

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

DATE: APRIL 13, 2016

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION was duly called and held on Wednesday, April 13, 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 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. James Moran, Vice President
Mr. Karen Quinones-Smith, Secretary
Ms. Marianne Adrian
Mr. Michael Pappas – excused absence
Mr. Frank Ward

ADMINISTRATION

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

OTHERS

Mr. Robert H. Cohen - School Attorney
Ms. Elizabeth Appelbaum - District Clerk
Mr. Armaninder Thind – MacArthur High School Student Liaison
Mr. James Lunetta – Division Avenue High School Student Liaison

- A. Pledge of Allegiance

- B. Mr. Moran, Vice President, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:15 PM. On a motion by Mr. Ward, seconded by Ms. Adrian and approved (4-0) that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to seek advice from the Board's Attorney.

- C. The Board reconvened to Public Session at 7:30 PM on a motion by Ms. Adrian seconded by Ms. Quinones-Smith and approved (4-0). Mr. Moran asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. A video was shown of the chorus students from Division and MacArthur singing the National Anthem at Citifield. Mr. Moran commented this was a very proud moment for Levittown. He asked for a moment of silence for our veterans.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. McDonald announced that the District was a National Finalist for the 2016 Kennedy Center and NSBA Arts Award.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes - Approval of Minutes

RESOLUTION # 15-16-192

MOTION: "Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 16, 2016 and Special Meetings/Budget Planning Sessions of March 30, 2016.

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

NOTE: Dr. McDonald asked everyone to reconvene in the auditorium to present the Winter Sports Awards.

IV. REPORTS

A. Recognition

i. Winter Sports Recognitions - In Auditorium

Mr. Snyder, Director of Physical Education, Athletics, and Health introduced the coaches from the various schools who called upon their athletes who received either All Class, All Conference, All State, All County, All Star, All League or Scholar Athlete status. Mr. Snyder thanked everyone for coming to tonight's ceremony and for their support. The students were given certificates for their achievements and congratulations from the Board.

ii. Student Academic Presentation: Summit Lane School

The students from Summit Lane School gave a presentation called "There's More to It than Just Singing A Song" which showed the physicality of vocal performances. Dr. McDonald thanked the students for an amazing performance.

iii. Eagle Scout Presentation - Zac Martin

Mr. Martin, from Troop 189, shared with the Board his Eagle Scout project proposal for Division Avenue High School. Mr. Martin provided a diagram of his project which is to place bricks on the pathway leading to the flag pole with the names of those individuals who graduated Division Avenue and served in the Armed Forces. Additionally, if funds were available, he would like to place a light by the flagpole to see the flag flying at night. Mr. Martin commented this would be a way to honor these veterans. He explained his fundraising program and asked for the Boards approval to move forward with his project. They responded affirmatively. Dr. McDonald advised Mr. Martin to work with Mr. Milano on his plan.

iv. Student Art Presentation: Gardiners Avenue School

Dr. McDonald asked everyone to view the beautiful artwork by the students from Gardiners Avenue School and thanked them for a wonderful job.

B. Superintendent

1. Comments and Reports

Dr. McDonald shared that the Board had discussed naming the Sports Complex at Levittown Memorial after Kevin Regan who recently passed away. She distributed renderings of the signs and noted that they were in red and black in keeping with the school colors when it was open. The consensus of the Board was to move forward. Dr. McDonald made suggestions for the wording of the signs and advised that they should be ready by the middle of May.

A. Architects Presentation

i. John A. Grillo Architects

Mr. Pastore introduced Mr. Grillo who gave a brief presentation on his architectural firm, JAG Architect. He explained his services and philosophy which is to provide the highest quality educational environment in the most affordable manner. Mr. Grillo noted that he would analyze all the buildings' systems and plans; maximize the efficiency of the design without sacrificing quality; and review in detail all of the project requirements with the end user to put together the most efficient functional plan. Mr. Grillo commented that he always develops a good relationship with the District he is working with to make them feel comfortable. He reviewed his plans for the MacArthur auditorium reconstruction and the cafeteria kitchen addition at Northside. Dr. McDonald thanked Mr. Grillo and his firm for all the past work they have done for the District.

ii. Michael Mark Architect

Mr. Mark from Mark Design Studios Architecture provided a presentation of his firm. He talked about his project team, how the firm operates and the project approach. He went over in detail plans for the MacArthur auditorium reconstruction and the cafeteria kitchen addition at Northside. He noted that he met with individuals involved with the buildings to discuss what the issues are with the existing space in order to determine how they could be improved. Mr. Mark stated some of the reasons to use his firm such as: collaborative design effort that supports learning and community; client focused; depth of school design experience; strong relationship with NYSED; experts with NYS Building Aid; commitment to high quality client service and maximize your aid. Dr. McDonald thanked Mr. Mark for his presentation and remarked that the Board would make a decision shortly on their choice of architectural firm.

2. Follow-up to Board Questions

A. Follow-up to Prior Public Be Heard Questions

Mr. Pastore stated that at the last meeting Ms. Finkelstein asked what the free and reduced lunch rates are. He quoted statistics from the latest state report which is a three year average report. He remarked that for 2009/10 our free and reduced lunch rate was 9.6% and for 2015/16 it was 16%. Mr. Pastore commented that the increase reflects the economic downturn at that time. He noted that based on the NutriKids Report the numbers are 17% and will be growing to 21% with the average being 18%.

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

Mr. Ward commented that he recently saw the play, West Side Story presented by Division Avenue which was great and the kids were phenomenal. Dr. McDonald shared that both schools put on wonderful productions. Ms. Adrian remarked that the students at Wisdom Lane went to Syracuse for the Science Olympiads and did very well. Dr. McDonald stated that we are proud of all of our students.

- 2. Correspondence
(none)

- 3. Student Liaisons

Student Liaison for MacArthur, Mr. Thind, reported that the biggest competition of the year, the Battle of the Classes, was held recently where all four grades competed against each other in a variety of fun filled yet different games. The seniors were the victors. Some of the other events held were: the Pre Prom Parent Workshop; several AP Environmental Science students took a tour of the Town of Hempstead’s Department of Conservation, the Waterways Clean Energy Project and the Cedar Creek Water Waste Treatment Facility; a senior student’s art work was displayed at the 2016 Nassau County Art Exhibition; Autism Awareness Day was held; the Night of Honor Ceremony was conducted for exceptional students who were recognized and inducted into the Business, Language Art or Music Honor Society; two freshmen students competed in the Irish Cultural Society Writing Contest and won 1st prize and honorable mention; a senior student won the 2016 Scholastic Art and Writing Silver Key Award for a poem; and the senior Fashion Show was a success.

Mr. Lunetta, Student Liaison for Division, announced that the theater students attended the 67th Annual Hofstra University Shakespeare Festival; the Ice Falcons competed in the New York State High School Hockey Championship tournament; a student is the recipient of the Dr. Jong Phil Lee Memorial Scholarship of excellence in the study of mathematics; the boy’s Varsity Basketball Team was honored James Greene Sportsmanship Award; the Junior Prom was held recently at Verdi’s in Westbury and was a huge success.

V. PUBLIC BE HEARD

The guidelines pertaining to Public Be Heard were read. Dr. McDonald and/or board members will respond to questions, after the last speaker is heard.

VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Warrants

RESOLUTION # 15-16-216

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 MARCH 2016 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

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

2. Business Office Reports

RESOLUTION # 15-16-217

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

- Appropriation and Revenue reports for the month ending February 29, 2016
- Claims Auditors Report prepared by Nawrocki Smith LLP for the month ending March 2016
- Treasurer's report for the month ending February 2016
- Trial Balance for the month ending February 29, 2016
- Credit card statement for period ending March 22, 2016
- Fund Balance Projection March 2016."

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

3. Memorandum of Understanding - William Pastore

RESOLUTION # 15-16-218

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Levittown Union Free School District and William Pastore, as per the terms of the attached Memorandum of Understanding;
NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding."

NOTE: Mr. Cohen, Legal Advisor, recommended changing a word in the document.

AMEND AS FOLLOWS: Change the word "approve" to "ratify" on the resolution.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Frank Ward
AYES:	Moran, Quinones-Smith, Adrian, Ward
ABSENT:	Peggy Marengi and Mike Pappas

4. Memorandum of Understanding - Dr. Donald Sturz

RESOLUTION #15-16-219

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Levittown Union Free School District and Dr. Donald Sturz, as per the terms of the attached Memorandum of Understanding;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding."

NOTE: Mr. Cohen, Legal Advisor, recommended changing a word in the document.

AMEND AS FOLLOWS: Change the word "approve" to "ratify" on the resolution.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Frank Ward
AYES:	Moran, Quinones-Smith, Adrian, Ward
ABSENT:	Peggy Marengi and Mike Pappas

5. Budget Transfer

RESOLUTION # 15-16-220

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

Code	Code Description	\$ From	\$ To	Reason
A21101400	Substitute Teachers	\$15,000		
A28551600	Interscholastic Athletic Game Supervision		\$15,000	To pay for athletic contest and challenger programs

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

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

6. Transportation Cooperative SENTCO

RESOLUTION # 15-16-221

MOTION: “WHEREAS, a number of public school districts in South Eastern Nassau County wish to jointly solicit proposals for pupil transportation services for the 2016-2017 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law;

WHEREAS, the public school districts have agreed to form a Cooperative (SENTCO) for this purpose;

WHEREAS, the Levittown Union Free School District is desirous of participating in SENTCO for joint consolidation of proposals for pupil transportation services as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the Levittown Union Free School District to participate in cooperative bidding conducted by SENTCO;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the Levittown Union Free School District agrees to assume its equitable share of the administrative costs of the cooperative bidding program and all of its obligations and responsibilities pursuant to any contracts that may be awarded by the cooperative.”

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

7. Transportation Cooperative BOCES

RESOLUTION # 15-16-222

MOTION: “WHEREAS, a number of public school districts in Nassau County wish to jointly solicit proposals, together with the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services (“BOCES”) for pupil transportation services for the 2016-17 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law;

WHEREAS, the public school districts and the BOCES have agreed to form a Cooperative (the “Cooperative”) for this purpose;

WHEREAS, the Levittown Union Free School District is desirous of participating in the Cooperative for joint solicitation of proposals for pupil transportation services as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education authorizes the School District to participate in the Cooperative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education, hereby, approves the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement (Recitals) attached hereto and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.”

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

8. Tuition Increase - Drivers Education

RESOLUTION # 15-16-223

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve an increase to the Drivers Education tuition rate from \$470.00 To \$475.00 for the 2016-17 school year."

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

9. Out of District Contracts for Health and Welfare Services

RESOLUTION # 15-16-224

MOTION: “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract between the Levittown Public Schools and the following school district to provide health and welfare services to students attending schools in these districts for the 2015-16 school year:

- North Merrick School District
- Plainedge Public Schools
- Jericho School District
- Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District
- Garden City Public Schools
- Baldwin UFSD

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

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

10. Special Education Contracts

RESOLUTION # 15-16-225

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 2015-16 and 2016-17 school year.

- Signet Education, LLC
- Harmony Heights
- Lexington School for the Deaf
- Maryhaven Center for Hope
- Creative Tutoring

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

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

11. Gifts to School

RESOLUTION # 15-16-226

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

- Seventy-four new Scholastic books as outlined on the attached list to be donated to the Jonas E. Salk Middle School Library from Scholastic Book Fairs, PO Box 1169200, Atlanta, GA 30368
- A 2004 Buick Park Avenue, VIN #1G4CU541944105758, to be donated to the GC Tech Automotive Program from G.M. and Suffolk Community College, 533 College Road, Selden, NY 11784-2899
- A check in the amount of \$370.00 to be donated to the Summit Lane Drama Club from Brinker International (Chilis), 6820 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75240
- A check in the amount of \$955.00 to be used for materials for student use during recess and for indoor board games for Gardiners Avenue School to be donated by Box Tops Education, 13700 Oakland Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203
- A check in the amount of \$910.95 to be used for materials for student use during recess and indoor board games for Gardiners Avenue School to be donated by Target, PO Box 59214, Minneapolis, MN 55459
- A check in the amount of \$500.00 to be deposited in the Student Activity Fund for Summit Lane School to be donated from Woodridge Productions, Inc. - Kevin James, Pilot, 10202 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232
- One Arch swing set from Trassig Corporation for The Elija School to be donated by Mark Reyes, 232 Frankel Blvd. Merrick, NY 11566
- Ten baby trees to be planted on schools grounds from Ann Cassani, 14 Springtime Lane, Levittown, NY 11756”

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

12. Obsolete Equipment

RESOLUTION # 15-16-227

MOTION: “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the equipment on the attached lists obsolete and that the item may be discarded and/or sold at the highest possible salvage value.”

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

13. Obsolete Books for Donation

RESOLUTION # 15-16-228

MOTION: “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education hereby declares the Digits-Homework Helper on the attached lists to be obsolete, and that the items, once approved, will be donated to the Edgecombe County Public Schools, 2311 North Main Street, Tarboro, North Carolina.”

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

14. Obsolete Library Books

RESOLUTION # 15-16-229

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.

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

15. Schedules

RESOLUTION # 15-16-230

MOTION: “That the Levittown Board of Education approve Schedules:

- | | | |
|------|------------------|--|
| 1001 | 2015-G-No. 12 | Resignations/Terminations, Certified Personnel |
| 1002 | 2015-GG-No. 12 | Resignations/Terminations, Non-Instructional Personnel |
| 1003 | 2015-H-No. 13 | Appointments, Certified Personnel |
| 1004 | 2015-H-No. 13a1 | Appointments, Salary Change |
| 1005 | 2015-H-No. 13c | Designation, Consultants |
| 1006 | 2015-H-No. 13g | Designation, Coaching |
| 1007 | 2015-H-No. 13h | Appointments, Extra Curricular |
| 1008 | 2015-HH-No. 13 | Appointments, Non-Instructional |
| 1009 | 2015-HH-No. 13a1 | Salary Change, Non-Instructional |
| 1010 | 2015-J-No.8 | Tenure, Certified Personnel |
| 1011 | 2015-K-No. 9 | Leave of Absence, Certified Personnel |
| 1012 | 2015-KK-No. 9 | Leave of Absence, Non-Instructional Personnel |
| 1013 | 2015-O-No.10 | Students w/Disabilities |

NOTE: Dr. McDonald and the Board congratulated Ms. Lorelli and Mr. Coscia on receiving tenure.

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

16. Appointment of Replacement Member of the Food Service Committee RESOLUTION # 15-16-231

MOTION: “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, appoint Karen Romanelli to replace Vanessa Nesci as a member of the Food Service Committee for the 2015-2016 school year.”

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

VII. AD HOC

Board Policies - Second Read
Policy No. 7120 - Age of Entrance

Ms. Rifkin noted there were no changes for this reading. The policy will be adopted at the next Regular Board meeting.

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Ward
AYES:	Moran, Quinones-Smith, Adrian, Ward
ABSENT:	Peggy Marengi and Mike Pappas

The Board adjourned the public meeting at 9:55 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.

Barbara Schwartz 867 Colridge Rd, Wantagh, NY

Ms. Schwartz felt it was important that she speak out about the wonderful experience her son is having as a student at East Broadway school. She commented that her son has an extraordinary teacher and that he feels loved, respected, nurtured, and safe. She remarked that this is his second great year at the school. Additionally, she feels that the staff at the LAP and LAMP programs is outstanding. Ms. Schwartz thanked the Board and Administrators for offering such wonderful programs that run well because of the exceptional leadership. She is grateful for this opportunity.

Laurel Fanning 744 Francis Drive, Wantagh, NY
Cathleen Dnyprowsky 35 Twin Lane North, Wantagh, NY

These parents wanted to discuss state testing. They asked why six of our schools were closed on Monday for grading the tests when we had a 70% opt-out rate. Ms. Fanning was concerned about the loss of instructional time since there was six months of test prep, six days of administering the test and a full day to grade the test. Ms. Dnyprowsky noted that the district had an increase in students opting-out from last year. She understood why we would want our teachers scoring these tests, but perhaps sending these tests out for grading is the way to go. She felt we could do better for our students.

RESPONSE:

Ms. Rifkin commented that the Monday for grading was put on the calendar a year in advance and did not anticipate the large number of opt-outs. She remarked that more importantly even though a much smaller number of students took the test, there is extensive training that has to be given the day of scoring. She noted that teachers have to be sent for training and then they have to turnkey that training on the day of scoring. If we were to pull the teachers from class, there would be still be a loss of instruction and there would be more days of grading. Ms. Rifkin advised that we do not have enough substitutes to cover the classes. She stated that Administration will reconsider for next year and possibly seek alternatives.

Jane Finkelstein 848 Mayer Drive, Wantagh, NY

Ms. Finkelstein was happy that other parents were speaking about testing. She asked if there were new conversations in terms of curriculum and test prep as we move forward after two consecutive years of the opt-out movement. Additionally, she wanted to know if the free and reduced lunch program is audited and when we would be entitled to grant money for this program.

RESPONSE:

Ms. Rifkin responded that test prep is not in the curriculum but teachers do practice with students all the time. She advised that if we did not give students the opportunity to read passages and answer questions, they would not do very well on the English Regents, PSAT and SAT. Ms. Rifkin commented that the more practice we give them, the more beneficial it will be for the students later on.

Mr. Pastore addressed the question on grants for free and reduced lunches by stating that although a lot of grants are offered, school districts have to be in the 70% - 80% range to qualify for them. He noted it relates to the combined wealth ratio.

