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# The Daily Politics

*by Celeste Katz*

JULY 26, 2010 7:12 PM

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## Makings of a deal? »

BY BILL HAMMOND

Albany's three men in a room discussed various compromise proposals in hopes of nailing down a final deal on the three-months-late state budget, Daily News Albany bureau chief Ken Lovett reports.

Among the ideas floated during a meeting this afternoon at Gov. Paterson's New York City office was a "watered down" SUNY empowerment plan that would limit any tuition hikes to just a few campuses, including the University at Buffalo, one source said.

Those hikes would be tied to a corresponding increase in tuition assistance funding, and there would also be limits on SUNY bonding, the source said.

It was unclear if Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver was on board with this version of the SUNY empowerment concept, which has become a make-or-break priority for some of Senate Democratic leader John Sampson's members.

The big three are also said to be near a deal on the contingency plan that Paterson has been demanding as a fallback if Washington fails to come through with \$1 billion in Medicaid money that Albany has been counting on to balance its budget.

Legislative leaders also pushed Paterson to restore the school aid he vetoed, some of which would offset property tax hikes, a source said.

Paterson reportedly responded by asking the Silver and Sampson to put their proposals in writing.

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### topo gigio

July 27, 2010 7:30 AM

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### warren@mmafacts.com

July 27, 2010 12:09 PM

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### IronMike

July 27, 2010 12:36 PM

topo is correct. No more teasing.

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