

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEVITTOWN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEVITTOWN, NY**

DATE: December 12, 2012

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, was duly called and held on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 in the Board Meeting Room of the Levittown Memorial Education Center.

CERTIFICATION:

The District Clerk certified that pursuant to Section 104, Open Meetings Law, notice of meeting was sent to the local newspapers, the Public Library and posted on the district's website. Further, all members of the Board of Education had due notice of said meeting.

PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Peggy Marengi
Mr. James Moran
Mr. Michael Pappas – President (excused absence)
Mr. Peter Porrazzo – Vice President
Mr. Edward Powers
Mr. Kevin Regan - Secretary
Mr. Frank Ward

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. James Grossane – Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Darlene Rhatigan – Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Debbie Rifkin – Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Mark Flower - Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS

Mr. Robert H. Cohen– School Attorney
Ms. Elizabeth Appelbaum – District Clerk
Mr. James Reilly – Division Avenue High School Student Liaison

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Mr. Porrazzo, acting chairman, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:15 PM. On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Regan and approved (6-0) that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss items on the Executive Session Agenda relating to schedules.
- C. The Board reconvened in Public Session at 7:30 PM at which time Mr. Porrazzo asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(none)

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III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Moran moved to “Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of November 14, 2012 (Regular Meeting) and November 28, 2012 (Special Meeting).”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Seconded: Mr. Ward

**MOTION CARRIED. Five members present voting yes.
One member abstaining.** (Mr. Regan)

APPROVED 5-0-1.

IV. REPORTS

A. Recognition:

1. Music Presentation
(6:45 PM MacArthur Wind Ensemble Performance)

The students of the MacArthur Winter Wind Ensemble Orchestra presented a program of holiday music in the lobby prior to the start of the Board meeting. Dr. Grossane thanked the students for a lovely performance and noted it was a special treat to hear.

2. Lifesaving Efforts – Kathleen Auer, Wisdom Lane Middle School

Ms. Rhatigan asked the Board to come forward to congratulate Ms. Auer on her heroic deed. Ms. Auer helped a student in distress by performing the Heimlich maneuver. Ms. Rhatigan reported Ms. Auer’s actions in a crisis situation saved a life.

3. Art Display – Jonas Salk Middle School

Dr. Grossane noted the outstanding art display from Salk Middle School.

B. Superintendent:

1. Follow-up to Public Be Heard Questions
(none)

2. Follow-up to Board Questions

Dr. Grossane noted there was questions from the last meeting regarding the Senior Citizens Prom. After investigating, he found that students are very involved in the prom. They prepare the food, help serve and decorate the gym. A request was made for the Jazz Bands to perform at the prom. Dr. Grossane spoke with the band Directors and although they would be happy to play, they only perform jazz music not the standards the seniors prefer. He stated that this year, the coordination of the prom will be done by the Key Club. Dr. Grossane recommended that the Board approve using the band that played previously. He remarked that next year some combination of school band and DJ can be discussed.

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IV. REPORTS (continued)

3. Reports: Curriculum Associates- Update

Dr. Grossane reported that the Board had requested an update on the new administrative structure using Curriculum Associates for the academic areas. The Curriculum Associates were present and he asked Ms. Rifkin to introduce them. She noted that the Associates are very busy supervising the staffs of four secondary schools and overseeing the elementary curriculum in their content area. She reported that they are responsible for all of the observations, part of the training, budget, working with BOCES, looking at test data, reviewing curriculum and arranging professional development with their departments. Ms. Rifkin asked each Curriculum Associates to give a brief summary of their departments and what they were working on. The Curriculum Associates who spoke were:

Jim Morris	Math
Michele Ortiz	World Language and English as a Second Language
Bill Zimmer	English, Language Arts
Kevin McDermott	Science
Steve Costello	Social Studies
Frank Creeder	Art, Technology and Family Consumer Science

Ms. Marengi asked if we were using the Putnam County on-line Curriculum for Social Studies throughout K through 6. Ms. Rifkin remarked that the schools have been given access to it and it is a resource but it has not been implemented yet because there was too much on their plate already. It will be implemented next year. Dr. Grossane stated it is an excellent program and a tremendous resource.

Mr. Ward remarked he was happy about all the excitement he is hearing regarding the new structure but he would like to see more interaction with the elementary schools. He noted that the children in elementary schools will eventually be the middle and high school students. Dr. Grossane mentioned that at the elementary level that are many programs being offered such as Envision Math and piloting an English Language Arts program.

C. Board of Education:

1. Comments & Reports - R. S. Abrams – Audit Report

Mr. Flower reported that each year the district is required to be audited by an External Auditor. He noted that our auditing firm is R.S. Abrams who comes in and does an annual review of our financial statement. Mr. Flower introduced Ms. VanDuyne, a partner at R.S. Abrams, who presented her findings of the audit report. She noted that three separate audits were done. In addition, a Management Letter was provided where recommendations are given on controls. Ms. VanDuyne reported that no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies were found in the controls but recommendations were given on additional controls to implement. Ms. VanDuyne gave a brief summary of each audit. The Extra Classroom Audit, which reviews all clubs to make sure that all laws and SED regulations are

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IV. REPORTS (Continued)

1. Comments & Reports - R. S. Abrams – Audit Report (continued)

being followed, found nothing significant but some recommendations were made. The second audit done was the Single Audit which reviews federal grants that are over \$500,000. There were no issues found and everything was in compliance with all regulations. The third audit, the Financial Statement Audit, reviews the financials the district provides. Ms. VanDyne stated that our balance sheet is very strong and our plans show we are preparing the district for the future. She commented that we are in a financially strong position but the auditors always make recommendations on things to bring to our attention which can be found in the management letter.

Ms. VanDyne thanked Mr. Flower and the business office for being pro-active this year with the Management Letter and prior recommendations which were implemented on a timely basis. She recognized that the district takes the audit seriously and appreciated the great job the business office did working with the audit team.

Mr. Porrazzo commented that five years ago, our financial statement audit comments were not good. He noted we have made tremendous progress and are moving in the right direction.

2. Correspondence
(none)

3. Student Liaisons to the Board of Education

Mr. Reilly reported there were no major events this month at Division Avenue but some smaller happenings were the "No Shave November fundraiser", Board Game Day, and the Senior Class Emmy Night.

Mr. Porrazzo remarked that the Girls Varsity Soccer Teams from both schools were scholar athlete teams which means the team's average grade score is 93 and above. He remarked this is a tremendous accomplishment. Additionally, two girls on the team were All County and two were All Class. Mr. Porrazzo suggested inviting them to the next Board meeting to honor their success.

Dr. Grossane noted that Jennifer Newins, the MacArthur Student Liaison, could not attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict with a Peer Leaders event.

V. PUBLIC BE HEARD
(Attached)

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VI. ACTION ITEMS: OLD BUSINESS

1. **MOTION:** Mr. Regan moved, "WHEREAS, the District is in receipt of a disclosure statement from employee, Ron Bracco, that he is the President of the Ron James Orchestra; and

RESOLUTION # 12-13-112
Ron James Orchestra

WHEREAS, the Levittown Board of Education has determined that Mr. Bracco's relationship with the aforesaid orchestra does not represent a conflict of interest;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, agree to hire the Ron James Orchestra to perform for the Levittown School District Senior Citizens' Prom on May 10, 2013, at an amount not to exceed \$2,900."

Seconded: Mr. Moran

**MOTION CARRIED. Five members present voting yes.
One member abstaining. (Mr. Ward)**

APPROVED 5-0-1.

VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

2. **MOTION:** Mr. Powers moved, "WHEREAS, all claims, warrants and charges against the School District have been reviewed by the Claims Auditor and have been certified by the Claims Auditor for payment,

RESOLUTION # 12-13-113
Warrants

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the October and November 2012 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

Seconded: Mr. Ward

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

3. **MOTION:** Mr. Powers moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached Claims Auditor Report prepared by Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Company, P.C., for the months ending September 30, 2012 and October 31, 2012."

RESOLUTION #12-13-114
Claims Auditor Reports

Seconded: Mr. Ward

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

4. **MOTION:** Mr. Powers moved, "WHEREAS, in compliance with New York State Government Accounting practices, the attached budget transfer has been prepared and is recommended by the Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance,

RESOLUTION #12-13-115
Budget Transfers

<u>Code (from)</u>	<u>Code (to)</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A22504005	A22504000	\$ 100,000
(Interpreter Services/Special Education Related Services)		

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached budget transfer."

Seconded: Mr. Ward

NOTE: Ms. Marengi asked if the interpreter services were for new students. Mr. Flower replied that these students were serviced at BOCES and that now they came back into district and we are responsible.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

5. **MOTION:** Mr. Powers moved, "RESOLVED, that the response to the external auditor's management letter for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 be accepted by the Levittown Board of Education; and

RESOLUTION #12-13-116
Annual Audit Report -
Management Letter and
Corrective Action Plan

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance is authorized to submit the management letter and corrective action plan to the New York State Comptroller's Office, pursuant to the Five Point Fiscal Accountability Plan."

Seconded: Mr. Moran

NOTE: Mr. Powers commended Mr. Flower on a job well done.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

6. **MOTION:** Mr. Moran moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does hereby, accept with thanks, the following gift:

RESOLUTION # 12-13-117
Gift to School

- a) two (2) college scholarships, each in the amount of \$500 – one for a student at Division Avenue High School and one for a student at MacArthur High School, given by Tropical Smoothie Café, 3519B Hempstead Turnpike, Levittown, NY 11756."

Seconded: Mr. Regan

NOTE: Mr. Porrazzo thanked the Cafe for their donation.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

7. **MOTION:** Mr. Ward moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does hereby, adopt the following new policy: RESOLUTION # 12-13-118
Approval of New Policy

Policy #5511 – Online Banking and Wire Transfers."

Seconded: Mr. Powers

NOTE: Mr. Powers asked when the banks mentioned in the policy are designated and where the list is maintained. Mr. Porrazzo reported the banks are designated at the Reorganizational Meeting and the list is kept in the business office and recorded in the minutes. Mr. Powers suggested that the policy state where the list of designated banks can be found.

AMEND TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: *The current list of District bank accounts as designated annually at the Reorganizational Meeting shall be kept on file in the Business Office.*

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED AS AMENDED 6-0.

8. **MOTION:** Mr. Moran moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education, does, hereby, declare the items on the following lists obsolete and that they may be discarded and/or donated as possible or sold at the highest possible salvage value." RESOLUTION # 12-13-119
Obsolete Equipment

<u>School/Building</u>	<u>Number of Items</u>	<u>Date</u>
Division Avenue (athletic equipment)	14	November 5, 2012
Division Avenue (office furniture)	4	November 5, 2012
LMEC (computer equipment)	26	November 9, 2012
MacArthur (oven)	1	November 15, 2012

Seconded: Ms. Marengi

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

9. **MOTION:** Mr. Moran moved, "WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Levittown Union Free School District desires to embark upon a capital project for refurbishment of the cafeteria, classroom and office space at General Douglas MacArthur High School (the "Project"); and RESOLUTION #12-13-120
SEQRA – MacArthur Cafeteria,
Classroom and Office Space

WHEREAS, said Project is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"); and

WHEREAS, the replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of an existing structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, is classified as a Type II Action under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulations (section 6 N.Y.C.R.R. 617.5(c)(2)); and

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9. SEQRA – MacArthur Cafeteria, Classroom and Office Space - Continued

WHEREAS, the SEQRA Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the Projects and has determined, based upon the recommendation from its Architect/Engineer Lucchesi Engineering P.C., in connection with its review and examination of the Project, that the Project is properly classified as a Type II Action pursuant to SEQRA Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself as the lead agency in connection with the requirements of SEQRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the Project is a Type II Action, which requires no further review under SEQRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the proposed expenditure for the Project at a total estimated cost of Two Million, Six Hundred Nineteen Thousand, and Two Hundred Eighty-five (\$2,619,285) Dollars, inclusive of all construction costs, furnishings and architectural fees pursuant to the attached Preliminary Construction Cost Estimate, and authorizes Lucchesi Engineering, P.C. to submit its plans and specifications for the Project to the Facilities Planning Department of the New York State Education Department for review and approval; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the transmission of an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department in connection with the District's application for approval of the Project."

Seconded: Mr. Regan

NOTE: Dr. Grossane explained this resolution was for clarification purposes. He stated that the renovation project was discussed at a Planning Session Meeting with the architects. He noted they presented a plan which included the MacArthur cafeteria, classroom and office space, a parking area and work to the MacArthur track. Dr. Grossane mentioned that the Board had concerns that if all the projects were tied into the same application to SED, it would take a long time for approval as experienced with the Division Avenue Cafeteria. After doing research, it was determined the projects cannot be separated on the application. Therefore, the track work was pulled from the application and will be a budgetary item. Dr. Grossane reported that the track can be replaced in the summer and be ready for the fall season. Additionally, it was determined that the approval process for any project the scope of the MacArthur cafeteria, would take anywhere from 20 – 30 weeks.

Mr. Powers asked what the price quote from the architect was. Mr. Flower responded it was \$2.95 million. He noted the \$2.6 million still had the parking lot in it and between the site work and the class room flooring and ceilings was \$389,000.

Mr. Porrazzo wanted to know what was driving up the cost from what was initially anticipated. Mr. Flower replied he was investigating this further to define the difference.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

Mr. Ward had concerns about putting lockers in the cafeteria. Mr. Flower remarked that there was not enough locker space in the building for the current enrollment. Mr. Ward stressed the need to find space elsewhere for the lockers. He commented that since we would not be renovating again for a long time, we should do it the right way and not have students going to the cafeteria for their lockers. Mr. Moran mentioned that if the enrollment declines, we can eliminate those lockers. Dr. Grossane remarked that this is a design element that could be researched but this issue should not hold up the resolution from approval.

**MOTION CARRIED. Five members present voting yes.
One member abstaining. (Mr. Powers)**

APPROVED 5-0-1

12. MOTION: Mr. Powers moved, "To approve the following Schedules:

RESOLUTION# 12-13-121

	<u>Schedules</u>
Schedule 12-G-7 (Resignation/Termination – Certified Personnel)."	1001
Schedule 12-GG-7 (Resignation/Termination – Non-Instructional Personnel)."	1002
Schedule 12-H-9 (Appointments – Certified Personnel)."	1003
Schedule 12-H-9a (Appointments-Administrators)"	1004
Schedule 12-H-9g (Designation - Coaches)."	1005
Schedule 12-H-9h (Appointments, Extra-Curricular)."	1006
Schedule 12-HH-9 (Appointments – Non-Instructional Personnel)."	1007 PULL #2
Schedule 12-JJ-2 (Permanent Status)."	1008
Schedule 12-K-6 (Leave of Absence – Certified Personnel)."	1009
Schedule 12-KK-6 (Leave of Absence – Non-Instructional Personnel)."	1010
Schedule 12-O-5 (Students with Disabilities)."	1011

Seconded: Ms. Marenghi

AMEND AS FOLLOWS: Schedule 12-HH-9– **Item #2 PULLED,**

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED AS AMENDED 6-0

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS – Continued

11. Ad Hoc –

a. Policy Series #3310 – #3510 – 1st Read

Ms. Rhatigan went over the changes/additions she made to these policies. She noted on Policy #3110 – Public Access to Records, that she checked with the District Clerk regarding the electronic format for FOIL. Mr. Porrazzo asked Mr. Cohen, legal counsel, if there was a legal requirement on the response to a request. Mr. Cohen replied that a district has to acknowledge receipt of the request within five business days. He reported that you have twenty business days to deliver the information requested and if you need more time to gather the documents, you can state that in the acknowledgement letter.

On Policy #3411 – Unlawful Possession of a Weapon Upon School Grounds, Ms. Rhatigan mentioned that the policy spells out exactly what weapons are restricted. Mr. Porrazzo questioned where the information regarding the weapons was obtained. It was determined that Mr. Cohen had reviewed the policy to make sure the definitions were from the statute.

On Policy #3412 – Threats of Violence in School, Ms. Rhatigan noted that in the fifth paragraph reporting such incidents to the school hotline should be removed.

On Policy #3430 – Uniform Violent & Disruptive Incident Reporting System (VADIR), Mr. Porrazzo asked who the district's representative was for reporting incidences. Dr. Grossane noted that Ms. Rhatigan was the representative for the district but that each building has their own.

b. Policy Series #3110 – #3290 – 3rd Read

Mr. Flower explained the changes to these policies. He went over Policy #3271 – Solicitation of Charitable Donations, to make clear some confusion regarding the policy. He noted the need to clarify who could actually use buildings for different occasions. Since there was an old policy #1511, which had a better explanation for that purpose, Policy #3273 was created. This policy helps to define who can use buildings and what sales can go on in the buildings. Dr. Grossane noted that Policy #3280.1- Use of School Facilities further addresses this issue under the paragraph Proceeds, which he went on to read. He reported that this policy is supported by the State Constitution and notes that a vendor cannot make a personal profit from sales. The Board discussed this issue at length. Mr. Cohen was asked to comment. He explained that the Commissioner has made exceptions for sale of items such as the class ring, year book and scholastic books because they have an educational purpose. He remarked that in Policy #3280.1, organizations are allowed to recoup expenses just not make a profit on school grounds. Mr. Cohen commented that the law is strict and clear but not always enforced. He stressed that fundraising should be done through the PTA. Mr. Porrazzo and Mr. Ward felt that by adhering to this policy, the schools and students lose out. Dr. Grossane noted that we can't bend the law. He stressed that the PTA units can have fundraisers, raise money and donate it but not vendors. Ms. Marenghi asked for clarification on this issue. Mr. Cohen explained that at school functions, organizations can provide a service which the school district can purchase. He noted that the difference is in

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS – Continued

the use of the school facilities. Mr. Powers discussed the districts position on allowing Cultural Arts Programs to host programs for the educational benefit of the students. He commented that we should find a way to instruct the PTA units to get creative with fundraising. Mr. Regan stated that there has never been an issue with fundraising before. Dr. Grossane explained it was his job to point out the law and try to clarify it for the Board. He stated that all policies have to be reviewed by Mr. Cohen to make sure we comply with the law and Commissioner Regulations. Dr. Grossane explained that Holiday Boutiques, where the PTA purchases the products and there is not for profit, is within the law and our policy. He stated that the issue is when outside vendors use our facilities to sell their wares. This policy will be reviewed further.

Policies #3280 and 3280.1, Mr. Flower explained, are our current existing policies for Facilities Usage. He stated that past billing practices were reviewed and as the policy states, we are invoicing organizations for the use of the facilities when custodians are paid for overtime. This is usually for Saturdays and Sundays. Mr. Regan clarified that if the school building is open for a school related function then there is no charge. Mr. Porrazzo noted there was still opportunity for changes before this policy is adopted at the next reading.

c. Policy #6400 – Identification Badges

Ms. Rhatigan reviewed this policy for changes that were made. She noted that going forward the office of Administration/Personnel will be issuing the badges and tracking them. They are not just identification badges but also gives you access to the buildings. Mr. Powers asked if the badges had employee ID numbers on them. Ms. Rhatigan responded these numbers are not social security numbers and the badges would only be used as keys for the doors and copy machines. Ms. Marengi wanted to know what happens if the badges are lost. Ms. Rhatigan replied that lost badges would have to be reported and a form filled out before being reissued. Mr. Porrazzo asked if a fee would be charged and if so, it should be stated in the policy. Ms. Rhatigan stated there would be a nominal cost and agreed about putting it in the policy. Mr. Ward wanted to know if the policy should include visitors showing identification. Mr. Cohen stated if there is a problem with implementation, then it should be left out. Mr. Regan stressed that he has been involved with security for a long time. He noted badges and sign in sheets are as good as how you use them. He mentioned that if employees don't challenge visitors in the buildings, then they don't work. Mr. Porrazzo suggested we use visitor badges that expire, in that they change color in the sunlight so that visitors cannot return to the buildings once they leave. Ms. Rhatigan commented that these issues would be looked into.

d. Capital Reserves

Dr. Grossane noted that there were previous discussions on establishing a Capital Reserve Fund. He wanted to get a consensus from the board on whether to move forward and set up a Capital Reserve Fund. In order to do this you need to have a formal resolution and a public vote. Mr. Porrazzo remarked that the initial thought was to set up a Fund because we didn't know if

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we were going forward with declaring an emergency and appropriating money for the emergency projects. He commented that there is a need to set up a Capital Reserve but asked if there was a need to do it as a separate vote. Mr. Flower responded that it would be a cost saver if we waited and did it as a referendum at our annual vote. He remarked that since we were able to transfer and declare the roofing and masonry projects as emergencies and take that money out of the unappropriated fund balance, we are no longer under any pressure. Mr. Cohen stated that a negative vote on the budget at the annual vote could affect the Capital Reserve proposition on the ballot. He noted that in terms of an expense, having it all in one election saves money. Mr. Porrazzo said these were issues to think over.

e. Communication Procedures

Dr. Grossane commented that there was good, open communication between the Board and himself but it would help if he knew that everyone was aware of questions put to him. He was suggesting that when individual Board members have questions, that they direct them to him and all Board members. If they are questions of a personal nature that require only Dr. Grossane's attention, please us a phone call.

VIII. ADJOURN

MOTION: Mr. Ward moved, seconded by Mr. Regan to adjourn the public meeting at 9:20 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth Appelbaum
District Clerk

NOTE: TAPES OF THE MEETING ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE LEVITTOWN LIBRARY.

ATTACHMENTS TO BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

OF MEETING OF December 12, 2012

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V. PUBLIC BE HEARD

PLEASE NOTE: COPIES OF ATTACHMENTS SUBMITTED ARE GIVEN TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THEN KEPT WITH THE OFFICIAL MINUTES IN THE DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE.

The guidelines pertaining to Public Be Heard were read. Dr. Grossane and/or Board members will respond to questions, after the last speaker is heard.

Karen Smith 33 Meander Lane, Levittown, NY

Ms. Smith spoke about the elementary grading system which was implemented this year. She remarked that the 19 point span for a 3 is unacceptable. Ms. Smith reported that her children have always been A students and this is not allowing for that. She appealed to the Board to change the system since she feels there is no motivation to get higher grades. Additionally, she reported that since teachers are being taken out of the classroom to train for the Common Core, they are giving out more homework. Ms. Smith hoped the Board could find a way to train the teacher outside of the classroom.

RESPONSE:

In response to Ms. Smith's comments:

Dr. Grossane responded he would do some research into her concerns and call her during the week.

Ms. Rifkin remarked that the grading concern had been brought to her attention recently. She commented that it is being addressed. The Report Card Committee is meeting to discuss this issue and if a change is necessary it would be implemented for next year.

Mr. Powers who attended a PTA meeting where the Common Core Curriculum was discussed, reported the grading system was a big concern with a lot of parent feedback.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Appelbaum,
District Clerk