

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

**March 9, 2009**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on Monday, March 9, 2009 at Jack Abrams Intermediate School, Lowndes Avenue, Huntington Station, New York. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education that was scheduled for March 2, 2009 was cancelled due to snow and rescheduled for March 9, 2009.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Benè to go into Executive Session to discuss employee contracts.

MOTION carried.

At 6:10p.m. the Board of Education went into Executive Session.

At 8:00 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 Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Benè to approve the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of February 9, 2009.

MOTION carried.

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the following Warrants:

<b>JANUARY WARRANTS</b>	
GENERAL FUND WARRANT #13	\$8,079,628.08
GENERAL FUND WARRANT #14	\$3,464,993.32
SCHOOL LUNCH WARRANT #13	\$88,587.27
SCHOOL LUNCH WARRANT #14	\$52,489.68
SPECIAL AID WARRANT #13	\$189,249.10
SPECIAL AID WARRANT #14	\$32,431.26
WORKERS COMP WARRANT #7	\$32,050.60
CAPITAL EXCEL WAR#3	\$3,555.45
NEW RENOVATIONS WARRANT #55	\$142,226.19
T & A WARRANT #7	\$8,094,944.61
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$20,180,155.56</b>

MOTION carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Brown attended a College Planning Night on February 26, 2009 at the high school. Mrs. Brown indicated it was very informative for college bound students.

Mrs. Brown also attended the Wizards basketball game on Saturday night, March 7, 2009. This was a semi-pro event organized and marketed by a student in the Career Internship Program at Huntington High School.

Mrs. Rogan reported that she and Mr. Finello attended a Town of Huntington Supervisor's Meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. Also in attendance were Frank Petrone, Supervisor of the Town of Huntington, Laure Nolan, Deputy Supervisor, Joe Blaettler, Suffolk County Police Inspector, and other police officials and Town Public Safety officials. The topic of discussion was the recent shootings in Huntington Station. She and Mr. Finello expressed the concerns of parents, administrators and teachers and asked for police patrols around Abrams Intermediate. Mrs. Rogan indicated they were very forceful in expressing their concerns and would like to explore ways of making the area safe. Extensive discussion followed. Mr. Paci expressed how upset he was by the shootings as were the other Board members. Discussion continued about what the Board can do about the problem.

Mrs. Black spoke about the passing of Mark Kuhn, a community member and father of a former Marching Band student. She remarked that he gave much of his time and talent to the Band Association. As the Marching Band passed the funeral home, as the St. Patrick's Day Parade

was on Sunday, March 8, 2009, the band stopped in front of the funeral home and played “Danny Boy” as a tribute to Mr. Kuhn.

Mrs. Benè reported on the Lowndes Avenue Task Force meeting. They are trying to get people from this area and the surrounding vicinity to take ownership of their community and at least to report crimes. Mrs. Benè indicated there was discussion at the meeting about a *Neighborhood Watch*. Discussion followed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

At the portion of the meeting set aside for public commentary the following comments were made:

- Cindy Tietjen, Library teacher at Jefferson, read a statement in regard to the proposed budget cuts. Her statement explained how the cuts will impact the children.
- A resident and parent in the district was very concerned about the violence in the community. He suggested a letter writing campaign to get the police to realize their priorities.
- Another parent was in support of the SEARCH Program specifically at Woodhull. She implored the Board not to put the SEARCH Program on the chopping block. It is an opportunity for enrichment for the children. She also said that because a program is not mandated does not mean it should be eliminated.
- Another parent in support of the SEARCH Program said we should use the federal stimulus money to avert layoffs. It is very important to his son.
- A St. Patrick’s School parent whose child attends the SEARCH Program also implored the Board not to cut the program. She explained how it expanded horizons for students and the hands-on learning is not possible in a classroom of 25 at St. Patrick’s School. We need to serve children at both ends of the spectrum, the exceptional students, not just the students who need special accommodations.
- Another parent of a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Abrams Intermediate regarding the SEARCH Program expressed her understanding for the task before the Board members. She discussed the different aspects of the SEARCH Program such as SPARK and Math Olympiad and asked that we look into other areas to reduce the budget.
- A parent of a 5<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grader did not know about the violence that had occurred. She was very upset.
- Another mother of a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Abrams Intermediate was also very upset about the violence.
- Another mother expressed her concern about the violence and her support of the SEARCH Program.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

#### 2009-2010 School Budget (Draft #1)

Mr. Finello gave a general overview of the budget process. He explained that we must follow the mandates set for us by the state. He talked about Governor Patterson’s cuts that were announced on December 16, 2008. He explained the federal stimulus package. Mr. Grackin then discussed revenues and expenditures in the areas of general support, debt service, interfund

transfers and the proposed capital reserve proposition. Extensive discussion followed that included the SEARCH Program and the Library proposed cuts. Mr. Dwyer reminded those present that this is a first draft of the budget.

Mr. McGrath informed the Board that there was a Town Hall Meeting to occur the following night, March 10<sup>th</sup> that he was planning to attend. He invited parents to go to the meeting and express their concerns to Mr. Petrone in an attempt to get the police involved. Mr. Dwyer along with other Board members decided to attend the Town Hall meeting. The Board authorized Mr. Dwyer to speak on their behalf at the meeting to express outrage over the recent increase in violence and request that the town help in securing additional police resources to address the rise in crime and insure safety around our schools.

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Brown 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	Annual Reviews
27306	24421	27577	24808
23957	23026	27552	24919
27412	25009	27545	27436
27511	22514	27544	27471
24347	22326	27499	27333
24813	27456	27554	24622
24272	24618	27441	27177
22164	21554	27543	23906
	27247	25160	24248
	21962	27285	
	24564	27553	
	23717	27578	
	24805	27560	
	22747		
	24503		
	24254		
	27218		
	27311		
<b>ADDENDUM</b>			
<b>Program Reviews</b>			
<b>CPSE</b>			
27221			
27523			
27228			

MOTION carried.

**PERSONNEL ITEMS**

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

**H. 1 Approve Retirement / Leaves of Absence**

Retirement					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Award
1.1	ATH	Frances Johnidis	Gen Ed/WH	Close of Business 6/30/09	Not to exceed \$42,500. (\$3,000. previously approved 1/26/09)
1.2	ATH	Joann Kavanagh	Gen Ed/JAI	Close of Business 6/30/09	Not to exceed \$42,500.
Leave of Absence					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Reason
1.3	ATH	Alice Pancir	ESL/JA	4/15/09-6/30/09	Child Care
Return from Leave of Absence					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Reason
1.4	ATH	Robin Cirillo	Gen Ed	9/1/09	End of Child Care

**H. 2 Approve Non-Instructional New Hires**

Full-Time						
No	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Salary	Replacing
2.1	CU	Diana Lerch	A/C Typist Payroll	3/24/09	\$32,000.00	Mardella Edwards
2.2	CU	Eileen Senzel	Clerk Typist HS/Attendance	3/11/09	\$20,357.00	Ruth Peretz
Part-time						
No	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Salary	Replacing
2.3	STU	Liane DeRosa	HS – Stage Crew	2008-2009	\$7.15/hr	N/A
2.4	STU	Richard Gray	HS – Lab Assistant	2008-2009	\$7.15/hr	N/A
2.5	ATH	Annie Bastien	SD – 3hr. Kindergarten aide	3/10/09	\$12.34/hr	Meryl McGovern

**H. 3 Approve Long-Term Substitutes**

Full-time						
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Salary	Replacing
3.1	ATH	Miriam Engle	SD	3/3/09 to TBD	1-20 - \$90./day 21-30 - \$105./day 31+\$276.45/day Sch. V, Step 1-\$55, 290.	Ivonne Szabo

**H. 4 Approve Additional Work**

No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.1	ATH	Joseph Cohen	Trilogy Night	2/11/09	\$30.47/hr
4.2	ATH	Craig McKee	Trilogy Night	2/11/09	\$30.47/hr
4.3	ATH	Thomas Masone	Trilogy Night	2/11/09	\$30.47/hr
4.4	ATH	Lori Pyzocha	Trilogy Night	2/11/09	\$30.47/hr
<b>After School Support Program for ELA – MS</b> Funded by ESL Supplemental Grant					

No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.5	ATH	Denise DeChiaro	Teacher	2008-2009	\$47.07/hr
4.6	ATH	Carol Emmerman	Teacher	2008-2009	\$47.07/hr
4.7	ATH	Carly Vasilakos	Teacher	2008-2009	\$47.07/hr
Kindergarten Registration Screening					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.8	ATH	Linda Kohan	Spanish Translation for Kindergarten Transition Meeting/CPSE	2008-2009	\$47.07/hr Not to exceed 2 hrs.
4.9	ATH	Linda Kohan	Spanish Translation for Kindergarten Registration/Screening	2008-2009	\$225.80/day Not to exceed 3 days
Community Based Literacy Program – JA Funded by Title I Grant					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.10	ATH	Peter Ravo	Substitute Teacher	2008-2009	\$47.07/hr

### H. 5 Approve Extra Duty Assignments

Interscholastic Athletics			
No.	Name	Description/Season	Rate of Pay
5.1	DELETE Jonathan Searles	Assistant Varsity/Baseball	Step 2 \$4184.
5.2	Keith Flynn	Assistant Varsity/Baseball	Step 1 \$3706.
5.3	Keith Barrett	JV Coach/Baseball	Step 1 \$3947.

### H. 6 Approve Changes / Adjustments to Probationary Period

No.	Unit	Name	Certification	From:	To:	Reason
6.1	ATH	Anne Marie Faulkner	Reading	9/1/08	9/1/10	Unpaid Child Care Leave

### H. 7 Release of Provisional Appointment

No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Reason
7.1	CU	Mardella Edwards	Account Clerk Typist	3/23/09	Permanent Hire/Diana Lerch

### H. 8 Approve Substitutes

No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
8.1	ATH	Elizabeth Forgione	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
8.2	ATH	Donna Darmiento	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
8.3	ATH	Mary Cordeiro	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
8.4	ATH	Brooke Wasilewicz	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
8.5	ATH	Katerina Voutsinas	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
8.6	ATH	Julie Feltman	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
8.7	ATH	Amanda Kelly	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
8.8	AMA	Davron Jenkins	Aide	2008-2009	\$8.75/hr
8.9	AMA	Kerry Loturco	Aide	2008-2009	\$8.75/hr
8.10	CU	Kerry Loturco	Clerical	2008-2009	\$10.50/hr
8.11	SEC	Vernon Alexander	Security	2008-2009	\$11.45/hr
8.12	FSW	Rina Aparicio	Food Service	2008-2009	\$8.75/hr
8.13	CU	Maryann O'Mara	Clerical	2008-2009	\$10.50/hr

MOTION carried.

**LEGEND**

**Schools/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

**Units**

ATH = Teachers  
 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

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Approval of Contracts**

**Bilinguals, Inc.**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the Addendum to the contract with Bilinguals, Inc. already in place through June 30, 2009.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Eden II Programs**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the contract with Eden II for the 2008-2009 school year.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**National Traffic Safety Institute**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the contract with the National Traffic Safety Institute for the time period January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**SCOPE**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the contract with SCOPE for the Before and After School Child Care Programs for the 2009-2010 school year.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Creative Tutoring

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the contract with Creative Tutoring for the 2008-2009 school year.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Intermunicipal Agreement – Huntington Public Library

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Huntington U.F.S.D. and the Huntington Public Library for the school year ending June 30, 2009.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Memorandum of Agreement**

District School Principals Association (DSPA)

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the time period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2010.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Overnight Field Trips**

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the overnight field trip by the Math Counts Club to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Habitat for Humanity

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the overnight field trip to New Orleans from April 5 through April 12, 2009.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Capital Reserve Proposition**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve Proposition No. 2 to be placed on the ballot at the May 19, 2009 Annual Budget Vote and Election. (See memorandum and proposition below).



**Huntington Union Free School District  
Office of the Assistant Superintendent  
Finance and Management Services**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** John J. Finello  
**FROM:** David H. Grackin  
**RE:** Capital Reserve Proposition  
**DATE:** February 18, 2009

Part of the preparation for the May budget vote is the establishment of a capital reserve proposition to be placed on the ballot. Below you will find the proposition as it would currently read. We have \$414,000 available and these projects total \$368,000. I would like to schedule this for Board of Education discussion as this proposition must be approved by the Board no later than at the Board meeting of March 30, 2009.

*Residents will also be asked to vote on Proposition No. 2 to expend monies that already exist in the current Building Improvement Fund for a variety of projects in each of the district's eight buildings. Passage of this proposition will not result in an increase in taxes:*

*RESOLVED that the Board of Education be authorized to expend from the Building Improvement Fund, established by the voters of the district at the annual district meeting held May 20, 2008 an amount not to exceed \$235,000 for ADA accessibility at Jefferson Primary School; \$29,000 for cafeteria doors at Flower Hill Primary School; \$29,000 for cafeteria doors at Southdown Primary School; \$29,000 for cafeteria doors at Washington Primary School; \$46,000 for auditorium smoke doors at Huntington High School.*

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Bid Award**

**Printed Forms and Publications**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the bid award to American Business Forms and Tobay Printing Co., Inc. per the attached memorandum.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Change Order**

Ferrandino & Son Environmental, Inc.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the decrease Change Order in the amount of \$3,000.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Facilities Use Request**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve The Concerned Citizens of Huntington Organization as an approved user of our facilities.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Disposal of Equipment**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the disposal of the equipment on the attached list.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

At the portion of the meeting set aside for public commentary the following comments were made:

- A parent had a question about the Math Counts overnight field trip and questions and comments about Inclusion in the classrooms.
- Several parents spoke in support of the SEARCH. Questions were asked and comments expressed.
- A graduate of the SEARCH Program at the elementary level who is now an adult spoke in support of the program and the positive impact it had on his life.
- Two parents had suggestions and comments regarding the violence.
- Another parent asked if and when the Board is planning on taking the federal stimulus package into account.
- Pat Dillon, Librarian at Abrams Intermediate, spoke in support of the Library Program and expressed her concern about the proposed cuts.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Mrs. Black addressed the SEARCH student graduate that had spoken during the *Public Commentary* portion of the meeting in her closing remarks expressing it would be great for all students to have the same experience in their classrooms as he had in the SEARCH Program and to have creativity encouraged in them as it had been in him.

Mrs. Rogan remarked how well the Connect Ed system worked when we had the snow storm on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mrs. Benè reported she attended a PTA sponsored fundraising event at the Harbor Club, *A Taste of Huntington*. The fundraising was to benefit Flower Hill, Washington and Abrams Intermediate Schools. The PTA will be sponsoring this event for Jefferson, Southdown and Woodhull in the future. The event was a great success.

Mrs. Benè also went on a field trip to see *Shrek*. She expressed her gratitude to the teachers who go above and beyond what they are expected to do without compensation. She commented that if we all work together we will get through this difficult time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOTION carried.

At 10:45 p.m. the meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Troffa  
District Clerk