

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

**March 1, 2010**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on Monday, March 1, 2010 at Jack Abrams Intermediate School, Lowndes Avenue, Huntington Station, New York. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Bené and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to go into Executive Session to discuss acquisition of property and contract issues.

MOTION carried.

At 6:30 p.m. the Board of Education went into Executive Session.

At 7:52 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. Bené to approve the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of February 8, 2010.

MOTION carried.

## **COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Bené attended College Night for Juniors and thanked Bernadette Walsh and Ben Baglio for their presentation. Mrs. Bené also thanked teacher, Dana Hartough, for the thank you notes she received from her class. Mrs. Bené read to the class and the students wrote individual thank you letters to Mrs. Bené.

Mrs. Rogan attended a performance of Beauty and the Beast at Jack Abrams Intermediate School. She thanked the staff and students for the wonderful production.

Mrs. Black asked that a statement regarding 300 Nassau Road that she was about to make be given to the district clerk. In the statement Mrs. Black commented on an article in the *Times of Huntington* newspaper entitled “Replacement School Uncool?” (See Attached).

Mr. McGrath commented on the Varsity Wrestling team’s success at State Finals. Two students won state titles and a third student finished as a runner up. Huntington finished second overall in New York State scoring. Mr. McGrath said it was an unbelievable effort to get to this level and wanted to recognize the team and the program. It was quite an accomplishment.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

Mr. Dwyer asked that public commentary in regard to budget issues be held until the budget was discussed later in the meeting. The purpose would be so that the Board of Education could conduct an open forum to have a more interactive budget discussion with the public.

At the portion of the meeting set aside for public commentary the following comment was made:

A parent on the Arts-In-Education Committee commented that it has been a busy year filled with many inspiring programs. She then announced that OOMPAH for Arts-In-Education had partnered with Book Revue in Huntington Village to present a book signing on Friday, March 5, 2010 at Huntington High School. All were invited to attend the book signing of #1 New York Times bestselling author, Jodi Picoult for her book “House Rules.”

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

### Academic Progress

Dr. Card introduced Carmen Kasper, Director of ESL and Bilingual Education who then presented a very extensive review of the departments and programs that she supervises. Discussion followed.

### 2010-2011 Budget Discussion

Mr. Dwyer indicated that there would be a general overview of the budget and then discussion amongst the Board and the community. Mr. Finello began by saying that administration would present the Board with different budget scenarios and ask direction from the Board as to the target tax rate increase. Extensive discussion followed with much input from the community. The Board agreed to a 3.5 percent tax rate increase.

**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:

CSE	CPSE	CSE Annual Reviews
24686	27669	27664
24657	27544	22957
27323	27764	27319
25125	27363	23454
24050	27765	21986
27575	27613	21872
23412	27628	
21913	27766	
27372	27768	
27371	27560	
27218		
24460		
24533		
24626		
27725		
27684		
25140		

MOTION carried.

**PERSONNEL**

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

**H. 1 Approve Long-Term Substitutes**

Full-time						
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Salary	Replacing
1.1	CUS	Gary Clasen	Night Lead	3/1/10-TBD	\$55,024.00	Ruben Garcia
Part-time						
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Salary	Replacing
1.2	ATH	Maria Salgado	HS/.6 French	3/18/10 approx. - TBD	1-20 days/\$90. 21-30 days/\$105. 31+days/\$142.04 Sch. I Step 1 \$47,345.00	D. Mayer

**H. 2 Approve Extra Duty Assignments**

<b>Interscholastic Athletics – Coaching</b>
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No.	Name	Description/Season	Step/Stipend
2.1	Michael Marinello	MS Asst. Coach Boys Track/Spring	Step 4 \$4,153.00

**H. 3 Approve Additional Work**

Parental Workshop/Parent University Funded through Title I Grant					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
3.1	ATH	Heather Spatafora	Presentation	2009-2010	Up to 6 hrs. \$48.01/hr
3.2	ATH	Dawn Ginty	Presentation	2009-2010	Up to 6 hrs. \$48.01/hr
K-2 Saturday Academy Funded through Title III Grant					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
3.3	DSPA	Carmen Kasper	Program Administrator	2009-2010	\$5,500.00
Professional Development Curriculum Mapping and Humanities Research Writing					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
3.4	DSPA	Joseph Leavy	Instructor	2/24/10-3/25/10	Up to 8 hrs. \$75.00/hr

**H. 4 Approve Stipend Changes**

Clubs – HS				
No.	Name	Description	From	To
4.1	Heather Swan	Video	\$1,139.00	\$3,244.00

**H. 5 Approve Substitutes**

No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
5.1	ATH	Jillian Beck	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
5.2	ATH	Kristin DeFranco	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
5.3	ATH	Maria Falcone	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
5.4	ATH	Emily Friedlander	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
5.5	ATH	Natalie McDonald	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
5.6	ATH	Celina Taylor	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
5.7	FSW	Jodi Cacace	Food Service	2009-2010	\$8.75/hr
5.8	SEC	Daniel Quinlan	Security	2009-2010	\$11.45/hr
5.9	AMA	Vanessa Nilsen	Aide	2009-2010	\$8.75/hr
5.10	AMA	Veronica McReynolds	Aide	2009-2010	\$8.75/hr

MOTION carried.

**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  
 AMA = Aides and Monitors  
 DSPA = District Supervisors and Principals Assoc  
 HCA = Chairpersons

**Units**  
 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**

Scope

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Bené to approve the contract for the 2010-2011 school year for the Before and After School Child Care Program with Scope.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Bid Awards**

Matrix Digital Solutions

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Bené to award a portion of the bid for Printed Forms and Publications to Matrix Digital Solutions:

	<u>HIGH SCHOOL PRINTED FORMS</u>	
a)	500 Academic Awards Booklets .....	\$ 105.00
b)	2,000 Annual Commencement Booklets.....	740.00
c)	2,000 Commencement Cards.....	90.00
	<u>ET CETERA LITERARY MAGAZINE</u>	
	200 Copies.....	950.00
	<u>BUDGET NOTICE</u>	
	14,000 Notices.....	850.00

MOTION carried.

Tobay Printing Company

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Bené to award a portion of the bid for Printed Forms and Publications to Tobay Printing Company:

	<u>ADULT ED BROCHURE</u>	
	14,000 Copies (2 issues).....	3,350.00
	<u>DISPATCH NEWSPAPER</u>	
	8 Page Edition.....	923.00
	12 Page Edition.....	1272.00
	16 Page Edition.....	1323.00
	4 Page Graduation Edition.....	872.00
	<u>TRANSPORTATION NEWSPAPER</u>	
	16 Page Edition.....	1927.00
	20 Page Edition.....	2395.00
	24 Page Edition.....	2736.00

MOTION carried.

Visionary Adventure, Inc.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Bené to award the Installation of a Climbing Wall Bid at Jack Abrams Intermediate School to Visionary Adventure, Inc. as the lowest responsible bidder at a cost of \$5,030. Seven bids were mailed and one reply was received.

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Change Order**

Suffolk Paving Corporation

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Bené to approve the Change Order with Suffolk Paving Corporation for Capital Improvements and Facility Upgrades at Huntington High School, Woodhull Intermediate School, and Flower Hill Primary School.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Acceptance of Donations**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Bené to accept the following donations:

1. A donation of two 6' commercial benches from the premises of the previous **Burger Haven** in Huntington Station was given to the Washington PTA. The PTA would like to donate these benches to be used on the school grounds of Washington Primary School (See attached).
2. A donation from **Joanina Gourmet Deli, Inc.** was presented to the Board of Education at the Board Meeting of February 8, 2010. Please increase Budget Code A2110-200-04-0108 and Revenue Code A2705 in the amount of \$4,800.
3. A donation from the **Jefferson PTA** in the amount of \$1,200 to be used toward the purchase of a SMART Board at Jefferson Primary School. Please increase Budget Code A2110-200-04-0108 and Revenue Code A2705 in this amount (See attached).
4. A donation of music equipment from **Eileen Kunes** to be used by the Finley Music Department as follows:
  - Guitar Research HB32 Bass Guitar valued at \$249
  - Squier Strat Guitar Pack with Strat Guitar, 15 Watt Champ Amp, tuner, cable, and strat valued at \$199.
5. A donation of \$500 from **Target** to be donated to Washington Primary School (See attached). Please increase Budget Code A2110-400-06-0108 and Revenue Code A2705 by \$500.

Motion carried.

**Budget Transfers**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Bené to approve the attached budget transfers.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Overnight Field Trip**

**Washington D.C., Museum of American History: Inaugural Gown Ceremony**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve an overnight field trip. Mrs. Black raised an objection that the details of the field trip were not announced publicly before the vote was to take place. The Board contemplated calling a Special Board of Education Meeting after the public announcement of the trip in order to have discussion before voting. Extensive discussion followed.

The trip was to Washington D.C., Museum of American History: Inaugural Gown Ceremony by students in the Fashion Class from March 8, 2010 to March 9, 2010. The public announcement was made on March 5, 2010.

AYES:	6	Mrs. Bené
		Mrs. Brown
		Mr. Dwyer
		Mr. McGrath
		Mr. Paci
		Mrs. Rogan
NOES:	1	Mrs. Black
ABSTAIN:	0	

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

A parent commented on the overnight field trip and the discussion surrounding the vote.

Another parent commented on a transportation referendum.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Paci commented on the presentation made by our architects, Burton Behrendt Smith, at a previous board meeting. He questioned some of the numbers and wanted the architects to further explain the details of their report.

Mrs. Bené expressed gratitude for the many generous donations again given to the school district. She wanted to make sure the donors are recognized for their generosity.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOTION carried.

At 10:15 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Troffa  
District Clerk



Attachment to the Minutes

To: District Clerk

From: Trustee Elizabeth Black

**Public School board Meeting: March 1, 2010**

In the February 11, 2010 *Times of Huntington* article *Replacement School Uncool?*, a resident of the Huntington School District was quoted as saying “*Adding third grade to the current fourth through sixth grade school format would result in redistricting, which could create a more segregated school district, he warned... Could it be that the goal of keeping some people’s kids out of school and this neighborhood is the real driving force. I hope not.*”

I must say that after reading the article I was stunned by the suggestion that was presented. Our Superintendent, Jay Finello, has openly supported seeking the purchase of the Toaz School. To assert that there is an ulterior motive on the part of Mr. Finello, the Administration or the Board of Education, to create segregated schools by making this purchase, is irresponsible and shameful. We need space for the education of the children in our District. We are exploring all possibilities toward achieving this end. In this pursuit, cool and reasonable minds must prevail. For anyone to take aim or suggest ill thought with this endeavor is reprehensible. I would ask that everyone be responsible in their thoughts, words and actions so that the best can be accomplished for our children.