

**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, February 10, 2021 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.

MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY

BOARD MEMBERS

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

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Tonie McDonald – Superintendent of Schools, excused absence
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
Mr. James Katcher– Student Liaison MacArthur High School
Mr. Jasmeet Sahota – Student Liaison Division Avenue High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Ms. Marengi, President, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:30 PM. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and requested a moment of silence for all those serving our country at home and abroad. On a motion by Mr. Moran seconded by Mr. Pappas and approved (7-0) that the Board adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of seeking legal advice from the Board's Attorney.
- B. The Board reconvened to Public Session at 7:30 on a motion by Ms. Messina seconded by Ms. Adrian and approved (7-0).

II. REPORTS

A. Student Presentations

i. Student Academic Presentation - Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Mr. Winch introduced the students and staff from East Broadway and Lee Road Schools who gave a virtual presentation on SEL which is an integral part of education and human development. They explained that it is a process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. They showed examples of what both schools are doing to promote social and emotional learning. Dr. McDonald noted that this presentation will be posted on the website for further viewing.

B. Superintendent

1. Comments and Reports

A. Bringing Students Back To School

Mr. Winch gave a presentation on increasing middle school and high school in-person instruction. He stated that the presentation gives some ideas as to our plans and thoughts about bringing more students back into daily instruction at the middle and high school levels. He remarked that the District's goal was to bring more students back for in-person instruction as soon as there existed a balance between health protocols and instructional needs. Mr. Winch noted that the hybrid model pales in comparison to regular daily in-person instruction for our students. He discussed the plan for bringing more students back. Mr. Winch asked for feedback from the Board. The Board had questions which were discussed: the impact on busing with more students riding; the average capacity that the buses are filled on a daily basis in high school; how will the desks and partitions be cleaned in between classes; protocols for face coverings and physical partitions; possibility of revisiting the hybrid model; and Junior privilege of off-campus lunch. Mr. Winch shared that some questions would be revisited at the Board meeting on February 24th. The Board thanked Central Office for a very comprehensive report which addressed a lot of concerns the Board had. They also thanked all the staff of the District for all they do during this constantly changing environment. Dr. McDonald noted that there is nothing better than seeing our kids back in school.

B. Draft Budget

Dr. Dillion reviewed the third draft of the budget along with the tax levy. He mentioned that we are at the halfway point in the budget planning. He gave an update on any changes that were made to the budget from the second to third draft. Dr. Dillion noted that as of now we are at an increase of 2.82 % budget to budget. He remarked that we are still very early in the process and as we continue to get more information, we will refine the numbers. Information that is still needed is COVID related expenses, State Aid, enrollment and staffing for 2021 – 2022. Dr. Dillion shared that this year the Governor's Budget proposed new terms regarding State Aid. He went on to explain these new categories. He noted that the Executive Budget is trying to go after the consolidation of all of our expense driven aids which really hurts middle class districts. Dr. Dillion commented that he and Dr. McDonald have spoken to our local representatives and organizations to express their concern. Dr. McDonald shared that Albany is telling us that we could either get \$6.7 million or not which creates a very big whole. Mr. Pappas stated that it seems like all the surrounding districts are getting increases and Levittown with a Combined Wealth Ratio of about 0.85, is getting a 0.15 reduction in State Aid. Mr. Pappas remarked that every year

our community gets shortchanged by Albany. He noted that we are treated as if we are a rich community but we are a working-class community with a combined Wealth Ratio of 0.83 and losing State Aid. Ms. Marengi asked for someone to explain Combined Wealth Ratio (CWR) for the viewers. Dr. Dillion stated that New York's school-aid formula considers a District's wealth, enrollment and ability to pay in how to divide it's school aid. This is calculated into the state's funding formula as a way to equalize the funding of districts. Districts with a lower CWR are limited in their means to fully fund a district, so state aid is greater in order to equalize spending with wealthier districts who have the means to fund schools without as much state aid. This is all part of an attempt to equalize Expenditure Per Pupil. Dr. McDonald remarked that Levittown falls below the State average for CWR. Mr. Pappas advised that almost every District that falls below that average is getting an increase in Aid except Levittown. Dr. Dillion went over the Tax Levy Calculation. He talked about Allowable Levy Growth Factor and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Programs. He commented that this year there will be very low Tax Levy's unless the District has some form of debt. As of now, Dr. Dillion shared that we are at a 1.95% increase in the Tax Levy which is within the Tax Cap rules. He presented two tax calculations, one with bus purchases and one without. Mr. Pappas asked what is the dollar difference to the budget with the reduction of the buses. Dr. Dillion responded that the reduction in the levy would be \$814,000 which is just reducing the Capital Exclusion or a net zero. The Board thanked Dr. Dillion for an excellent presentation.

i. Special Education

Dr. Farber, Director of Pupil Services, reviewed the proposed budget for her department. She went over what programs are comprised under the Pupil Services Department such as Special Education, Home Instruction, CPS/CPSE, 504's, DOR/DOL, transition, equipment and technology and related services. Dr. Farber gave an overview of data trends for Special Education Classification/504 Eligibility, Home Instruction and McKinney-Vento. She mentioned that we are in a good place in our classification rate both statewide and on Long Island. She shared some of the Points of Pride for the 2020-2021 school year. Planned initiatives for the year are to continue to partner with community resources to help provide support for our students and families; expand social emotional supports and learning to our students and families; expand work based and vocational opportunities for students to assist with post-secondary goals and increase teachers' tool box in the area of reading strategies and interventions. Dr. Farber discussed the budget drivers for 2021 – 2022 which are high needs students, new entrants from housing centers, ABA Specialized Programs, State Regulations, student hospitalizations and BOCES increased costs. The year-to-year change for the department budget is 6.94%. Mr. Pappas commented that Pupil Services Department does a wonderful job with such a large Special Education Program. He asked what attributed to the large number of classified students going into Kindergarten. Dr. Farber responded that our criteria has remained the same but we have had a large number of families moving to Levittown because of the reputation of our programs district wide. Ms. Messina had a question about the Reading Evaluation Inventory and what the reading levels were based on. Dr. Farber explained that we are looking at eligibility for classification and we do educational assessments. Mr. Moran wanted to know about the Adolescence Program and if we had any students housed at South Oaks. Dr. Farber noted that we have students that are utilizing those services and they are doing well. Dr. Farber praised her staff for the tireless job they do to help and support all of our students especially in these challenging times.

ii. Update of Transportation Presentation

Dr. Dillion gave a follow up on the Board's questions on Transportation. He shared the following: Stop the Bleed Kits have been installed in all the first aid kits on the buses; when there are staff shortages the Transportation Department multi-tasks; the decrease in District bus routes is because of COVID; a discussion on the Summary Report on Bus Utilization which is filled out every day; a recruitment effort to get more bus drivers; explanation of the fleet summary guidelines; update on DOT inspections; and a review of the purchase of buses for the 2021-2022 school year. The Board had questions on training bus drivers using our buses for road tests, using Adult Education courses to train bus drivers and on taking back more bus routes with our own buses and local drivers.

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

C. Board of Education

1. Comments and Reports
(none)
2. Correspondence
(none)
3. Student Liaisons

James Katcher, the student representative from MacArthur High School, reported on the events at his school: the Generals will be competing since high risk sports have been given the go ahead and the matches will be live streamed; the deadline for yearbook ads is approaching; the Virtual College Planning Workshop for all Juniors and their families will be held shortly; the deadline to course change requests for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year is this week; the Science Research Team is running strong; the Science Olympiad Team competed in the Duke University Virtual Invitational Science Olympiad; and a sophomore student was named the National PTA Reflection Theme Search Contest winner with the phrase "Show Your Voice."

Student Liaison, Jasmeet Sahota, shared the events at Division Avenue High School: the AP Seminar Teams presented their multimedia research presentations to their classmates; Science Olympia Team competed virtually in the North Pocono Science Olympia Invitational and took home the Gold in water quality; several Honor Societies will be brought back this month to host Induction Ceremonies; the Long Island Leaders of Tomorrow Workshop was held on racism; and the Annual Play will be hosted outside at the end of May.

III. PUBLIC BE HEARD

COMMENTS APPEAR AT THE END OF THE MINUTES

Ms. Marengi stated that some member of the community have sent in e-mails with their questions which will be read but not answered tonight. The person sending the question will receive a written response from Dr. McDonald or Central Office. Those who wish to remain anonymous will not have their e-mail read out loud however they will be responded to by e-mail.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes - Approval of Minutes

RESOLUTION # 20-21-221

MOTION: "Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2010 and the Special Meeting of January 27, 2021."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

2. Warrants

RESOLUTION # 20-21-222

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 JANUARY 2021 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

3. Business Office Reports

RESOLUTION #20-21-223

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 ending 7/1/2020 to 12/31/2020
- Treasurer's report for the month ending December 2020
- Trial Balance for the period ending 7/1/2020 to 12/31/2020
- Credit card statement from Citibank for the statement dated 1/6/2021
- Claims Audit Report for January 2021."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

4. Budget Transfers

RESOLUTION #20-21-224

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

<u>Code</u>	<u>Code Description</u>	<u>Amount From</u>	<u>Amount To</u>
A2250.4900.00.0000	Spec Ed BOCES Svcs	\$160,000	
A5581.4900.00.0000	Transportation BOCES Svcs		\$160,000

Reason: To cover additional BOCES routes due to driver shortage.

A5510.5730.00.0000	Trans, Oil, Lube, Anti-Freeze	\$15,500	
A5510.5740.00.0000	Transportation Tires		\$15,500

Reason: To cover costs of additional tires for older buses.

A2210.1230.32.0000	Teacher Salaries 9-12 Mac	\$18,125	
A1310.4000.00.0000	BO Contractual Expenditures		\$18,125

Reason: To cover borrowing cost associated with Tax Anticipation Notice.

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

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

5. Extra Classroom Activity Fund Treasurer's Reports

RESOLUTION #20-21-225

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached Extra Classroom Activity Fund Reports for the period October 1, 2020through December 31, 2020."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

6. School Calendar – 2021-2022

RESOLUTION #20-21-226

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, adopt the attached updated calendar of the Board of Education meeting dates for the Levittown Public Schools for the 2020-2021 school year."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

7. Asset Valuation and Inventory Updating Service

RESOLUTION #20-21-227

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract between the Levittown Public Schools and CBIZ Valuation Group, LLC to review the district's asset valuation and perform an inventory update for insurance and auditing purposes;

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

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

8. Memorandum of Understanding - Confidential Employee

RESOLUTION #20-21-228

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Levittown Union Free School District and confidential employee: Linda Forte as per the terms of the attached Memorandum of Understanding dated 1/20/21;

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

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

9. Approval of School Clubs

RESOLUTION #20-21-229

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached Extra Classroom Activity Club Charters for the 2020-2021 school year."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

10. Special Education Contract

RESOLUTION #20-21-230

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract between the Levittown Public Schools and the following vendor to provide special education services as indicated:

- The Center for Developmental Disabilities

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

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

11. Out of District Contracts for Health and Welfare Services

RESOLUTION 20-21-231

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 2019-2020 school year:

- Jericho Union Free School District
- Rockville Centre Union Free School District
- Plainegde Union Free School District
-

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

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

12. Obsolete Books

RESOLUTION #20-21-232

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 sold at the highest possible salvage value.”

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

13. Obsolete Equipment

RESOLUTION #20-21-233

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

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

14. Schedules

RESOLUTION #20-21-234

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

- 1001 “Resignations, Certified Personnel”
- 1002 “Resignations, Non-Instructional Personnel”
- 1003 “Appointments, Certified Personnel”
- 1004 “Coaching”
- 1005 “Consultants”
- 1006 “Extra Curricular”
- 1007 “Leave of Absence, Certified Personnel
- 1008 “Leave of Absence, Non-Instructional Personnel
- 1009 “Salary Change, Certified Personnel”
- 1010 “Permanent Status, Non-Instructional Personnel
- 1011 “Students with Disabilities”

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

15. Memorandum of Agreement with LUT

RESOLUTION #20-21-235

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, ratify and approve the memorandum of agreement dated 2/5/2021 between the Levittown UFSD and the Levittown United Teachers (LUT)."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

NOTE: Dr. McDonald shared that our coaches decided to take less salary for their winter season because it is a shortened season. She noted that contractually they did not have to do that and she wanted to thank them and the LUT. The Board thanked them as well.

16. Contract with Tams Witmark

RESOLUTION #20-21-236

MOTION: "RESOLVED that the Levittown Board of Education approve a contract with Tams-Witmark LLC, with terms as outlined in the attached contract for licensing for "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" for Division Avenue High School for the May 2021."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marenghi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

NOTE: Dr. McDonald reported that this motion relates to Division Avenue's proposed show where they have devised a method where they will be outside in the round. She thanked the Board for their consideration.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. New Business

1. Gifts to Schools

RESOLUTION #20-21-237

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

- A check in the amount of \$35.80 to be donated to Abbey Lane School Activity Fund from Box Tops for Education, 13700 Oakland Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203
- Five books as listed on the attached to be donated Summit Lane Elementary School Library from Summit Lane PTA Book Fair
- Books as listed on the attached to be donated to Summit Lane Elementary School Library from Christine Bodendorf, 300 Linden Street, Bellmore NY 11710
- A check in the amount of \$450.00 to be donated to Abbey Lane School Activity Fund from Jovia Financial Credit Union, 1000 Corporate Drive, Westbury, NY 11590
- A check in the amount of \$48.30 to be donated to Summit Lane Activity Fund from Boxtops for Education, 13700 Oakland Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0)
MOVER:	Jennifer Messina, Secretary
SECONDER:	Christina Lang, Vice President
AYES:	Marengi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Lang, Adrian
ABSENT:	James Moran

NOTE: The Board thanked all the generous donors.

VI. AD HOC

1. Board Policy - First Read

Policy No. 3420 Policy Against Workplace Discrimination and Harassment

Ms. Rifkin explained that this policy has been revised in light of various changes to Federal and State non-discrimination and anti-harassment laws and regulations. She stated that in revising the policy, she looked to create consistency between this policy and our other policies that we have recently updated.

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	James Moran
SECONDER:	Dillon Cain
AYES:	Marengi, Pappas, Cain, Messina, Moran, Lang, Adrian

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

Elizabeth Appelbaum
District Clerk

NOTE: Recordings 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.

Mr. Louis Lazzarini

He asked if the District could stop sending phone calls every time someone tests positive at one of the schools unless it is going to affect a school opening or extreme cases.

Ms. Mary Centonze-Fox

Ms. Centonze-Fox wanted the Board to address opening the schools from the hybrid model to a 5 day in person learning. Those that elect to be remote can do so. She remarked that her children are not getting the education they deserve. Additionally, she feels there is no reason for this meeting to be remote.

Ms. Kathleen Alvino

Ms. Alvino asked the Board to reconsider the first day of school for the 2021-2022 school year. She commented that since we do not know what the conditions will be at that time with travel restrictions, it is unfair to limit the students the opportunity to have an enjoyable Labor Day. She wondered if there was a way to adjust for this. She mentioned the BOCES calendar as an example of how it could work and that the students who attend GC Tech and BOCES schools will have a problem with no place to go on the first two days of school.

Denise Schmidt

Ms. Schmidt commented that why is it ok for senior students to return to classes and school yet it is not recommended for attendees at a Board Meeting.

M & N Sobarzo

This parent is concerned about bringing the Middle and High School students back into school full time. They would like parents to have the choice of hybrid or remote classes for their children.

Laura Fernandez

Ms. Fernandez wants to know when students will be attending school for full time classroom instruction?

Janine Rubinstein

Ms. Rubinstein would like the Board to fight for the reopening of schools full time for all students. She feels that the system is mentally failing the children. Also, she is disappointed that contact sports are returning but not in person instruction.

Maria Perillo

Ms. Perillo wants the Board to approve sending children back to school full time. She works and is struggling to get her daughter to practice/training/try outs at 3:15 PM for her winter sport. Additionally, she has to send her daughter with 2 – 3 water bottles in her backpack and her viola since there are no lockers.