

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

**March 15, 2010**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on Monday, March 15, 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: Dwyer, Rogan, Benè, Black, Brown, McGrath, Paci; Christopher Guercio; Superintendent Finello, Mr. Grackin, Dr. Giani, Dr. Card and Mrs. Troffa.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Benè to go into Executive Session to discuss a settlement agreement.

MOTION carried.

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

At 7:52 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. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of March 1, 2010.

MOTION carried.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Bené to approve the Treasurer’s Report as of January 31, 2010.

MOTION carried.

The following reports were presented For Information Only:

- Revenue Status Report as of January 31, 2010
- Expenditure Reports as of February 28, 2010
  - a. General Fund
  - b. School Lunch
  - c. Special Aid Fund

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

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

<b>FEBRUARY WARRANTS</b>	
	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL ADVANCED WARRANT	6,601,161.69
GENERAL FUND WARRANT 2/3/10	1,163,096.60
GENERAL FUND WARRANT 2/17/10	\$1,679,989.24
SCHOOL LUNCH ADVANCED WARRANT	63,396.31
SCHOOL LUNCH WARRANT 2/3/10	8,116.13
SPECIAL AID ADVANCED WARRANT	180,791.83
SPECIAL AID WARRANT 2/3/10	30,594.29
SPECIAL AID WARRANT 2/17/10	115,286.89
WORKERS COMP WARRANT 2/5/10	14,944.61
WORKERS COMP WARRANT 2/19/10	43,924.21
T & A FEBRUARY WARRANT	6,278,321.55
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16,179,623.35</b>

MOTION carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Huntington High School Fashion Design Class – Trip to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History

Mrs. Fretz, Director of the Performing Arts, along with Art teachers Kristin Singer and Amy Worth, and some of the students who went on this historic trip made a presentation documenting their trip to the Smithsonian Institute and their meeting with the First Lady, Michelle Obama. The slide show and video was very detailed and described all aspects of the trip. Our delegation from Huntington was present at the Donation Ceremony when Mrs. Obama donated her dress to the Smithsonian Institute. The portfolio that was originally sent to Mrs. Obama by the Fashion students was made part of the First Ladies' Resource Collection. Legislator Lou D'Amato, here representing Steve Israel, presented the class with a plaque in commemoration of the trip. He also informed those present that Mr. Israel described the trip in Congress and made it part of the Congressional Record. He then read what was entered into the Congressional Record.

#### Shooting on Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. Dwyer introduced Inspector Brady of the Suffolk County Police Department who described the incident that occurred and the response that was immediately taken by the police. He offered to answer any questions the public had. Mr. Dwyer asked that the questions be held until Mr. D'Amato and Joan Cergol, who were also present, had spoken.

Lou D'Amato, County Legislator, addressed the audience in regard to this issue. He indicated that he had spoken at length with Steve Israel. He then distributed a letter from Mr. Israel detailing the steps that he was taking in order to acquire federal resources. (See attached) Mr. D'Amato offered to answer any questions. He summarized what he is doing on the county level and that he and Jonathan Cooper are working together. He gave statistics regarding the number of arrests and the confiscation of guns from the area. He also talked about the Revitalization effort briefly.

The next speaker was Joan Cergol whose presence here was to represent Town Hall. She provided information in more detail about the Revitalization that is planned for Huntington Station. These projects include new sidewalks, a community garden and an "incubator for new businesses." Mr. Dwyer asked her to cut her comments short due to time constraints and the need to discuss the safety issue.

Mr. Dwyer opened up discussion to the Board members. Mr. McGrath indicated that he had a meeting with Steve Israel and there was extensive discussion about the safety issue in this area which is not a new issue; it has been ongoing for years. Mr. McGrath brought up the problem of Section 8 Housing and that HUD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, has passed new legislation – One Strike Regulations that need to be enforced. He brought up the problem with MS 13 gang violence and that the FBI should be called into this area. Discussion among the Board members ensued each agreeing that we need to do something more because it is affecting all of us.

Mr. Finello began speaking indicating that he is greatly saddened by what is happening here. He echoed that it is our responsibility to keep the students safe. His fear is that someone is going to get shot; it is just a matter of time. He asked the Board to allow Administration to consider what options we may have, for instance to look into split sessions.

Extensive discussion followed with the Board agreeing with Mr. Finello that we need to take serious measures. Many aspects were discussed. The Board authorized district Administration to look into split sessions.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

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

A parent commented on the safety issue and the budget process and asked where the safety review report is.

A parent commented on being intimidated by a Board member and a member of his family in order to suppress his comments during the “Public Commentary” portion of the meeting at previous board meetings. He also commented on comments made by Mrs. Black at a previous meeting. Mr. Paci and Mrs. Black indicated they would respond to his comments at the second “Public Commentary” of the evening.

There were six other speakers who commented on the safety issue and expressed concern and suggestions. One of these parents also commented on the Fashion Class’ Trip to the Smithsonian and read an excerpt from an article in the Huffington Post regarding it.

Two high school students commented on the budget and how it affects their future.

Inspector Brady indicated that he would answer questions. The Inspector took one question and Mr. Dwyer indicated that Inspector Brady would take more questions in the back lobby since the Board of Education needed to continue with other business.

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

#### **AP Government Textbook Adoption**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Paci and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the following text to be used for the Advanced Placement in Government course which was approved by the EDC:

Course:	Advanced Placement in Government – Grade 12
Textbook Title:	The Challenge of Democracy
Author:	Kenneth Janda
Publisher:	Holt McDougal

MOTION carried.

#### **2010-2011 Budget Draft**

Mr. Finello indicated that a draft budget is available. The budget amount is \$107,850,242 which represents a 2.71 percent budget increase from last year which will generate an estimated tax rate

increase of 3.5 percent. Mr. Finello indicated that there is a proposal in the Governor’s budget that will shift more responsibility for payment of summer special education programs to the school districts. This will mean an additional \$600,000 would need to be put into the budget if this occurs. He then turned the discussion over to Mr. Grackin who presented a general overview of the budget and then discussed the budget reductions as indicated in Budget Draft #1 in greater detail. Mr. Grackin indicated that the cuts are very painful since they affect programs and staffing. Extensive discussion followed going into many budget lines. The Board gave direction to Administration to look into instructional substitutes, the four remaining directors and the possibility of downsizing those positions to chairperson positions, and looking at second athletic teams.

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Bené and seconded by Mr. McGrath 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	CSE Annual Reviews	CPSE Annual Reviews
27752	24615	27771	22129	27321
24827	27312	27733	24503	27649
24420	27751	27467		27364
22478	27545	27640		27365
27714	27483	27763		
23266	27746	27779		
20220	27685	27687		
24550	23128	27718		
24911	27754	27753		
27615		27384		
27289				
21985				
24127				

MOTION carried.

**PERSONNEL**

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

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

Retirements					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Award

1.1	CU	Valerie Asaro	HS	6/30/10	Not to exceed \$3,500.
Leave of Absence					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Reason
1.2	ATH	Kelly Trites	WH/Special Ed.	9/1/10-1/31/11	Child Care
1.3	ATH	Louise Sugrue	JE/Reading	4/5/10-6/30/10	Child Care
1.4	AMA	Kathryn Einhorn	HS/Special Ed.	3/12/10-4/5/10 approx.	FMLA
Return from Leave of Absence					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Reason
1.5	ATH	Marisa Damiano	JE/Elem.	3/15/10	End Child Care

**H. 2 Approve Extra Duty Assignments**

Interscholastic Athletics – Post Season			
No.	Name	Description/Season	Stipend
2.1	Ronald Wilson	Varsity Boys Track/Winter	\$2,472.85 19 days @ \$130.15
2.2	Debra Cheskes	Varsity Girls Track/Winter	\$1,561.80 12 days @ 130.15
2.3	Bradley Reminick	Varsity Girls Basketball/Winter	\$780.90 6 days @ \$130.15
2.4	Jillian Beck	Asst.Varsity Girls Basketball/Winter	\$607.56 6 days @ 101.26
2.5	Gilbert Smith	Varsity Boys Swimming/Winter	\$2,993.10 23 days @ \$130.15
Interscholastic Athletics – Spring			
No.	Name	Description/Season	Stipend
2.6	DELETE Joshua Baravarian	Asst. Varsity Girls Track/Spring	Step 1 \$3,966.00
2.7	Jennifer Fudens	Asst. Varsity Girls Track/Spring	Step 1 \$3,966.00

**H. 3 Approve Additional Work**

Kindergarten Registration					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
3.1	CU	Clara Krapf	Registration Processing	3/16/10-4/8/10	\$10.50/hr
3.2	CU	Margaret Florio	Registration Processing	3/16/10-4/8/10	\$30.00/hr
3.3	CU	Maryanne O'Mara	Registration Processing	3/16/10-4/8/10	\$10.50/hr
3.4	ATH	Lori Grant	LAB-R testing Funded by Title III Grant	3/16/10-4/8/10	\$90.00/day
3.5	ATH	Patricia Benavides	LAB-R testing Funded by Title III Grant	3/16/10-4/8/10	\$90.00/day
3.6	ATH	Vasundra Sereka	LAB-R testing Funded by Title III Grant	3/16/10-4/8/10	\$90.00/day
Huntington Teacher Center/Smart Board In-Service Lessons Funded through Teacher Center ARRA Funds					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay

3.7	ATH	Tracey McManus	Instructor	1/1/10-2/3/10	\$66.00/hr
<b>After School Program for ELA &amp; Math - FH</b>					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
3.8	ATH	Catherine Alexander	Sub-Teacher	1/6/10-4/22/10	\$48.01/hr
3.9	ATH	Liane Neumann	Sub-Teacher	1/6/10-4/22/10	\$48.01/hr
3.10	ATH	Tracey McManus	Sub-Teacher	1/6/10-4/22/10	\$48.01/hr
<b>After School Program for ELA &amp; Math - JAI</b>					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
3.11	ATH	Kathleen Thompson	Sub-Teacher	1/6/10-4/22/10	\$48.01/hr
3.12	ATH	Angela Turner	Sub-Teacher	1/6/10-4/22/10	\$48.01/hr
3.13	ATH	Meghan Jost	Sub-Teacher	1/6/10-4/22/10	\$48.01/hr
3.14	ATH	Lisa Grammatico	Sub-Teacher	1/6/10-4/22/10	\$48.01/hr
<b>Homework Help Program – JA</b> Funded through Title I Grant					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
3.15	ATH	Meghan Jost	Sub-Teacher	2009-2010	\$48.01/hr
<b>Social Studies Curriculum Mapping – Grade 4</b> Up to 3 sessions and or 6 hours each teacher					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
3.16	ATH	DELETE Dawn Ginty	Teacher	4/1/10-4/30/10	\$48.01/hr
3.17	ATH	Diane Regan	Teacher	4/1/10-4/30/10	\$48.01/hr

**H. 4 Approve Change in Assignment**

No.	Unit	Name	Effective Date	From	To
4.1	CUS	Terrish McCoy	3/16/10	10:30pm–7:00am \$53,645.00	3:00pm-11:30pm \$52,399.00

**H. 5 Approve Substitutes**

No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
5.1	ATH	Angelica Becerra	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
5.2	ATH	Lynn Fuschillo	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
5.3	ATH	Jennifer Winslow	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
5.4	AMA	Shari Harris	Aide	2009-2010	\$8.75/hr
5.5	AMA	Allison Klaverweiden	Aide	2009-2010	\$8.75/hr
5.6	AMA	Kerri Greene	Aide	2009-2010	\$8.75/hr

**H. 6 Approve CSE and CPSE Parent Member**

No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates
6.1	N/A	Jennifer Giugliano	Special Education	2009-2010
6.2	N/A	Catherine O'Connor	Special Education	2009-2010
6.3	N/A	Melinda Weissman	Special Education	2009-2010

MOTION carried.

Buildings	Units	
HS = Huntington High School	DW = District-wide	SHHA = Study Hall and Hallway Assistants
MS = Finley Middle School	CO = Central Office	B & G = Buildings & Grounds
JA = Jack Abrams Intermediate	NC = Non Contractual	FSW = Food Service Workers
WH = Woodhull Intermediate	STU = Student Worker	SEC = Security
FH = Flower Hill Primary	AMA = Aides and Monitors	NUR = Nurses
SD = Southdown Primary	DSPA = District Supervisors and Principals Assoc	CU = Clerical
JE = Jefferson Primary	HCA = Chairpersons	
WA = Washington Primary		

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Approval of Overnight Field Trip**

Greenkill Outdoor Environmental Education Center

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Bené and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the overnight field trip to Greenkill Outdoor Environmental Education Center for sixth grade students in Jack Abrams Intermediate School and Woodhull Intermediate School.

(See attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Resolution**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Bené and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the Board of Education has preferred charges pursuant to Section 3020-a of the Education Law against the employee named in the attached confidential Schedule “A”; and

WHEREAS both parties wish to resolve the matter without the need for further costly litigation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the Settlement Agreement with said employee distributed to the Board in executive session, and authorizes the Board President to execute same.

(See attached Confidential Schedule “A”)

MOTION carried.

**Acceptance of Donations**

EPSON America



A MOTION was made by Mrs. Bené and seconded by Mrs. Brown to accept a donation from EPSON America, Inc. This donation was arranged for by Tanya Williams of EPSON America, Inc. who would like to donate 4 brand new multimedia projectors for use at Jack Abrams Intermediate School. Ms. Williams works for EPSON America in the Marketing and Communications Department and has a nephew at Jack Abrams School. There is a surplus of brand new older model multimedia projectors that she would like to donate.

- 1 Powerlite 732c
- 1 Powerlite 755c
- 1 Powerlite 737c
- 1 Powerlite 750c

MOTION carried.

Gail Lodge

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Bené and seconded by Mrs. Brown to accept the donation of an armoire from a resident, Gail Lodge, to be used by the Drama Department for storage of costumes.

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Scholarship Fund**

William F. Oliva Memorial Scholarship

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Bené and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the creation of a new scholarship fund in memory of an alumnus of Huntington High School Class of 1984 to be called “The William F. Oliva Memorial Scholarship Fund.”

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

**Approval of Disposal of Equipment**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Bené and seconded by Mrs. Brown to place the equipment listed below on the Surplus Bid list to be disposed of.

Equipment	Serial No.	Quantity
Clark wet/dry vacuum	09395 09392	2
Advance Sprite wet/dry vacuum		2
Philco video cassette player	8804203	1
GE television	5a3h37261	1
IBM Typewriters		2
Trinitron D825tm	49883c9c2e78	1

Equipment	Serial No.	Quantity
Ariens Snow Blower	049827	1
Hewlett Packard Printer	3252c08930	1
Triple S Floor Machine	54220	1
Clarke Image 20”	Ug1914	1
Advance Nilfisk 20” Floor Buffer	1323128	1
Sharp	7050104X	1
Advance Floor Buffer		1
EIKI Cassette Player	94749	1

Equipment	Serial No.	Quantity
Panasonic Video Cassette Recorder	G4ta00515 D75c85658	2
Panasonic VHS Movie Camera	G7hdo1428	1
Optimum Compact Disc Changer	9a746591	1
Panasonic Video Cassette Recorder	Attc00283	1
3M500 Reader Printer	603913	1
3m Micro Film Machine	526935	1
Audiotronics Record Player	1281388	1
3m900 Reader Printer Micro Film		1
NCS Opscan 1040	1000587	1
IBM 6400		1

Equipment	Serial No.	Quantity
Sharp TV 25mt57	320601	1
Scantron Scanmark 2500	ADF01219	1
Texas Instrument Printer 880DP	Ca188071901	1
Bell & Howell Projector 3580	12106	1
Oliver Table Saw #80	82763	1
Yate American Table Router		1
Bell & Howell Projector 3580	12023	1
Baldwin Piano	12023	1
Sharp Television 25lt56	728853	1
Quasar Video Cassette Recorder	51781748	1
Colex cpbw26	26bwp60901	1
3M 1865 Overhead Projector Model 1800 AJL		1

MOTION carried.

**Budget Transfers**

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Bené and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the attached 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 member commented on the shooting incident. She commented that she felt Joan Cergol was not spoken to in a nice manner. She commented about private school parents and the budget that she felt they would not vote the budget down. She also commented on Pasta Night at Jack Abrams Intermediate School.

A resident commented on the Avalon Bay project that the rezoning is being misrepresented and he asked the Board of Education to withdraw their support for the project. He also commented on the safety issue.

Another parent asked for a salary freeze or cut from Administration and union leaders should follow in order to preserve more jobs.

A mother of two students in the district was against a split session.

Another parent thanked the Board for working so hard and bringing in the speakers who were in attendance this evening. She said we should be writing to our elected officials. She opposes a split day because it would impact working families.

A parent commented on the budget and that employees are overpaid.

Another parent of two students is against the split session as it would be a burden on working families.

Another parent indicated that he spoke with Inspector Brady in the back lobby and the Inspector said he would have two policemen on duty at arrival and dismissal times at Jack Abrams Intermediate School starting tomorrow. He also commented on transportation and his idea of giving vouchers to parents who would opt out of using district provided buses.

Another parent suggested we look into finding an empty building to convert for our use.

### **CLOSING REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Dwyer invited David Casamento, Director of Science and Technology, up to make an announcement. Mr. Casamento announced that one of our students was one of six first place winners at the New York Science and Engineering Fair held at the New York Hall of Science.

Mr. Dwyer indicated that he would be absent from the meeting of March 22, 2010 and Mrs. Rogan, the Vice-President, would assume his duties.

Mrs. Black indicated that children who attend private schools receive transportation and textbooks from the district which cannot be cut.

Mr. Paci indicated he would not respond to what was said earlier other than to say that he exposes facts and that the accusations made were 100 percent false. He indicated he would continue to “drive the facts home.”

Mrs. Black responded to what was said earlier by reiterating what she said at the Board meeting of March 1, 2010. She was at that time responding to an article in the *Times of Huntington* newspaper. A copy of her response was given to the District Clerk and is part of the Minutes of March 1, 2010.

Mrs. Bené attended the Book Signing at Huntington High School on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Some Music students performed at the event. They conducted themselves so beautifully and played so well. Mrs. Bené was very proud and asked Mrs. Fretz to go back and tell the students.

Mrs. Brown attended the Senior Pops Concert and Huntington High School Concert on March 7, 2010 and Pasta Night at Woodhull. Both events were wonderful. She also expressed that she is brokenhearted about the discussion that took place tonight in regard to Jack Abrams Intermediate School.

Mr. McGrath attended the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Sunday, March 14, 2010 and the band performed really well despite the bad weather.

Mrs. Rogan is following the federal government and paying attention to No Child Left Behind Legislation. She believes that changes in that legislation may be coming which will help school

districts. She also commented on the discussion about Jack Abrams Intermediate School and that a split session may not be ideal but it would be temporary until there is change in this area.

Mrs. Bené encouraged the public to e-mail our Town of Huntington representatives and to attend Town Board Meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOTION carried.

At 11:25 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Troffa  
District Clerk