

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

DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2014

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION was duly called and held on Wednesday, December 10, 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 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:

Ms. Peggy Marengi, President
Mr. Ed Powers, Vice President
Mr. Frank Ward, Secretary
Mr. James Moran
Mr. Michael Pappas
Ms. Karen Quinones-Smith
Mr. Kevin Regan

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Tonie McDonald - 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
Ms. Liz Johnson – MacArthur High School Alternate Student Liaison
Ms. Christina Reilly– Division Avenue High School Student Liaison

- A. Pledge of Allegiance

- B. Ms. Marengi, President, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:15 PM. On a motion by Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Regan and approved (7-0) that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the following items: contracts and personnel matters.

- C. The Board reconvened to Public Session at 7:40 PM on a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Regan and approved (7-0). Ms. Marengi asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to remember all those fighting overseas for our freedom.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(none)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: "Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of the November 12, 2014 (Regular Meeting) and November 19, 2014 (Special Meeting).

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kevin Regan
SECONDER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
AYES:	Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Regan, Marengi, Powers, Pappas

IV. REPORTS

A. Recognition

1. Musical Presentation: MacArthur Winter Wind Ensemble

Ms. Marengi thanked the musicians, who performed in the lobby, for a wonderful, enjoyable performance.

2. Art Display: Jonas Salk Middle School

Ms. Marengi acknowledged the beautiful art work adorning the room and hallway.

B. Superintendent

1. Comments and Reports

a. MacArthur High School Band Uniforms

Dr. McDonald introduced Mr. Romano, MacArthur Band Director and Mr. D'Ulisse, Curriculum Associate for Music. She stated that they were in attendance to show the Board a sample of the new Band uniforms. Mr. Romano was extremely grateful and thanked the Board for thinking of the band. He remarked that he tried to keep the tradition of the current uniforms but update everything with a great amount of detail. Mr. Romano explained that the new uniforms are well made and should wear well. He reported that the uniforms should be available for the Memorial Day Parade.

Dr. McDonald remarked that we appreciate all Mr. Romano does with the MacArthur students, especially training them and helping them with this lifelong activity. It is always a pleasure to hear the students play. She thanked Mr. D'Ulisse for everything he does district wide.

b. Flag Pole

Dr. McDonald shared that Memorial has a new flag pole. She noted that there was a ceremony with Senator Hannon to watch the flag being raised for the first time. Dr. McDonald commented that she spoke to the students in attendance and suggested they remember this day because it is not often that you put up a new flag pole since they last a very long time. These students were party to an historic event for Levittown. Dr. McDonald noted that more flag poles will be installed in the springtime and the district will commemorate them all.

2. Follow-up to Prior Public Be Heard Questions

a. Regarding Professional Development

Dr. McDonald read a letter that was sent home to Ms. Finkelstein that detailed the district's plans for Professional Development for the 2014/2015 school year. She noted that the district affords our teachers and support staff numerous opportunities for professional learning throughout the school year through workshops, articulation meetings, conferences, turn-key information, the Teacher Center and faculty, department and grade level meetings.

b. Regarding helping students and teachers with the implementation of the Common Core

A letter was read by Dr. McDonald that was sent home to Ms. Vaughan Ware which outlined the steps taken to support the students and teachers in meeting the challenges of the new Common Core Curriculum in Algebra I and Geometry. Some of these steps for the students include extra-help sessions, Saturday Midterm review classes, distributing Topical Review Books, and embedded Regents Spiral review. The teachers participate in workshops/meetings on instructional strategies, Geometry curriculum, instructional practice, and formal observation reports.

3. Follow-up to Board Questions

a. Cheerleading

Dr. McDonald noted that the Board had requested additional information regarding the proposal to adjust the cheerleading stipends based on the recent NYSED regulation which sanctioned cheerleading as a sport in NYS and to have an additional coach at Division and MacArthur. She asked for a consensus to move forward. There was a discussion among the Board members. The consensus was to put these items on the schedules for the January meeting.

b. Correspondence

Dr. McDonald mentioned that she received a very nice e-mail from a parent at Gardiners/Salk. The letter provided examples of the tremendous learning going on at Salk. Dr. McDonald shared that she will send a thank you letter to Ms. Xenios.

C. Board of Education**1. Comments and Reports**

(none)

2. Correspondence

(none)

3. Student Liaisons

Ms. Reilly, Student Liaison for Division, reported that the school was in the process of picking a 2015 HOBY Ambassador. She explained that she was a HOBY Ambassador and their mission is to inspire and develop our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. Ms. Reilly noted that the Business Honor Society was conducting the Toys For Tots Drive to present to the United States Marine Corps for distribution to needy children. She reported that the Annual Food Drive was a huge success and they were able to feed over 70 families in the Levittown Community.

Ms. Johnson, Alternate Student Liaison for MacArthur, reported on a boys basketball tournament played against a Danish team. She remarked it was a positive experience for everyone. She noted that a junior in the science research department was accepted into the prestigious Perry Outreach Program. Ms. Johnson congratulated all the students who attended the All State Band Conference. Additionally, she thanked the Wind Ensemble for an enjoyable concert.

V. PUBLIC BE HEARD

Comments appear at the end of the minutes.

VI. ACTION ITEMS: OLD BUSINESS

(none)

VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS**1. Warrants**

RESOLUTION # 14-15-150

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 November 2014 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

NOTE: Mr. Pappas questioned why Acme American Repairs was on the report if we weren't supposed to be doing business with them. Dr. McDonald noted that this was because they had services rendered. Mr. Milano reported that since this vendor had some legal issues they were dealing with, we decided to review their invoices for accuracy. He commented that we will not be using them going forward. Mr. Pappas asked what this particular claim was for. Mr. Milano responded that they handled all of our kitchen stove equipment repairs.

MOTION: "That the Board go into Executive Session at 8:05 PM to discuss payments to specific personnel" **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER: Ed Powers, Vice President
AYES: Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi, Powers

MOTION: "To reconvene meeting to public session at 8:10 PM" **RECONVENE MEETING**

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER: Ed Powers, Vice President
AYES: Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi, Powers

NOTE: Ms. Marengi asked for a vote on Agenda item #1.

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: James Moran
SECONDER: Karen Quinones-Smith
AYES: Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi, Powers

2. Business Office Reports

RESOLUTION # 14-15-151

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the following reports from the Business Office:

- Treasurer's Report for the month ending October 31, 2014
- Appropriation, Revenue, Trial Balance for the month ending October 31, 2014
- Claims Auditors Report prepared by Albrecht, Viggiano and Zureck and Company, P.C. for the month ending November 30, 2014.

NOTE: Mr. Pappas noted that this is the third consecutive month that Mr. Pastore had done a great job with the Claims Audit Report.

- Credit card statement for period ending November 30, 2014.

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Ed Powers, Vice President
SECONDER: Frank Ward, Secretary
AYES: Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marenghi, Powers

3. Change Orders

RESOLUTION # 14-15-152

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the following Change Orders:

Change order FFE-2.01	QG Mechanical Corp. MacArthur Cafeteria	(15,130.00)
Change order G-2.01	Stalco Construction, MacArthur Cafeteria	22,025.82
Change order P-1.03	Seaford Avenue Corp., Division Avenue Cafeteria	11,436.83
Change order G-2.01	Tromel Construction, Division Avenue Cafeteria	(26,287.00)

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

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Ed Powers, Vice President
SECONDER: Kevin Regan
AYES: Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marenghi, Powers

4. Bid - Approval of Bids

RESOLUTION # 14-15-153

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the following bid renewal:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Bid #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cookies & More	13E No. 16	Snack Food for After School Program	Attached
Pole Tech. Co.	14E14	Replacement of 10 flag poles	\$63,500 total"

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Ed Powers, Vice President
SECONDER: Kevin Regan
AYES: Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marenghi, Powers

5. Annual Audit Report - Management Letter and Corrective Action Plan

RESOLUTION # 14-15-154

MOTION: “RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the annual audit report and the corrective action plan in response to the external auditor’s management letter for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014; and

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.”

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Karen Quinones-Smith
SECONDER:	Mike Pappas
AYES:	Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi, Powers

6. Special Education Contracts

RESOLUTION # 4-15-155

MOTION: “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contracts between the Levittown Public Schools and the following vendors to provide special education services for the 2014-15 school year.

- The Devereux Foundation
- Life's Worc
- Homecare Therapies DBA Horizon Healthcare

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education President is, hereby, authorized to execute these contracts.”

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	Mike Pappas
AYES:	Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi, Powers

7. Out of District Contracts for Health and Welfare Services

RESOLUTION # 14-15-156

MOTION: “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contracts between the Levittown Public Schools and the following school districts to provide health and welfare services to students attending schools in these districts for the 2014-15 school year:

- Seaford Public Schools
- West Islip Public Schools;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education President is, hereby, authorized to execute these contracts.”

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	Mike Pappas
AYES:	Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi, Powers

8. GC Tech Tuition Contract

RESOLUTION # 14-15-157

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education, does, hereby, approve the attached tuition contract between the Levittown Public Schools and the following school district for the purpose of Levittown providing specialized educational services at the GC Tech program to children residing in the district:

- Oceanside School District

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

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	Mike Pappas
AYES:	Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi, Powers

9. Contract for June 2015 Commencement - Hofstra University

RESOLUTION # 14-15-158

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract between the Levittown Public Schools and Hofstra University in the sums of \$8,000 for the license fee for the use of the facility and estimated applicable expenses of \$6,542 for two high school graduations to be held at the David S. Mack Sports Complex of Hofstra University on June 20, 2015;

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

NOTE: Mr. Powers noted that the cost was less this year. Ms. Rifkin remarked that we get a quote from Hofstra but they always bill us a lower amount. This year they have adjusted it slightly and the actual amount will come in closer to the quote.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	Mike Pappas
AYES:	Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi, Powers

10. Appointment of Additional Member of the Food Service Committee RESOLUTION # 14-15-159

MOTION: “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, appoint Al Matousek (MacArthur) as an additional member of the Food Service Committee for the 2014-2015 school year.”

NOTE: Mr. Pappas pointed-out that when this committee was formed, there was a three year limit for members. Mr. Ward commented that it is difficult to get volunteers for this committee. Mr. Powers remarked that this is the third year. Dr. McDonald agreed that at the end of this school year, the committee will have been formed for three years. If this is not the case, she will inform the Board. The Board thanked Mr. Matousek for his commitment.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ed Powers, Vice President
SECONDER:	Mike Pappas
AYES:	Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi, Powers

11. Medical Evaluation of an Employee RESOLUTION # 14-15-160

MOTION: "WHEREAS, Section 913 of the Education Law provides the Board of Education with the ability to require employees to undergo an examination in the interest of protecting the health and welfare of students; and,

WHEREAS the performance of an employee brings these issues into question;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 913 of the Education Law of the State of New York, that said employee is, hereby, directed to undergo an examination by a physician or physicians to be determined."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Moran
SECONDER:	Kevin Regan
AYES:	Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi, Powers

12. Obsolete Textbooks RESOLUTION # 14-15-161

MOTION: “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 salvage value:

<u>School</u>	<u>Quantity/type of book</u>	<u>Date of List</u>
Wisdom Lane	1,816 Mathematics textbooks for grades 6, 7, 8. Books have been replaced with common core texts. “	11/6/14

NOTE: Mr. Powers requested copies of two of the textbooks on the list. He did not have a problem disposing of all of them, he just wanted to review these two.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ed Powers, Vice President
SECONDER:	Karen Quinones-Smith
AYES:	Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi, Powers

13. Obsolete Computer Equipment

RESOLUTION # 14-15-162

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

School / Building	No of Items	Type of Items	Date of List
Abbey Lane	1	Printer	11/6/14
East Broadway	2	Printers	11/6/14
LMEC	5	Printers / Projector	11/14/14
Gardiners Ave	1	Printer	11/25/14
Northside	1	Smartboard	11/25/14
Salk MS	1	Printer	12/1/14"

NOTE: Mr. Ward pointed-out that we seem to be discarding Lexmark printers very quickly. Dr. McDonald stated that these are the only printers we have. Ms. Rhatigan responded that we have a single source for printers since we have a certified technician which saves us a lot of money.

14. Gifts to School

RESOLUTION #14-15-163

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

- a. a check in the amount of ~~\$12,954.35~~ to be used for the purchase of materials for the MacArthur High School track program, donated by The Mercury Club, c/o Clifford, 3926 Howard Avenue, Seaford, NY 11783;
- b. a tree donated by the Summit Lane staff in memory of a retired teacher."

AMEND AS FOLLOWS: Change the amount of the check to \$13,886.35 because of an additional donation of \$1,292.00

NOTE: Mr. Pastore remarked that this money was for new jump mats and poles for MacArthur. The Board thanked everyone for their generous donations.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	Ed Powers, Vice President
AYES:	Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi, Powers

15. Approval of Board of Education Policies

RESOLUTION # 14-15-164

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, adopt the following new/revised policies:

<u>Policy #</u>	<u>Policy Name</u>
3330	New Policy: Parents' Bill of Rights for Data Privacy and Security with Rider
7670	Revised Policy: Due Process Complaints: Selection and Board Appointment of Impartial Hearing Officers "

NOTE: Mr. Pappas asked why Policy #7670 was changed from eight pages to two pages. Ms. Rhatigan explained that the old policy contained a lot of unnecessary information. The new policy is much more specific. Mr. Cohen noted that the new policy has been streamlined with repetitious language removed. Mr. Pappas had a question regarding who sets the rate for compensating the Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO) for hearing activities. Mr. Cohen responded that the rate is set by the Board at the Organizational Meeting. Mr. Pappas further asked about the cost of an appointment if a parent cancels. Mr. Cohen remarked that by law the district is responsible for the cost. Mr. Cohen stated that in terms of a cancellation policy, each IHO has their own cancellation clause. He went on to explain the procedure used for choosing an IHO. There was a discussion on this issue.

NOTE: The Board requested separate votes for these policies.

VOTE ON POLICY #3330:

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	Mike Pappas
AYES:	Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi, Powers

VOTE ON POLICY #7670:

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [6-1-0]
MOVER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
SECONDER:	Mike Pappas
AYES:	Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Regan, Marengi, Powers
NAYS:	Mike Pappas

16. New York State Field Tests

RESOLUTION # 14-15-165

MOTION: "WHEREAS, the administration of multiple and lengthy standardized tests do not improve learning, may have negative effects on students, test stamina rather than knowledge, undermine educational quality by hampering educators' creativity, and dominate instruction to the detriment of the students and the teachers; and

WHEREAS, standardized tests fail to appropriately accommodate the unique needs of students with disabilities and English language learners in assessing their learning; and

WHEREAS, the focus in the classroom should be on student centered learning toward deep and meaningful understanding, which cannot be solely measured by standardized tests; and

WHEREAS, standalone field tests result in unnecessary and increased testing for our students, and test items embedded into required assessments further increase test length with minimal added value to student learning; and

WHEREAS, the state and federal government's accountability system's over reliance on standardized testing as the only meaningful measurement of school quality continues to fiscally strangle public schools and undermines educators' abilities to transform a traditional system of schooling into a broad range of learning experiences that better prepares our students to live successfully and be globally competitive.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Levittown Union Free School District objects to the recent ruling of the Board of Regents to mandatorize the administration of New York State field tests."

NOTE: Mr. Pappas inquired as to who provided the wording of the document. Mr. Powers responded that it was provided to us from another district. Mr. Pappas felt that the document was too vague in some spots and too broad in others. Dr. McDonald stated that it is really a symbolic gesture because we have to give the field tests. Mr. Ward remarked that he would like to take this document to NYSSBA next year as a Board Resolution.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [6-1-0]
MOVER:	Karen Quinones-Smith
SECONDER:	Kevin Regan
AYES:	Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Regan, Marengi, Powers
NAYS:	Mike Pappas

17. Schedules

RESOLUTION # 14-15-166

1001	2014-G-No. 7	1001	Resignation/Termination - Certified Personnel
1002	2014-GG-No. 7		Resignation/Termination-Non-Instructional Personnel
1003	2014-H-No. 8	1003	Appointments - Certified Personnel
1004	2014-H-No. 8a	1004	Appointments - Administrators
1005	2014-H-No. 8c	1005	Designation - Consultants
1006	2014H-No. 8g	1006	Designation - Coaches
1007	2014-H-NO. 8h		Appointments, Extra-Curricular
1008	2014-HH-No. 8		Appointments - Non-Instructional Personnel
1009	2014-K-No. 6		Leave of Absence - Certified Personnel
1010	2014-KK-No. 6		Leave of Absence - Non-Instructional Personnel

NOTE: Dr. McDonald noted that one of the schedules was for the resignation of our Assistant Business Manager, Mr. Howard, who was moving on to an Assistant Superintendent for Business in another district. She expressed her regret that he was leaving us since we were pleased with his work but we are very happy for him in the furthering of his career.

AMEND AS FOLLOWS: Pull Schedules 2014-GG-No. 7- #13, 2014-HH-No. 8- #4 and 2014-K-No. 6- #2.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Moran
SECONDER:	Mike Pappas
AYES:	Moran, Ward, Quinones-Smith, Pappas, Regan, Marengi, Powers

VIII. AD HOC

Mr. Pappas asked about the contract with HBM Consultants and if they had agreed to completing their tasks here in five days as opposed to ten. Dr. McDonald responded that as previously stated, if the consultant did not agree to the reduction in days, she would have reported this back to the Board. Therefore, she noted that the consultant consented to accomplishing his duties in five days.

IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ms. Marengi wished everyone happy holidays from the Board of Education and Central Office.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Karen Quinones-Smith
SECONDER:	Ed Powers
AYES:	Ward, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith, Regan, Marengi, Powers

The Board adjourned the public meeting at 8:30 PM.

Elizabeth Appelbaum
District Clerk

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

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 by the Board President.

Jane Finkelstein 848 Mayer Drive, Wantagh, NY

Ms. Finkelstein had several comments for the Board.

She reported that this week the New York State Youth Development Survey was given to the students in the high schools and middle schools. She wanted to know if this was part of a grant and if district money was involved.

In regards to Field Tests, Ms. Finkelstein thanked the Board for issuing a resolution regarding the mandating of these tests. She noted that she was one of the first parents to opt-out her child from taking these mandated tests. Ms. Finkelstein shared that some districts have included mention of corporations receiving profit from these tests in their resolutions. She asked if the Board would consider revising the wording of the resolution to incorporate this language. Moving forward, she questioned what adopting this resolution means for the district.

Lastly, Ms. Finkelstein noted that on the agenda there is an item under consultants for professional development for a Power Scheduler Consultation and Workshop for \$16,000. She requested an explanation.

Ms. Marengi asked Mr. Cohen to address the field testing questions. He reported that the Board of Regents has declared field testing mandatory and districts cannot send back testing material. He noted that by passing this resolution you are informing the Board of Regents that you do not appreciate their decision.

Regarding the Needs Based Survey, Ms. Rhatigan reported that the Oasis Grant that we received sponsored the survey. She noted that this survey is a costly item that we were allowed to do free of charge. Ms. Rhatigan shared that Oasis will assess the data which will be used to guide the social workers, psychologists and counselors to build programs to meet the children's needs. Mr. Moran asked if the students were filling out the surveys. Dr. McDonald remarked that it is voluntary but the students do complete them.

Ms. Rhatigan explained that a Power Scheduler is part of a process we use when we build the master schedule within Power School. She commented that since it is a very complicated process, a professional scheduler comes in to meet with the Guidance Departments to review the course selections and schedules. Ms. Rhatigan remarked that although it seems like a lot of money, this consultant saves us money in the long run. Dr. McDonald responded that they are worth the money and they help us quite a bit.

