

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

**March 16, 2009**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on Monday, March 16, 2009 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; Superintendent Finello, Mr. Grackin, Dr. Giani, Dr. Lacey, and Mrs. Troffa.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

MOTION carried.

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

At 7:45 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. Rogan to approve the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of March 9, 2009.

MOTION carried.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT**

A MOTION was made by Mr. McGrath and seconded by Mrs. Benè to approve the Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2009.

MOTION carried.

The following reports were presented For Information Only:

- FYI – Revenue Status Report as of January 31, 2009
- Expenditure Reports as of February 28, 2009
  - a. General Fund
  - b. School Lunch
  - c. Special Aid Fund

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

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

<b>FEBRUARY WARRANTS</b>	
GENERAL ADVANCED WARRANT	\$6,143,056.76
GENERAL FUND WARRANT 2/11/09	\$1,200,071.92
GENERAL FUND WARRANT 2/25/09	\$1,422,021.37
SCHOOL LUNCH ADVANCED WARRANT	\$59,475.37
SCHOOL LUNCH WARRANT 2/11/09	\$12.46
SCHOOL LUNCH WARRANT 2/25/09	\$62,780.35
SPECIAL AID ADVANCED WARRANT	\$138,743.66
SPECIAL AID WARRANT 2/11/09	\$242,261.20
SPECIAL AID WARRANT 2/25/09	\$61,695.40
WORKERS COMP WARRANT 2/6/09	\$13,456.88
WORKERS COMP WARRANT 2/20/09	\$11,372.04
CAPITAL EXCEL WAR 2/11/09	\$249.54
NEW RENOVATIONS WARRANT 2/11/09	\$55,994.85
NEW RENOVATIONS WARRANT 2/25/09	\$109,021.95
T & A WARRANT FEBRUARY	\$5,731,868.83
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$15,252,082.58</b>

MOTION carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Dwyer reported that he and Mr. Finello met at Town Hall on March 16, 2009 for a meeting to discuss the safety situation in Huntington Station that was of such urgency at the Board meeting of March 9, 2009. Also present at that meeting were Mr. Petrone, Supervisor of the Town of Huntington, Laure Nolan, Deputy Supervisor, Joseph Blaettler, Suffolk County Second Precinct Police Inspector, Second Precinct Deputy Inspector Brady, Town of Huntington Safety Director, Bruce Richard, Information Coordinator, Town of Huntington, A.J. Carter and Councilman Mark Cuthbertson.

Mr. Dwyer reported that the efforts of the Board of Education and the parents who were present at the Town of Huntington Board Meeting were quite successful in getting additional police in the area. He informed those present that there will be additional foot patrols on New York Avenue, a special operations team is in the area and will be for the foreseeable future, a police car will be assigned to Abrams Intermediate School at arrival and dismissal times, there will be increased presence in the station area and downtown over the weekends. Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Finello are planning to attend a meeting at the County Executive's Office on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> to attempt to get additional resources to help resolve the problem. Mr. Dwyer thanked the community members who attended the Town Meeting and those who spoke. Mr. Finello indicated he clearly felt a partnership developing with the Town of Huntington.

Mr. Dwyer also attended a meeting of the Huntington Township Business Council, which is a coalition of many local Chambers of Commerce created to urge residents to shop at local merchants to help maintain the local economy. Discussion followed regarding starting up DECA, a high school club. This could create opportunities for fundraising and also job opportunities for our students.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

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

Allison Rooney, the Librarian from Finley Middle School and a resident read a statement in support of the Library Program.

A parent and Math tutor in the district shared a story of a student that she tutors who was asked as a freshman to take 2 accelerated math classes and would have an opportunity to take calculus as a senior. She commended Mr. Edwards, Director of Math, for giving this opportunity to this student and others who meet the criteria.

There were approximately 12 parents, and two teachers who spoke in support of the SEARCH Program, Dual Language Program (and in support of Glenn Edwards), and the Library Program. Comments included:

- Concern that the quality of education will suffer because of the budget cuts;
- Gratitude for the service of the Board members;
- Concern that the Dual Language Program will falter without Mr. Edwards;
- How necessary the SEARCH Program is for students;
- How important it is to have the Libraries available to the students and to keep the high school library open after school.

Denise D'Attolico, PTA Council President, presented the Board of Education the results of an informal survey conducted by the PTA regarding the budget. Over 250 families in the district were surveyed.

The SEPTA President had a question regarding what programs are funded through grants.

A resident expressed his thanks to the Board for working with the Town Board to try and resolve the violence issue. He also had suggestions about a letter writing campaign.

Mr. McGrath summarized how the Board of Education came to attend the Town Board meeting. He thanked the parents who came to the Town Meeting and pointed out that their presence had an impact. He commented that we already have a really good result. However, we still have a long way to go.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**2009-2010 School Budget (Draft #2) – Curriculum & Instruction, Special Education, Pupil Personnel, Co-Curricular Activities & Interscholastic Athletics**

Dr. Lacey presented a detailed review of these function areas. Discussion followed which included the federal stimulus package, Governor Patterson’s proposed budget, state aid, the potential CPSE costs and the Mobility tax. Mr. Grackin advised the Board to wait until the New York state budget is passed to decide on what to do with the proposed stimulus money. The deadline for the state budget is April 1, 2009 but that may or may not happen. A discussion about assessed value ensued. The Board of Education recommended that the district use an assessed value of \$45,700,000 in Budget Draft #3.

Mr. Finello informed the Board that after some negotiations with Huntington Coach Corporation, Huntington Coach agreed to the May CPI for large buses and vans. He explained that we budgeted for an 11 percent increase, but the increase will most likely be in the area of 2 to 4 percent.

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Benè 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:

		<b>ANNUAL REVIEWS</b>	
<b>CSE</b>	<b>CPSE</b>	<b>CSE</b>	<b>CPSE</b>
24726	27565	27298	28446
22477	27564	24432	25157
27550	27561	27186	27221
21793	27566	27267	27227
27508	27559	24727	27238
22336		27316	
24966		27245	
24966		27385	
23864		27286	
20610		27494	
21815		24981	
21329		25109	
27549		20425	
27557		21644	
27325		24667	
27548		24225	

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 Extra Duty Assignments**

<b>Other</b>					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
1.1	SHHA	Regina Connors	Cafeteria Supervision	2008-2009	\$28.73/hr
1.2	SHHA	Carol Dow	Cafeteria Supervision	2008-2009	\$28.73/hr
1.3	ATH	Phillip Lowe	Cafeteria Supervision	2008-2009	\$28.73/hr

**H. 2 Approve Additional Work**

<b>Election Personnel – Budget Vote</b>					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
2.1	N/A	Catherine Bender	Chief Inspector	5/19/09	\$30.00/hr
2.2	N/A	Margaret Florio	Clerk	5/19/09	\$30.00/hr
2.3	N/A	Kathleen Jost	Clerk	5/19/09	\$10.50/hr
2.4	N/A	Ann Rotella	Clerk	5/19/09	\$10.50/hr
<b>Kindergarten Registration – Lab-R Administration Funded by Title III Grant</b>					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
2.5	N/A	Wanda Gonzalez	Testing	2008-2009	\$90.00/day
2.6	N/A	Tedra Wilson	Testing	2008-2009	\$90.00/day
2.7	N/A	Tamika Wilson	Testing	2008-2009	\$90.00/day
2.8	N/A	Shirley Tam	Testing	2008-2009	\$90.00/day

**H. 3 Approve Changes/Adjustments**

No.	Unit	Name	Description	From:	To:	Effective Date
3.1	ATH	Linda Kohan	Kindergarten Screening Eng/SPAN Social Worker Component	225.80/day	\$376.33/day	2008-2009 Not to exceed 3 days

**H. 4 Approve Long-Term Substitutes**

<b>Full-time</b>						
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Salary	Replacing
4.1	ATH	Valerie Anderson-Byrne	ESL/SD	3/17/09-6/26/09	1-20 \$90. 21-30 \$105. 31+ 276.12 Sch.V, Step 1 \$55,290.	J. Glatzer

**H. 5 Approve Leave of Absence**

<b>Leave of Absence</b>					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Reason
5.1	ATH	Kristen Kopf	FH	3/24/09-6/26/09	Child Care

**H. 6 Approve Substitutes**

No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
6.1	ATH	Estelle Smith	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day

6.2	ATH	John Hagan	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
6.3	ATH	Urte Goldstein	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
6.4	AMA	Nicole Nobile	Aide	2008-2009	\$8.75/hr
6.5	ATH	Heather Freidank	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
6.6	ATH	Valerie Anderson-Byrne	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
6.7	ATH	Maria Peregudova	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day
6.8	ATH	Fernanda Marmo-McAuley	Teacher	2008-2009	\$90./day

MOTION carried.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Approval of Contracts**

#### Jim Dragovich

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve the contract with Jim Dragovich for the time period April 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

#### Mindy Dragovich

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve the contract with Mindy Dragovich for the time period April 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

#### Discipline Associates DBA/Teacher Learner Center

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve the contract for the time period April 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

#### Eastern Suffolk BOCES Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program Resolution

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve the Resolution with Eastern Suffolk BOCES to be part of the Cooperative Bidding Program for the 2009-2010 school year.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

### **Approval of Memorandum of Agreement**

#### Security Guard Unit

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve the Memorandum of Agreement ending on June 30, 2009.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Bid Award**

Sax Arts and Crafts

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. McGrath to award the bid to Sax Arts and Crafts for \$3,000 for the purchase of a Skutt kiln.

MOTION carried.

National Educational Music Company

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. McGrath to award the bid for the purchase of Musical Instruments to National Educational Music Company for 2 Yamaha Alto Saxophones at \$1,322 each.

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Overnight Field Trip**

Camp Greenkill

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve the Huntington Outdoor Educational Trip to Camp Greenkill in Huguenot, New York. The Woodhull Intermediate School trip will occur on March 24, 2009 through March 27, 2009. The Abrams Intermediate School trip will occur on March 31, 2009 through April 3, 2009.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Mileage Reimbursement**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve mileage reimbursement for travel to Dana Aboulafia, Special Education teacher.

MOTION carried.

**Acceptance of Donation**

Ancient Order of Hibernians

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. McGrath to accept a \$1,000 donation from the Ancient Order of Hibernians to the High School Band's Student Activity account in recognition of their participation in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Conference Attendance by Board President**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve attendance by the President of the Board of Education at a conference entitled *School District Obligations Under the Open Meetings Law*. The New York State School Board’s Association sponsors this conference.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Disposal of Equipment**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve the disposal of the equipment listed below:

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Serial No.</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sylvania VHS Model VC4223AT01	76758994	1	Washington Primary
Sharp VCR 4-Head Mid-Drive	507743858	1	Washington Primary

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Budget Transfers**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve the enclosed budget transfers.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

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

A parent and PTA President commented on the number of chaperones used by the district. She also spoke in support of the High School Library being kept open after hours. She commented that there is a log kept at the library and students must sign in after school. The library is used by a lot of students and she would like to see it remain open.

Another parent spoke in support of Glenn Edwards.

Another parent suggested the Board renegotiate transportation contracts with the bus companies.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Mrs. Rogan informed the Board that there are three Neighborhood Watches that are being organized.



Mr. Dwyer commented that the budget is a work in progress and on behalf of the Board he appreciates the input that was expressed in such a respectful manner.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOTION carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Troffa  
District Clerk