

**REGULAR MEETING
HUNTINGTON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 11, 2008**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on Monday, February 11, 2008, at Huntington Intermediate School, Lowndes Avenue, Huntington Station, New York 11746. Mr. McGrath called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

There were present Board of Education Members: Black, Lee, McGrath, Paci, Rogan, Superintendent Finello, Messrs. Giani, Grackin, O'Brien, and Mrs. Troffa.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. Paci to go into Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters.

MOTION carried.

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

At 7:45 p.m. Mr. McGrath reconvened the meeting.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

SMOKE-FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. McGrath 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. McGrath also asked that all cell phones be turned off.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lee and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of January 28, 2008.

MOTION carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. Paci to accept the following Treasurer's Report:

As of December 31, 2007

a. General Fund	\$13,901,968.23
b. Capital Fund	\$1,188,364.63
c. Special Aid Fund	\$254,813.86
d. School Lunch Fund	\$219,931.93
e. Trust & Agency Fund	\$964,783.57
f. Payroll Fund	0

MOTION carried.

The following reports were distributed “For Information Only”:

- Revenue Status Report as of December 31, 2007;
- Analysis of Investments as of December 31, 2007;
- Extra-Curricular Quarterly Reports as of December 31, 2007;
- Expenditure Reports as of January 31, 2008:

- a) General Fund
- b) School Lunch
- c) Special Aid

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Mr. Lee to approve the following Warrants:

January 2008

	Amount
General Fund Warrant #13	\$5,914,319.60
General Fund Warrant #14	\$2,937,612.79
School Lunch Warrant #13	\$62,390.09
School Lunch Warrant #14	\$59,679.79
Special Aid Warrant #13	\$119,165.69
Special Aid Warrant #14	\$66,290.70
Workers Comp Warrant #7	\$27,213.60
New Renovations Warrant #43	\$196,953.18
T & A Warrant #7	\$5,515,814.29

MOTION carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Rogan announced that she visited several Dual Language classes at Southdown Primary and Woodhull Intermediate. She was escorted by Mrs. Kasper and she was very impressed with the progress the students had made. She thanked Mrs. Kasper, the Principals of these buildings, and the children. Mrs. Rogan feels good that we are offering this program to the other schools. Mr. McGrath reiterated that there was a long discussion at the last board meeting and it was decided to make this program available to all four primary buildings.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

At the portion of the meeting set aside for questions and comments from the public, a parent thanked the Board members and Administrators who read to the children and participated in the Parents as Reading Partners Program (PARP).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

School Improvement Plans: J. Taylor Finley Middle School and Huntington Intermediate School

Mr. O’Brien made a presentation explaining that as was discussed at the last Board of Education meeting, two schools, Huntington Intermediate and Finley Middle School, were cited by the State Education Department as Schools Requiring Academic Progress (SRAP). Mr. O’Brien showed in detail the reason that this had occurred. He explained about subgroups and State Education criteria. Mr. O’Brien explained that he put together a team of teachers, administrators, and parents to address this issue. There were questions asked by the Board and answered by Mr. O’Brien. Extensive discussion followed.

Mr. Finello updated us on the search for a replacement for Mr. O'Brien. He indicated there are no candidates from within the district.

Renaming Woodhull Intermediate School

Mr. McGrath summarized what had occurred at the last board meeting regarding a request to place on the agenda the consideration to rename Woodhull Intermediate School for Jack Abrams. Keith Meyers, teacher and spokesperson for a group of supporters for this name change, then spoke. He thanked the Board for putting this item on the agenda. Mr. Meyers presented the Board of Education with a binder with over 200 letters in support of this. Mr. Meyers appealed to the Board. Discussion followed and the Board decided to table this item at this time.

2008-2009 Budget Update

Mr. Grackin updated us on the budget process thus far and announced budget meetings scheduled as per the following chart:

March 3rd	General overview of the budget process to date. Function areas 1010-1981 (Central Administration and General Support), Debt Service and Interfund Transfers – Dave
March 10th	Curriculum and Instruction. Function areas 2010-2630 –Mike; Capital Projects – Dave
March 31st	Special Education, Pupil Personnel, Co-Curricular Activities and Interscholastic Athletics – Mike
April 7th	Staffing and Employee Benefits, Transportation – Dave/Joe
April 14th	Revenues, Re-Cap of the Budget, Budget Adoption - Dave

Mr. Grackin indicated that we may have a better idea of what our state aid will be on April 14th, the day the school district will adopt the budget. Mr. Grackin asked for direction from the Board of Education as to what budget increase they would like to present to the public. Mr. Finello indicated that he is working with Senator Marcellino and Assemblyman Flanagan in order to seek their help in securing additional funds from Albany. Discussion followed. Mr. Grackin will present a first budget draft at the Board meeting of March 3, 2008.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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

CSE

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. 23902 | 10. 23122 | 19. 21787 |
| 2. 27297 | 11. 20220 | 20. 21060 revised |
| 3. 24811 | 12. 21060 | 21. 22820 |
| 4. 24272 | 13. 27292 | 22. 22435 |
| 5. 24571 | 14. 27291 | 23. 27311 |
| 6. 25021 | 15. 27293 | |
| 7. 23598 | 16. 27294 | |
| 8. 23796 | 17. 27295 | |
| 9. 23394 | 18. 21365 | |

CPSE

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. 27204 | 10. 27305 | 19. 27267 |
|----------|-----------|-----------|

2.	24962	11.	27306	20.	25046
3.	27299	12.	27323	21.	24879
4.	27300	13.	24995	22.	27316
5.	25114	14.	27307	23.	27320
6.	27302	15.	27308	24.	27317
7.	27301	16.	27309	25.	25098
8.	27303	17.	27182	26.	27318
9.	27304	18.	27314		

MOTION carried.

INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, a MOTION was made by Mr. Lee and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the following changes in Instructional Personnel:

1. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Tara Adams, Music teacher, effective 2008-09 school year – child care

Robin Cirillo, Compensatory Math teacher, effective 2008-09 school year – child care

Victoria Creighton, Elementary teacher, effective 2008-09 school year – child care

Corinne D’Andrea, Math teacher, effective 2008-09 school year – child care

Christina Droskoski, Reading teacher, effective 2008-09 school year – child care

Patricia Klee, Speech therapist, effective 2008-09 school year – child care

Nicole Lynch, Music teacher, effective 2008-09 school year – child care

Christa Schlosser, Reading teacher, effective March 26, 2008 through June 30, 2008 – child care

Dina Telesco, Elementary teacher, Woodhull, effective April 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008 – child care

2. LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENT

Jessie Brennan, Reading teacher, Southdown, effective March 26, 2008 through June 30, 2008, Sch. I, Step 1, \$45,130 – for C. Schlosser

Ms. Brennan has been the long-term substitute for Ms. Schlosser since November 2007

3. TEACHER ASSISTANT RESIGNATION

David Zimmerman, Teacher Assistant, Huntington Intermediate, effective close of business February 8, 2008

4. TEACHERS RETURNING FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Eileen Melloy, ESL teacher, effective September 1, 2008

Amy Worth, Art teacher, effective September 1, 2008

5. CHANGE OF TENURE DATE

Christina Droskoski, change of tenure date from September 1, 2005 to September 25, 2009 – due to unpaid leave of absence

6. ADDITIONAL WORK

Julissa Garris, School Psychologist, not to exceed 6 days, at \$443.55 per diem – kindergarten registration

Debra Foster, Special Education teacher, Washington, not to exceed 30 hours, at \$45.77 per hour, effective February 12, 2008, provide parent counseling and training for a student’s parent (#24415)

7. APPROVAL OF AFTER-SCHOOL EDUCATORS

Southdown, ELA and Math Test Preparation, approximately 3 hours per week, \$45.77 per hour, funded by grant:

Jessie Brennan, substitute

8. COACHING RECOMMENDATION

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Sport</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Alida Jade Edwards	JV Softball	1	\$3838

9. APPOINTMENT OF FINLEY ADVISOR

<u>Advisor</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Delete: Christopher Helmke	Stage Crew	\$1544
Add: Christopher Scarnato	Stage Crew	\$1544

10. APPROVAL OF VATEA GRANT ADVISORS

2007-08:

<u>Advisor</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Bernadette Walsh	\$3,000
Marci Rhodes	\$6,250
Camille DeCanio	\$6,250

11. APPROVAL OF NEW INSTRUCTIONAL SUBSTITUTES

\$90 per diem:

Michael Board
Luigi Capizzano
Eric Twardy

MOTION carried.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, a MOTION was made by Mr. Lee and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the following changes in Non-Instructional Personnel:

1. APPOINTMENT

Unit	Name	Position	Salary	Eff Date	Replacing
Clerical	Michele Kentros	12Mo.Account Clk. Typist	\$26,500	2/13/08	Elizabeth Voight
Clerical	Donna DiBiase	10Mo.Clk.Typist	\$20,357	3/04/08	Rosemary Fleming
Aide	Karen Beirne	Teacher Aide	\$11.92/Hr	2/26/08	Tammy Birt

		Flower Hill			
Custodian	Thomas Ehlers	Head Custodian/JE	\$56,144	2/12/08	Donald Prisco
Custodian	William Wright	Lead Custodian/HHS	\$56,332	2/01/08	Returning HHS

Mr. Wright had been appointed Head Custodian for Jefferson on the January 28, 2008 agenda.

2. PART TIME APPOINTMENTS

Nurses for Kindergarten Registration at their last rate of pay, effective March 17-19, 2008, March 26-28, 2008 and May 21-22, 2008.

Marlene McKenna	\$35.11/Hr	Judy Maier	\$30.82/Hr
Rita Barry	\$36.13/Hr	Pat Forde	\$31.57/Hr
Emily Halligan	\$24.34/Hr		

3. RETIREMENT

Clerical, Helen Barbuzza, Finley Middle School, effective June 27, 2008
Retirement increment not to exceed \$3500.00

4. RESIGNATION

Aide, Kedian Lyons, High School, effective February 8, 2008

5. REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Clerical, Wanda Gonzalez, Southdown, effective September 3, 2008 to December 15, 2008.

6. APPROVAL OF NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SUBSTITUTES

Clara Krapf	Clerical, K – Reg.
Lisa Karasik	Aide

MOTION carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of Contract

Our Lady of Peace Academy at Montfort Therapeutic Residence Ministry for Hope, Inc.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. Paci to approve the contract for the school year 2007-2008.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Approval of Change Order

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. Paci to approve a decrease Change Order in the amount of \$8,000.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Memorandum of Agreement

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. Paci to approve the Memorandum of Agreement that was ratified by the District's Security Guards Unit for the contract period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Acceptance of Donations

Joseph Giani

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. Paci to accept the donation of a Canon 35 mm camera with accessories and black leather case donated to the school district from Joseph Giani.

MOTION carried.

SEPTA

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. Paci to accept the donation of a Canon DVD Camcorder (estimated value of \$400) donated by the Special Education PTA (SEPTA) to The Friendship Club.

MOTION carried.

Budget Transfers

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. Paci to approve the attached Budget Transfers.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Professional Development

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lee and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the following Resolution:

Resolution

As per Board of Education policy, the Board of Education agrees to participate in a Professional Development Workshop sponsored by the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) in an amount not to exceed \$1,200.

MOTION carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

At the portion of the meeting set aside for questions and comments from the public, one resident requested that money be put into the budget for IT equipment, to bring back an IT person in the district. He also wanted money set aside for Science, Math, and English.

Another resident questioned when the teachers' contract is up. Mr. McGrath answered that our attorneys are currently negotiating.

Another resident asked if we could consider asking Senator Marcellino to come to the district on another night other than Monday since the Senator is in Albany on that day.

A parent asked how teachers were monitored. Mr. O'Brien responded.

Mrs. Bene, PTA Council President, informed us that Senator Marcellino would be attending their President's Meeting on March 6, 2008. She invited the Board members to attend and reminded them that if four attended, it would be considered a quorum.

A member of the community read a letter in support of the Woodhull name change to Jack Abrams School.

Another member of the community asked the Board if there was anything the public could do to implore Albany to give us more state aid. Mr. Finello responded and answered some other questions.

A parent commented that a "push in" model for Dual Language had been successful in another part of the country and asked if it was feasible for us. Mr. O'Brien responded that there is difficulty scheduling that and more staff would be needed.

Another parent expressed concern that teachers could be excessed as a result of the Dual Language Program. Mr. Giani responded. Discussion followed.

CLOSING REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Rogan had two comments:

- She attended the play at Huntington Intermediate School. The children had performed "Alice in Wonderland." It was wonderful and some high school students came to work with the students at the intermediate school. The students worked so well together. It was a wonderful experience for all the students.
- Several weeks ago she received a letter from a parent expressing her gratitude that the "Turnaround Program" had made such a difference in her daughter's life. Her daughter is now graduating and going on to college and the mother was so grateful.

ADJOURNMENT

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

At 9:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Troffa
District Clerk