

**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, January 8, 2020 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 MEMBERS**

Ms. Peggy Marenghi, President  
Mr. Dillon Cain, Vice President  
Ms. Marianne Adrian  
Ms. Christina Lang  
Ms. Jennifer Messina  
Mr. James Moran  
Mr. Michael Pappas

**ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Tonie McDonald – Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Chris Dillon – Assistant Superintendent  
Ms. Debbie Rifkin – Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Todd Winch – Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS**

Mr. Bob Cohen – Legal Counsel  
Ms. Elizabeth Appelbaum – District Clerk  
Ms. Caroline Johnson. – Student Liaison MacArthur High School  
Ms. Emily Fuchs – Student Liaison Division Avenue High School

A. Ms. Marenghi, President, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:30 PM. On a motion by Ms. Adrian, seconded by Ms. Lang and approved (7-0) that the Board adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations conducted pursuant to the Taylor Law involving the ALSA.

B. The Board reconvened to Public Session at 7:40 PM on a motion by Mr. Cain seconded by Ms. Lang and approved (7-0). Ms. Marenghi asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and requested a moment of silence for all the men and women serving our country at home and abroad.

**II. REPORTS**

**A. Recognition**

- i. Fall Sports Awards – Postponed until the January 22, 2020 Board Meeting.
  
- ii. Anita Gribben

Mr. Squillacioti, Principal of Summit Lane Elementary School, spoke about Ms. Gribben , an aide in his building. He explained that she cares for a student, Anthony Gregoretti, who recently had a medical emergency in which Ms. Gribben acted immediately without hesitation going above and beyond as she so humbly does very often. Mr. Squillacioti, reported that Ms. Gribben has been with Anthony since 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and knows him well. The Gregoretti family feels that Ms. Gribben really makes a huge impact in his life. She enables him to have the chance to experience life like every other child in school while keeping him safe and healthy. They strongly believe that Ms. Gribben played a huge part in the self-acceptance and confidence he has developed over the years in regards to his condition. The Board and Administration thanked Ms. Gribben.

- iii. Art Display

Ms. Marengi thanked the students from Division Avenue High School for their beautiful art work on display.

**B. Student Presentation**

- i. New Summer Programs

Mr. Winch asked Mr. McDermott to speak about the new programs that were offered for the District's Summer Camp; Adventures in History Camp and Marine Biology Camp. Adventures in History is a program that is meant to enrich students' understanding of the importance of local history. Through the exploration of historical sites and museums located on Long Island, students will gain an increased understanding of the importance of historical figures and places all within local communities. Marine Biology Camp run by Nassau BOCES Outdoor and Environmental Education takes students to Caumsett State Park to participate in various Marine Biology experiences such as a salt marsh hike, fish dissection, horseshoe crab study and a fishing trip. Mr. McDermott noted that student volunteers helped at the camp for free. Students and volunteers from the program shared their stories and insight about the camp. The Board and Administration thanked all the staff for their help.

**C. Superintendent**

1. Comments and Reports

**A. Wantagh Fire Department Letter**

Dr. McDonald explained that the school District had a land swap agreement in 2004 with the Wantagh Fire Department when the tennis courts were moved from their original location to the end of the field. She noted that the initial letter given to the Fire Department was lost and they would now like a new one because they want to do some improvements. Dr. McDonald stated that with the Board's permission she would like to draft a new letter. The consensus of the Board was to have the Superintendent write a new agreement.

B. Budget 2020/2021 School Year

i. First Draft

Dr. Dillon handed out budget binders which will be updated as each meeting progresses in terms of presentations, drafts, budget development and record keeping. Dr. Dillon gave an overview of the first draft of the Budget where he went over the Budget Planning Calendar which outlines the steps being taken moving forward, Board of Education Goals, Procedures and Assumptions, Preliminary Expenditure and Revenue Budget, and the Budget to Budget Analysis. He reported that right now our budget to budget increase is 3.65% which includes all positions currently in the budget; projected salaries are increased by 1 ½ %; class sizes remain the same as the 2019/2020 levels; BOCES costs will continue to be reviewed and adjusted based on programs and estimated student attendance and services; enhanced security and safety upgrades; improvements to facilities; replenish bus fleet; health care increase estimated at 10%; TRS estimated at 10.25%; ERS employee contribution rate is estimated at 15%; and estimated property tax levy 2% . He stated the budget process never ends and he thanked Dr. McDonald, Central Office and his staff for all their help. Dr. Dillon remarked that although the budget process takes the majority of the school year, a lot of the information we need comes out in a short period of time. He noted that the Governors State of the State gave us an idea of where we are going. The deficit in the budget was blamed on Medicaid where the State picked up the local share of the increases over the years. Governor Cuomo stated he wants to put more money in schools but gave no solution on where the money would be coming from. Dr. Dillon shared that the preliminary caution for school districts in terms of state aid is keeping it flat and hope for no more reductions. The Board had questions for Mr. Dillon on the State deficient and TRS and ERS contributions.

ii. Transportation

Dr. Dillon asked Ms. Reeves to present her budget for Transportation and introduced Mr. Tomeo, the Motor Repair Supervisor. Ms. Reeves reported on the Goals of the Transportation Department, number of staff, current District routes, students transported daily, equipment, summary of purchase history, and proposed bus purchase breakdown for 2020-2021. She spoke about the Departments points of pride such as the largest in-house Transportation Department in Nassau County; Annual DOT Inspection rate over 90%; continued training for staff and students in safety regulations and requirements; and implementation of Servicefinder Software to digitize repair records and inventoried parts for the garage. Dr. McDonald shared that we are the only District that has been involved with the Department of Homeland Security Training and Drills. Ms. Reeves reviewed the planned initiative for 2020-2021, for example continued transition to the new Health Department PESH regulations; continuous route efficiency with software utilization & upgrades; decrease out of service vehicles and initiate reporting of Drug & Alcohol Testing with the NYSDOT. She gave a synopsis of the budget codes for the bus drivers which included equipment, buses, repairs, training and material and supplies. She commented that the increase in transportation costs is due to the increase in McKinney-Vento and Special Education routes that cannot be handled internally. Dr. McDonald advised we have seen the most increase with the new mandate where we must transport foster students. Ms. Reeves added that there is also a new law regarding barriers where we have to provide transportation at a more extensive level. She noted that we are using piggy back routes and shared services to reduce costs. Ms. Reeves reported that the year to year change for her department is 10.10%. The Board had questions on the State mandates, operational buses, and delivery of new buses. Additionally, they asked Mr. Tomeo about repair work on the buses. Dr. McDonald mentioned that there was an audit which revealed an auto deficiency for inventory which Mr. Tomeo took on. She asked him to report on his progress. Dr. Dillon commented that our auditors come in periodically to follow up on our status from the Internal Audit and they are pleased with our progress of the inventory management control.

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 recently attended the Nassau Suffolk School Boards Legislative Meeting. She noted that one of the main topics discussed was the Governor's Budget and where it is leading us. She commented that there was concern regarding the 6.1 million deficit in the budget from the underfunding of Medicaid. The feeling was that Long Island is going to get the brunt of this in our aid. Another main topic is the Bail Reform Bill which was enacted on January 1<sup>st</sup>. She commented that there are approximately six or seven things in the Bill that apply to schools. She feels that there are concerns with school safety and security. Ms. Marengi shared that this is being challenged in Albany and schools will wait to see what happens before they take action.

2. Correspondence  
(none)
3. Student Liaisons

Caroline Johnson, the student representative from MacArthur High School, reported on the events at her school: the 1<sup>st</sup> concert of the Winter Season was conducted and the Winter Wind Ensemble performed holiday music at the Broadway Mall in Hicksville; the Sports Marketing students went to MetLife Stadium to get an in-depth look at the NY Giants advertising and marketing strategies; the Annual Generals Breakfast was held where 75 of the top academic achieving seniors were honored; Midterms will begin shortly.

Student Liaison, Emily Fuchs shared the events at Division Avenue High School: twenty-four students qualified to compete in the DECA State Competition in Rochester; the Winter's Captains Breakfast was held to celebrate their leadership and athletic abilities; the Science Olympiad Invitational took place in Albany this past weekend and the team took home 8 medals; the Varsity Cheerleaders were again victorious at their competition and took home 1<sup>st</sup> in the Coed Division; two students are advancing to the State Level of the year's PTSA Reflections Contest and students are preparing for Midterm examinations.

### **III. PUBLIC BE HEARD**

Comments appear at the end of the minutes.

### **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Minutes - Approval of Minutes

RESOLUTION # 19-20-182

**MOTION:** "Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of the December 11, 2019 Regular Board Meeting."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dillon Cain, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marenghi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

2. Warrants

RESOLUTION # 19-20-183

**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 2019 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dillon Cain, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marenghi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

3. Business Office Reports

RESOLUTION # 19-20-184

**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 7/1/19 to 11/30/19
- Treasurer's report for the month ending November 2019
- Trial Balance for the month ending 7/1/19 to 11/30/19
- Credit card statement from Citibank for statement date 11/2/19 and 12/6/19."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dillon Cain, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marenghi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

4. Contract with Global Fueling Systems

RESOLUTION # 19-20-185

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED that the Levittown Board of Education approve a contract with Global Fueling Systems - Basecamp, with terms as outlined in the attached contract for licensing for computer programs that provide access to BaseCamp for fuel inspections and maintenance management; and that the President of the Board of Education is, hereby, authorized to execute same."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dillon Cain, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marenghi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

5. School Calendar 2020-2021

RESOLUTION # 19-20-186

**MOTION:** "WHEREAS, the attached 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 school year."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dillon Cain, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marenghi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

6. Approval of Board of Education Policy

RESOLUTION # 19-20-187

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

Policy No. 7440 - Student Voter Registration and Pre-Registration

Policy No. 8370 - Instruction on Days of Religious Observance

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dillon Cain, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marenghi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

7. Establish Scholarship

RESOLUTION # 19-20-188

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, establish the Mike Verdi Scholarship for a Levittown School District graduating senior who attends Division Avenue High School in the amount of \$1,000 according to the attached criteria."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dillon Cain, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marenghi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

8. Stipulation of Agreement with CSEA

RESOLUTION # 19-20-189

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby ratifies the Stipulation of Agreement between the District and the CSEA dated 12/13/19."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dillon Cain, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

9. Contract with Jostens Yearbook 2021-2023

RESOLUTION # 19-20-190

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract with Jostens Yearbook to provide yearbook services for Division Avenue High School.

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 (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dillon Cain, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

10. Special Education Contracts

RESOLUTION # 19-20-191

**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:

- Center for Developmental Disabilities, Inc.
- Jericho School District
- Abilities

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dillon Cain, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

11. Out of District Contracts for Health and Welfare Services      RESOLUTION #19-20-192

**MOTION:** “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract between the Levittown Public Schools and the following school districts to provide health and welfare services to students attending schools in these districts for the 2019-20 school year:

- North Merrick 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 (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dillon Cain, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

12. Obsolete Equipment

RESOLUTION # 19-20-193

**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 (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dillon Cain, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

13. Schedules

RESOLUTION # 19-20-194

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

- 1001 “Resignations/Terminations, Certified Personnel”
- 1002 “Appointments, Certified Personnel”
- 1003 “Designation, Coaching”
- 1004 “Designation, Consultants”
- 1005 “Appointments Extra-Curricular”
- 1006 “Appointments, Non-Instructional Personnel”
- 1007 “Leave of Absence, Certified Personnel”
- 1008 “Salary Change, Certified Personnel”
- 1009 “Permanent Status, Non-Instructional Personnel”
- 1010 “Students with Disabilities”



<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dillon Cain, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. New Business

1. Gifts to Schools

RESOLUTION #19-20-195

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

- Books as listed on the attached to be donated to Wisdom Lane Library from Scholastic Book Fairs, PO Box 3475, Jefferson City, MO 54102
- A check in the amount of \$805.00 to be donated to Lee Road School for the purchase of the rights for the school play, "Aladdin Jr." from Lee Road Elementary School PTA, 901 Lee Road, Wantagh, NY 11793
- Assorted puzzles and board games to be donated to Gardiners Avenue School for use in the cafeteria from Webelos Scouts Pack 330, Mrs. And Mrs. Cullen, 46 Chapel Lane, Levittown, NY 11756."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dillon Cain, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Marianne Adrian
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

**NOTE: The Board thanked all the donors for their generous gifts.**

VI. AD HOC

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Marianne Adrian
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas
<b>AYES:</b>	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Moran, Pappas, Cain, Messina

**The Board adjourned the public meeting at 9:10 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.

Daria Buonpastore      69 Barbara Lane, Levittown

Ms. Buonpastore remarked that she has three children in the Levittown School District, one goes to Abbey and the other two are students at Kellenberg Memorial High School. She wanted to discuss transportation specifically the late bus for Kellenberg. She noted that the District's policy on Transportation is that late buses will be provided only if there are at least five students that take the bus per school to be maintained daily. Ms. Buonpastore reported that she does not make that quota. She commented that this is the same policy for the schools within the District. She feels that if you look at the numbers, there is a discrepancy because in the District there are approximately 1,000 students in the middle and high schools. In Kellenberg, there are 15 students. Therefore, Ms. Buonpastore is asking that the policy be reevaluated to possibly provide any student in a private school transportation.