwood. I'm also a member of Phi Beta Capa, the Honors Club, I'm in the Honors Program, Phi Alpha Sigma, I'm on the Dean's List. I was also a recipient of the Senior Chancellor's Award. As you see, I do a lot with Suffolk. The Grant Campus is what actually helped me become so involved in the school.

I personally use the library at the campus and it's really hard for students who don't have computers to actually get access to computers. It just -- I don't even have a speech today because I can talk about how much Suffolk -- how much I love Suffolk, how much it's helped me. But we need to help other students, too, because not a lot of people are going to take the initiative. And if we have more computer labs, if we have a bigger library, then students will take initiative of that and they will learn as much as I have.

Suffolk has done so much for me that this Capital budget is really important, that's why we're here today. I missed one of my finals, my Professor let me make it up. I know other people are missing finals and we have finals tomorrow that we need to study for, but that's how important this is to us. So I'd like you to take that into consideration. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Danielle. Go take your final.

MS. CHIN:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Chateau Butler.

MS. BUTLER:

Good evening. My name is Chateau Butler from Rocky Point. Again, this will address certain topics that was at hand today that you guys asked about certain students and why do they feel that they need certain facilities on their campus. Being that I'm one of those students who do take the bus, who is limited to the source of where they can get to, where I live in Rocky Point and I go to the Selden Campus, so for the requirements that I would need, I would need those things to be at that campus. For me to have to travel to Riverhead or to the Brentwood Campuses makes it hard for me to take part in certain activities. So that's why I would need those things at my own campus. Luckily I'm one of those students who has most of those facilities at their campus, whereas there are students who are in the Riverhead Campus who do not have that.

And as far as the ones that have to take the bus who do not have cars or have to, you know, rely on public transportation, it's not the greatest thing ever, you know. I missed a final this morning. If I miss a buss or I miss a connection, they're not always reliable. So that's one of the things that I need them to be close to me, be closer to the students, it's something that's needed.

We would take part -- that's one of the things that we try to help and facilitate with the students is to, you know, have them involved in different clubs and organizations or activities that go on, you know, the dodgeball games that we have, the volleyball games. We like doing those things. We like coming together; we like to be able to study together, play together, work together.

And I'm one of those students who have been on Long Island and will stay on Long Island. I live in Rocky Point. I've lived in Huntington, I've lived in Wyandanch and I'm still here and I'm here to stay. When I graduate I will come back and help to work and fix my community and I will also -- I have four other sisters who would also do the same and i would encourage them to also go to Suffolk Community College as their start and to continue on from that.

So I just want to let you guys know there are people who are here, I'm not just a sole person, I'm

not just one student who's saying that, I'm not a rarity, there's many of us who are out there who do the same things. There are several people that I can look to the left or right to me who are in the same situation as I do. I work to be able to go to school. I pay for my bills, I have no extra support, so this why I come to Suffolk Community College because I can afford it and I'm getting a damn good education because of it. Excuse my language, but that's how passionate I feel about it. Just to let you guys know that, all right? I thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Chateau, don't go anywhere. Real quick, because you say you take the bus from Rocky Point.

MS. BUTLER:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And I know what our bus system is like.

MS. BUTLER:

Oh, yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

What time is your first class in the morning?

MS. BUTLER:

My first class is the eight o'clock in the morning, so that means I have to be up at five o'clock to be able to get to the bus stop where I live two miles from.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And how long does it take for you to get from home to school?

MS. BUTLER:

Depending on the time, during the morning it's a littler easier travel because there's more buses, so it takes me around about two hours.

And sometimes during the day, if I don't miss a connection or when the buses take a break for an hour, I'm sitting waiting where there isn't a bus shelter, so I'm standing there waiting between my classes, you know, having to take away that time that can be used to study, you know, I'm losing a lot of time. So it makes it harder for me, even to work my jobs, you know, waiting for rides, depending on public transportation, also having to pay a cab, with the rise of gases.

For one week the bus -- the bus fare is okay, but as far as like taking cabs, so far it went from paying \$8 to now paying 16. To even go from my house to go to school has went from 25 to 35, to sometimes when there are no cabs around they'll charge me \$50 to go in cabs to be able to get to my class if I have a test that I cannot miss, which I have done.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Are you graduating this year?

MS. BUTLER:

Yes, I am.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Congratulations.

MS. BUTLER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I'll see you at graduation.

MS. BUTLER:

All right, I'll look for you there. Thank you. Have a good day.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Chateau, thank you.

MS. BUTLER:

You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Mary Hughes.

MS. HUGHES:

Hello. My name is Mary Hughes and I live in Mastic Beach and I attend Suffolk Community College Eastern Campus and I am the Student Government President-Elect and I stand before you as a representative of the 3,000 students that attend that campus.

Regarding the Health & Sports Facility, Andre had stressed the lack of space on our campus and that is indeed true. The students do hang out in the hallway and play hackey sack and, you know, it's a much needed facility and not just on a physical level. I believe in the development of body and mind, you know, you need -- you need your academics to cultivate your mind, but you also need to have a physical well being as well and that facility will allow us to do that.

Of course I won't be there to see this to fruition, but, you know, I do believe it's crucial. If you can't tell, I'm a little nervous; I had to say that so I got it out of me. Now I lost my train of thought; bear with me, please.

I know myself as an adult, you know, I'm not your traditional student. I went back to that college, last semester was my first semester and the spirit there -- you know, when I went there I was quite worried about the young generation, but since attending Suffolk, they've renewed my faith. They're a great generation that's forthcoming and any way you can help cultivate them, I encourage that. And I had a lot more to say, but I'm going to leave it at that and I thank you very much for affording me the opportunity to speak today.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Mary. Good luck to you.

MS. HUGHES:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Matthew Jennings?

MR. JENNINGS:

Good afternoon. My name is Matthew Jennings from Holbrook in the 8th Legislative District and I'd like to thank the Legislature for making the accommodations to allow us to speak; I feel like it's very important to us. So I'd like to share some of my experiences with you.

Out of high school I was right at the 50th percentile in my class; I was 456 out of 1,022 students. I was nothing exceptional, just right average, right in the middle. I came to Suffolk and I'll admit that I had a lackluster first two semesters, but following that I was involved in a car accident that had me out of school for more than a year. My insurance rates went through the roof and I had to assume full-time work responsibility to pay my insurance bills. But when I came back I had a renewed sense

of purpose at school. Since coming back I have achieved no less than a 3.9 in any semester since the fall of 2003 when I returned.

I finished up my course work at Suffolk in December and have just completed my first semester at Stony Brook University now. So in response to Legislator Stern, graduates of Suffolk do continue to stay on Long Island and work for Long Island and they continue to have success in other areas.

While at Suffolk, I realized that the character of the Suffolk student is something that's unlike anywhere else. We show and exemplify grit and determination like I've never seen before, because we are a collection of non-traditional students. We are commuters. We know that it's Suffolk County Community College and not Suffolk County Commuter College. And in that sense, we've really worked to build a sense of community and pride, both in the classroom and outside the classroom. So whether we're discussing issues of gyms or libraries or academic grades, it's very important to continue to support Suffolk County Community College.

I have also spent a year in the Student Government at the Ammerman Campus and from there we hope to foster and instill a renewed sense of civic activities and pride and activism with the student body. We've seen incredible membership increases, we've seen interest, we've seen great things really come from our students in the past year on that front also.

Let me just finish by saying that it's very important that the Legislature continue its strong relationship with the college community and Suffolk County Community College. And especially today being the day that most people go vote for their local school boards in their districts, we also feel students as faculty, as staff and administration from Suffolk that it's imperative that you continue to support us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Matt. Debra Arayo?

MS. ARAYO:

Hello. I'm Debra. I live in Babylon Village and I'm from the Grant Campus. Let me give you a quick background about me. I'm from Brazil. I've been living here for four years, so going to school here has been an amazing experience. Suffolk has made all the difference for me, so much that I'm considering going to higher education so I can go back and work at a community college level. And I would like to stay here on Long Island, I would like to work at Suffolk if I could, I don't know about the future, but just to say we do plan on staying on Long Island, the ones that are here, we love it.

About Suffolk, I'm extremely involved on campus. I used the library facilities all the time. That library at the Grant Campus is always crowded, the tables are always full. In this two-and-a-half years that I've been in that campus, I haven't been able to use the study room, the group study room, because every time I go there it's busy; we only have two study rooms and we have 8,000 students. The three small computer labs that they have inside the library are always packed. I'm a college aide at the Academic Skill Center which is another facility across from the library. There we serve the {sali} excel students. Our computers are always taken but often we have students coming from the library to ask us to use our computers because the library is full or to study, even to study at the tables that we have there for the {sali} students. We're not allowed to do that because we need that space reserved for the {sali} students, we have too many of them. But that's how much we need more space in the library.

I wanted to address a question that I don't remember who made that question earlier but you asked, one of you asked what is the library, the new library going to be full of, computers, books, because of the new situation of libraries. It's true, I do a lot of my research on-line. I even access my own library records at my home but I use my library all the time. The new library, it would be full of computers definitely, it would be full of books, but most importantly it would be full of students. A lot of these students don't have computers at home, they can't access that so they have to go to the library. Some of us, including my sister, she couldn't afford buying books so she would

go to the library to use the books that the professors left on reserve so that students could use at the library. So there's all different needs for a bigger library at our campus. And our campus has been growing -- has grown a lot in the past two years I've been there. It's a totally different thing.

About the Eastern Campus, I'm lucky to have a Wellness Center in my campus and it's beautiful, it's wonderful. I agree with our student that said we need to develop body and mind. If you don't have a healthy body you're not going to have a healthy mind, most likely. And we need to put that as a priority. Diabetes, heart attack, all those things are happening and we need to focus on wellness as well. Somebody said, "Oh, it's not really academic," but it is. It's part of building a well-rounded group of students who are going to support our country in the future, who's going to support my younger generation. So it is important, and especially because it's a requirement to go through physical education classes. And driving from Eastern to Ammerman, seriously, it's not easy. It's half an hour without traffic if you live by the eastern campus; if you're farther east it can take even up to one hour and if you have a car. So I do think those facilities are very important and that's why I took the time to be here and I'd really appreciate it if you can take that into consideration. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Debra, thank you very much, and it's good to see you. You're my neighbor; I'm on Lincoln Street up the street from you.

MS. ARAYO:

There you go, I'm on Park Avenue.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Off of Seagull Boulevard; there you go.

MS. ARAYO:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Arthur Valentino.

MR. VALENTINO:

Good afternoon. My name is Arthur Valentino. I live in Dix Hills, New York, at 323 Vernon Street and this is the first time I've ever attended an event like this, so you could say that I'm pretty intimidated. But I'm here on behalf of giving you the perspective of a student here at Suffolk County Community College and I'd like to tell you the kind of students that are at the school.

From my personal experience, I spent an entire year focusing on academics and kind of keeping an eye open on the people around me and the kind of people that you see at Suffolk are mothers that, you know, are raising children that are having full-time jobs and yet they're still pushing outstanding grades and they're achieving so much. And you have faculty and administration that are really behind you and they motivate you as a student to really get involved.

And so what I do on campus is I'm Chairperson of Events at the campus and on the Campus Activities Board and our obligation is to bring events and help educate and get other students involved. And what issue I'd like to discuss with you about is the library, and I feel that it's an investment in not only a building but in helping to help mold and shape minds, because when you have students that are so involved and when you have people that don't have the right amount of tools and the right amount of resources as, you know, let's say somebody else that comes from a different background, and when you have somebody so passionate to really step up and speak on behalf of them, that's really a humbling experience. So I'd like to, you know, have you consider that when you look at this project. And just know from students -- I'm a little nervous, a student perspective that, you know, we're here, we have a voice and, you know, we need this; this isn't just a want, this is a need. So with that said, I thank you for listening.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Arthur. Giovanna Romero-Gil.

MS. ROMERO-GIL:

Hello. My name is Giovanna, I am a student at the Grant Campus. I live in Brentwood. And I wanted to just stress the importance of these projects for our campus community.

Our communities, our families elected you Legislators to be our voices, to make decisions that are going to affect us in the positive way. I as a student leader on campus see the greater need of student space and also of more space in the library. I work in the computer lab located inside the library, and not only during finals but during the whole semester there is an incredible need of space. I don't have Internet access at home and yet many of the things that we do in the school is based on the Internet, but I don't have that at home, I depend a hundred percent on the school. And there are many like me that in the beginning we didn't have -- I didn't have transportation to go to the school. We are stuck, in a way, in the school the whole day and we need space to study, and many times I couldn't do my studying in the library because it was completely packed. And the staff -- the faculty and the staff is there to help us, but they can only do so much in the space that they have.

So we as emerging leaders that are going to be leading these communities in the future, we need to be educated the right way. We need to, you know, provide the school with enough -- to be competitive enough for other schools so that we don't have to look elsewhere but our homes around here. And this school has a lot -- has given me the opportunity to use my potential and I would love that in the future, the future generations, even your kids or their kids can utilize these facilities to be competitive enough for when we go in the workforce or leaving this community so that we're prepared enough to do that. This is not -- like somebody said before, this is not just an expense, this is an investment in us. And that investment in us will be used for the betterment of every other person in the community and we definitely need you to be our voice and to make the decisions that are going to affect us positively so we can keep on making the positive changes that our communities need. And we stress that we really need you to back us up. This is why we put you there for. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Giovanna. Giovanna, you should run for office.

MS. ROMERO-GIL:

I'm thinking about it.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay, there you go. Would anyone else like to be heard? Oh, come on up.

MR. PEREZ:

I have one more thing to say that I forgot to say.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right, just one more thing.

MS. KRAUS:

Just reidentify yourself, please.

MR. PEREZ:

Sure. I'm Andre Perez. I just -- I was talking to Danielle Chin and I was talking to Johanna, we were three of 12 students that went upstate for the Chancellor's Award Ceremony. And if you look at the catalog, the school with the most representatives was Binghamton -- Albany with 14 and the second highest represented school was Binghamton. We hold third place in representation of

student excellence and leadership in the SUNY system. We thought what we have now, imagine what we can accomplish with the Capital plan? This is an investment and we assure you, this will give back to the community.

Some of us aren't from this country but we love it so much because of the opportunities Suffolk County Community College has given us. And believe me when I tell you, if we say we have the potential, we have the potential.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. Anybody else? Dr. Pippins.

DR. PIPPINS:

I would just like to --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Just to kind of wrap it all up, huh?

DR. PIPPINS:

Yeah, I would just like to applaud my students, they have made me so proud. This is why I went into higher education.

Applause

And I would like to thank those Legislators and their representatives who stayed around to hear the voices of my students and I hope that you will share what you have heard today. I really appreciate your presence. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. And thank you very much for everybody that attended today and for all of you hanging around. This meeting is closed.

(THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:21 PM)

{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY