

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

DATE: MARCH 2, 2016

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, was duly called and held on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 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:

Ms. Peggy Marengi, President
Mr. James Moran, Vice President (excused absence)
Ms. Karen Quinones-Smith, Secretary
Ms. Marianne Adrian
Mr. Michael Pappas
Mr. Frank Ward

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Tonie McDonald - Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Darlene Rhatigan - Assistant Superintendent
Mr. William Pastore – Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Donald Sturz – Assistant to the Superintendent

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Ms. Marengi, President, called the Budget Planning Session/Special Meeting to order at 6:15 PM. On a motion by Mr. Ward, seconded by Ms. Adrian and approved (5-0) that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the appointment of the coaches.
- C. The Board reconvened to Public Session at 7:30 PM on a motion by Mr. Ward, seconded by Ms. Quinones-Smith and approved (5-0). Ms. Marengi asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for all those men and women serving us at home and abroad.

II. PUBLIC BE HEARD

(None)

III. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Education Contracts

RESOLUTION # 15-16-189

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contracts between the Levittown Public Schools and Tracey Delio to provide mentoring for one special education teacher for PROMPT certification in speech.

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

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward
SECONDER:	Karen Quinones-Smith, Secretary
AYES:	Ward, Pappas, Adrian, Marengi, Quinones-Smith
ABSENT:	James Moran

2. School Finance Resolution

RESOLUTION # 15-16-190

MOTION: "WHEREAS, every student deserves a quality public education dedicated to preparing engaged citizens, creative and critical thinkers and lifelong learners ready for college and careers; and

WHEREAS, it has always been a guiding principle that the Public schools are essential to the establishment of a free and educated country, and

WHEREAS, the financial decline in state aid to schools, coupled with a tax cap of .12% has created an environment of fiscal uncertainty within our schools, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has continued to deduct an amount from our schools known as the GAP Elimination Adjustment which was originally established to address a shortfall in the New York State budget, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has not addressed the issue of full implementation of the Foundation Aid formula, and which includes a formula that accounts for a Regional cost index, which fairly allocates resources across New York State, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature has not, as yet, fulfilled its promise to provide substantive mandate relief, especially in the area of implementation in APPR, Part 154, New York's SAFE ACT, repeal of the Wicks Law, among other initiatives, and

WHEREAS, there has been a trend to distribute public funds to private, parochial and charter schools in the form of Private school vouchers, education or tuition tax credits, or towards the expansion of services and financial assistance to private, parochial and charter schools, it is therefore

III. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

RESOLVED that the Levittown Board of Education calls upon the Honorable Governor Andrew Cuomo, and other lawmakers to support its public schools by:

- eliminating the reduction to the state aid allotment known as the Gap Elimination adjustment immediately; and by
- establishing that public funds should support core public education and not be diverted for private school vouchers, education or tuition tax credits or towards the expansions of services and financial assistance to private, parochial and charter schools; and by
- addressing the deficiencies in the Foundation Aid formula in order to assure fair funding for Long Island schools; and by
- providing substantive mandate relief in existing mandates such as APPR, Part 154, New York’s SAFE Act, the repeal of the Wicks Law, among other initiatives and by ensuring that when new mandates are issued, a concomitant increase in state aid will be made; and by
- providing sufficient state funding to cover established current year costs, new state initiatives and loss of local revenues attributable to New York’s school tax levy cap; and by
- reforming the New York Tax Levy cap by restoring the right of a community to determine the educational opportunities it would provide for its students by:
 - repealing the financial punishment of a zero increase tax levy cap the state requires of schools that are unable to pass a school budget that exceeds the district’s tax levy cap
 - restoring democratic principle of “one person, one vote,” by eliminating the requirement that a supermajority is needed to pass a school budget that exceeds the district’s tax levy cap
 - providing that cost increases due to citizen referenda not force a super-majority requirement upon tax cap compliant school budgets”

NOTE: Mr. Pappas remarked that he hopes other school districts will follow our lead and that the lawmakers will stop diverting public education dollars away from Long Island. Ms. Marengi noted that Long Island has 17% of the population of children that go to school and yet we receive only 12% funding. She feels this resolution is a positive step for Levittown. Dr. McDonald stated that the Board is signing a letter that will go to lawmakers regarding this issue. Ms. Quinones-Smith thanked community members that helped push for this. Ms. Adrian commented that she was personally proud that we have moved forward on this subject and that we are going to fight for our funding. The Board thanked Dr. McDonald for her support and had a discussion on this topic.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mike Pappas
SECONDER:	Marianne Adrian
AYES:	Ward, Pappas, Adrian, Marengi, Quinones-Smith
ABSENT:	James Moran

III. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

3. Schedules

RESOLUTION # 15-16-191

"That the Levittown Board of Education approve schedule 2015-H-No. 11g, Designation, Coaching"

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward
SECONDER:	Marianne Adrian
AYES:	Ward, Pappas, Adrian, Marengi, Quinones-Smith
ABSENT:	James Moran

IV. MOTION TO ADJOURN

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward
SECONDER:	Karen Quinones-Smith, Secretary
AYES:	Ward, Pappas, Adrian, Marengi, Quinones-Smith
ABSENT:	James Moran

The Board adjourned the Special Meeting at 8:03 PM.

Elizabeth Appelbaum
District Clerk

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