

ATTACHMENTS TO BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

OF MEETING OF September 14, 2011

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V. 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 OFFICE.

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.

Michelle Papaccio	62 Sunrise Lane, Levittown
Rob Avedisian	17 Rainbow Lane, Levittown
Maryanne Russo	8 High Lane, Levittown
Michael Lyans	55 Green Lane, Levittown

The residents listed above came to the meeting to discuss the re-zoning issue. They stated they had bought their houses knowing that MacArthur, Salk and Abbey were to be their schools. Additionally, they worry about selling their home if they are re-zoned. Ms. Russo commented she probably would not have bought her house had she known about re-zoning. They shared with the Board their concerns. Mr. Lyans asked for information on why the re-zoning is occurring, who would be affected and other details.

Tom Carman 3341 Red Maple Dr., Levittown

Mr. Carman had comments for the Board on two subjects. One is home calculators. He noted the district has a policy of one calculator per family. He has two children attending high school who need to use a calculator. Mr. Carman is upset that with all the taxes he pays, his children have to share a calculator. The second issue is the visitor parking between Salk and MacArthur. Mr. Carman stated that the same cars are always in the visitor lot. He cannot find a spot especially during inclement weather because the employees are using the spots. He would like the Board to address this issue.

Angela List 40 Meander Lane, Levittown

Ms. List had questions regarding a bid on the agenda dealing with vending machine services. She asked why the current vendor was asked to renew and it did not go out for rebid. She reported that month after month the vending machines have not been in compliance with the district's Wellness Policy.

Tom Kohlman 806 Brent Drive, Wantagh

Mr. Kohlman wanted to discuss the English Language Arts (ELA) test scores. He asked if we had the results yet and how the district performed. Additionally, Mr. Kohlman inquired why Levittown is always late getting their test scores when most other district's have them and are setting their curriculum.

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Jane Finkelstein

848 Mayer Dr., Wantagh

Ms. Finkelstein had comments for the Board on ELA test scores. She read a synopsis from last years minutes and noted that the same thing happened last year regarding the scores being late. Ms. Finkelstein noted that there was a discussion last year on the proper dissemination of information but nothing has changed. She is questioning why this keeps happening and why other districts have this information.

RESPONSE:

In response to the re-zoning issue:

Dr. Grossane addressed the residents that spoke about re-zoning by reporting that this issue is still under review. A sub-committee has been formed and is gathering information. They are looking at the number of children in the buildings, overcrowding, any savings and if this is the right move for the district. Dr. Grossane stressed that it is under investigation but no decision has been made. He noted this is a far impacting decision and there will be an opportunity to seek input from those resident affected. The public will be kept informed.

Mr. Powers appreciated the position of the parents who spoke but was surprised because only a small percentage of students are affected by this. He remarked that when you buy a house you are buying a school district not necessarily the school. The catchment area of any elementary, middle or high school runs the risk of being changed at any given time. He questioned why they did not want to go to Division Avenue since they have the same qualified, professional people as MacArthur. Mr. Powers noted that one of the reasons for re-zoning is the imbalance of square footage combined with the additional number of students causes difficulty during changing of classes.

Mr. Porrazzo reported that other residents have spoken out with the exact opposite opinion. These residents voiced it was unfair for their children to be separated from their friends.

Mr. Pappas respected everyone's opinion but was dismayed by those residents who did not want their children to attend Division. He noted that both schools are in the top 3% in the United States.

Mr. Regan felt it was a reasonable request. The residents were happy with their present schools and were concerned with safety in travel to the different schools.

In response to the questions on calculators:

Dr. Grossane stated he would look into the procedure and policy regarding this issue and report back.

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In response to the questions on the ELA's:

Dr. Grossane explained that the school districts that use BOCES services to send out their scores receive them earlier. Levittown does not use this service. We have to print out the letter ourselves and therefore they go out later to the parents. Dr. Grossane remarked he would look into this problem and try to develop new procedures to keep the public informed. Regarding the ELA analysis of other districts, Mr. Grossane noted this would be available at the next meeting.

Ms. Rifkin pointed out that the parent reports were delivered to the schools that day and were being printed. The letters would go out by the end of the week. She commented that the school district received the scores earlier but the parent reports were not available. Ms. Rifkin noted the information was available to plan the curriculum and AIS letters.

Ms. Marengi shared with the audience that in the district where she teaches, the parents receive the parent reports directly from BOCES even before the schools receive them. She suggested that Levittown look into the cost for this fee for service from BOCES. Ms. Marengi stressed that we are moving in the right direction regarding data analysis, how it is going to be rolled out, how it is going to be studied and how the data will be used to drive instruction. She pointed out that hiring Dr. Grossane was a great step because he is very knowledgeable on curriculum and on data analysis.

Mr. Porrazzo asked if BOCES could interface with PowerSchool so the documents could be received electronically. Dr. Grossane noted he would investigate whether it could be integrated or if there were other electronic options.

In response to the issue on visitor parking:

Dr. Grossane responded that the principal of that building has been made aware of the situation.

Mr. Pappas remarked that this issue was addressed at the school's PTA meeting.

In response to the questions on the vending machines:

Mr. Flower reported that he would be attending the first Food Service Committee Meeting of the school year the following week. He was aware of the items that the vendor should be putting into the vending machines and would make sure that was enforced since the was in violation of the contract.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Appelbaum,
District Clerk

