

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

July 19, 2010

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on Monday, July 19, 2010 at Jack Abrams School, Lowndes Avenue, Huntington Station, New York. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Dwyer indicated that tonight there will be a modified agenda and we will go right into the business at hand.

Discussion of recent events in Huntington Station

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to reconfigure the district as described by administration. The configuration is:

Four primary schools	Grades Kindergarten through 4 th grade
Woodhull School	Grades 5 and 6 center for the entire district
Jack Abrams School	Administration, district tutoring center, adult education, and house an Alternative High School that administration will begin to create and pursue the approval process with the State Education Department

Discussion followed. Mr. Dwyer asked Mr. Finello to describe the reconfiguration. Mr. Finello indicated that at the request of board members, administration was asked to come up with a

contingency plan if the Board voted to move the 6th grade students out of Jack Abrams School. Mr. Finello described this plan as K-4 in the primary buildings, 5th and 6th graders at Woodhull Intermediate School, no change at Finley Middle School and no change at Huntington High School. Mr. Finello distributed a report prepared by Dr. Giani regarding projected enrollments and number of sections at the primary buildings. Also distributed were floor plans prepared by Burton Behrendt Smith. Dr. Giani discussed a meeting he and Mr. Finello had today with Georgia McCarthy, Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics, and the principals. Dr. Giani indicated the principals were ready if this contingency plan were to be necessary. Mr. Dwyer opened up the discussion with the board members. Discussion about self-contained programs followed and Dr. Giani indicated that he had met with Nancy Wilson and plans were formulated in regard to the special education programs. Mrs. Rogan had questions about art and music. Mr. Finello indicated there would be no art and music rooms at the primary schools and Mrs. Fretz was not available this week. When Mrs. Fretz returns she will plan a 4th grade music program. Dr. Giani answered Mr. Dwyer's question about the number of teachers this contingency plan calls for. Dr. Giani indicated it calls for 7 fewer teachers, but these teachers would be used for a push-in program in the primary buildings. Additional staff would be needed for ESL, health education and music and contingency staff would be utilized. Mrs. Bené asked about the number of additional children in each building. Dr. Giani indicated between 80 and 100 additional students would be placed in each primary building. Mr. Paci asked if the portables are still necessary at Woodhull since we are saving two sections at Woodhull. Mr. Finello indicated that Roger Smith of Burton, Behrendt Smith submitted the plans for the portables to the State Education Department and as such, the portables could not be used at another building.

Mrs. Rogan asked Mr. Finello if he were recommending taking the 6th graders out of the Jack Abrams School. Mr. Finello explained that administration developed a contingency plan if the board decides to move the children. Mr. Finello explained the plan is not optimal but it will work.

Mr. Paci read a statement indicating to the town and town officials that the town is hiding behind the school district and any revitalization effort by the town would be in vain unless the town and county fulfill their obligations to the community and take on their responsibilities in this issue. He discussed the money that was spent for the police changing station at Jack Abrams. He said we are looking out for the safety of our children and we are not abandoning this building.

Mrs. Black addressed parents in the community indicating that she cares about every child in this neighborhood and that her primary concern is for the safety of the children. She indicated that the neighborhood is not safe and we need to relocate the children to a safer setting. She indicated this could be a temporary decision.

Mrs. Brown remarked that our county officials have failed us. She said Steve Levy's Ten Point Plan is irrelevant. She stated the building has been used by Project Play, a town summer program, for 16 or 17 years and it is safe for these children.

Mrs. Bené commented on the student projections for this coming year and the additional students that will be added to every primary building. She commented we should be adding to programs, not taking away.

Mr. McGrath indicated that the core problem is not being addressed by the town and the district cannot fix this problem. He discussed an alternative high school at Jack Abrams. Mr. Finello explained that the alternative high school that is currently running is a course recovery program so students can earn

