

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

**MINUTES**

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION** was duly called and held on Wednesday, November 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 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**

Mr. James Moran, President  
Ms. Peggy Marengi, Vice President  
Ms. Marianne Adrian  
Ms. Christina Lang  
Mr. Michael Pappas  
Ms. Karen Quinones-Smith  
Mr. Frank Ward (in memorium)

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Dr. Tonie McDonald - Superintendent of Schools**  
**Mr. William Pastore – Assistant Superintendent**  
**Ms. Debbie Rifkin - Assistant Superintendent**  
**Dr. Donald Sturz – Assistant Superintendent**  
**Mr. Todd Winch - Assistant Superintendent**

**OTHERS**

**Mr. Robert H. Cohen - School Attorney**  
**Ms. Elizabeth Appelbaum - District Clerk**  
**Ms. Arianna Wynn - Student Liaison for MacArthur High School**  
**Mr. Steven Reilly - Student Liaison for Division Avenue High School**  
**Ms. Alexandria Battaglia - R.S. Abrams**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Mr. Moran, President, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:30 PM. On a motion by Ms. Adrian, seconded by Ms. Marengi and approved (6-0) that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to seek legal advice from the Board's Attorney.**
- B. The Board reconvened to Public Session at 7:30 PM on a motion by Mr. Pappas second by Ms. Adrian and approved (6-0). Mr. Moran asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the men and women overseas and at home fighting for us.**

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(none)

**NOTE: Student Presentations and Recognition were taken out of order and presented before the Audit Committee Meeting.**

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve that the Student Presentations be taken out of order and presented at this time.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Marianne Adrian
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

**III. REPORTS**

A. Student Presentations

i. Student Academic Presentation - Lee Road School

Mr. Winch asked Mr. Goss, Principal of Lee Road, to introduce the presentation on "Mindfulness." This performance was written by the students from Lee Road and showed how to be mindful. They explained how this skill helps build empathy. Additionally, mindfulness helps students focus and control their emotions. The Board thanked the students for their educational presentation.

ii. Musical Presentation - MacArthur HS - The Addams Family - In Auditorium

The Board and audience moved to the auditorium to watch the wonderful performance of "The Addams Family." The members of the play performed a modern twist to the popular TV Show and sang three numbers.

B. Recognition

i. Student Art Presentation - Lee Road School

Dr. McDonald thanked the students from Lee Road for the adorable art work in the Board Room and hallway. She noted that they were very interactive pieces of art.

ii. Eagle Scout Recognitions

Mr. Winch called up Peter Dugan and Christopher Civil, two MacArthur students, who earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Mr. Winch congratulated these recipients and spoke about their volunteer efforts. Mr. Dugan planned, organized and fundraised with his troop for a Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Wantagh Park. Mr. Civil built a memorial table in remembrance of a student at Salk Middle School who lost his battle with cancer at the age of 11. Dr. McDonald explained that when Scouts earn the rank of Eagle, they give a Mentor Pin to those who have been very important and influential in their journey. She shared that Mr. Zampaglione was given this honor.

**III. Audit Committee Meeting**

Mr. Pastore introduced Ms. Battaglia from R.S. Abrams, our External Auditors. He thanked Ms. Battaglia and her team for all their hard work. Ms. Battaglia went over some of the highlights of the financials for the fiscal year 2016. She reviewed the audited financial statements, balance sheets, dividend statements, fund balance and reserves from the Management's Discussion and Analysis section. She thanked the Business Office and Mr. Pastore for providing the documents necessary to complete the Audit. Mr. Pappas had questions for the Auditor on the average yearly liability unemployment insurance and GABSY 75. There was a discussion on these questions and responded to by Ms. Battaglia..

**NOTE: At 8:15 PM the Audit Committee Meeting was adjourned. Mr. Moran called the Regular Meeting to order on a motion by Ms. Marengi and seconded by Ms. Adrian.**

- C. Superintendent
- 1. Comments and Reports

Dr. McDonald reported that the LEAD Celebration was wonderful as always and Leo Vanderburg was Grand Marshall of the Parade.

A. Parent University

Mr. Winch shared that Parent University will be held at Levittown Memorial in about a week. He noted that it is posted on our website. Mr. Winch commented that wonderful workshops are being offered to share strategies for parents. He stated that babysitting would be provided.

- 2. Follow-up to Prior Public Be Heard Questions  
(none)
- 3. Follow-up to Board Questions  
(none)

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

Ms. Marengi reported that she had attended the 2016 NYSSBA Annual Convention in Buffalo with Mr. Moran and Dr. McDonald. She remarked that they heard wonderful speakers. One of whom spoke about Social Emotional Literacy and its effect on learning which tied into the "Mindfulness" presentation by our Lee Road students. She noted that the speaker reported that the number one factor in his research continuously shows self-regulation. Ms. Marengi commented that it was great to see that our students were practicing what he had preached.

Ms. Adrian noted that she recently attended a wonderful event at Northside called the Literacy Hoedown. She commented that there were rooms set up for student participation. She stated it was a great event that embraced our STEAM effort.

2. Correspondence  
(none)

3. Student Liaisons

Ms. Wynn, the student representative from MacArthur High School, reported on the events at her school: the Marching Band put on a wonderful performance at Mitchell Field; LEADD Week began on October 24 with assemblies and workshops throughout the week and concluded with a very successful parade and fair; the Annual Mac's Got Talent Competition was held raising over \$1,000 for the Music Department; two students were awarded the AAHPARD Physical Education Award Winners for Nassau County; upcoming will be, a New Entrance Breakfast, an overnight field trip and a musical production of "The Addams Family."

The Student Liaison, Steven Reilly, shared the events at Division Avenue High School: the football team ended their season with a record 3-4; the Marching Band finished their season with two first place finishes and three second place finishes; Girls Swimming and Diving are Conference Champions ending their regular season with an undefeated record of 8-0; the JV Football Team participated in a fundraising game and raised \$450; the Peer Pals and Career Development held their annual Halloween Dance; the JV and Varsity Volleyball Teams held the Dig Pink Event and raised \$1,500 and were given a donation from Kohl's for \$1,500; the Division Avenue Cheerleaders attended the annual Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach; the Peer Leaders are hosting a Blood Drive; and the Blue and Silver Luncheon will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

**NOTE: Dr. McDonald reported that at the Convention there was mention of having students as Board Liaisons. She stated that we have had that for many years so once again we are ahead of the curve. Additionally, she remarked that our Marching Band, which consists of students from both Division and MacArthur High Schools, was the best on Long Island and the 6<sup>th</sup> in New York State. She commented that we are very proud of them.**

IV. PUBLIC BE HEARD

Comments appear at the end of the minutes.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes - Approval of Minutes

RESOLUTION # 16-17-159

**MOTION:** "Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of the October 19, 2016 Regular Board Meeting."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

2. Board Goals

RESOLUTION #16-17-160

**MOTION:** "WHEREAS, the Board of Education is desirous of setting long term and short term goals for the District.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the attached goals are adopted."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

3. Stipulation of Agreement - LUT

RESOLUTION # 16-17-161

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the October 18, 2016 Stipulation of Agreement with LUT - Legal Services Plan."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

4. Contract with Heartland Payment Systems

RESOLUTION #16-17-162

**MOTION:** " RESOLVED that the Levittown Board of Education approve the K-12 merchant processing agreement Heartland Payment Systems (formally Nutrikids) to provide credit card, debit card and ACH processing services for the school lunch program;

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

5. Authorization for Out of State Field Trip

RESOLUTION # 16-17-163

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, authorize students from Wisdom Lane Middle School to participate in out-of-state field trips to Philadelphia (6<sup>th</sup> Grade) from May 18 - 19, 2017; Boston (7<sup>th</sup> Grade) from May 11 - 12, 2017; and Washington, D.C. (8<sup>th</sup> Grade) from June 1 - 2, 2017."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

6. Destruction of Surplus Election Ballots

RESOLUTION # 16-17-164

**MOTION:** "Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, it is hereby RESOLVED that the District Clerk is authorized to destroy and discard surplus ballots from the May 2016 annual election."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

7. School Physician

RESOLUTION # 16-17-165

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract with Dr. Suanne Kowal-Connelly to be appointed as medical inspector at a contractual rate of \$27,500. This contract supersedes all previous contracts."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

8. Contract for Prom Venue

RESOLUTION # 16-17-166

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract with Crest Hollow Country Club as the venue for the MacArthur High School Senior Prom.

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

9. Obsolete Equipment

RESOLUTION # 16-17-167

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

10. Obsolete Library Books

RESOLUTION # 16-17-168

**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.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

11. Special Education Contracts

RESOLUTION # 16-17-169

**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 2016-17 school year.

- Bellmore UFSD
- Oyster Bay - East Norwich CSD
- Syosset Central School District

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

12. GC Tech Tuition Contract

RESOLUTION # 16-17-170

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education, does, hereby, approve the attached tuition contract between the Levittown Public Schools and the following school district for the purpose of Levittown providing specialized educational services at the GC Tech program to children residing in those districts:

- Seaford Union Free School District

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education President is, hereby, authorized to execute these contract(s)."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

13. Waive Second Read of Policies

RESOLUTION # 16-17-171

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that in accordance with Board Policy #1410, the Board of Education hereby waives the second reading for proposed revision of Board Policy #3420 Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the School District, Policy #6130 Evaluation of Personnel, Policy #6160 Professional Growth/Staff Development, Policy #6215 Probation and Tenure and Policy #7270 Rights of Non-Custodial Parents."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

14. Approval of Board of Education Policies

RESOLUTION # 16-17-172

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the following revised policies:

Policy #3420 Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the School District  
Policy #6130 Evaluation of Personnel  
Policy #6160 Professional Growth/Staff Development  
Policy #6215 Probation and Tenure  
Policy #7270 Rights of Non-Custodial Parents



<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

15. Schedules

RESOLUTION # 16-17-157

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

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

**VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS**

**NOTE: Dr. McDonald explained that there are two items on the Agenda for the Cold War Veterans Exemption. She noted that School Districts are allowed to provide this exemption at either 10% or 15%. She asked Mr. Pastore to report on the information that we just received from Nassau County. Additionally, she asked the Board to discuss this issue and vote on which amount they preferred. The Board had questions and after review, they decided to use the 15% exemption to keep in line with what was given for the other Veterans exemption.**

1. Cold War Veterans Exemption/10%

RESOLUTION # 16-17-174

**MOTION:** “WHEREAS, Real Property Tax Law (“RPTL”) Section 458-b authorizes a limited exemption from real property taxes for real property owned by veterans or certain members of their family who rendered military service to the United States during the Cold War (defined as September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991) based on a percentage of the assessed value of the real property; and

WHEREAS, the exemption is limited to ten years in duration except in the case of the disabled veteran exemption;

WHEREAS, the District has the option of deciding whether to grant the Cold War veterans exemption for the qualified veterans’ primary residential property;

WHEREAS, a qualified residential parcel may receive an exemption equal to 10% of its assessed value and where a veteran has received a service-connected disability rating from the Veteran’s Administration of the Department of Defense, there is an additional exemption which is equal to one-half of the disability rating, multiplied by the assessed value of the property subject to the maximum exemptions established by the RPTL;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the District to offer this partial and temporary exemption to those veterans who served in the military during the Cold War and are not currently receiving either the Veterans Exemption or Alternative Veterans’ Exemption; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District adopts the exemptions provided for in RPTL Section 458-b(2)(a)(i).”

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION NOT-CARRIED (0-6-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Marianne Adrian
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Christina Lang
<b>NAYS:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

2. Cold War Veterans Exemption/15%

RESOLUTION # 16-17-175

**MOTION:** “WHEREAS, Real Property Tax Law (“RPTL”) Section 458-b authorizes a limited exemption from real property taxes for real property owned by veterans or certain members of their family who rendered military service to the United States during the Cold War (defined as September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991) based on a percentage of the assessed value of the real property; and

WHEREAS, the exemption is limited to ten years in duration except in the case of the disabled veteran exemption;

WHEREAS, the District has the option of deciding whether to grant the Cold War veterans exemption for the qualified veterans’ primary residential property;

WHEREAS, a qualified residential parcel may receive an exemption equal to 15% of its assessed value and where a veteran has received a service-connected disability rating from the Veteran’s Administration of the Department of Defense, there is an additional exemption which is equal to one-half of the disability rating, multiplied by the assessed value of the property subject to the maximum exemptions established by the RPTL;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the District to offer this partial and temporary exemption to those veterans who served in the military during the Cold War and are not currently receiving either the Veterans Exemption or Alternative Veterans’ Exemption; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District adopts the exemptions provided for in RPTL Section 458-b(a) and RPTL Section 458-b(2)(a)(ii).”

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Karen Quinones-Smith
<b>YAYS:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Quinones-Smith

VII. AD HOC

1. Policies - First Read

Dr. McDonald explained that these policies were revised due to changes in the law.

Policy No. 5681 - School Safety Plans

Policy No. 5683 - Fire and Emergency Drills, Bomb Threats & Bus Emergency Drills

Policy No. 5720 - Transportation of Students

Policy No. 7222 - Diploma or Credential Options for Students with Disabilities

**NOTE: The Board consented to wave the second read on these policies and adopt them at the next Board Meeting.**

VIII. DATES

November 16, 2016 - Special Meeting

November 16, 2016 - Planning Session

December 7, 2016 - Regular Meeting

IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [6-0-0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Marianne Adrian
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Peggy Marengi
<b>AYES:</b>	Pappas, Moran, Adrian, Marengi, Quinones-Smith, Lang

**The Board adjourned the public meeting at 8:45 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.

**Jane Finkelstein      848 Mayer Drive, Wantagh, NY**

Ms. Finkelstein commented on the "Mindfulness" Presentation. She mentioned that she felt it is very important for the students' social and emotional wellbeing especially due to years of stress at school. Ms. Finkelstein stated we need to embrace and take a good look at what more we can do to teach these children, parents and adults the tools that we need to function throughout life. Ms. Finkelstein also noted that the issue of drugs and alcohol needs to be constantly addressed and not forgotten. Additionally, she mentioned that the enrollment at Parent University for the Parenting and Social Parenting Workshops was much greater than for Math or Envision.