

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

March 22, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on Monday, March 22, 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: Rogan, Benè, Black, Brown, McGrath, Paci; John Sheahan; Superintendent Finello, Mr. Grackin, Dr. Giani, Dr. Card and Mrs. Troffa. Mr. Dwyer was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION was made by Mr. McGrath and seconded by Mrs. Benè to go into Executive Session to discuss legal issues concerning Jack Abrams Intermediate property.

MOTION carried.

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

At 7:42 p.m. Mrs. Rogan reconvened the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In Mr. Dwyer's absence Mrs. Rogan assumed the duties of the President of the Board of Education. Mrs. Rogan led the Board of Education and the others present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

Mrs. Rogan discussed the exits to be used in the event of any emergency.

SMOKE-FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Rogan 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. Bené and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of March 15, 2010.

MOTION carried.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Finello introduced Georgia McCarthy, Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics, who recognized the dedication and success of the Wrestling staff and introduced three members of the Wrestling team who made it to the New York State Wrestling Competition. Mrs. McCarthy congratulated the students. Two of the students won state titles, while a third came in second while breaking a school record.

Mrs. Rogan attended the Finley production of “Thoroughly Modern Millie” and was very impressed by the performances and thanked staff and students.

Mrs. Rogan and Mrs. Brown both indicated that they attended March Madness which is a basketball game between the staff of Woodhull Intermediate and Jack Abrams Intermediate. It was great fun and everyone showed a lot of school spirit and good sportsmanship.

Mrs. Bené attended the Long Island Media Arts Competition Show which is a competition of photos, graphics art and video. Our students took fifteen “Best in Show” awards. She thanked staff and students for outstanding work.

Mrs. Rogan then indicated that we would hold off on the first *Public Commentary* portion of the meeting until after updates on the crime in the area were made by our invited guests, Inspector Brady of the Suffolk County Police Department, and Chief Deputy County Executive Edward Dumas. Also in attendance was Lieutenant Montovano of the 2nd Precinct.

Edward Dumas explained that County Executive, Steve Levy, had a death in the family and was unable to attend this evening’s meeting. He indicated that Mr. Levy asked him to attend on his behalf. Mr. Dumas indicated that Mr. Levy is acutely aware of the issues we are facing and has deployed additional resources to assist Inspector Brady in this precinct. He then listed these additional resources. He also discussed crime statistics. He indicated these additional resources would remain in the area as long as needed.

Inspector Brady reported on the resources that the Suffolk County Police Department is using in Huntington Station to combat crime. (See Attached)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

Report on School Changes

Mr. Finello thanked both Inspector Brady and Mr. Dumas. He then detailed the work Administration had done the past week as directed by the Board of Education at the meeting of March 15, 2010 to look into school changes in regard to Jack Abrams Intermediate.

Administration looked into various options including a split session at Woodhull Intermediate School, split sessions at Huntington High School and Finley Middle School; leasing of a school; leasing commercial space and renovating it; leasing a public school outside of the district; modular classrooms; and pursuing an immediate lease agreement at 300 Nassau Road. Mr. Grackin, Dr. Card and Dr. Giani investigated other areas that would be impacted if a split session is decided upon. Dr. Card reported on classroom space and usage, additional staffing requirements, and the impact on particular programs. Mr. Grackin reviewed the impact on the School Lunch Program and custodial and security staff. Dr. Giani reviewed the impact on transportation and the cost involved indicating that the Transportation office would need to be open until 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Finello indicated that Angelo Noce had analyzed the feasibility of a split session at Huntington High School. This would require a shortened day which would impact graduation requirements, athletic and extra curricular activities.

Mr. Finello discussed the other options. In regard to leasing a school in district boundaries, Mr. Finello indicated that Coindre Hall and the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception were looked into. The option of leasing commercial space and renovating it was discussed, but space could not be identified. The option of leasing a school outside of district boundaries was looked into. A school in the Commack School District in Deer Park is available.

The option of putting modular classrooms at Woodhull and Flower Hill was investigated by our architect, Burton Behrendt and Smith. It would be very costly and the time frame would be a minimum of six months.

The option of an immediate lease agreement with 300 Nassau Road was looked into by our attorneys, the law firm of Guercio and Guercio. Mr. Grackin discussed in detail the modifications that would be needed to make the building ready.

The final option was swapping buildings with Town Hall. Mr. Finello asked out attorneys to look into an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Huntington. He then introduced John Sheahan of Guercio and Guercio, our attorney, who discussed the options of swapping with Town Hall by swapping of properties, swapping of leases, or swapping of deeds. Mr. Sheahan informed the board of their legal rights and what the Board has the authority to do. He indicated which options would require voter approval and informed them that renovations would also require voter approval. He discussed SEQRA requirements. Mr. Sheahan's discussion was extensive and detailed.

Mrs. Rogan then opened up the discussion to the Board of Education. Extensive discussion followed. Mrs. Brown does not agree with the idea of swapping with Town Hall and commented on some of the other options. Mr. McGrath reviewed the laundry list of interventions that were tried to improve the area, to no avail, over the past twelve years. He expressed frustration with Mr. Petrone. Mrs. Rogan announced that the next Board of Education Meeting is April 19, 2010 and that the Town Board will be attending. It will be a meeting of the full Town Board and our School Board. She urged everyone to attend. Mrs. Rogan also indicated there would be a Town of Huntington Board Meeting on April 13, 2010 at Town Hall and urged everyone to attend that

also. Mr. Paci commented that the solutions that the police indicated they are doing are great, but these are short term solutions. The responsibility falls to Frank Petrone to revitalize this area.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Mrs. Rogan reviewed the ground rules for *Public Commentary* and put a time limit of 35 minutes for the first session. At the portion of the meeting set aside for public commentary there were seventeen speakers who commented regarding the crime in the area and Jack Abrams Intermediate School. Opinions were expressed about the options discussed and the response from Town officials.

Mrs. Rogan announced the Town Board Meeting starts at 7 p.m. on April 13, 2010.

2010-2011 School Budget

Mr. Finello explained that there were some changes made in staffing since the last board meeting and Dr. Giani would discuss this. Mr. Grackin will then explain the recalculation of the projected tax rate.

Dr. Giani highlighted the changes in the proposed budget which included four broad areas: administration, elementary, secondary, and non-instructional staff. He discussed the total reduction in staff. Extensive discussion followed. There was discussion about the Guidance position and the Chairperson of Guidance and responsibilities of the position. The Board directed Administration to look into different options.

Mr. Grackin discussed the revenue budget and the projected tax rate increase. Discussion followed which included the following topics: Universal Pre-Kindergarten, a contingency budget, property tax levy, levy cap, State Education funding, and assessed value. Mr. Finello discussed the summer special education program which will impact the budget if state aid is cut to that program. Discussion followed about State Education funding.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

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

G. 1 Approve Retirements/Leaves of Absence

Retirements					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Award
1.1	CU	Ethel McGorry	HS/Science	6/30/10	Not to exceed \$3,500.00
1.2	FSW	Maria Mariani	SD	6/30/10	N/A
Resignation					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Reason
1.3	ATH	Flora Lutsky	HS/.8 ESL	3/30/10	Personal

G. 2 Approve Extra Duty Assignments

Interscholastic Athletics – Post Season			
No.	Name	Description/Season	Stipend
2.1	Kieran Mock	Varsity Wrestling/Winter	\$2,472.85 19 days @ \$130.15/day
2.2	Travis Smith	Asst. Varsity Wrestling/Winter	\$1,721.42 17 days @ \$101.26/day
2.3	Louis Giani, Sr.	.7 Asst. Varsity Wrestling/Winter	\$1,204.96 17 days @ \$70.88/day
2.4	Peter Fusco	.3 Asst. Varsity Wrestling/Winter	\$516.46 17 days @ \$30.38/day
2.5	Margaret McConnell	Asst. Varsity Boys Swimming/Winter	\$2,025.26 20 days @ \$101.26/day

G.3 Approve Additional Work

Middle School Saturday Support Program					
Funded through Title I LEP Grant					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
3.1	ATH	Eileen Gonzalez	Test Prep	3/27/10-5/15/10	\$48.01/hr
3.2	AMA	Pina Keane	Test Prep	3/27/10-5/15/10	\$22.79/hr
K-1 Saturday Academy Program for ELL Students for Pre-Literacy & ESL Methodology					
Funded by Title III Grant					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
3.3	ATH	Angela Berner	Teacher	3/27/10-6/12/10	\$48.01/hr
3.4	ATH	Luz Marotta	Teacher	3/27/10-6/12/10	\$48.01/hr
3.5	ATH	DonnaMarie O’Shaughnessy	Teacher	3/27/10-6/12/10	\$48.01/hr
3.6	ATH	Nancy Giorgios	Teacher	3/27/10-6/12/10	\$48.01/hr
3.7	ATH	Glenn Edwards	Teacher	3/27/10-6/12/10	\$48.01/hr
3.8	ATH	Peristera Alfano	Teacher	3/27/10-6/12/10	\$48.01/hr
3.9	ATH	Erika Sabogal	Teacher	3/27/10-6/12/10	\$48.01/hr
3.10	ATH	Carol Soskil	Teacher	3/27/10-6/12/10	\$48.01/hr
3.11	ATH	Vivian Joseph	Teacher	3/27/10-6/12/10	\$48.01/hr
3.12	ATH	Maria Romero	Teacher	3/27/10-6/12/10	\$48.01/hr
3.13	CU	Miryam Palacio	Aide	3/27/10-6/12/10	\$18.75/hr
<i>Program extended an additional 6 days. Was previously approved with an end date of 5/1/10</i>					

G.4 Approve Substitutes

No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.1	AMA	Brittany Cabrera	Aide	2009-2010	\$8.75/hr
4.2	AMA	Leigh Farrell	Aide	2009-2010	\$8.75/hr
4.3	ATH	Carol Kenary	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
4.4	ATH	Kerry Anderson	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
4.5	ATH	Victoria Gibault	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of Contracts

Integra

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the contract with Integra for E-Rate services for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Eastern Suffolk BOCES Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program Resolution

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the enclosed Resolution with Eastern Suffolk BOCES for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Acceptance of GASB 45 Report

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Black to accept the GASB 45 Report as generated by the actuaries at Questar III BOCES.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Approval of Capital Reserve Proposition

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the Proposition below to be placed on the ballot at the May 18, 2010 Annual Budget Vote and Election.

**CAPITAL RESERVE
FUND TRANSFER RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, at the annual meeting in June 3, 2003, the voters approved the creation of a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law with an ultimate amount of \$8 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, excess funds in amount of \$900,000 dollars remain in the 2003 Capital Reserve Fund; and

WHEREAS, at the annual meeting in May 20, 2008, the voters approved the creation of a second Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law with an ultimate amount of \$10 million dollars; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 3651, the Board of Education hereby approves the transfer of excess funds in the amount of \$900,000 dollars from the 2003 Capital Reserve Fund to the 2008 Capital Reserve Fund, subject to voter authorization; and

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.

Acceptance of Donations

Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Black to accept a donation in the amount of \$5,030 for use in the purchase of a rock climbing wall at Jack Abrams Intermediate School. Budget code A2110-400-03-108 and Revenue code A2705 will be increased by this amount.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Approval of Facilities Use Request

American Sports League

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve this organization as an approved user of our facilities.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Approval of Mileage Reimbursement

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve reimbursement for mileage to the following employee:

Sarah Holder – Special Education teacher

MOTION carried.

Approval of Disposal of Equipment

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the equipment listed below to be placed on the district’s surplus bid list to be disposed of:

Equipment	Serial No.	Quantity
Kenwood Walkie-Talkies Model TK3100K	11100075 50501002 30103499	3

MOTION carried.

Mrs. Brown thanked the Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education for the very generous donation which will be used for the rock climbing wall at Jack Abrams Intermediate School.

The Board had a very extensive discussion relative to the “swap” with Town Hall. The Board decided on three Board members to be a part of the discussion with Mr. Petrone. They are Mr. Dwyer, Mr. McGrath and Mrs. Black. Mr. Paci urged community members to write letters to the Town Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

At the portion of the meeting set aside for public commentary twelve speakers commented on various aspects of the discussion tonight concerning a move to a school in Commack, swap with Town Hall, timeline for clearing the woods on Academy Place, Huntington Station Action Coalition Committee Report, IMAX theater and Village Green, along with comments that this is a Town issue.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION carried.

At 11:00 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Troffa
District Clerk