

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

April 19, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on Monday, April 19, 2010 at Huntington High School, Oakwood & McKay Roads, Huntington, New York. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

There were present Board of Education Members: Dwyer, Rogan, Benè, Black, Brown, McGrath, Paci; John Sheahan; Superintendent Finello, Mr. Grackin, Dr. Giani, Dr. Card and Mrs. Troffa.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION was made by Mr. McGrath and seconded by Mrs. Bené to go into Executive Session to discuss a special education settlement.

MOTION carried.

At 7:05 p.m. the Board of Education went into Executive Session.

At 7:46 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 Mr. McGrath and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of April 12, 2010.

MOTION carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Dwyer welcomed the members of the Town Board, Supervisor Petrone, Legislator Cooper, Lou D'Amato, County Legislator, Inspector Brady and other members of the police department.

Mrs. Brown announced that four of our athletes were mentioned in Newsday among the Long Island Winter All Stars and that they made the All Long Island team. Mrs. Brown attended the play "Meet Me in St. Louis" at the high school and it was a wonderful production. She thanked everyone involved in the production. Mrs. Rogan also attended the play and echoed the sentiments of Mrs. Brown.

Mrs. Rogan mentioned that there was a workshop held on April 14, 2010 at St. Hugh of Lincoln Parish hosted by Legislator Jonathan Cooper. At the meeting was Sergio Argueta, an ex-gang member who addressed issues in the community. The same night there was a workshop at Finley hosted by the PTA that Mrs. Rogan attended. This workshop was for parents and addressed drug and alcohol use by teens. This workshop was part of a series of workshops. Mrs. Rogan commended the Finley PTA and Mr. Amato for this very informative event.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

A MOTION was made by Mr. McGrath and seconded by Mrs. Brown to move the *Public* Commentary portion of the meeting to after the invited guests made their presentations.

MOTION carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

Discussion with Town Board/Suffolk County Police Department

Mr. Dwyer indicated that the Board of Education has been working with the Huntington Town Board since the beginning of his tenure and a strong working relationship has developed. Mr. Dwyer indicated it is time for all of us to work together, the Board of Education, the town, the Suffolk County Police, our county legislators and state assemblymen. He then introduced Town Supervisor, Frank Petrone.

Mr. Petrone thanked the school board for their invitation and indicated it is a difficult time for everyone. He updated the status of ongoing efforts in a PowerPoint presentation. He indicated the steps the town is taking to revitalize the area and to rid the community of violence and gangs. He indicated that periodic updates will be included on the town's website in order to keep the community informed.

He thanked the district for allowing him to have the two meetings with the community at Jack Abrams Intermediate School.

Mr. Dwyer introduced Inspector Brady who discussed the ongoing efforts of the Suffolk County Police Department, the increased patrols, heroin task force, FBI and updated the Board on ongoing efforts and investigations. Inspector Brady introduced a police community liaison who is assigned to the community who will be working closely with the town.

Legislator Jonathan Cooper gave a statement. He discussed his efforts including fighting for more police officers on the ground. He indicated what he is doing in the community, including running a series of workshops at St. Hugh of Lincoln Church.

Lou D'Amaro then spoke indicating he will continue to push on a county level for additional police and funding for undercover operations at a federal level.

Mr. Dwyer then opened up discussion between the Town Board and the Board of Education. The Board of Education questioned the Town Board on many topics including housing code enforcement issues, the Revitalization of Huntington Station, Take Back the Block Program, money that has been earmarked for this area, partnering between the town and school district in housing. Extensive discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

At the portion of the meeting set aside for public commentary there were numerous speakers including religious leaders opposed to closing Jack Abrams Intermediate School. There was commentary about gang activity, about the budget and about restoring the guidance counselor position at the high school. There was commentary for and against creating a 6th grade center. There were comments directed to Mr. Petrone about money spent in Huntington, commentary in favor of a community center, a police substation in one of the empty storefronts on New York Avenue, commentary on the Revitalization of Huntington Station, and safety being the main concern, bringing in the Guardian Angels. There were pleas to Mr. Petrone to close the day laborer site.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

Spatial Needs Analysis – Burton Behrendt Smith

Mr. Dwyer presented Roger Smith of Burton Behrendt Smith, the architect for the school district, who as authorized by the Board of Education at the meeting of April 12, 2010 presented a preliminary analysis of the Town Hall building if the school district were to “swap” buildings. He indicated how the three levels of Town Hall would convert back to a school. A much more detailed analysis would have to be done if the Board of Education so authorized. Discussion followed.

The Town Board left the meeting at 10:25 p.m. and a brief recess was taken. Mr. Dwyer reconvened the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci to authorize an expenditure of \$7,250 to Burton Behrendt Smith to complete the analysis of Town Hall. After discussion the Board decided to table this MOTION.

6th Grade Center

Mr. Finello discussed that Administration looked at the option of a 6th Grade Center at Jack Abrams School. Mr. Grackin, Dr. Giani and Dr. Card discussed various aspects at Jack Abrams and Woodhull School including sections needed, space issues, portable classrooms. Extensive discussion followed. Mr. Sheahan discussed legal issues and district policy.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Mrs. Bené to create a 6th Grade Center at Jack Abrams School for next school year.

AYES:	4	Mrs. Bené Mrs. Brown Mr. Dwyer Mrs. Rogan
NOES:	3	Mrs. Black Mr. McGrath Mr. Paci
ABSTAIN:	0	

MOTION carried.

2010-2011 Budget Discussion/Adoption

Mr. Grackin explained the long term impact on the district if we were to go on austerity if the budget failed twice. He indicated that Administration is asking the Board to adopt a budget of \$108,786,539 which represents a 3.60% budget increase and a 3.54% tax rate increase. Discussion followed.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mr. Dwyer to authorize expenditures in regard to the portable classrooms at Woodhull School according to Mr. Grackin's memorandum.

(See attached)

AYES:	4	Mrs. Bené Mrs. Brown
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Mr. Dwyer
Mrs. Rogan

NOES: 3

Mrs. Black
Mr. McGrath
Mr. Paci

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION carried.

Rescind Resolution

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Bené to rescind the Resolution approved at the Board Meeting of March 22, 2010 as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the, Board of Education hereby directs the District Clerk to place on the ballot for the May 18, 2010 budget vote and in the legal notice for said vote a proposition in the following form:

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to transfer excess funds from the 2003 Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$900,000 to the 2008 Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding capital projects as may be approved by voters?

MOTION carried.

Approval of 2010-2011 Contingency Budget

A MOTION was made by Mr. Dwyer and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to adopt a contingency budget of \$105,222,000.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Discussion followed regarding a contingency plan in case an incident occurred at the 6th Grade Center.

Approval of 2010-2011 Budget

A MOTION was made by Mr. Dwyer and seconded by Mrs. Brown to adopt a budget of \$108,786,539.

(See Attached)

AYES: 4

Mrs. Bené
Mrs. Brown
Mr. Dwyer
Mrs. Rogan

NOES: 3 Mrs. Black
Mr. McGrath
Mr. Paci

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION carried.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Rogan 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:

		Annual Reviews	
CSE	CPSE	CSE	CPSE
23412	27633	25124	27491
24272	27675	24690	27650
27399	27784	27686	27516
27750	27783	27322	27408
27751	27776		27360
21918	27687		27356
27711	27768		27732
27754			27521
27785			27344
21974			27384
			27309
			27560

MOTION carried.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

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

H. 1 Approve Resignations / Leave of Absence

Resignations					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Reason
1.1	ATH	Allison Russo	HS/Spec. Ed.	Close of Business 6/25/10	Personal
Leave of Absence					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Reason

1.2	ATH	Blake Woodworth	WA/Speech	9/1/2010-1/31/11	Child Care
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H. 2 Approve Additional Work

MS Saturday Academy Funded by NYS Education Department Bilingual Grant					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
2.1	DSPA	Carmen Kasper	Administrator	2009-2010	\$1,500.00
2.2	ATH	Glenn Edwards	Teacher	2009-2010	Up to 15 hrs. \$48.01/hr.

H. 3 Approve Changes for Additional Work

Social Studies Curriculum Mapping – Grade 4 Up to 3 sessions and/or 6 hours each teacher					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
3.1	ATH	Dawn Ginty	Teacher	From:3/15/10-3/26/10 To: 2009-2010	\$48.01/hr
3.2	ATH	Heather Spatafora	Teacher	From: 3/15/10-3/26/10 To: 2009-2010	\$48.01/hr
3.3	ATH	Patrice Monks	Teacher	From: 3/15/10-3/26/10 To: 2009-2010	\$48.01/hr
3.4	ATH	Cynthia Palmirotto	Teacher	From: 3/15/10-3/26/10 To: 2009-2010	\$48.01/hr

H. 4 Approve Substitutes

No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.1	ATH	Brian Cacciato	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
4.2	CUS	Jordan Brett	Custodian	2009-2010	\$10.50/hr

Buildings	Units
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 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

MOTION carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of Contracts

Ascent

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the contract with Ascent for the 2010-2011 school year.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Approval of Memorandum of Agreement

United Public Service Employees Union, Food Service Association

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the term of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Approval of Property Tax Report Card

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the Property Tax Report Card.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Approval of Bid Award

Whitsons

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to award the Food Service Management Company bid to Whitsons for the balance of the 2009-2010 fiscal year and for the fiscal school year 2010-2011.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Acceptance of Donation

Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to accept a donation of five VHF radios to be used by the Huntington High School Crew Team.

MOTION carried.

Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education - Star Grants

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to accept a donation of \$13,121.30 to be used for Star Grants and to credit revenue code Gifts/Donations A2705 and expenditure codes as per the table below:

Orienteering Star Grant	\$951.30	A2110-451-20-0180
Encyclopedia for 3 rd Grade Class	\$1,320.00	A2110-451-06-0108
Speak Up Star Grant	\$3,200.00	A2110-450-15-0224
Technology at Finley	\$1,000	A2110-451-21-0540
(10 computers, 1 cart, 1 printer)	\$6,650.00	A2110-200-21-0156

MOTION carried.

Approval of Facilities Use Request

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the following organization as a User of our Facilities:

Long Island Ballet Theater
(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Approval of Budget Transfers

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the attached budget transfers.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

At the portion of the meeting set aside for public commentary comments were made regarding the budget process, transportation, mandatory walkers, safety, gangs, portables, the division in the community, guidance position, gratitude to the Board for their hard work.

CLOSING REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Bené thanked the Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education for their generous donations indicating how important they are to the school district.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION carried.

At 12:35 a.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Troffa
District Clerk