

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HUNTINGTON U.F.S.D.**

**February 9, 2009**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on Monday, February 9, 2009 at Jack Abrams Intermediate School, Lowndes Avenue, Huntington Station, New York. The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

There were present Board of Education Members: Dwyer, Rogan, Benè, Black, Brown, McGrath, Paci; Ms. Aloe, Superintendent Finello, Mr. Grackin, Dr. Giani, Dr. Lacey, and Mrs. Troffa. Mr. McGrath was absent.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Benè to go into Executive Session to discuss a special education issue, an impartial hearing issue and an issue with students at Finley Middle School.

MOTION carried.

At 6:37 p.m. the Board of Education went into Executive Session.

At 7:55 p.m. Mr. Dwyer reconvened the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Dwyer led the Board of Education and the others present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

Mr. Dwyer discussed the exits to be used in the event of any emergency.

**SMOKE-FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Mr. Dwyer announced that the Huntington Union Free School District is a smoke-free district and smoking is prohibited in all buildings and on school grounds. Mr. Dwyer also requested that all cell phones be turned off or set to vibrate.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of January 26, 2009.

MOTION carried.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2008.

MOTION carried.

The following reports were presented For Information Only:

- FYI – Revenue Status Report as of December 31, 2008
- Expenditure Reports as of January 31, 2009
  - a. General Fund
  - b. School Lunch
  - c. Special Aid Fund

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Benè reported she was in attendance at a motivational speech given by Sarah Reinertsen, a graduate of Huntington High School who is an inspirational speaker contracted through the Arts-In-Education Program to speak to our students. Mrs. Benè attended one of the talks for the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders at the High School. She was pleased to see how engaged the students were. They asked many questions and seemed to get a lot from the experience.

Mrs. Rogan attended a fundraiser also arranged for through the Arts-In-Education Program, the Chinese Acrobats. The children loved the performance and there was a fair beforehand. Mrs. Rogan thanked the volunteers who helped with the fundraiser and the district for always thinking about the children.

Mrs. Rogan was a participant in the College Fair held at the High School. It was the first of its kind. There were tables set up representing various careers and students could come to discuss and ask questions of the various professionals. Mrs. Rogan represented the field of Journalism. Mrs. Rogan thanked Bernadette Walsh, Marcy Rhodes and Peter Paternostro for making this day possible.

Dr. Lacey attended the mid-winter concert at the High School. She thanked the students and teachers for a wonderful performance.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

At the portion of the meeting set aside for public commentary Kevin Boyle, President of the United Public Service Employees Union, read a statement on behalf of the district's clerical, aides, monitors/assistants, custodial/buildings and grounds, and food service units imploring the district to settle the contracts as they have not yet been settled. Many members of these units were present.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

Dr. Lacey announced the presenters reporting on Academic Progress would be David Casamento, Director of Science and Joan Fretz, Director of the Performing Arts.

Academic Progress – Science

David Casamento gave a very informative and detailed presentation indicating test results, steps to improving test results and the direction he has taken the district in regard to Science research and competitions the students are competing in. The Board asked many questions; discussion followed.

Performing Arts

Mrs. Fretz made a very extensive presentation on the value of the arts for students. She included attendance statistics and academic performance statistics. She brought samples of art made by students and showed how the arts can identify strategies that can be useful teaching tools.

Huntington School District Assessed Valuation

Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Finello, and Mr. Grackin met with Bryan Monaghan, Assessor in the Town of Huntington on February 2, 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the tax rate. Mr. Grackin explained how the tax rate is calculated and how it impacts the budget process. Extensive discussion followed which segued into a discussion on the budget target number for 2009-2010. Mr. Grackin asked the Board to decide upon a target rate increase so he would be able to present the first budget draft on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion followed. The Board agreed upon a 4 percent tax rate increase that would translate into approximately a 2 percent budget to budget increase.

9-Period or 8-Period Day

Mr. Dwyer introduced the ongoing topic of discussion, going from a 9-period day to an 8-period day at the high school. Mr. Finello indicated a memo had been given to the Board regarding this topic and explained how it came about. There were additional meetings with directors and administrative staff at the high school and what came of these meetings was a plan formulated by Dr. Leonardi and Mr. Noce. This plan essentially is a recommendation of an alternative method to reach the same kind of savings that would come from going to an 8-period day while maintaining the 9-period day. Dr. Lacey explained the benefits to the students in having the flexibility of a 9-period day. Dr. Leonardi and Mr. Noce answered questions and gave extensive details. Mr. Dwyer clarified with Dr. Leonardi and Mr. Noce that this plan is the preferred alternative based upon their professional opinion. Dr. Leonardi and Mr. Noce indicated there is a consensus that this plan could work. Mr. Dwyer thanked Dr. Leonardi and Mr. Noce for their efforts in coming up with such a creative plan. The Board will take it under consideration.

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Brown to authorize administration to arrange for the provision of appropriate special education programs and services for students as enumerated in the CSE and CPSE minutes:

CSE		CPSE
27527	24254	27541
24414	21329	27539
27462	27445	27568
25109	25108	27538

24937	25108	27540
21219	21329	27536
23263	27528	27534
23122	24828	27537
21669	24443	27535
21423	27513	
24882	27519	
	24417	
	27542	
	25108	
	25108	
	21329	
	27391	

MOTION carried.

**PERSONNEL ITEMS**

On the recommendation of the Superintendent a MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. Paci to approve the following changes in personnel:

**H. 1 Approve Leaves of Absence**

Leave of Absence					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Reason
1.1	ATH	Danielle Walsh	JA/Comp Math	2009-2010	Child Care
1.2	ATH	Victoria Creighton	WA/Gen Ed	9/1/09 through 1/10	Child Care
1.3	ATH	Christina Droskoski	WH/Reading	2009-2010	Child Care
1.4	ATH	Nicole Lynch	JA/Music	2009-2010	Child Care
1.5	ATH	Amy Goldberg	HS/English	9/1/09 through 1/24/10	Child Care
1.6	ATH	Karen Swanson	WH/Reading	3/20/09-6/30/09	Child Care
1.7	ATH	Nadine Araoz	FH/WH/ESL	2009-2010	Child Care
1.8	ATH	Margaret Dukoff	SD/Reading	1/21/09 through 1/30/09	Medical
1.9	ATH	Kelly Trites	WH/Spec Ed	9/1/09-approx 1/25/10	Child Care
Return from Leave of Absence					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Reason
1.10	ATH	Tara Adams	JA/Music	2009-2010	End of Child Care
1.11	ATH	Christa Schlosser	SD/Reading	2009-2010	End of Child Care
1.12	ATH	AnneMarie Faulkner	SD/Reading	2009-2010	End of Child Care
1.13	ATH	Stacey Byrnes	HS/Science	2009-2010	End of Child Care
1.14	ATH	Michelle Audia	WA/Gen Ed	2009-2010	End of Child Care

**H. 2 Approve Instructional New Hires**

Probationary							
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Certification	Effective Dates	Salary	Replacing
2.1	AMA	Kristen DeVille	MS/TA	Teacher Asst.	2/10/09-2/10/12	\$15.02/hr	C.Koomen

**H. 3 Approve Extra Duty Assignments**

Clubs-HS			
No.	Name	Description	Stipend
3.1	DELETE Kelly Quintero	English Honor Society Advisor – 50%	\$558.00

3.2	Aimee Antorino	English Honor Society Advisor – 50%	\$558.00
<b>Clubs-MS</b>			
No.	Name	Description	Stipend
3.3	DELETE Elizabeth Grobe	Math Counts – 100%	\$1685.00
3.4	Elizabeth Grobe	Math Counts – 50%	\$842.50
3.5	Denise Grodzicki	Math Counts – 50%	\$842.50

**H. 4 Approve Additional Work**

<b>Community Based Literacy Program – JA</b>					
Funded by Title I Grant – Not to exceed combined total of 53 hours					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.1	ATH	Ronald Wilson	Teacher	2/10/09	\$47.07/hr
4.2	ATH	Allison VonVange	Teacher	2/10/09	\$47.07/hr
<b>After School ESL Program – FH</b>					
Funded by Title III Grant					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.3	ATH	Suzanne Giuliani	Sub-Teacher	2/10/09	\$47.07/hr
<b>K-1 Saturday Academy Program for ELL Students for Pre-Literacy &amp; ESL Methodology</b>					
Funded by Title III Grant					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.4	AMA	Carol Rivas	Aide	2/10/09-5/16/09	\$17.79/hr
<b>After School RCT and Regents Prep Program</b>					
Funded by Title I Grant-Not to exceed 212 hours					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.5	ATH	Lauren Bookman	Teacher	2008-2009	\$47.07/hr
<b>Other</b>					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.6	NC	Margaret Creighton	Deputy Treasurer	2008-2009	Stipend/\$250.00

**H. 5 Approve Changes/Adjustments in Assignment**

No.	Name	Description	From:	To:	Effective Date
5.1	Meryl McGovern	Aide/SD Kindergarten	3 hours at \$17.79/hr	6.5 hours at \$17.79/hr Replacing L. Haagenson	2/10/09

**H. 6 Approve Substitutes**

No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
6.1	CU	Marge Florio	Clerical	2008-2009	\$30./hr
6.2	CU	Clara Kraft	Clerical	2008-2009	\$10.50/hr
6.3	CU	Tara Ruocco	Clerical	2008-2009	\$10.50/hr
6.4	AMA	Tara Ruocco	Aide	2008-2009	\$8.75/hr
6.5	ATH	Norma Marino	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
6.6	ATH	Lisa Dooley	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
6.7	ATH	Jessica Lang	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
6.8	ATH	Rebecca Mies	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
6.9	ATH	Rosamaria Napoli	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day

**H. 7 Approve CSE and CPSE Parent Member**

No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates
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7.1	N/A	Nancy Levine	Special Education	2008-2009
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MOTION carried.

**LEGEND**

Schools/Buildings

- HS = Huntington High School
- MS = Finley Middle School
- JA = Jack Abrams Intermediate
- WH = Woodhull Intermediate
- FH = Flower Hill Primary
- SD = Southdown Primary
- JE = Jefferson Primary
- WA = Washington Primary
- DW = District-wide
- CO = Central Office
- NC = Non Contractual
- STU = Student Worker

Units

- ATH = Teachers
- AMA = Aides and Monitors
- DSPA = District Supervisors and Principals Assoc.
- HCA = Chairpersons
- SHHA = Study Hall and Hallway Assistants
- B & G = Buildings & Grounds
- FSW = Food Service Workers
- SEC = Security
- NUR = Nurses
- CU = Clerical

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Approval of Contracts**

Barbara Luna

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the contract with Barbara Luna for the time period January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Lynn Stock - Amended

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the amended contract with Mrs. Stock for the time period February 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

James Foote

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the contract with James Foote for the time period March 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Addendum to the Contract for the Superintendent of Schools**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the Addendum to the Contract for the Superintendent of Schools for the period covering July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2011.

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Bid Award**

Aztec Sports Long Island, Inc.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to award the bid for athletic uniforms to Aztec Sports Long Island, Inc. Bids were sent to four (4) vendors and there was one response. The award is in the amount of \$6,687.

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Change Order**

Burton Behrendt Smith

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the Change Order with Burton Behrendt Smith for the high school lockers. The Change Order is in the amount of \$6,090.01 and will be to Nickerson Corporation.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of SEQRA Resolutions**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. Paci to approve the SEQRA Resolutions for the Irrigation Project at Washington Primary School and the Asphalt Play Surface Project at Abrams Intermediate School. The voters approved the use of capital reserve funds to be used for this project on May 20, 2008.

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind on the Jack Abrams Intermediate School site, including upgrading building to meet building or fire codes and routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area, are classified as Type II under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulation (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2); and

WHEREAS, the SEQRA declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQRA;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District declares itself as lead agency for the proposed capital improvement project and has examined all information related to the capital improvement project and has determined that the capital improvement project at Jack Abrams Intermediate School to construct a playground area is classified as Type II Action pursuant to Section 617.5 (c)(2) of the SEQRA regulations.

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind on the Washington Primary School site, including upgrading building to meet building or fire codes and routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area, are classified as Type II under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulation (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2); and

WHEREAS, the SEQRA declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQRA;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District declares itself as lead agency for the proposed capital improvement project and has examined all information related to the capital improvement project and has determined that the capital improvement project at Washington Primary School to construct an irrigation system is classified as Type II Action pursuant to Section 617.5 (c)(2) of the SEQRA regulations.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Acceptance of Donations**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to accept the very generous donations listed below:

- C. David Butler II
- Thomas DiGiacomo

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Budget Transfers**

A Motion was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the enclosed budget transfers.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

At the portion of the meeting set aside for public commentary a resident asked if the cost of AP course books could be added into the budget for next year. He also commented that the 9-period day is beneficial for students taking electives and would like it to be kept as it is. He also thanked Dr. Lacey for the presentations in the different content areas.



Another parent and resident disagreed with the previous speaker in regard to putting it in the budget to pay for the AP books. She said students taking AP courses in high school save considerable money in college. The cost for the books is recovered.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Mrs. Rogan reported that she attended the Science Expo on January 27<sup>th</sup> at Finley Middle School. The students worked very hard and it was an amazing show. Mrs. Rogan also commented that the way education is funded is broken and all of us are responsible to educate ourselves on how to change it. She also thanked Administration and staff for responding to the requests the Board has made in such a timely fashion. The information is important in order for decisions to be made and is greatly appreciated.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Bené to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION carried.

At 9:55 p.m. the meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Troffa  
District Clerk