

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

DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2015

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION was duly called and held on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 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 – excused absence
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. Elizabeth Johnson – MacArthur High School Alternate Student Liaison
Ms. Christina Reilly – Division Avenue High School Student Liaison

- A. Pledge of Allegiance

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

- C. The Board reconvened to Public Session at 7:30 PM on a motion by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Ward and approved (6-0). Mr. Powers 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**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: "Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of the January 14, 2015 (Regular Meeting).

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

IV. REPORTS**A. Recognition****a. Art Display: Summit Lane School**

Mr. Powers thanked Summit Lane for the fantastic art display from the students in the large Board room. Dr. McDonald thanked Mr. Creter for all the work he's done to make our building come alive with all the beautiful artwork from the students

b. Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Winners

Fourth Place: Adriana Lemieux, Wisdom Lane

Third Place: Deanna Tomaselli, Wisdom Lane

Second Place: Michael Mooney, Salk

First Place: Aidan Santiago, Wisdom Lane

Ms. Rifkin remarked that we are very proud of these students for winning this contest. The teachers who mentored the students and administration from the schools were asked to come forward and introduce the honored students. This contest was sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and we were very fortunate to have the first four place winners. The Board congratulated the winners.

c. Drug Awareness Public Service Announcement Contest

Ms. Rifkin shared that Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano had a Drug Awareness Public Service Announcement Contest in which students from both MacArthur and Division Avenue High School won. She stressed that we are very proud of these students. The Public Service announcements were shown. The Principals and all who were involved in the project were called up to introduce the winners. It was noted that this was the second time in a row that MacArthur won first place in Nassau County. Ms. Valentino thanked the Board of Education for their support which enabled the schools to purchase the equipment needed to produce the Public Service announcements and the morning broadcasts. She remarked that we can now appreciate the great steps forward that our students have taken. She noted this is a skill that they can carry to any job. The Board congratulated the winners.

B. Superintendent

Dr. McDonald announced that three Board members were acknowledged by New York State School Boards and were receiving certificates. Ms. Quinones-Smith, who totaled 75 leadership points and Mr. Ward and Ms. Marengi for 150 leadership points.

Dr. McDonald thanked the district's administration and teachers for all their help and dedication during the challenging couple of weeks with snow. She noted that the administrators arrived early and stayed late, and there was excellent attendance throughout the snow days from our teachers. Additionally, she thanked the facilities department who braved the cold weather and did a great job on the snow removal.

Ms. Rifkin commented on the recent math parent workshop for parents of students from grades K- 12. She shared that there was a successful turnout with great parent participation. Ms. Rifkin reported that of the 72 parents who filled out the accompanying survey, 68 of them gave the workshop a five which was the highest score. She noted that the parents asked that the workshop be given again next year but earlier in the year. Ms Rifkin thanked the teachers that ran the workshops.

1. Comments and Reports**a. Budget Presentations**

Mr. Pastore gave a brief budget overview. He noted that Administration is continuing to update and refine the budget especially in the areas of tax freeze information, state aid and BOCES items. He shared that tax levy limit calculations must be uploaded to the Comptroller's Office by February 28th and that state aid is estimated with actual numbers still to be determined. Regarding the tax freeze for year two, Ms. Pastore reported that our Quadrant is putting together a list of items that will be tax freeze compliant. He feels that if we submit these items as a co-operative group, we will have less of a chance of being rejected. Mr. Pastore stated that tonight the budgets for Curriculum and Instruction, Instructional Technology and GC Tech will be reviewed.

b. Instructional Technology (Todd Connell)

Mr. Connell presented the Instructional Technology and Library codes for the budget. He noted that in developing the budget there were key items that had to be considered such as equipment refresh cycles, maintenance and repair, renewal of district software licenses, increased demand for online subscription software, more access to computer resources and Smart Schools Bond. He shared some of the things that the department has done over the past year with the budget, for example iPad carts in each building, more SmartBoards, new projector screens in two buildings, and a recent switch over to the BOCES BO-TIE network. Mr. Connell explained the NY Smart Schools Bond Act in terms of what we know and what we need to know. He went into detail describing how the money in his codes for Computer Instruction and the Library were used. Lastly, Mr. Connell highlighted some of his planned initiatives for 2015-2016, for instance one-to-one laptop/tablets at 9th grade level, utilize Smart Schools Bond monies, pilot e-spark program for iPads, expand Math IXL program and upgrade Animation Lab computers and software. A representative from the Microsoft Windows store was introduced who brought samples of two-in-one devices for the Board to review. The Board discussed these devices and thanked Mr. Connelly for a very comprehensive presentation.

c. Curriculum and Instruction (Debbie Rifkin)

Ms. Rifkin presented the budget for the Department of Instruction which includes the budgets of all of the elementary, middle, and high school buildings as well as all of the Curriculum Associates budgets and many of the extra programs in the district. She mentioned some of the accomplishments of the past year along with a sampling of honors and awards the students received such as our Science Olympiad advanced to the NYS level for the 11th year in a row, a student was selected for the MIT Women's Technology program, an H&R Block Teen Panel award winner and Levittown was named one of the Best Communities for Music Education. Ms. Rifkin discussed the code by code appropriation budget report in detail and explained the increases. She highlighted some of the planned initiatives for the 2015-2016 school year for example, continue to transition to Common Core State Standards, realign science curriculum, add new course at high school level, review Academic Intervention Services, expand educational technology, continue to expand STEM Program and Project Lead the Way, review Annual Professional Performance Review, redesign ESL program, improve education performance and expand learning opportunities for all students. Ms. Rifkin reported that the district is developing plans for an outdoor learning center at Laurel Lane. She asked Mr. Milano to speak in detail about this new program. He mentioned that he researched what it would take to create an outdoor learning facility and found that Laurel Lane is the most appropriate piece of land for this endeavor. He stated that he found a local model for this project to help him prepare the property and a for a general budget for the installation of the equipment and structure that would be needed. He then gave a brief explanation of the proposal with estimated costs. He noted that an important feature of this project is a pond. Mr. Milano stated that this outdoor classroom would be a comprehensive approach to outdoor learning to explore nature. Dr. McDonald pointed out that this project provides real hands on learning that is lacking from today's curriculum. The Board had questions for Mr. Milano regarding this project.

d. GC Tech (Joan Lorelli)

Ms. Lorelli reported on the budget for GC Tech. She stated that for the past few years, career and college readiness has been the buzz word. She commented that we have our own home grown program that is fully developed and operational, not only for Levittown students but for our neighboring districts as well. Ms. Lorelli stressed that GC Tech is not a BOCES but a full high school extension program of career and technical courses. She remarked that we offer the state exams that will qualify for the pathways diploma. She feels GC Tech will be renewed with a lot of vigor as the other districts realize they need a place for their students who want to pursue this pathway. Ms. Lorelli went over the current programs that are offered at GC Tech. She mentioned the points of pride for the school such as all programs approved by SED and offer Articulation Agreements, highly qualified teachers and support staff, opportunities for internships/work-based learning and fulfills CDOS requirements. Ms. Lorelli discussed the 2015/2016 initiatives such as network cabling technician/home technology integration, add construction trades and modify existing curriculum to incorporate current trends. Mr. Pastore reviewed the financial information and discussed the related codes. The Board had questions on enrollment, expenses, revenue and promotion of the programs. Dr. McDonald shared that students have opportunities here that they don't have elsewhere, which is very important to a student and their family.

2. Follow-up to Prior Public Be Heard Questions

a. Posting of Contracts

Dr. McDonald asked Mr. Connell to speak to the Board regarding posting of our contracts to the district website. She stated that the Board had requested we look into devising a system that would allow us to post our contracts as they are voted on. Mr. Connell shared that his department has designed a framework which would effectively do this. He mentioned that the contracts would be labeled from each department in a PDF format. Mr. Pappas asked if the documents would be searchable. Mr. Connell responded that searching is tricky because some of the documents are scanned in an image format. Mr. Pappas requested that we look to see what others are using such as Nassau County. Dr. McDonald mentioned that simple searches by title can be done on the individual pages. She noted that this system would be live in the next few weeks.

b. Taping of Athletic Contests

Dr. McDonald reported that this item was discussed at the last meeting and the Board had requested additional information. She summarized a document from our legal counsel stating that we can tape football games and not have to tape a corresponding girls sport. She noted that a Title 9 violation would occur if we gave the tapes of the games to the boys and not to the girls. Dr. McDonald commented that students can pay an outside vendor to tape their games but the district is not allowed to facilitate that. Mr. Ward felt that it wasn't right to just tape boys sports. Dr. McDonald explained that the football teams use the tapes for next day practice as a way to recover from their physical games. She noted that most districts video tape their football games to be used as an instructional tool in the locker room. Mr. Pappas asked that we poll all of the coaches to see if they feel they need to tape their games. The consensus of the Board was to obtain this information.

3. Follow-up to Board Questions

a. Solar Energy: Bill Pastore

Mr. Pastore and Mr. Milano gave a brief overview of a solar energy plan. Mr. Pastore stated that when a school district wants to start a solar energy plan they have to package the whole project. There are many considerations to take into account such as location considerations, financial implications, maintenance and sustainability and our long term objective. Mr. Pastore discussed the New York Power Authority K-Solar Program and highlighted the key points. In summary, Mr. Pastore commented that more information would be available when New York Power Authority comes up with more ideas. He will then come back to the Board with a real plan. Mr. Pastore feels that this is a good program done by experts.

C. Board of Education

1. Comments and Reports
(none)

2. Correspondence
(none)

3. Student Liaisons

Ms. Johnson, Alternate Student Liaison for MacArthur, reported that recently the Science Olympiad Team took part in a competition and came in first with their project on Air Trajectory; the girls bowling team finished their season second in Nassau County and a sophomore was chosen as the 2015 HOBE representative.

Ms. Reilly, Student Liaison for Division, noted that the girls varsity basketball team will be playing next week for the County Tournament; the Science Olympiad Team competed in the Regional Competition and came home with multiple first, second and third place medals; four digital media students received an honorable mention from the Town of Hempstead for their Public service Announcement and the annual Talent Show is next week.

V. PUBLIC BE HEARD
(NONE)

VI. ACTION ITEMS: OLD BUSINESS
(NONE)

VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

1. Warrants

RESOLUTION # 14-15-189

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 2015 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

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

2. Business Office Reports

RESOLUTION # 14-15-190

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 December 31, 2014
- Appropriation, Revenue, Trial Balance for the month ending December 31, 2014
- Claims Auditors Report prepared by Albrecht, Viggiano and Zureck and Company, P.C. for the month ending January 31, 2015.
- Credit card statement for period ending January 31, 2015."

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

3. Budget Transfers

RESOLUTION # 14-15-191

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

<u>Code from</u>	<u>Code to</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A55105710 Fuel for buses	A55404000 Contracted buses	\$56,500
A16204585 Gasoline	A16204580 Vehicle Supplies	\$15,000

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

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

4. Agreement with the Association of Levittown School Administrators RESOLUTION # 14-15-192

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached agreement between the Board of Education of the Levittown Union Free School District and the Association of Levittown School Administrators for the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2017 and that the President of the Board of Education is, hereby, authorized to execute the agreement."

NOTE: Dr. McDonald and the Board thanked the Administrators of our district for being present. She noted that she was very happy that a contract is in place. Mr. Pappas felt that it is a fair contract for both sides. Mr. Powers stated that the Administrator’s Union did a fantastic job in realizing the plight of education and he appreciated their efforts. Mr. Regan stated that he likes to see everyone happy.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Moran
SECONDER:	Frank Ward
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Moran, Quinones-Smith, Regan, Pappas
EXCUSED:	Peggy Marenghi

5. Gifts to School RESOLUTION #14-15-193

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

- a. 2 checks in the amount of \$1,000 (total \$2,000) for Division Avenue High School, donated by Lifetouch National School Studios, 11000 Viking Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344, to provide scholarships for members of the Division Avenue graduating class of 2015;
- b. check in the amount of \$556.10 for Summit Lane School donated by Box Tops for Education, 13700 Oakfield Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203;
- c. check in the amount of \$120 for the East Broadway Elementary School donated by Newsday Media Group, 235 Pinelawn Road, Melville, NY 11747 as a grant from their Future Corps grant."

NOTE: The Board thanked everyone for their generous donations.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Moran
SECONDER:	Frank Ward, Secretary
AYES:	Powers, Ward, Moran, Quinones-Smith, Regan, Pappas
EXCUSED:	Peggy Marenghi

6. Board Meeting Dates - 2015-2016 School Year RESOLUTION # 14-15-194

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, adopt the attached

calendar of Board of Education meeting dates for the Levittown Public Schools for the 2015-16 school year."

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

7. Special Education Contracts

RESOLUTION # 14-15-195

MOTION: "RESOLVED that the Levittown Board of Education approve the following contracts to cover Special Education services for the 2014-15 school year; and that the President of the Board of Education is, hereby, authorized to execute same:

- Caryl A. Oris, M.D.
- Hillside Children’s Center
- Martin dePorres School"

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

8. Parents Bill of Rights Riders

RESOLUTION # 14-15-196

MOTION: "RESOLVED that the attached Parents Bill of Rights Riders be approved for signature by the Board of Education President in regard to the following agreements:

- All About Kids
- Karin E. Burkhard, M.D.
- Gayle E. Kligman
- Syosset Home Tutoring
- Nirmala Mitra M.D.
- Nassau Suffolk Services for the Autistic
- Achieve Beyond
- Kids First
- Corinthian Therapy Management Services
- Marion K. Salomon and Associates
- Sensational Development
- Edgewater Consulting"

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

22. Schedules

RESOLUTION # 14-15-197

MOTION: “That the Levittown Board of Education approve the following schedules:

- | | | |
|------|----------------|---|
| 1001 | 2014-G-No. 9 | Resignation/Termination - Certified Personnel |
| 1002 | 2014-GG-No. 9 | Resignation/Termination-Non-Instructional Personnel |
| 1003 | 2014-H-No 10 | Appointments - Certified Personnel |
| 1004 | 2014-H-No. 10a | Appointments - Salary Change – Certified Personnel |
| 1005 | 2014-H-No. 10c | Designation – Consultants |
| 1006 | 2014-H-No. 10g | Designation – Coaching |
| 1007 | 2014-H-No. 10h | Appointments - Extra-Curricular |
| 1008 | 2014-HH-No. 10 | Appointments - Non-Instructional Personnel |
| 1009 | 2014-JJ-No. 2 | Permanent Status – Non-Instructional Personnel |
| 1010 | 2014-K-No. 7 | Leave of Absence – Certified Personnel |
| 1011 | 2014-KK-No.7 | Leave of Absence – Non-Instructional Personnel |
| 1012 | 2014-O-No. 7 | Students with Disabilities |

SEPARATE VOTE on Schedule 1006 2014-H-No. 10g, #32:

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [5-0-1]
MOVER:	Kevin Regan
SECONDER:	Frank Ward
AYES:	Powers, Moran, Quinones-Smith, Regan, Pappas
ABSTAINED:	Frank Ward
EXCUSED:	Peggy Marengi

VOTE ON ALL OTHER SCHEDULES:

AMEND AS FOLLOWS: Pull Schedule 1008 2014-HH-No. 10, #4

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

VIII. AD HOC

(None)

IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

The Board adjourned the public meeting at 9:40 PM.

Elizabeth Appelbaum
District Clerk

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

