BOARD OF EDUCATION LEVITTOWN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT LEVITTOWN, NY

DATE: JANUARY 10, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, was duly called and held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 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.

Board of Education

Ms. Jennifer Messina, President (Excused Absence)

Ms. Peggy Marenghi, 1st Vice-President (Excused Absence)

Ms. Christina Lang, 2nd Vice-President

Ms. Marianne Adrian, Trustee

Ms. Phyllis Dalton, Trustee

Ms. James Moran, Trustee

Mr. Michael Pappas, Trustee (Excused Absence)

Central Administration

Mr. Todd Winch, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Michael Fabiano, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance

Ms. Debbie Rifkin, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Dr. Beth Zirogiannis, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Others:

Mr. Robert H. Cohen, Counsel

Mrs. Randi D'Ambrosio, Acting District Clerk

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CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is called to order at 6:05 PM.

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: Marianne Adrian
SECONDER: James Moran
AYES: Lang, Dalton

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi and Jennifer Messina have been excused from the meeting.

Recommended Motion: "BE IT RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, move to Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: Phyllis Dalton SECONDER: James Moran AYES: Lang, Adrian

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

I. <u>RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION</u>

The meeting began at 7:30 PM

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: Marian Adrian
SECONDER: James Moran
AYES: Lang, Dalton

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

Ms. Lang opened the meeting. The Salk Middle School students lead the meeting with the pledge followed by a moment of silence to remember all those fighting for our country at home and overseas.

Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi and Jennifer Messina have been excused from the meeting.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Moment of Silence

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II. <u>REPORTS</u>

- A. Student Presentations
 - i. Student Presentation Salk Middle School

Mr. Winch introduced the Salk Middle School, Principal John Zampaglione. Mr. Zampaglione stated that the goal of the building is to have every student involved in an extracurricular activities. Right now, 92% if the student body is involved in after school activity. He then introduced Mrs. DiLevo, the student advisor for the Salk POD squad. The Salk POD squad presented about their club.

POD Squad

Mrs. DiLevo said that the club was looking to do a book read podcast for younger students. Ms. Dalton asked if the club could maybe elaborate on that concept with some thought provoking questions.

- B. Recognition
 - i. Art Recognition Division Avenue High School
- C. Superintendent

Mr. Winch said that the budget for 2024/2025 school year has begun. He stated that the costs are higher than last year but we are working on keeping them down.

- 1. Comments and Reports
 - A. Budget 2024/2025 School Year
 - i. First Draft Michael Fabiano

Mr. Fabiano presented the first draft of the budget.

2024-2025 Proposed Budget Presentation (Draft 1)

Mr. Winch commented that this is a process with many iterations; starting with the attempt to preserve all things but then cuts are instituted. More information will follow in the weeks to come.

Mr. Moran asked for more clarification on the BOCES programs. Mr. Fabiano said that these numbers are estimates but more information will follow in the weeks ahead. Mr. Winch offered to have another presentation just about the BOCES budget. Ms. Lang felt that would be a good idea and she thanked everyone for their time and effort.

ii. Facilities and Operation Budget Presentation

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Mr. Winch introduced Mr. Craig Cammarata who presented the Facilities and Operations budget. Ms. Lang commented on how the effect of a clean, taken care of environment has on students and staff. Thank you to the staff. Mr. Winch thanked Mr. Williams, Mr. Lippolt and the entire team for all their work.

2024-2025 Facilities and Operations Budget Presentation

B. Update on Security Enhancements

Security Update Presentation

Mr. Winch introduced Mr. Bill Meehan, the consultant from Altaris. Mr. Winch said he is a great addition to our staff. Superintendent Winch went on to outline the security updates which we do present to the public but there are number of improvements which are not for public knowledge for safety concerns.

2. Follow-up to Prior Public Be Heard Questions

Mr. Winch read his response to the public be heard from the last meeting. The letter follows:

Dear Mr. Kondrup,

Thank you for attending our Board of Education meeting on December 6, 2023 and sharing your concerns regarding student health services. Please know that we take our responsibility for student wellness very seriously and we do believe we provide outstanding student health services here in the Levittown School District. As we discussed previously, we are always appreciative of feedback that helps us evaluate our protocols to determine if additional measures can be put in place to offer an even better program. For the sake of clarity, I will address the concerns you shared in order of your statement that evening:

- Low compensation of district nurses: The district is aware of several positions covered by our CSEA collective bargaining agreement that are on the lower end of the pay scale in Nassau County. The board is committed to working with CSEA to try to remediate those situations.
- Supervision of nurses by an administrator without a medical background: In my conversation with Peter LaDuca, Assistant Director of Health & Safety Training & Information Services at Nassau BOCES (which supports health services in all 56 school districts in Nassau County), no school district has an onsite medical director who is an MD. Nurses in school districts are typically supervised by either the district athletic director or another administrator. Most districts that have a medical director (which is a requirement that not all districts have in place) have a board appointed medical director who is typically a contracted MD in private practice or working through Nassau BOCES. Levittown School District has two such individuals. While I understand your recommendation of having someone onsite with additional medical training than

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nurses, it is not something that is practicable. The district will review the possibility of a Lead Nurse position during the budget process, which some other districts have.

• Interpretation of medical orders for your child: As you mentioned during your statement, as well as in conversations we have previously had, the situation regarding the interpretation of the medical orders for your child has been resolved. We are continuing to have discussions to determine if our internal procedures need to be enhanced as per your recommendation. As the school nurse is the medical professional in the building, I have full faith and confidence in their abilities to carry out the duties assigned to them.

As we have previously discussed, while we might not always agree on the best way to support the health needs of our students, we are always open to suggestions from our parents and larger community, especially as we prepare for the upcoming budget season. Thank you for your kind comments about the school district during your statement. I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy new year!

Sincerely, Todd Winch Superintendent of Schools

- 3. Follow-up to Board Questions
- D. Board of Education
 - 1. Comments and Reports

Marianne Adrian wanted to tell everyone about the Levittown Educational Foundation's Hall of Fame Dinner which was well attended by the abductees and it was a wonderful event.

- 2. Correspondence
- 3. Student Liaisons

Student Liaison Ronald Gray from Division Avenue High School reported as follows:

Student Life

- Between Nov 14 and Dec 7th, eight colleges and universities held on site admissions here at DAHS with many students taking advantage and many students being accepted to the college of their choice.
- On Nov 29th, Division held a vocational fair with a variety of organization, employers, and trade schools. The event was well attended and well received by students. We are looking to do another large one in the Spring.
- On Dec 4th, the DAHS began their auditions for this year's musical, "The Addams Family".
- On Nov 30th the new course catalog for Division Ave and MacArthur was released. Along with that, there are several interesting new electives being offered at Division next year, including a Graphic Novels Class and a Real Estate class. Student had the

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opportunity to meet with counselors and begin selecting courses for next year during the week of December 11.

- Before the holidays, the staff and students competed in a holiday or winter door decorating contest to bring cheer and excitement to our hallways. This has become an annual tradition that everyone looks forward to. It was organized by Ms. Wheeler and the PosiDiv Club.
- Throughout the month of December, Business Honor Society students participated in a toy drive to benefit local children in need, filling several large boxes with gifts. This was the 15th year in a row that the Business Honor Society has held a toy drive.
- On December 14, members of the symphonic band, concert choir, chamber choir and string orchestra presented their talents in the annual winter concert, delighting the large crowd in attendance. During the week leading up to the winter break, many of the same students performed holiday songs in the lobby during passing time, raising everyone's spirits and putting everyone in the festive mood.
- Division Avenue HS teacher Stacy Roth was chosen by the DAHS PTSA as this year's Honorary Life Recipient. Ms. Roth has served the Levittown School District for more than 20 years and is an exemplary role model for our students and a caring, impactful teacher.

Academics

- Senior Alex Gao was accepted to the United State Military academy at West Point. Division congratulates Alex on this impressive achievement
- The Division Avenue Guidance team held their annual elective fair on December 8th.
 Teachers and students collaborated to showcase the numerous elective offerings at Division that cover a wide range of subjects.
- Every year, DAHS graduate Mr. Chris Eagan of the Class of 1969 awards 2 seniors with a \$10,000 scholarship. In order to win this scholarship, students must exemplify pioneer qualities. Students who were nominated had to write an essay explaining how they are pioneer and were interviewed before being selected. This year's recipients of the Dragon Pioneer Award are Alex Gao and Spica Kats. Congratulations to these amazing students.

Athletics

- Angelina Weinert received the Outstanding Student Award from NY State Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.
- Both basketball teams (boys and girls) are 8-2 and poised to make the playoffs
- Boys bowling is currently in 2nd place in conference and will qualify for the county tournament on Feb 10. We are currently ranged 7 in Nassau County large schools.
- Division Girls Varsity Bowling is having an overall good season. The team is young and is improving everyday. Two more matches left in the season.
- Boys and girls trace both have a relay team that qualified for National and two individuals.

Upcoming Events

• Students in all courses are preparing for their final or midterm examinations. Finals for semester courses will be held January 16 − 19 and block exams for full year course will be held January 23 − 26.

Student Liaison Olivia DeMarco from MacArthur High School reported as follows:

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Before I begin my report on behalf of all the members of general nation, I would just like to wish all of you a very happy & healthy new year & I look forward to a fantastic 2024. Since our last meeting there has been a lot of happenings in general nation.

- 1. On November 30th, we conducted a very successful & productive parent teacher conference. Parents seemed to be extremely impressed with what is transpiring in their children classes, & Mr. Sheehan stated that all the feedback he obtained from the parents at the conclusion of the event was all positive & successful.
- 2. On Friday December 1st, Mr. Zausin & Dr. Friedman accompanied the science research team to the Crest Hollow Country Club where more than 1000 local business people, community leaders, government officials, & several other AP environmental science students & future leaders attended the Long Island Smart Growth Summit. The event which was organized by Vision Long Island featured 20 workshops & over 100 different speakers who discussed various topics such as environmental issues, downtown revitalization, & infrastructure investments. The experience was extremely enlightening for all of our students.
- 3. On Tuesday December 5th, we actually began graduation cap & gown sales as its frightening to know that believe it or not, graduation is right around the corner.
- 4. On Thursday December 7th, we conducted an extremely successful & well attended elective fair during all 4 lunch periods, where all underclassmen received a descriptive & well illustrated overview of all the available electives that they can take next school year. Special thanks to all of the districts directors for helping us put this worthwhile event together.
- 5. Also on December 7th, Mr. Layhee, Mr. Farney & Mr. Fazalari accompanied their Sports Marketing students to a walking tour of the iconic Yankee Stadium in the Bronx. Students were fortunate enough to visit the famous monument park, as well as have the opportunity to walk on the field behind home plate & observe how the field was transformed from a baseball field into a football field for the upcoming, Pinstripe Bowl. All students had a phenomenal time soaking up all the tradition & history of the famous New York Yankee baseball franchise.
- 6. On Friday December 8th, science teacher Mrs. Clear took her AP biology students on a field trip to the Dolan DNA Learning Center in Cold Spring Harbor. All students participated in a restriction analysis experiment where they were able to cut viral DNA using special restriction enzymes into fragments of varying lengths into a gel. All students stated that it was a very educational & enlightening field trip.
- 7. On December 18th, Mr. Romano along with his winter wind ensemble performed the beautiful sounds of the holidays at the Broadway Mall in Hicksville for <u>r</u> all holiday shoppers to enjoy. As always, this was a fun filled event for all who attended.
- 8. The following evening, December 19th, our string orchestra under the direction of Ms. Musial, & our concert choir under the direction of Mrs. Levenberg performed the beautiful holiday sounds in our auditorium at our annual winter concert one. If you were fortunate enough to attend, I am sure you would agree that the exceptional talents of all our student performers put everyone into the holiday spirit.
- 9. Macarthur Science Olympiad team competed in two remote invitationals in preparation for the upcoming Long Island Regional Tournament. Under the guidance & coaching of Dr. Friedman & Mr. Zausin, our team battled against teams from all across the country, in the first Annual Styvsant Invitational_as well as the Dick Smith Memorial Invitational. These events revolve around science related academics, hands on building, & lab work. There is no doubt our team is ready to compete at a high level in the upcoming regional tournament. So please join me in wishing our science Olympiad team all the very best of luck & success.

UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDE:

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O Select members of our varsity wrestling team competing in the Eastern States Wrestling Tournament, at Sullivan county community college on January 1 through 13th. Please wish our wrestlers who are competing all the very best of luck.

- o On January 18th, our concert band under the direction of Mr. Romano will be performing in our winter concert two events.
- o On January 23rd through the 26th we will be conducting our midterm exams please join me wishing all students the very best of luck during this exam week session.
- Special congratulations to senior students: Benjamin Campbell and Nicole
 Stueckenschneider for earning the prestigious Nassau zone outstanding physical education student awards at Nassau County
- As well as to sophomore students: Meghan Campbell and Meghan Gorey for being selected as the MacArthur high school representatives to attend the Hue Obrien Youth Leadership Ambassadors as a result of their exceptional academic and community service records

Congratulations & way to go generals, this concludes my report.

Ms. Lang thanked the Student Liaisons for their contributions.

Mr. Robert Cohen, administered the Oath of Office to the new District Clerk, Vanessa Esposito.

III. PUBLIC BE HEARD

The guidelines pertaining to Public Be Heard were read.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes - Approval of Minutes

RESOLUTION # 011024-001

Recommended Motion: "Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of the December 6 Audit Committee and Regular meetings."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: James Moran SECONDER: Phyllis Dalton AYES: Adrian, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

2. Warrants RESOLUTION # 011024-002

Recommended 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 DECEMBER 2023 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

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RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: James Moran SECONDER: Phyllis Dalton AYES: Adrian, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

3. Business Office Reports

RESOLUTION # 011024-003

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

- Appropriation and Revenue Reports for the period 7/1/2023 to 11/30/2023
- Trial Balance Report for the period 7/1/23 to 11/30/23
- Treasurers Report for the month ending November 2023
- Claims Audit Report for the month of November 2023"

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: James Moran SECONDER: Phyllis Dalton AYES: Adrian, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

4. Bid Awardee Agreement_AC Installation

RESOLUTION # 011024-004

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education, does, hereby, approve the attached Bid Awardee Agreement between the Levittown Public Schools and L&J Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc for the purpose of District Wide AC Installation.

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

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: James Moran SECONDER: Phyllis Dalton AYES: Adrian, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

5. Appointment of District Clerk

RESOLUTION # 011024-005

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that Vanessa Esposito be appointed for the position of District Clerk for the 2023-2024 school year as per the attached employment agreement."

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RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: James Moran SECONDER: Phyllis Dalton AYES: Adrian, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

6. Personnel Agreement

RESOLUTION #011024-006

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby ratifies the agreement between the Levittown Union Free School District and Employee No. 5306."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: James Moran SECONDER: Phyllis Dalton AYES: Adrian, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

7. School Calendar 2024-2025

RESOLUTION # 011024-007

Recommended Motion: "WHEREAS, the attached 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 school year."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: James Moran SECONDER: Phyllis Dalton AYES: Adrian, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

8. Contract - Club Getaway

RESOLUTION # 011024-008

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract with Club Getaway for the 5^{th} grade class trip on May 20, 2024.

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

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: James Moran SECONDER: Phyllis Dalton AYES: Adrian, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

9. Waive Second Read of Policy

RESOLUTION # 011024-009

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that in accordance with Board Policy #1410, the Board of

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Education hereby waives the second reading for proposed revision of Board Policy #6190 - Workplace Violence Prevention Policy."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: James Moran SECONDER: Phyllis Dalton AYES: Adrian, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

10. Approval of Board of Education Policy

RESOLUTION # 011024-010

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the following revised policy:

Policy No. 6190 Workplace Violence Prevention Policy

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: James Moran SECONDER: Phyllis Dalton AYES: Adrian, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

11. Establish Scholarship

RESOLUTION # 011024-011

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, establish the Outstanding Student in Physics Scholarship for Division Avenue High School students according to the attached criteria."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: James Moran SECONDER: Phyllis Dalton AYES: Adrian, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

12. Special Education Contracts

RESOLUTION # 011024-012

Recommended 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 as indicated:

- Bellmore UFSD
- Copiague Public Schools

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

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RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: James Moran SECONDER: Phyllis Dalton AYES: Adrian, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

13. Obsolete Books

RESOLUTION # 011024-013

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the books on the attached list obsolete and that the items may be discarded and/or donated as possible or sold at the highest salvage value.

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: James Moran SECONDER: Phyllis Dalton AYES: Adrian, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

14. Schedules

RESOLUTION #011024-014

"RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the following schedules:

- 1001 "Resignations/Terminations, Certified Personnel"
- 1002 "Resignations/Terminations, Non-Instructional Personnel"
- 1003 "Appointments, Certified Personnel"
- 1004 "Coaching"
- 1005 "Consultants"
- 1006 "Appointments, Non-Instructional Personnel"
- 1007 "LOA, Certified Personnel"
- 1008 "LOA, Non-Instructional Personnel"
- 1009 "Salary Change, Certified Personnel"
- 1010 "Salary Change, Non-Instructional Personnel"
- 1011 "Students w/Disabilities

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: James Moran SECONDER: Phyllis Dalton AYES: Adrian, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. New Business

1. Gifts to Schools

RESOLUTION # 011024-015

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

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 Various construction items to be donated to the Residential Structures Class at Division Avenue High School to be used to construct a life-size menorah for the Veterans Memorial Park in Levittown

- Books as listed on the attached to be donated to Wisdom Lane Library from Scholastic Book Faire, PO Box 639849, Cincinnati, OH 45263-9849
- One hundred pieces of rosin valued at \$1600 to be donated to the District music teachers from Connolly Music, 8 Vernon Valley Road, E. Northport, NY 11731
- One check in the amount of \$100 to be donated to East Broadway School for the James Woolwhich Award to be presented to two graduating fifth graders from the class of 2023 from Mrs. Kerry Couture, 160 Poplar Street, Garden City, NY 11530."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED

MOVER: Marianne Adrian

SECONDER: James Moran

AYES: Dalton, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

VI. AD HOC

Mr. Winch mentioned that these policies were vetted by the Attorney and sent by the Policy Committee and are being presented to the Board of Education for a first read. Mr. Fabiano spoke about the change to Policy 5230 is technical in nature as gifts and donations are accounted for differently by the auditors to bring us in compliance. Mr. Rifkin mentioned that Policy No. 6121 was done from recommendations from New York State which we followed with an increase emphasis on gender diversity, remote work, sexual harassment and examples.

There were no questions.

1. Board Policy - First Read

Policy No. 5230 Acceptance of Gifts, Grants and Bequests to the School District

Policy No. 6121 Policy Against Workplace Sexual Harassment

VII. UPCOMING DATES

January 24 - Budget Planning Session #1

February 7 - Budget Planning Session #2/Regular Meeting

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED

MOVER: Phyllis Dalton
SECONDER: Marianne Adrian
AYES: Moran, Lang

ABSENT: Mike Pappas, Peggy Marenghi, Jennifer Messina

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM