

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

DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2014

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, was duly called and held on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 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.

I. CALL TO ORDER

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PRESENT:

Mr. Kevin Regan, President
Ms. Peggy Marengi, Vice President
Mr. Ed Powers, Secretary
Mr. James Moran
Mr. Michael Pappas
Mr. Peter Porrazzo – excused absence
Mr. Frank Ward

ADMINISTRATION

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

OTHERS

Mr. Robert H. Cohen - School Attorney
Ms. Elizabeth Appelbaum - District Clerk
Mr. Nicholas Fuchs - Division Avenue High School Student Liaison
Mr. Brian Zilli - MacArthur High School Student Liaison – arrived at 8:45 PM

- 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 Ms. Marengi and approved (6-0) that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the following items: legal and personnel matters.
- 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 for our troops fighting overseas who are protecting our freedom. Additionally, our prayers and best wishes go out to the Division Avenue student who was severely injured by a hit and run driver on Hempstead Turnpike last week.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(none)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: "Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of January 15, 2014 (Regular Meeting).

NOTE: The Board requested a correction which was reflected in the approved minutes.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Trustee
SECONDER:	James Moran, Trustee
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED:	Peter Porrazzo

IV. REPORTS

A. Recognition

1. Frank Ward - NYSSBA Leadership Development Training

Dr. Grossane presented the NYSSBA Learning for Leaders Board Achievement Award to Trustee, Frank Ward for his participation in their Leadership Training Program.

2. PTA Executive Board and Unit Co-Presidents

Dr. Grossane reported that each February, we recognize an important group that assists the school district, the students, and the community and is of tremendous help to all of us. The Board and Administration thanked the members of the PTA's and PTA Counsel for their continued support and allegiance to the district.

3. Brandon Soedarmasto - Division Avenue Bowling Team - Two Perfect Games

Mr. Snyder, Director of Athletics, introduced the principal, Ms. Lorelli, and the bowling coach of Division Avenue High School, to speak about Mr. Soedarmasto. They reported that he rolled two perfect games this season and was named the top Bowler in Nassau County. Additionally, he helped his team win the Conference. Ms. Lorelli commented that he has a "miracle ball."

4. Kaitlyn and Kelly Gerdes - MacArthur Girls Soccer Team, 6th Team All NY State

Mr. Snyder asked the coaches of the Girls Varsity Soccer Team to come up to speak about the girls, who are twins. They reported that both were starters for the Varsity Team for the last four years. This year they were selected for All State and are our All County winners. The sisters are both scholar athletes and will be attending Hofstra this fall on scholarships.

5. Michael Etzel - Eagle Scout Award

Ms. Rifkin remarked that it was with great pleasure to introduce a recent MacArthur graduate who is now a St. John's student, Mr. Etzel. She shared with everyone his many achievements during high school. Mr. Etzel's Eagle Scout project was the planning and execution of the renovation of the playground at East Broadway Elementary School. Mr. Etzel held fundraisers to obtain the funds to purchase the supplies and sports equipment from which many of our children in the district are benefiting. Ms. Rifkin commented that the district was proud of Mr. Etzel and thanked him for his generous deed.

6. Art Display - Summit Lane School

Dr. Grossane asked everyone to view the beautiful artwork inside the Board room and hallway.

B. Superintendent

1a. Pre-School

Dr. Grossane reported that the Board had requested preliminary information regarding the possible expansion of our current Pre-Kindergarten Program (Pre-K). He gave a slide presentation on this subject. Dr. Grossane noted that the goal of pre-school is to eventually raise student achievement. He remarked that research has shown that the sooner you begin working with children, the more attuned they become to academics and school work. He explained that what we have to do is examine the need and feasibility of expanding our current pre-school program which would require visiting other programs and investigating different pre-school options. Dr. Grossane spoke about other neighboring programs. He reported on the different ways to fund a program, who the providers would be and the different lengths of day. He noted some of the benefits of a Pre-K Program such as; exposure to the language of the school, experience with routines, expansion of background knowledge, foundation in vocabulary and in the Common Core Curriculum, socialization and learning through play and closing the achievement gap through early intervention. Dr. Grossane discussed what the start up costs of this program might be. He mentioned it would involve setting up the space needed, furnishing the classrooms, and the per pupil cost for staffing. Dr. Grossane shared that the Governor had made a state wide proposal for Universal Pre-K. He noted that there is on-going negotiations regarding funding between Albany and New York City. Dr. Grossane pointed out that the next steps would be to decide if we want to proceed further with the exploration of this program.

Mr. Pappas remarked that the presentation was very informative. He felt that a Pre-K Program is good for all students and studies have shown that it improves a child learning ability. Additionally, he believes that having this program in the district will increase property values in Levittown. Mr. Pappas would like Dr. Grossane to take the further steps necessary to give the Board more information on if this program.

Ms. Marengi requested obtaining data from students who attended a Pre-K vs. those who didn't, to see what the marked improvement from the growth was from the two categories. Also, to compare the scores from the districts that have had Universal Pre-K to ours to see what the long term benefit would be.

Mr. Moran asked if transportation was involved and how would we determine which building to house the program in. Dr. Grossane remarked Universal Pre-K does not involve transportation and he would suggest remodeling Memorial.

1b. Energy Performance Contract (EPC)

Dr. Grossane reported that this contract was discussed previously and was reviewed by our legal counsel. He remarked that Mr. Pastore, the new Assistant Superintendent for Business, and Mr. Milano the new Director of Facilities, wanted to share their thoughts with the Board to make sure everyone was on the same page. Mr. Pastore went over some of the items that he felt might have reoccurring problems and need replacement or refurbishing with additional costs. Some of these items are the steam traps, asbestos, and univentilators. Regarding the replacing of lighting, Mr. Pastore commented that the advantage is you do not have to change out the unit, just replace the ballast and light. He noted that as technology improves, at some point you might want to change these lights. Mr. Milano discussed the asbestos issues that he was concerned with. He expressed his opinion that some language in the final draft of this contract regarding the asbestos leaves the district open to some exposure of unforeseen environmental issues which would not be found until the project was well underway. Mr. Milano felt it was his responsibility to make the Board and Administration aware that significant cost increases could occur if this happens. Mr. Cohen advised that the original contract was worrisome because the district was assuming higher risks for asbestos. He shared that he negotiated with Johnson Controls who agreed to hire an engineering firm to do an asbestos study to identify areas where asbestos is known or likely to be found. Mr. Cohen reported that the contract was changed so that for any area that is discovered beforehand to have asbestos, the risk would be shifted to Johnson Controls. He remarked that the one issue he was not able to change was that they will not agree to be a guarantor to the district for any asbestos that is not found in the study. Mr. Milano pointed out that the contract is not just about asbestos but for all hazardous material.

Mr. Pappas asked if we were doing these ourselves, would we be responsible for all the costs. Mr. Cohen responded yes. He commented that he felt that with a good engineer, we should be able to catch most of the areas that contain asbestos or where they can abate it properly, which would be covered by Johnson Controls. He remarked that it is a business decision based upon the benefits that can be obtained through the energy savings and reduction, to see if the remaining risks are worth it. Mr. Pappas wanted to know the best source to determine this risk factor. Mr. Cohen mentioned it would be 90% the engineer and 10% the attorney.

Mr. Moran wanted to know if the district would incur costs on the replacements for the steam drains and if our maintenance department is equipped to do this type of work. Mr. Pastore advised that the contract specifies that they will supply us with the second and third change out of replacement parts. Regarding the installation of the steam traps, the maintenance department does this on a fairly routine basis.

Mr. Powers requested information on what experience Island Trees had in relation to finding asbestos during their replacement of equipment. Additionally, he inquired if we know the cost of switching to the new light bulbs and ballasts for ourselves vs. the cost of finding a new LED fixture and repairing the ceiling. He also wanted to know the run cost associated with these fixtures. Mr. Milano advised that the cost factor is four to one. He mentioned that PSE&G is offering rebates to upgrade to LED lighting but he has not yet calculated what the cost benefit would be. Mr. Powers remarked that it is important to note the burn rate of our light bulbs. Additionally, he asked about the ceiling tiles at Wisdom Lane School. Mr. Milano reported that this project calls for that ceiling to be replaced.

Mr. Pastore pointed out that moving forward this energy savings will have an impact on the Tax Cap. He noted that the lease payment portion of the EPC is excluded in the calculation of the Tax Cap/Levy. Since we currently get building aid in excess of our debt service, we will only be

able to increase the Tax Levy by less than half of the total yearly lease amount and either cut other budget lines or put in additional fund balance. Mr. Pastore remarked that this project is different than others in that it was not voter approved, therefore we will not receive the additional 10% building aid. Mr. Pastore went on to discuss this issue.

Mr. Pappas remarked that the Board has had many discussions on this subject. He asked what the next step would be. Mr. Cohen mentioned that final changes have to be made to the contract based upon additional concessions that were made. Mr. Pastore commented that if the Board was in agreement, he would move the project along.

2. Follow-up to Prior Public Be Heard Questions

Dr. Grossane noted that he had previously responded to series of questions from Ms. Sanchez at an earlier Board meeting but since she was not present at that meeting, she asked if he would address them again.

- Ms. Sanchez was concerned with the amount of time spent on English Language Arts and Mathematics during the elementary day. Dr. Grossane remarked that the primary focus of elementary school is the instruction of these two core elementary areas and the time spent on both is reasonable and necessary. He noted that the block scheduling for these subjects is common place.
- On Ms. Sanchez questions regarding requirements for physical education, Dr. Grossane shared that the state guideline is 120 minutes per week for grades one through six. He noted that we do not meet that requirement as our students receive 84 minutes per week. Dr. Grossane pointed out that our students also participate in other special area subjects such as art, music, and the literacy center. He stated we feel this offering meets the students' needs and rounds out their subjects. He commented that more physical education time would take away from regular classroom instruction time. Dr. Grossane advised that he would research what other districts are doing.
- Regarding Ms. Sanchez question on why we use a rotational music lesson schedule, Dr. Grossane reported that this is the way we deliver lessons as do most other districts. In this way, children do not miss the same instructional period every time they leave the classroom.
- Ms. Sanchez asked about the Read 180 and Systems 44 Programs. Dr. Grossane noted that they are stand alone programs for students who have significant delays in their ability to code words and/or to comprehend what they read. They are resources to provide students with independent practice on skills that their same age peers have already mastered. This supplementary instruction will help these students better participate in the regular classroom. Dr. Grossane advised that these students really benefit from this instruction and make tremendous gains in a short period of time.
- Regarding the question of instruction on the elementary level for Social Studies and Science, Dr. Grossane reported that New York State provides what should be instructed in these subjects but they do not give a specific time requirement. The only specific elementary time requirement is for Physical Education. The long standing practice at Levittown and neighboring districts is to use the three two model. One week three classroom periods are used to teach Social Studies and two periods to instruct Science and the next week it is reversed. Dr. Grossane pointed out that sometime these subjects are integrated.

- A question was asked about the options for Special Education students regarding passing the required Regents Examinations down the road. Dr. Grossane advised that with all of the support we have in place for all our students, they will have all the tools to meet the graduation requirements and be able to complete what New York State has set out in their course for them. He noted that we have an outstanding high school graduation rate of 99% in both schools.

Dr. Grossane asked Ms. Rifkin to respond to a question by Ms. Finkelstein regarding a new workbooks for the elementary level called “Motivation in Reading” and “Motivation in Math.” Ms. Rifkin reported that these books are being used as an additional resource and supplemental material for the teachers. She felt that they fill the gap left from the Envision and Journeys Programs.

3. Follow-up to Board Questions

Dr. Grossane addressed the status of the Division Avenue Cafeteria. He asked Mr. Cohen to speak since he has been working through some issues with the General Contractor. Mr. Cohen mentioned that he had a site meeting scheduled with the Engineer, General Contractor and Mr. Milano to go through the punch list items to get this project toward closure.

C. Board of Education

1. Comments and Reports

Mr. Regan expressed his appreciation to the PTA in regards to the reading programs. He shared that he went to several readings and it was always a pleasurable experience. Ms. Marengi thanked everyone who worked on the presentation by Deputy Commissioner Ken Slentz. She noted that this was a very informative and well planned presentation. Mr. Pappas remarked that he attended the Division Avenue PTA Meeting, which was very energetic.

2. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

3. Student Liaisons

Mr. Zilli reported that the students at MacArthur High School were taking mid-terms. He noted that many students took advantage of the extra help sessions and peer tutoring programs that were offered. He also attended the meeting with the Deputy Commissioner. He thought it was very interesting to see what the state is considering in its plans for education.

Mr. Fuchs congratulated the Bowling Team, Girls Varsity Basketball Team and the Science Olympiads at Division Avenue for all their successes. He stated that it is so great to see fellow peers performing at high levels and succeeding and representing our school in such a positive way because success is not given, it is earned.

Mr. Regan remarked that Mr. Zilli and Mr. Fuchs are terrific representatives and a credit to their schools.

V. PUBLIC BE HEARD

Comments appear at the end of the minutes.

VI. ACTION ITEMS: OLD BUSINESS

1. Contract with HBM Consultants

RESOLUTION # 13-14-146

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract between the Levittown Public Schools and HBM Consultants for the development of the school lunch Request for Proposal (RFP) for the sum of \$10,000, plus \$850 per day to review the contract compliance with the selected food service company."

NOTE: Mr. Pastore explained that the purpose of HBM Consultants is to help us with the RFP. He stated that since we do not have a Food Service Director, these consultants would assist us in managing the RFP in our best interest. They are very familiar with the way the State works, products to order and meals that are served.

Mr. Regan asked if the consultant would be used for more than 10 days. Mr. Pastore responded that they would abide by whatever was in the contract.

Mr. Powers complemented Mr. Pastore on an excellent job in his e-mails explaining the reasons for the need for the consultants. He asked if we could FOIL the RFP that was written for the other districts that used this consultant. He wanted to make sure that the money spent is worthwhile in that the RFP would be comprehensive enough to solve our problems. Mr. Pastore reported that this RFP is a huge process which takes a lot of time. He remarked that he would reach out to the other districts to see if they felt the improvements made to the RFP by the consultants were significant enough to warrant the money spent.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ed Powers, Secretary
SECONDER:	Mike Pappas, Trustee
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marenghi
ABSENT:	Porrazzo

VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

1. Warrants

RESOLUTION # 13-14-147

MOTION: "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,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the January, 2014 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Trustee
SECONDER:	James Moran, Trustee
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marenghi
EXCUSED:	Porrazzo

2. Treasurer's Report

RESOLUTION # 13-14-148

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached reports and placed same on file:

Summary of Treasurer's Reports for the month ending December 2013"

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Trustee
SECONDER:	James Moran, Trustee
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED:	Porrazzo

3. Appropriation, Revenue and Trial Balance Reports

RESOLUTION # 13-14-149

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached Appropriation, Revenue and Trial Balance Reports for the period ending December 31, 2013."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Trustee
SECONDER:	James Moran, Trustee
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED:	Porrazzo

4. Claims Auditor Reports

RESOLUTION # 13-14-150

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached Claims Auditor Report prepared by Albrecht, Viggiano and Zureck and Company, P.C. for the month ending January 31, 2014."

NOTE: Mr. Pappas commented that he was extremely concerned about the increase in the number of confirming purchase orders and over 90 day invoices. He remarked that last month, he was told that the numbers would go down but instead they went up. He stated that he noticed the problems seem to be coming from a specific area and that they are identifiable. Although Mr. Pastore inherited this problem, Mr. Pappas stressed it needs to be fixed. He advised that he cannot pass this motion.

Mr. Ward agreed and stated that this issue has been discussed many times but the problem has yet to be solved.

Mr. Cohen pointed out that the since this resolution is just for the acceptance of the report, the Board's failure to pass this motion is more symbolic.

RESULT:	MOTION FAILED [1 TO 5]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Trustee
SECONDER:	Mike Pappas, Trustee
AYES:	Powers
NAYS:	Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED:	Porrazzo

5. Contract with Michael Gongas

PULLED

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract between the Levittown Public Schools and Michael Gongas in the sum of \$500 per day for a maximum of two days for cafeteria design review."

NOTE: Pulled at Superintendent's request.

RESULT: PULLED

6. Gifts to School

RESOLUTION # 13-14-151

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept with thanks the following gift:

- a. check for Summit Lane School in the amount of \$486.70 from Box Tops for Education, PO Box 200, Young America, MN 55553-0200
- b. check for the Electrical Program at GC Tech in the amount of \$200 from Dawn Occhiogrosso, 495 Sand Hill Road, Wantagh, NY 11793, in memory of Scott Mazzio."

NOTE: Mr. Regan thanked everyone for their generous donations to the district.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Trustee
SECONDER:	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED:	Porrazzo

7. Obsolete Textbooks

RESOLUTION # 13-14-152

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the books on the following lists obsolete and that the items may be discarded and/or sold at the highest possible salvage value:

<u>School Building</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>	<u>Date of List</u>
Salk	1480 Textbooks	1/13/14"

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Trustee
SECONDER:	James Moran, Trustee
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED:	Porrazzo

8.Obsolete Equipment

RESOLUTION # 13-14-153

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the equipment on the following list obsolete and that the item may be discarded and/or sold at the highest possible salvage value:

School/Building	No. of Items	Date of List
Northside	1 Piano	1/21/14
Division Avenue	4 pieces of exercise equipment: 1 push down machine, 1 back machine, 1 leg flexion, 1 leg extension machine	1/30/14"

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Trustee
SECONDER:	James Moran, Trustee
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED:	Porrazzo

9.School Calendar 2014-15

RESOLUTION # 13-14-154

MOTION: "WHEREAS, the attached 2014-15 school calendar has been reviewed by all appropriate parties,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, adopt the attached calendar as the official dates for the operation of schools during the 2014-15 school year."

NOTE: The Board asked if they could defer from adopting this calendar tonight. They would like more time to review it. Dr. Grossane stated that a calendar needs to be adopted by March.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Trustee
SECONDER:	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED:	Porrazzo

10.Contract Superintendent's Search

RESOLUTION # 13-14-155

MOTION: RESOLVED, that Chuck Fowler of School Leadership, LLC, be retained as "consultant" in the District's superintendent search in an amount not to exceed \$20,000; and that the Board of Education, hereby, authorizes electronic advertising for the vacancy of the position of Levittown Superintendent of Schools, and;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President, Kevin J. Regan, is authorized to execute a retainer agreement between the District and School Leadership, LLC, effective January 28, 2014."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Frank Ward, Trustee
SECONDER: Peggy Marengi, Vice President
AYES: Powers, Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED: Porrazzo

11. Special Education 2-Year Plan

RESOLUTION # 13-14-156

MOTION: "RESOLVED that the Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached Special Education 2-year plan for the years 2013-2015."

NOTE: Dr. Grossane explained that this plan is a codification of our programs in the district which incorporates any new laws. It is normally done in two year spans and it needs to be filed with New York State. Mr. Pappas thanked Dr. Grossane for summarizing the plan for the Board.

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Frank Ward, Trustee
SECONDER: Ed Powers, Secretary
AYES: Powers, Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED: Porrazzo

12. Bid - Nassau County Buildings and Grounds Consortium

RESOLUTION # 13-14-157

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the participation in the Nassau County Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Association (NCSBGA) Purchasing Consortium with other Nassau County School Districts for preparation and use of bids related to buildings and grounds purchases, as per the list of bids approved by the Cooperative Bid Committee."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Frank Ward, Trustee
SECONDER: James Moran, Trustee
AYES: Powers, Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED: Porrazzo

13. Budget Transfer

RESOLUTION # 13-14-158

MOTION: "WHEREAS, in compliance with New York State Government Accounting practices, the attached budget transfer has been prepared and recommended by the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance,

<u>Code from</u>	<u>Code to</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1420-4100 Legal	A1430-4000 Advertising	\$20,000

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

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Trustee
SECONDER:	James Moran, Trustee
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED:	Porrazzo

14. Schedules

RESOLUTION # 13-14-159

“That the Levittown Board of Ed approve the following schedules:

1001	2013-G-No. 9	Resignations/Terminations, Certified Personnel
1002	2013-H-No 10	Appointments, Certified Personnel
1003	2013-H-No.10a1	Salary Change, Certified Personnel
1004	2013-H-No.10c	Designation, Consultants
1005	2013-H-No. 10g	Designation, Coaching
1006	2013-HH-No.10	Appointments, Non-Instructional Personnel
1007	3024-J-No. 6	Tenure, Certified Personnel
1009	2013-K.No. 7	LOA, Certified Personnel
1010	2013-KK-No. 7	LOA, Non-Instructional Personnel
1011	2013-N-No. 2	Health Services
1012	2013-0-No. 8	Students with Disabilities"

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Moran, Trustee
SECONDER:	Frank Ward, Trustee
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Moran, Pappas, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED:	Porrazzo

VIII. AD HOC

Discussion Only; No Action Taken

New York State Veterans' Exemption

Mr. Pastore thanked Mr. Cohen for all his help with this exemption. He reported that it is new in New York State for school districts to allow exemptions for veterans. He noted that this exemption has three categories and shared the numbers in each; 837 veterans that are non-combat, 628 veterans that have combat and 97 veterans that are disabled with no gold star parents at this time in the district. Ms. Pastore went on to explain the tax exemptions for the different groups. He noted that the impact for each homeowner is an increase in school taxes of approximately \$55. Dr. Grossane remarked that this exemption shifts some of the tax burden from the home of the veteran to the home of the non-veteran. He shared that if the Board wished to move forward with this exemption, we are required by statue to hold a public hearing at our next regular Board meeting where we would vote on this resolution. The Board was in agreement to go ahead with the exemption. Mr. Zilli, student liaison, commented on some facts regarding veterans.

Security Camera Review

Dr. Grossane requested that we hold discussion on this topic for the next meeting since Mr. Porrazzo was not present.

IX. DATES

Wednesday, February 26, 2014, Budget Planning Session #2 - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5, 2014, Budget Planning Session #3 - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 12, 2014, Regular Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

IX. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

NOTE: The Regular Board was adjourned at 10:30 and Budget Planning Session #1 began.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Moran, Trustee
SECONDER:	Mr. Ward, Trustee
AYES:	Ward, Powers, Pappas, Moran, Regan, Marengi
EXCUSED:	Peter Porrazzo

Elizabeth Appelbaum
District Clerk

NOTE: Tapes of the meeting are available for review at the Levittown Library.

PUBLIC BE HEARD

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.

Legislator Dennis Dunne, Sr. 336 Gardiners Avenue, Levittown
John Barry Schou 80 Green Lane, Levittown

Mr. Dunne, a retired Marine, Levittown homeowner, President of the Levittown Island Trees Veterans Council and past Commander of a VFW Post, along with a member of many other veterans organizations, spoke about the recent passing of legislation regarding the Veterans Exemption for school taxes. He shared that the Levittown community was built by veterans, for veterans. Mr. Dunne would like the Board to seriously consider passing the resolution for this exemption. Mr. Shou, a Levittown resident who bought his home through the VA Bill and is a Commander of a VFW Post, spoke about how many veterans still live in the neighborhood and are still community minded. Mr. Shou requested that the Board pass this resolution for the veterans.

Mary Reilly 74 Shelter Lane, Levittown, NY
Kerri Bertram 83 Green Lane, Levittown
Jenny DeMeo 167 John Street, Levittown

The parents listed above had concerns regarding food allergies. They came to the meeting to discuss how the district handles these food intolerances. Ms. Reilly asked that the board reexamine their policies on food allergies especially to nuts. She would like to have a policy in place to protect children who have food allergies so they can feel safe in school. Ms. Bertram requested that a strict policy be put in place and implement a mandatory food allergy and action awareness program for teachers, faculty and staff. She advised that Epi pens are kept in a locked cabinet in the nurses office, and it is of time and essence for a child to receive that pen quickly because food allergies can be fatal. She went on to report that everyone should be educated on food allergies to know the symptoms of an allergic reaction, how imperative it is receive treatment quickly and to call 911. Additionally, they need to know that oils and residue from foods eaten can be easily transferred to items in the classroom and then you will have cross contamination. Ms. DeMeo feels that her children are at risk for an anaphylactic reaction at school. She pointed out that there is a distinct difference between how the adults handle food allergies in the different schools. She requested that each building have a uniform policy in place for food allergies. She remarked that all children have a right to learn in a safe environment and eat at a cafeteria that is as safe as possible. She expressed her opinion that the district should not be selling peanut products.

Marianne Adrian 17 Woodcock Lane, Levittown

Ms. Adrian mentioned that the motto when she went to Levittown Schools was “high expectations yield results.” She stated that she believes in this motto and has high expectations for every member of the Administration and staff. She appreciates all of the help she has gotten from everyone. Ms. Adrian requested that the district stop the non-essential tests because she feels that the children are suffering. She reported that she has helped organized a Forum on Common Core Curriculum with Assemblyman

Tom McKeivitt and invited the Board to attend.

Victoria Sanchez**70 Anchor Lane, Levittown**

Ms. Sanchez has concerns about the Common Core and special services that her child receives. She stated she was not satisfied with the answers given by Dr. Grossane regarding Science, Social Studies and ELA. She feels that the only work brought home is study packets for tests. Ms. Sanchez is disturbed by the fact that the district does not meet the New York State physical education requirements, along with health instruction. She feels that students are not receiving the appropriate amount of time in the arts as required by regulation and was told by Administration that it is impossible to fit it all in. She wanted to know who decides which regulations to comply with. Ms. Sanchez handed out a spread sheet she prepared on her son's class time and discussed the issue of time spent with pull outs. She was also worried about the Motivational Workbooks which prepare children for the rigors of standardized testing, which is everything we have been fighting against. She wanted to know why we spend so much money on supplements if they do not give us what we need.

Matthew Feldman**62 Haven Lane, Levittown**

Mr. Feldman was requesting that the Board reevaluate a position they took concerning the Levittown Red Devil Football and Cheerleading Organization. He asked that the Board provide a statement that they are not involved with any organization in anyway and that their members receive no special treatment.

Mr. Feldman discussed a social media site from one of the schools that has a registration form and flyer from an organization. He wanted an expeditious answer from the Board concerning this issue.

As a point-or-order Ms. Genco stated that the social media site is not related to PTA or PTSA but is a parent page.

RESPONSES

Dr. Grossane responded that he would review the questions asked and answer them at the next Board Meeting. He noted that the Veterans Exemption would be discussed during the Ad Hoc portion of the tonight's meeting. He remarked that a public hearing on this subject will be held at the March 12th Regular Meeting at which time if the Board will decide if it will be voted on and adopted.

Mr. Powers asked Mr. Schou questions about the number of Veterans in Levittown.

Mr. Pappas stated that the Board takes food allergies very seriously and will look into this issue.