

Donna Conkling

From: proscars@aol.com
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:35 PM
To: Mayor; Donna Conkling; Steve Pappalardo
Subject: Fwd: Salary freeze 2009-10

CAUTION: External sender.

FYI Attached For Our Previous Email Is The Scarsdale Inquirer
Article From April, 2009 on the Salary Freezes For Top School
Administrators To Lower The Tax Rate For Scarsdale Residents
Scarsdale Taxpayer Alert - Bob Harrison

-----Original Message-----

From: Scarsdale Editor <editor@scarsdaleneeds.com>
To: Robert Harrison <proscars@aol.com>
Sent: Wed, Apr 8, 2020 11:32 am
Subject: Salary freeze 2009-10

Salary freezes for top school administrators
By CARRIE GILPIN

Responding to calls from the community to freeze salaries of Scarsdale school employees, superintendent Michael McGill and five other administrators in the district have offered to freeze their salaries for the 2009-10 budget year. At Monday night's budget study session, the board accepted the offers, adding high words of praise for all the administrators and saying it was not a reflection on performance.

In addition to the superintendent, the five other administrators are the three assistant superintendents, Joan Weber (personnel), Linda Purvis (business) and Lynne Shain (instruction); director of special education Michael Mendelson; and director of arts and esthetic education Robert DiYanni. The six are nonunion positions.

McGill said, "We all understand the situation. We will give you 100 percent of effort, and hope for better times in the future."

Each board member spoke about the freezes, unanimously stating their support of the top administrators. "I have nothing but the highest regard for them, they are extraordinary," said board president Linda Chayes. "It was a difficult decision."

"These people should be rewarded, but the taxpayers are hurting. It is very difficult, they are highly valued senior staff," said Barbara Guss Kemp.

Board member Jeff Blatt said the freeze was "about the leadership of the district, and setting a path." Blatt said he was uncomfortable with "throwing these six people to the wolves. It is not a significant amount of money when you are talking about six people. We are making a statement with these six people, yet it needs to be made."

Purvis said the salary freezes reduce the budget by \$41,619, or 0.03 percent. The move reduces taxes by 0.035 percent.

Blatt also said that singling out just six administrators is a very different situation from his corporate one, where every employee has a salary freeze. "This should be a shared sacrifice."

Others in the audience agreed.

Resident John Bensché of Church Lane, said, "This is a great symbolic gesture and I hope the other 600 employees will be included and we can freeze them too next year. You have higher moral standing." Bensché's comments were met with applause from the audience.

David Buchen of the Town and Village Civic Club Education Forum and Bob Harrison of the Scarsdale Taxpayers Alert seconded Bensché's remarks. Harrison said, "Your budget will pass."

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