

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

April 12, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Huntington Union Free School District was held on Monday, April 12, 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; Gregory Guercio; Superintendent Finello, Mr. Grackin, Dr. Giani, Dr. Card and Mrs. Troffa. Mr. Guercio left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Bené to go into Executive Session to discuss Board of Education policy and contract discussions.

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 Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of March 22, 2010.

MOTION carried.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Bené and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2010.

MOTION carried.

The following reports were presented For Information Only:

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

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

March Warrants	
GENERAL ADVANCED WARRANT	8,375,784.76
GENERAL FUND WARRANT 3/3/10	1,145,039.73
GENERAL FUND WARRANT 3/17/10	1,958,468.73
GENERAL FUND WARRANT 3/31/10	909,786.65
SCHOOL LUNCH ADVANCED WARRANT	95,136.96
SCHOOL LUNCH WARRANT 3/3/10	76,710.12
SCHOOL LUNCH WARRANT 3/17/10	46,599.48
SCHOOL LUNCH WARRANT 3/31/10	220.76
SPECIAL AID ADVANCED WARRANT	237,667.58
SPECIAL AID WARRANT 3/3/10	52,579.81
SPECIAL AID WARRANT 3/17/10	21,735.87
SPECIAL AID WARRANT 3/31/10	28,007.91
WORKERS COMP WARRANT 3/5/10	42,241.95
WORKERS COMP WARRANT 3/19/10	19,944.22
CAPITAL PROJECTS 3/3/10	24,529.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS 3/31/10	6,982.30
NEW RENOVATIONS 3/3/10	14,418.82
NEW RENOVATIONS 3/17/10	7,372.76
NEW RENOVATIONS 3/31/10	10,537.50
T & A MARCH WARRANT	8,254,342.11
TOTALS	21,328,107.02

MOTION carried.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Dwyer thanked Mrs. Rogan for running the meeting of March 22, 2010 in his absence.

Camp Greenkill 6th Grade Environmental Trip

Dr. Card reported that the trip to Camp Greenkill by the sixth graders from Jack Abrams and Woodhull Intermediate Schools this year was again a great success. He indicated the importance of the trip to the students as it enhances their knowledge of environmental sciences. Dr. Card shared a few of the student reflections about the trip. He thanked the staff and support staff, the parents, the Board of Education for their continued support of the program and the Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education for financial contributions that made the trip possible for many of the students. He also reported on the different activities related to science that the children who did not go on the trip to Greenkill participated in.

National History Day

Dr. Card reported on the National History Day Competition last month. He indicated our students took several prizes and recognized their accomplishments. He listed the students who won awards. He congratulated the students and teacher advisor and thanked Mr. Leavy for guidance and leadership in this worthwhile program.

Pride Awards

Mrs. Black attended the Pride Award Ceremony. The awards were presented by the Science Department to well deserving students.

Statement

Mrs. Black read a statement concerning public commentary and remarks directed to board members. (See attached).

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

At the portion of the meeting set aside for public commentary there were fifteen speakers who commented on various aspects of the ongoing discussion about the issues related to Jack Abrams Intermediate School. Different opinions were expressed. One parent outlined three options to be considered using our existing buildings.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Update: Meeting at Town Hall

Mr. Dwyer changed the order of the *Items for Discussion* in order to respond to a comment during the *Public Commentary* portion of the meeting. Mr. Dwyer began with the Meeting at Town Hall. The Town updated various items such as clearing the woods on Academy Place, code enforcement, additional officers, housing complaints, converting Tilden Brakes building. Mr. McGrath discussed Section 8 Housing and the Town’s response and indicated that they tried to make Mr. Petrone understand that it is different this time. There was discussion about the swap with Town Hall. Mr. Dwyer read a letter in response to the request of the Board of Education to the Town Board asking them to consider the idea of relocating Town Hall to the Jack Abrams Intermediate School, thus allowing the Huntington School District to relocate Jack Abrams Intermediate School to 100 Main Street. This letter was from Frank Petrone, Mark Cuthbertson and Susan Berland addressed to Mr. Dwyer and members of the Board of Education. (See attached).

Mrs. Brown reported on a meeting she attended on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at the Huntington Station Enrichment Center with the Economic Development Corporation (EDC). She updated those present on the Tilden Brake building and the plans and timeline the Town of Huntington has for that.

Architect’s Proposal

Mr. Grackin updated the Board of Education on the Architect’s Proposal in regard to the swap with Town Hall. He indicated that our Architect, Roger Smith of Burton Behrendt Smith, could do a preliminary assessment of the space at Town Hall for \$1,500 and a complete study after that for an additional \$7,000 if so directed by the Board. Mr. Paci had a question about square footage. Discussion followed.

A MOTION was made by Mr. McGrath and seconded by Mrs. Black to authorize an expenditure of \$1,500 for our architects, Burton Behrendt Smith, to begin an analysis of Town Hall.

AYES:	5	Mrs. Bené Mrs. Black Mr. Dwyer Mr. McGrath Mr. Paci
NOES:	2	Mrs. Brown Mrs. Rogan
ABSTAIN:	0	

MOTION carried.

Meeting with Steve Levy

Mrs. Brown reported that there was a meeting on April 5, 2010 at 8 p.m. in Brentwood with Steve Levy. In attendance from the Board of Education were Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Bené, Mrs. Rogan, Mr. Dwyer, and Mr. Finello. Mrs. Brown indicated that they discussed the violence in

this area and the possible swap with Town Hall and indicated the steps being taken to combat the problem, i.e., FBI, more police patrols at night, enhanced narcotic enforcement canine patrols, DWI enforcement, video surveillance, liaison with religious leaders, bringing in bilingual police.

Steve Israel and New York State Director of the FBI

Mr. Dwyer reported on a meeting with Steve Israel and New York State Director of the FBI on April 9, 2010. It was a meeting of trustees and Superintendents from Long Island. In attendance were Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Black, and Mr. Finello. Mrs. Black reported on what was discussed at the meeting. There was emphasis on the “greening” of schools. Mrs. Black asked about revitalization of Huntington Station, but did not get a direct answer. There was discussion about money that was given to the Town of Huntington and where it went. Discussion followed. Other topics discussed included Project Persistence and NCLB legislation.

Cedar Road Elementary School Walk Through

Mr. Grackin discussed the tour of Cedar Road School in the Commack School District that is being considered as an option for students in Jack Abrams Intermediate School. Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Finello, Mr. Grackin and Mr. Rispoli toured the facility and had preliminary discussions with the Superintendent, Business Official and Facilities Director in the Commack School District. Mr. Grackin discussed that there would be significant start up costs and legal issues that would have to be resolved. Discussion followed. Mr. Guercio discussed the legal aspects including the need for voter approval and the time frame that would be needed to accomplish that.

Good News Church Request for Lease Agreement

Mr. Dwyer reported on the ongoing discussions in regard to a rental or lease agreement and indicated the district would pursue it until it is no longer a viable solution.

Student Transfer Request Policy/2010-2011 Attendance Zones

Mr. Guercio discussed the legality of changing attendance zones and open enrollment. There would be more students wanting to move into a building than space to accommodate them. He discussed the possibility of a lottery and the problems this would create. He then discussed Student Transfers and the circumstances in which students are allowed to transfer. He indicated that Policy 7133 is extremely narrow. He indicated the district has no other policy that might address any other circumstance. Mr. Dwyer asked for a MOTION to discuss creating a new policy in regard to Transfer of Students. No MOTION was made. Mr. Guercio left at 9:30 p.m.

Mrs. Rogan began a discussion about suggestions that were spoken about by a parent at *Public Commentary*. Extensive discussion followed regarding different configurations of the existing school buildings.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to request that Administration investigate the proposals listed below:

Option 1: Grades K-2 at Woodhull
Grades 3-5 at the primary schools
6th Grade Center at Jack Abrams

Option 2: Grades K-3 at the primary schools
Grades 4-5 at Woodhull
6th Grade Center at Jack Abrams

AYES: 4 Mrs. Bené
Mrs. Brown
Mr. Dwyer
Mrs. Rogan

NOES: 3 Mrs. Black
Mr. McGrath
Mr. Paci

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION carried.

There was an outburst from a member of the audience. Mr. Dwyer asked for order. The person angrily left the auditorium.

There was discussion about transportation and the rental of portable classrooms.

Grade 6 Math Textbook Adoption

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Black and seconded by Mrs. Rogan to approve the following textbook for use by the Grade 6 Math program:

Course/Program: Grade 6 Math
Textbook Title: Math Connects: Concepts, Skills, and Problem Solving (2009)
Publisher: Glencoe McGraw-Hill
Cost: \$24,188

MOTION carried.

2010-2011 School Budget

Mr. Grackin discussed different aspects of the budget focusing on health insurance. Discussion followed. Dr. Giani discussed the guidance position at the high school. There was discussion about the Assistant Principal and dean positions at the high school. Mrs. McCarthy, Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics, discussed alternatives to cuts in inter-scholastic sports.

Discussion followed. The Board requested Administration to modify Budget Draft #2 and present a new draft for the meeting of April 19, 2010.

April 19th Board Meeting

Mr. Dwyer suggested that the April 19, 2010 Board Meeting be held at Huntington High School since in attendance will be the Town of Huntington Board and more space would be needed to accommodate the public.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Dwyer and seconded by Mrs. Bené to move the Board Meeting of April 19, 2010 to Huntington High School.

MOTION carried.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Brown 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
23906	20648		27696
23574	25140		27452
23988	23057		27778
27432	27255		27772
24272	21365		27777
27711	24533		27405
23674	24626		27625
24717	27715		
24939	27745		
22526	24878		
27655	25165		
23322	22133		
23891	27759		
27400	27775		

CSE Annual Reviews					CPSE Annual Reviews		
25084	24943	27522	25136		27642	27667	27673
28446	24922	24513	24348		27717	27536	27478
27451	24613	24890	23438		27359	25554	27638
27501	24837	27433	23948		27596	27441	27184
25157	25159	25056	24581		27552	27628	27489

25080	25134	24726	27242	
24801	27526	25010	24846	
25175	24828	27403	27208	
27524	27352	25176	25163	
27238	27460	24531	22371	
27395	27581	24766	24619	
27188	25014	24515	23198	
25046	24482	27367	23322	
24584	27556	27535	22825	
27689	24995	27604	20648	
27436	24635			
27484	27280			
25126				
24582				
25127				

MOTION carried.

PERSONNEL

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

H. 1 Approve Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirements

Resignation					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Reason
1.1	AMA	Janet Olsoe	WA	6/30/10	Re-locating
Leave of Absence					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Reason
1.2	ATH	Carrie Postel	JAI/Phys. Ed.	4/29/10-6/30/10	Child Care
1.3	ATH	Yafit Lucas	FH/Speech	9/1/10-1/31/11	Child Care
Retirement					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Award
1.4	CU	Joan Sheedy	CO/Purchasing	Close of Business 7/2/10	Not to exceed \$3,500.00
1.5	NUR	Maryann O'Neill	St. Patricks	6/30/10	N/A
1.6	SHHA	Laurel Kane	HS	6/30/10	N/A
Return from Leave of Absence					
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Reason
1.7	AMA	Kathryn Einhorn	HS/Sp. Ed.	4/5/10	End of FMLA

H. 2 Approve Non-Instructional New Hires

Part-time

No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Date	Salary	Replacing
2.1	AMA	Ines Grabe	JE/3 hr. monitor	4/19/10	\$11.90/hr	Olga Yearby
2.2	NC	Elizabeth Caserta	Piano Accompanist	2009-2010	\$24.00/hr	N/A
2.3	NC	Esther Marks	Piano Accompanist	2009-2010	\$24.00/hr	N/A

H. 3 Approve Extra Duty Assignments

Interscholastic Athletics - Coaching			
No.	Name	Description/Season	Step/Stipend
3.1	DELETE Eric Mininni	MS Coach Boys Tennis/Spring	Step 4 \$4,400.00
3.2	Stephen Fitts	MS Coach Boys Tennis/Spring	Step 1 \$3,467.00

H. 4 Approve Additional Work

AP and Regents Review – Not to exceed 150 hours					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.1	ATH	TBD	Review Sessions	2009-2010	\$48.01/hr
Math Workshops for Presentation to Parents – Up to 2 hours each Funded through Title IIA Grant					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.2	ATH	Tracey McManus	Teacher	2009-2010	\$48.01/hr
4.3	ATH	Veronica Quinlan	Teacher	2009-2010	\$48.01/hr
4.4	ATH	Claudia Mingin	Teacher	2009-2010	\$48.01/hr
MS Saturday Support Program Funded through NYSED Bilingual Grant					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.5	ATH	Caterina Cain	Counselor	2009-2010	Up to 10 hrs. \$48.01/hr.
Professional Development					
No.	Unit	Name	Description	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
4.6	DSPA	Vicki Mingin	Instructor	2/4/10-3/28/10	Up to 6 hrs. \$75.00/hr

H. 5 Approve Long-Term Substitutes

Full-time						
No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Salary	Replacing
5.1	ATH	Kerry Anderson	MS/Reading	4/5/10 approx. to TBD	1-20 days/\$90. 21-30 days/\$105. 31+days/\$271.60 Sch. IV Step 1 \$54,320.00	Carly Cerulli
5.2	ATH	Karen Melara	JE/Dual Language	5/3/10 approx. to TBD	1-20 days/\$90. 21-30 days/\$105. 31+days/\$295.90 Sch. VI Step 1 \$59,180.00	Wendy Gallo
5.3	ATH	Angela Meringola	JAI/Phys.Ed.	4/5/10 approx.	1-20 days/\$90. 21-30 days/\$105.	Carrie Postel

				to TBD	31+days/\$236.73 Sch. I Step 1 \$47,345.00	
5.4	ATH	Stephanie Bragman	HS/Soc. Studies	4/5/10-6/25/10	Sch. I Step 1 \$47,345.00 \$236.73/per diem	William Byrne
5.5	ATH	Jennifer Gulino	WH/Reading	4/12/10-6/25/10	1-20 days/\$90. 21-30 days/\$105. 31+days/\$270.80 Sch. IV Step 1.5 \$54,160.00	Mary Bly

H. 6 Approve Stipend Changes

New Teacher Mentoring Program Funded through Title IIA Grant				
No.	Name	Description	From	To
6.1	Heather Barfus	Mentor	\$750.00	\$375.00
6.2	Suzanne Giuliani	Mentor	\$750.00	\$375.00
6.3	Heather Weinstein	Mentor	\$750.00	\$375.00

H. 7 Approve Changes / Adjustments to Probationary Period

No.	Unit	Name	Certification	From	To	Reason
7.1	ATH	Robert Gruebel	Elementary	9/1/10	6/24/10	Due to excess 6/30/10
7.2	ATH	Casey Horowitz	Guidance	9/1/10	6/24/10	Due to excess 6/30/10

H. 8 Approve Substitutes

No.	Unit	Name	Assignment	Effective Dates	Rate of Pay
8.1	ATH	Kimberly Belkin	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
8.2	ATH	Lauren Curley	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
8.3	ATH	Betzabe Levine	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
8.4	ATH	Manyellen Rothberg	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
8.5	ATH	James Van Eron	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day
8.6	FSW	Adrian Jarvis	Food Service	2009-2010	\$8.75/hr
8.7	CU	Sharri Harris	Clerical	2009-2010	\$10.50/hr
8.8	CU	Peggie Primm	Clerical	2009-2010	\$10.50/hr
8.9	AMA	Debra Smith	Aide	2009-2010	\$8.75/hr
8.10	ATH	Catherine Alexander	Teacher	2009-2010	\$90./day

MOTION carried.

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

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BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of Contracts

Plainview Old Bethpage Central School District

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the contract for the 2009-2010 school year.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Harborfields Central School District

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the contract for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

CBIZ Valuation Group, LLC

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the contract for the 2009-2010 school year.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Town of Huntington Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the contract for the period April 8, 2010 through June 25, 2010 for the purpose of an Educational Internship Program.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Madison Square Garden Varsity Network, LLC

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the contract for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Approval of Change Order

World Wide Security

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve a deduct Change Order in the amount of \$1,265 for the Fire Alarm Installation Project at Southdown Primary School.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Approval of Bid Award

Bar Boy Products, Inc.

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Black to award the Commercial Dishwashers Bid to Bar Boy Products, Inc. in the amount of \$16,917.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Acceptance of Donation

Linda Shoemaker

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Black to accept a donation from Ms. Shoemaker, former Huntington High School Band Director.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Approval of Facilities Use Request

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the following organization as a User of our Facilities:

Huntington Blue Devils/Hurricane Lacrosse

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Disposal of Equipment

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve placing the equipment listed below on the Surplus Bid List to be disposed of:

Equipment	Serial No.	Quantity
Bessler VuLyte II Projectors	62381 52380	2

MOTION carried.

Disposal of Textbooks

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve placing the textbooks listed on the attached list on the Surplus Bid List to be disposed of:

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

Budget Transfers

A MOTION was made by Mrs. Rogan and seconded by Mrs. Black to approve the attached budget transfers.

(See Attached)

MOTION carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

At the portion of the meeting set aside for public commentary comments included budget planning and the amount of time spent on items other than the budget, transportation mileage markers, healthcare costs for employees and a pay cut or freeze for employees, a comment about money spent on architects' fee, and a comment about safety for students.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION carried.

At 11:08 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Troffa
District Clerk

Elizabeth Black - Trustee – Statement – Public Session - 4/12 /10

It was around this time of year, 7 years ago that I, along with my husband, sat in the audience to observe and take notes at the School Board meeting in preparation for my campaign run for a Trustee position. A gentleman approached the podium and started to verbally attack a board member. I looked at the other board members and the Superintendent and they all remained silent as each lowered his or her eyes. I made a promise at that time that if I were elected, I would support any teacher, administrator or board member from having to endure such a vocal assault.

We all gather here, as community members, to discuss issues related to our children and their safety and education. I have always believed that reasonable minds can disagree. As I voiced in a recent statement that I handed to the District Clerk, “Cool and reasonable minds must prevail” as we pursue different solutions to the pressing problems that we face. It was my hope that everyone would strive to be responsible in thoughts, words and actions. My statement given to the District Clerk was in response to specific statements printed in the *Times of Huntington* article of February 11th.

I was, however, disappointed to witness that during the public commentary of the March 15th school board meeting, the same individual who made the statements to the newspaper, approached the podium and first verbally attacked Mr. Paci and his family, and then, started to verbally attack me. It was just like that night so many years ago. This podium and microphone is not a platform to spew venom and make hurtful comments. This podium and microphone is a platform for community members to approach and share thoughts, ask questions and make comments. Fortunately and for the most part, that has been my experience for the last 7 years. The school community is a respectful, thought-provoking group, who do care about the safety and education of all the children in our district.

These are difficult times for our families, our schools and our community. We need to be persistent in our quest to move forward and make our environment better for all who live in our District. This comes with the realization that, yes, reasonable people can disagree but also they can gather together to create reasonable, acceptable solutions that are in the better interests of all, especially our children.