

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

DATE: September 11, 2013

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, was duly called and held on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 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 Marenghi –Vice President
Mr. James Moran – excused absence
Mr. Michael Pappas
Mr. Peter Porrazzo
Mr. Kevin Regan – President
Mr. Edward Powers - Secretary
Mr. Frank Ward

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. James Grossane – Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Darlene Rhatigan – Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Debbie Rifkin – Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Albert Chase – Consultant to Business Office

OTHERS

Mr. Robert H. Cohen– School Attorney
Ms. Elizabeth Appelbaum – District Clerk
Mr. Brian Zilli - MacArthur High School Student Liaison
Mr. Nicholas Fuchs – Division Avenue High School Student Liaison

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A.** Pledge of Allegiance
- B.** Mr. Regan, President, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:15 PM. On a motion by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Powers and approved (6-0) that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss items on the Executive Session Agenda relating to schedules and litigation.
- C.** The Board reconvened in Public Session at 7:35 PM at which time Mr. Regan asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in honor of our troops fighting overseas and those at home fighting the war on terrorism. Additionally, for a special remembrance for all those who perished in the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001.

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II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Grossane welcomed the two new students Liaisons to the Board.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Ward moved to “Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of August 14, 2013 (Regular Meeting) and August 28, 2013 (Special Meeting).”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Seconded: Mr. Pappas

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

IV. REPORTS

A. Recognition:

1. Art Display – East Broadway Elementary School

Dr. Grossane directed everyone’s attention to the art display within the room and outside in the hallway. He was pleased and proud of the art work which he found very interesting.

2. MacArthur High School Class of 1972

Several representatives from the Class of 1972 presented a donation of \$3,000 toward the brick walkway at MacArthur High School in commemoration of its 50th anniversary. Additionally, the representatives also donated a tank watch owned by a member of the class of 1972, who was a highway patrol officer in former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s motorcade detail. The watch was a present from the governor and could be used as the Board sees fit. The Board thanked the representatives of the class.

B. Superintendent:

1. Follow-up to Prior Public Be Heard Questions

Dr. Grossane shared that at last month’s meeting a parent raised questions regarding Assessment Tests. He reported that he had met with this parent to answer her questions. He spoke with her about the different tests given. Additionally, he reassured her that once the district receives the final list of testing dates, it would be posted on the web as a way of notifying parents. Also discussed, was where the information goes, regarding the In-Bloom aspect. Dr. Grossane explained that the district is required to send our information to the State of New York which shares it with In-Bloom. We do not give permission for that information to be released to other places but once it is given to the State we have no control over it. Dr. Grossane noted that he is gathering information to respond to other questions.

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IV. REPORTS

Another parent asked about our participation and movement in ways to further support not taking Assessment Tests. Dr. Grossane reported that he was meeting with the County Superintendents' this week and this topic would be discussed. He noted that the district is aware of the testing program and it is a continued discussion regarding what to do. Dr. Grossane reminded everyone that he is required to uphold the regulations of the Commissioner of Education of the State of New York. This entails teaching the curriculum as described by New York State, which is currently the Common Core, and when the State send assessment tests, that they are given. He commented that it is the expectation of the district that students' participate fully in the curriculum of the district, which is the curriculum of the state, and that includes state assessments. Dr. Grossane stated that he feels the Common Core Curriculum has great benefits but that the current assessment program needs revision.

Follow-up to Prior Public Be Heard Questions
(None)

2. Superintendent's Reports:

a. Opening of School

Dr. Grossane reported that the opening of school went very smoothly. He noted that he was pleased with attendance that averaged 99% throughout the district. He was happy to report that there were minimal issues regarding transportation. Dr. Grossane shared that Central Office visited all of the eleven buildings to tour with the principals. He commented that instruction was in full force from day one.

Dr. Grossane gave an update on some ongoing projects:

He remarked that the roofing project was substantially completed. All roofs have been refurbished but some fascia work on the sides should be finished by the end of the month.

Regarding the Division Avenue High School cafeteria renovation, Dr. Grossane reported that the project is near completion. He explained that we were in the final stages of getting a few last clearances for certain kitchen items. He thanked the principal, custodial staff, and business officials for the great job working with contractors to get things done. He stated that Lucchesi Engineering provided lunch for the students when we were unable to cook. Dr. Grossane commented that the students enjoyed having free lunch and eating in the gym and outside. He remarked that the cafeteria looks beautiful and there would be a formal grand opening soon.

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b. Test Results

Ms. Rifkin gave a presentation on the State Assessment Report. She remarked that this was the second viewing in our series of reports on the State Assessments. She started by reviewing the accountability designations for New York State such as Focus, Priority, Local Assistance Plans and Reward. Ms. Rifkin was proud to report that last year Summit Lane achieved the status of a Reward School and this year MacArthur High School was designated. Regarding the States new baseline, Ms. Rifkin shared that the Commissioner has made it clear that it will be very difficult to compare previous scores to this year's scores based on a new curriculum and a new assessment. She pointed out that we will be using this year's assessment as a baseline. Ms. Rifkin commented that when parents receive their score reports, they will notice a big difference in the scale scores in that, in the past students could reach 800 but this year the scale scores only go up to 450. As predicted by Commissioner King, there was a 30-40% drop in students scoring at proficiency across the State. Ms. Rifkin gave an overview, using bar and line charts, of the difference from last year's State Assessments to this year's. She compared Levittown's standing among Nassau County and our six surrounding districts. Additionally, this year we are looking at schools with similar socioeconomic status which is one of the predictors of students success. Ms. Rifkin noted that the district had 187 opt outs. She stated that it seems higher performing students opted out of taking the test which has an impact on our scores. Ms. Rifkin pointed out that we have been told that we have to look at multiple measures not just one test. She noted that we implemented Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) for grades 4, 5 and 6.

Mr. Porrizzo remarked that if the NWEA scores are Common Core aligned, how do we account for the disparity in the results of the NWEA testing vs. ELA. Ms. Rifkin responded that there are faults with the New York State testing program and this is another measure which we had more practice with. She shared that we are seeing growth from our students. Dr. Grossane clarified that the state testing program is an achievement model with cut scores made by committee and the NWEA is a growth model that is nationally normed.

One chart that Ms. Rifkin discussed was based on data provided by Mr. Powers. She explained the methodology used to create an index which compares our students to Nassau County. Mr. Powers remarked that this is the only way to compare county percentage to our percentage.

Regarding Academic Intervention Services, Ms. Rifkin reported that in the past, the district has provided these services to all students who fell in the range of level 1 or level 2. This year the cut scores are different and not consistent. She shared that the students in grade 5 and grade 7 will be in double periods of math and ELA, so that no students will fall in the cracks. She noted that we will be servicing 30 – 40 more students across the district.

Ms. Rifkin stated that she was proud of our Regents passing rates for the high schools. We are above the Nassau County passing rate in all Regents except one. She pointed out that this year's information is not available to compare ourselves with the surrounding districts. In looking at our Regents Diploma rate, we can see it has stayed stagnant for the last couple of years.

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Mr. Ward asked why the percentage was not going up. Ms. Rifkin responded that our rates are high compared to other districts and we are working towards improvement. She reported that our students are being accepted into excellent colleges.

On the Advanced Placement exams, Ms. Rifkin mentioned that the number of exams reduced by 20 but the total number of students in the district decreased by a larger amount. She noted that the enrollment decreased by 7% and the AP exams taken reduced by 3%. Mr. Porrazzo wanted to know the number of students participating in the AP program at our high schools. Ms. Rifkin noted that she would get that information for him.

Due to the Board's concerns regarding the Chemistry Regents, a separate chart was provided to look at our scores. Ms. Rifkin stressed that the Administration and Curriculum Associates have been working really hard with the Chemistry Teachers but unfortunately we did not make the progress we were hoping for. She stated that there would be discussion at the next meeting about the measures that were taken and what the plans are for this year. Mr. Pappas asked to see what plans were in effect last year that didn't work and what changes were made for this year. He remarked that the Board was not satisfied with the scores and feels that we are not moving forward. This is something he has been concerned about for quite a while. Dr. Grossane noted that at the next meeting, the Curriculum Associates would be giving a presentation content area by content area, discussing their specific plans. Ms. Marengi inquired if at that same meeting, the Board would have detailed plans from all the principals as to how they are going to move each grade level forward, in each subject. Additionally, she asked if the new Reading and Remedial Services Director would be discussing his plans for improvement. Dr. Grossane responded yes.

Ms. Rifkin commented that our major areas of focus that we will be looking at are: Middle School ELA and Math, High School Chemistry and Mastery Rates.

Mr. Porrazzo asked what additional resources would be provided for the teachers. Ms. Rifkin reported that there is Professional Development and training on enVision and ELA Programs. Mr. Ward asked what kind of Professional Development we have. Ms. Rifkin explained that we bring in consultants for training, teachers go to conferences, and workshops. Mr. Ward asked about the revamping of the middle school classes. Ms. Rifkin stated that will begin this year with the double periods. Mr. Ward was concerned about the instruction of the classes. Ms. Rifkin commented that the program is more structured, and the teachers will be working more closely with the Curriculum Associates. Mr. Ward asked for accountability of scores dropping. Ms. Rifkin responded that there is joint accountability. She noted that teachers get APPR scores, part of which 20 points are for growth scores, 60 points based on observations and 20 points for local assessments. Ms. Marengi pointed out that a lot of data was presented tonight, that showed success, especially from the high schools. She noted that adjustments were made to our programs for this year which should be helpful. Ms. Marengi reported that after careful study, she feels there is a significant difference between 6th graders that are housed in elementary schools and those that are housed in a middle schools. She shared that students receive more instruction time in the elementary schools and can therefore have process and content together. She acknowledged that our scores are not where we want them to be but she feels good changes were made for this year and we are moving in the right direction.

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IV. REPORTS Continued.

C. Board of Education:

1. Comments & Reports:

a. Building Inspection Report

Mr. Regan shared that he and several members of the Board had visited all of the school buildings prior to school opening. He commended the custodial staff for a fantastic job and thanked the principals for their welcoming greetings. A special accolade for Ms. Lorelli, who was always in good humor with considerable patience during the cafeteria construction.

Mr. Pappas reported that he attended several PTA Meetings and was happy to announced that the attendance was amazing.

2. Correspondence
(None)

3. Student Liaisons

Mr. Regan introduced the two Student Liaisons to the Board, Nicholas Fuchs from Division Avenue and Brian Zilli from MacArthur High School.

Mr. Fuchs shared that the students are busy preparing for Homecoming and working on the brick walkway. Mr. Fuchs complimented the Board on a beautiful cafeteria. He is proud to go to Division Avenue High School.

Mr. Zilli thanked the Class of 1972 for their generous donation for their walkway. He noted that auditions are underway for the school play. Mr. Zilli shared that MacArthur was recognized by New York State as a Rewards School.

V. PUBLIC BE HEARD
(Attached)

1. **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 # 13-14-74
Warrants

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the August 2013 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

Seconded: Mr. Ward

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

2. **MOTION:** Mr. Powers moved: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached End-of-Year Appropriation and Revenue Status Reports for the 2012-2013 school year."

RESOLUTION # 13-14-75
End-of-Year Appropriation
and Revenue Status Reports

Seconded: Ms. Marengi

NOTE: Mr. Pappas noted that this report has no timeframe but should be available in a timely fashion. He asked about the ST3's. Mr. Chase explained that they were in the process of being completed. He remarked that we are waiting for certain work to be done by the auditors. Mr. Chase commented that he had prepared a preliminary ST3 that now requires some changes. Mr. Pappas inquired about the Independent Audit Report. Mr. Chase stated that it was being completed by R.S. Abrams. Mr. Pappas was concerned that this report would not be approved until the next Board meeting on October 9th. Mr. Chase advised the timing is tight. Mr. Ward asked if there was a penalty for being late. Mr. Chase responded no penalty will be incurred.

MOTION: Mr. Powers moved, "To Table this item until a future date."

MOTION TO TABLE

Seconded: Ms. Marengi

MOTION CARRIED. Five members present voting yes. (One member abstaining, Mr. Pappas)

APPROVED 5-0-1.

3. **MOTION:** Mr. Porrazzo moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached Appropriation and Revenue Status Reports for the period ending July 31, 2013."

RESOLUTION # 13-14-76
Appropriation and Revenue
Status Reports

Seconded: Mr. Ward

NOTE: Mr. Porrazzo questioned the negative number in the revenue earned for the real property tax. Mr. Chase explained that is because we collect the taxes for the library which comes to us in July. This money will be taken out but has to be reflected as revenue at this time. Mr. Porrazzo also asked about the serial bonds principle. Since the available budget is negative, he wanted to know if we under budgeted the code. Mr. Chase stated he would look into this.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

4. **MOTION:** Mr. Ward moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached Claims Auditor Reports prepared by Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Company, P.C., for the months ending June 30, 2013 and July 31, 2013."

RESOLUTION # 13-14-77
Claims Audit Reports

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VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

Seconded: Mr. Porrazzo

NOTE: Mr. Porrazzo noted that the July report contains names of individual no longer with the district. Mr. Pappas remarked some of the items in the report are over 90 days, in which case the individuals were still here.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 5. MOTION:** Mr. Powers moved "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached reports and put same on file:

RESOLUTION # 13-14-78
Treasurer's Report

Summary of Treasurer's Reports for the months ending June 30, 2012 and July 31, 2012."

MOTION: Mr. Powers moved, "To Table this item until a future date."

MOTION TO TABLE

Seconded: Ms. Marengi

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

APPROVED 5-0-1.

- 6. MOTION:** Mr. Ward moved, "RESOLVED, that the pursuant to Article 156.5 of the New York State Education Law, the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the following 2013-2014 School Year Contracts for Pupil Transportation, and that the President of the Board of Education is, hereby, authorized to execute the attached contracts and insurance agreements:

RESOLUTION # 13-14-79
2013/2014 School Year
Transportation Contracts

<u>Contractor's Name</u>	<u>Date of Contract</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Educational - New	August 12, 2013	\$ 0.00
Suburban Bus -New	August 12, 2013	\$ 0.00
We Transport - New	August 12, 2013	\$ 0.00
Acme/Baumann - New	August 12, 2013	\$ 0.00
First Student Bus - New	August 12, 2013	\$20,180.00
First Student Bus - New	August 13, 2013	\$15,090.00."

Seconded: Ms. Marengi

NOTE: Mr. Ward asked what the contracts were for. Mr. Powers explained that they are for two new students.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

7. **MOTION:** Ms. Marengi moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, appoint Mr. Pappas, Mr. Ward and Mr. Moran, with Mr. Regan as alternate, as members of the Board Audit Committee." RESOLUTION # 13-14-80
Board of Education
Audit Committee

Seconded: Mr. Ward

Note: Mr. Pappas asked when the dates for Audit Committee Meetings would be set. Mr. Chase responded that he did not know how many times the Board had met in previous years, but that the Committee had to meet a minimum of twice a year. Once for the Audit Report and once for the preparation of the Audit in June. Mr. Pappas noted that twice a year to meet was fine. Mr. Porrazzo said meetings would depend on when the reports were received. Dr. Grossane suggested that dates be proposed for meetings in October to review what was discussed by Cullen and Danowski in May and then set a calendar to plan other meeting at that point. The Board was in agreement.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

8. **MOTION:** Ms. Marengi moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve Mr. Ward and Mr. Pappas of the Board of Education as members of the Levittown School District Wellness Committee for the 2013-2014 school year." RESOLUTION # 13-14-81
2013-2014 District
Wellness Committee

Seconded: Mr. Ward

NOTE: Dr. Grossane reported that there was some thought of combining the Food Service Committee with the Wellness Committee or establishing it as a sub-committee. He noted that the Wellness Committee, which is a state mandated, discusses all areas of wellness, which a large portion is nutrition. The Food Service Committee discusses food service and the quality of food in our lunch program within the district. He asked for a consensus of the Board members on this topic. Mr. Pappas asked to recognize Ms. Genco, a Food Service Committee member, for a Point of Information. Ms. Genco commented that some of the Wellness Policies contradict those of the Food Service Committee. She stated that they are two separate entities, that deal with two separate issues. Mr. Porrazzo mentioned that there was a lot of overlap in the committees. Ms. Genco remarked that she would bring up this recommendation at the next Council Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

9. **MOTION:** Mr. Ward moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract between the Levittown Union Free School District and the Teacher's Pet Child Care Center for the lease of the Little Red School House building for the period August 1, 2012 through June 31, 2017." RESOLUTION # 13-14-82
Little Red Schoolhouse
Lease

Seconded: Mr. Powers

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

- 10. MOTION:** Ms. Marenghi moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the following bids: RESOLUTION # 13-14-83
Approval of Bids

13E No. 15 Computer Data Equipment Storage - Horizon Tek, not to exceed \$28,418.

13E No. 16 Snack food for After School Program- Cookies and More, not to exceed \$40,000."

Seconded: Mr. Powers

NOTE: Mr. Porrazzo had questions on bid #15 regarding the bid results. Ms. Rhatigan remarked that there were three bids received but two withdrew, leaving Horizon Tek as the only bidder.

Mr. Ward inquired about the cost of bid #16. He asked if it was lower last year. Dr. Grossane reported that it was the same cost as last year. Mr. Powers remarked that it was less two years ago. Mr. Ward asked if we knew how much was spent last year. Ms. Rifkin explained that after reviewing the finances of the program, she noted we took in more money than we spent on supplies and staff, therefore we made money.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 11. MOTION:** Ms. Marenghi moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the renewal of the following bid with MyHealthyThing: RESOLUTION # 13-14-84
Bid Renewal

12E No. 16 – Vending Machine Services per proposed commission rate."

Seconded: Mr. Powers

NOTE: Mr. Pappas wanted to know where the referenced commission rates were located in the document. Mr. Howard reported that the rate was 20% with competition in the Cafeteria and 25% with no competition. Mr. Pappas asked if we were happy with MyHealthyThing. Mr. Howard responded that the company began shaky but had improved toward the end of the contract. He remarked that instead of going through a consistent cycle of new companies, we decided to renew for one year with MyHealthyThing. They made a commitment to us and we are holding them to their word. Mr. Pappas asked if there were any nutrition guidelines for the LAP Program. Ms. Rifkin noted that when healthy snacks were ordered, they were thrown away by the children. Mr. Pappas inquired if we were allowed to feed them here. Dr. Grossane explained that they are an after school independent program, not reviewed under our policy.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 12. MOTION:** Mr. Porrazzo moved, "RESOLVED, that the Director of Computer & Media Services is, hereby, designated to be the District individual responsible for adding new users in Finance Manager, and the Principal Account Clerk with the approval of the Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance is responsible for giving out permissions and code assignments." RESOLUTION # 13-14-85
Finance Manager Permissions

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VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

Seconded: Mr. Pappas

Note: Mr. Porrazzo noted that the district has more than one Principal Account Clerk. He asked how do we distinguish which one has the permission. Mr. Chase recommended amending the motion to reflect that the permission is given for the Principal Account Clerk in the Business Office.

AMMEND AS FOLLOWS: Add the words “Assigned to the Business Office” after Principal Account Clerk.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED AS AMENDED 6-0.

- 13. MOTION:** Ms. Marengi moved, “WHEREAS the Commissioner’s Regulation Part 200, subchapter P, requires each local Board of Education to annually appoint surrogate parents who will represent the interests of a student with a disability whose parents are either unknown or unable to provide such representation at Committee on Special Education (CSE) meetings and/or hearings; and

RESOLUTION # 13-14-86
Appointment of
Surrogate Parent

WHEREAS, the Levittown CSE has carefully canvassed those persons who have demonstrated a willingness to serve in such capacity,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Jane Cappiello, 18 Lea Ann Terrace, Wantagh New York, be appointed as surrogate parent for the 2013-2014 school year.”

Seconded: Mr. Powers

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 14. MOTION:** Ms. Marengi moved, “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education appoint the fifteen parent members on the attached list dated August 19, 2013, all chairpersons, psychologists and special and regular education teachers of special education students as well as Lisa Carelli-Lang, Dr. Susan Farber, Susan Farkas, Dr. Sean Haggerty, Dawn Butler, Rocco Ognibene, Richard Cirillo, Dr. Margaret Ippolito, and Marty Nelson to serve on the District Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education for the 2013-2014 school year.”

RESOLUTION # 13-14-87
Appointment of Committee
on Special Education and
Committee on Preschool
Special Education

Seconded: Mr. Powers

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

NOTE: Mr. Regan thanked everyone for their service to these committees.

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15. **MOTION:** Mr. Ward moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the books on the attached lists obsolete and that the items may be discarded and/or donated as possible or sold at the highest possible salvage value: RESOLUTION # 13-14-88
Obsolete Books

<u>School</u>	<u># of Textbooks</u>	<u>Date of List</u>
MacArthur	31 library books	June 24, 2013
LMEC Dept. of Instruction	51 textbooks	August 7, 2013
Lee Road	115 textbooks	August 26, 2013"

Seconded: Ms. Marengi

NOTE: Mr. Pappas talked about a program called "Book Fairies". He noted that previous student liaisons had initiated a program to donate books. He questioned whether the new student liaisons wanted to continue this project. Dr. Grossane mentioned that the President of Gardiners Avenue PTA had asked if we would be willing to let them utilize the obsolete books for this project.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

16. **MOTION:** Mr. Ward moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the equipment on the following list obsolete and that the items may be discarded and/or sold at the highest possible salvage value: RESOLUTION # 13-14-89
Obsolete Equipment

<u>School/Building</u>	<u>Number of Items</u>	<u>Date</u>
LMEC laminator/hole punch)	2	August 28, 2013"

Seconded: Ms. Marengi

MOTION CARRIED. Six members voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

17. **MOTION:** Mr. Porrazzo moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the Technology Program Contracts between the Levittown Union Free School District and Nassau BOCES (Project #3-382571 IP) for the addition of IPAD 2 and related equipment which will be connected to the existing networks within the School District and which will be installed at each of the District's schools." RESOLUTION # 13-14-90
Learning Technology
Project Planning

Seconded: Mr. Powers

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NOTE: Ms. Rhatigan reported this contract is to buy IPAD2 devices instead of purchasing rolling carts of laptop computers that the district has used for many years. She advised that the IPAD 2 will be put in every building. These devices are less money, have longer lasting batteries, are easier to use, have the ability to utilize numerous current downloadable applications for instruction and support and for their ease of internet access for research purposes. Mr. Porrazzo pointed out that IPADs are the way to go and they don't take a lot of time to boot up. He questioned the pricing of the IPADs and the BOCES Technology service fee. He asked whether it was worth taking out AppleCare for the devices. Ms. Rhatigan stated that it is a standard BOCES CoSer charge that the State mandates. She explained that when a school district purchases any type of technology equipment, they are obligated to purchase professional development with it on a percentage basis. There was a discussion of costs. It was decided to table this item for further information.

MOTION: Mr. Porrazzo moved, "To table this item for further information."

MOTION TO TABLE

Seconded: Mr. Ward

MOTION CARRIED. Six members voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

18. MOTION: Ms. Marengi moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve Aflac as an official provider of flexible spending accounts to employees of the district at no cost to the district, and

RESOLUTION # 13-14-91
Supplemental Insurance
for Employees

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves Aflac as a provider of personal insurance plans to district employees, at no cost to the district, which will be fully funded by employee deductions."

Seconded: Mr. Ward

MOTION CARRIED. Six members voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

19. MOTION: Ms. Marengi moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve a modification to the existing contract with ATT Sports to install a Rekortan Retop 5MM Red running track system on the field events area at MacArthur High School track estimated at 5,310 square feet at a cost of \$32,686.00.

RESOLUTION # 13-14-92
Contract Modification –
MacArthur HS Track

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Levittown Board of Education is, hereby, authorized to sign the attached contract."

Seconded: Mr. Pappas

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LEVITTOWN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
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VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

NOTE: Dr. Grossane shared that there were questions regarding this item which he clarified by stating that this was originally considered a modification. We now realize that this work was not included in the original bid. He noted that the company offered to do this work while they were here at a reduced rate. Unfortunately, the approval could not be obtained in a timely fashion. Dr. Grossane mentioned that this company has done work for us before and was in line to do the construction work on the steeple chase. He recommended that we meet with this company to discuss the projects, bid the work and make sure we have the best pricing possible. Mr. Porrazzo asked if there was another project to roll in with this work so that we could get aid. The Board discussed other possibilities. Mr. Chase remarked that there was a chance that it could be rolled in with cafeteria because some modification may need to be done there. Mr. Porrazzo stressed that if it is not an emergency that we should try to maximize the most aid. Mr. Pappas asked if we can use grant money to pay for this item. Mr. Chase explained that a grant specifies that we have to submit whatever proposed action we want to take to the legislature first and we can't have spent the money already. Mr. Pappas remarked that if we are not building the steeple chase this year, we are not getting the \$35,000 in grant money for it. Mr. Grossane stated that we have to tell them what we are using the money for. Mr. Regan suggested looking into this project for discussion at a future date.

MOTION: Mr. Porrazzo moved, "To table this item for further information."

MOTION TO TABLE

Seconded: Mr. Ward

MOTION CARRIED. Four members voting yes.
(Mr. Regan, Ms. Marengi, Mr. Porrazzo and Mr. Powers)
One member voting no. (Mr. Pappas)
One member abstaining. (Mr. Ward)

APPROVED 4-1-1

- 20. MOTION:** Mr. Powers moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve a contract with Johnson Controls to act as the Energy Service Company (ESCO) to implement energy efficiency upgrades throughout the district. The amount of the contract is not to exceed \$11 million which delineates all services and equipment applicable to specific locations throughout the district.

RESOLUTION # 13-14-93
Energy Management System

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Levittown Board of Education is, hereby, authorized to sign the contract."

Seconded: Mr. Pappas

NOTE: Mr. Cohen, legal counsel, advised the Board to amend the language of the motion to allow the attorneys to review the contract for negotiations. In this way it creates a condition precedent before signing the contract. Mr. Powers asked if legal counsel will incorporate the Board's comments as well as their own in the document. Mr. Cohen remarked he would welcome any non-legal specifications from the Board.

AMEND AS FOLLOWS: Add the following wording to the last line "upon receiving the written approval of school district legal counsel.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

- 21. MOTION:** Mr. Ward moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the modification to the Employment Agreement between the Levittown Union Free School District and Dr. James J. Grossane, as per the terms of the attached Modification of Employment Agreement."
- RESOLUTION # 13-14-94
Modification of Employment
Agreement - Superintendent
of Schools

Seconded: Ms. Marengi

MOTION: Mr. Ward moved, "To table this item for further information."

MOTION TO TABLE

Seconded: Ms. Marengi

MOTION CARRIED. Six members voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 22. MOTION:** Mr. Ward moved, "To approve the following Schedules:
- RESOLUTION# 12-13-73
Schedules

Schedule 13-G-4 (Resignation/Termination – Certified Personnel)."	1001
Schedule 13-GG-4 (Resignation/Termination – Non-Instructional Personnel)."	1002
Schedule 13-H-5 (Appointments – Certified Personnel)."	1003
Schedule 13-H-5a1 (Appointments Salary Change - Certified Personnel)."	1004
Schedule 13-H-5c (Designation - Consultants)."	1005
Schedule 13-H-5g (Designation – Coaches)."	1006
Schedule 13-H-5h (Appointments – Extra Curricular)."	1007
Schedule 13-HH-5 (Appointments – Non-Instructional Personnel)."	1008
Schedule 13-JJ-1 (Appointments – Permanent Status, Non-Instructional Personnel)."	1009
Schedule 13-K-3 (Leave of Absence, Certified Personnel)."	1010
Schedule 13-O-3 (Students with Disabilities)."	1011

Seconded: Mr. Powers

AMEND AS FOLLOWS: Revision of wording on Schedule 13-G-4 item #1 and add items #4 and #5 on Schedule 13-H-5g.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

23. Ad Hoc – Discussion Only; No Action Taken

- a. Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy # 7110 – second read

Ms. Rifkin noted that this was the second reading of these policies. She went over the few comments and changes from the Board at the last meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Ward moved, “That the Board go into Executive Session at 9:30 PM.”

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Seconded: Ms. Marenghi

MOTION CARRIED. Six members voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

VII. ADJOURN

MOTION: Mr. Ward moved, seconded by Ms. Marenghi to adjourn the public meeting 11:00 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

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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 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.

Marianne Adrian 17 Woodcock Lane, Levittown, NY

Ms. Adrian responded to a Board comment regarding testing. She felt that last year the students did not have the appropriate tools from the State for these tests. In her opinion, teachers should not be held accountable for the students' poor scores. Ms. Adrian feels that the State, who hired the company to create and implement the test and decided on the cut score, should be held accountable. She was upset that parents, teachers and administrators were not allowed to view the tests. She stated that this is a flaw since teachers cannot improve on their teaching if they are not sure what questions will be asked. Ms. Adrian mentioned that there is a lot of chatter concerning state aid. She wanted to know if the district would lose aid if we did not meet the 95% participation rate. Ms. Adrian requested the Board pass a resolution showing the State that there needs to be changes made in testing.

Jane Finkelstein 848 Mayer Drive, Wantagh, NY

Ms. Finkelstein stated that she is an advocate for all children against these tests. She noted that many hours are spent on testing and teacher prep. She remarked that students are not scores and that what is going on in education is a serious matter that is affecting students' curriculum, emotional wellbeing and our dollars. Ms. Finkelstein shared that last October, the district advised that their goal for April 2019 was to have the students' proficiency rate of Mastery Level at 10%. She wanted to know what the scores mean.

RESPONSE:

In response to Ms. Finkelstein's comments:

Dr. Grossane remarked that he has many conversations with Ms. Finkelstein in his office and welcomes her comments.

ATTACHMENTS TO BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

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In response to Ms. Adrian comments:

As a means of clarification, Dr. Grossane reported that at the Superintendent's Quadrant Meeting; the participation rate was discussed. Dr. Rogers, Nassau BOCES District Superintendent, stated that there is only one district in the County that did not make the participation rate and they are exempt this year from penalty because of the Nickelby waiver. Dr. Grossane remarked that no one is sure what will happen next year but he feels that there will be a financial consequence if we do not meet participation rate as a district.

The Commissioner of Education was asked what would happen to a district if the 95% participation rate is not reached. The question was not answered. Dr. Grossane commented that Senator Flanagan, who chairs the Education Committee for New York State, shared his opinion that it would most certainly affect the amount of state aid we receive and no one is sure what will happen next year. Dr. Grossane noted that while he does not agree philosophical with the development, length or structure of the tests, he still must uphold the Commissioner's Regulations and administer the tests.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Appelbaum
District Clerk