

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, Levittown, New York. The meeting was held at the Stephen E. Karopczyc School, 74 Farmedge Road, Levittown, New York, on Wednesday, February 12, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kenneth Rochon, President, at 7:00 PM.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Kenneth Rochon, President  
Mrs. Kristen Daum, Vice President  
Ms. Patricia Mahon  
Mr. Daniel Donahue  
Mrs. Kim McDonough  
Mrs. Barbara Medellin  
Mr. George Storm

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Charles J. Murphy, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Arlene Genden Sage, Assistant Superintendent for Special Ed.  
Mrs. Susan Hlavenka, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Mrs. Elizabeth Roemer, Admin. for Ed. Progs., Literacy & Staff Devel.  
Mrs. Randy Glasser, General Legal Counsel  
Mr. Richard Guercio, General Legal Counsel  
Mrs. Concetta Carr, District Clerk

**EXECUTIVE:  
SESSION:** On **Motion** of Mrs. Daum, seconded by Mr. Storm, and unanimously carried (7-0), the Board of Education recessed into Executive Session at 7:00 PM to discuss Farmedge real estate and a personnel issue regarding substitute employees.

The meeting returned from Executive Session at approximately 7:30 PM.  
The meeting resumed with the public at 7:35 PM.

**PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Rochon led the  
pledge of allegiance to the flag followed by a  
moment of silence for our troops serving around the world.

**MINUTES:** Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a **Motion** was made by Mrs. Daum, seconded by Mrs. McDonough, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the following minutes:

Special Meeting & Executive Session – January 10, 2014  
Work Session, & Executive Session – January 15, 2014  
Regular Meeting & Executive Session – January 24, 2014  
Committee on Special Education – January 14, 17, 23, 24, 28, 2014  
Committee on Preschool Special Education – January 9, 14, 21, 27, 2014

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### **VISITORS**

Legislator Dennis Dunne spoke on behalf of the Levittown/Island Trees Veteran's Council regarding the partial tax exemption for veterans from school district real property taxes. He was urging the district to consider adopting it. Dr. Murphy told him this was on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

### **RECOGNITION**

1. **Athletics** – the following teams were recognized by the Board of Education and were presented with Certificates of Recognition:
  - a. Four student-athletes were Nassau County H.S. Boy's Football Award recipients.
  - b. Six student-athletes were Nassau County H.S. Boy's Soccer Award recipients.
  - c. Nine student-athletes were Nassau County H.S. Girl's Soccer Award recipients and Conference Champs. Coach Jaime Roache was named Conference Coach of the Year.
  - d. Five student-athletes were Nassau County H.S. Girl's Volleyball Award recipients.
  - e. Nineteen student-athletes on the Boy's J.V. Soccer team were recognized for being recipients of the Nassau County J.V. Sportmanship Award.
  - f. Seven student-athletes were Nassau County H.S. Boy's and Girl's Cross Country Award recipients.
2. **Student Artists** – Forty-three Island Trees students were recognized for having their artwork displayed at the L.I. University C.W. Post Performing Arts Display. Students were from grades K-12.

### **PUBLIC HEARING** – Veteran's Partial Tax Exemption

Mrs. Hlavenka, Assistant Superintendent for Business, spoke about the veteran's partial tax exemption. She stated that Governor Cuomo passed an amendment to the Real Property Tax Law permitting school districts to give partial property tax exemptions for school taxes to veterans who served during wartime. She explained the information on the chart that was given to the audience (Veterans Exemption Impact Estimate). She also stated that when the discount is given to a veteran, the cost is spread out over the rest of the district. "Gold Star Parents" (parents of unmarried soldiers killed in battle) partial tax exemption will be explained at a hearing and voted on at the next meeting on February 26, 2014.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Board of Education Acceptance of Donation of Baseball Homerun Fence from the Island Trees Diamond Club**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a **Motion** was made by Ms. Mahon, seconded by Mrs. Medellin, and unanimously carried (7-0) to accept a donation of a baseball homerun fence from the Island Trees Diamond Club, estimated value

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of \$15,000.00, and directs that a letter be sent to Mr. Domenick Raucci on behalf of the Diamond Club from the Board of Education thanking them for their generosity.

### **2. Board of Education Acceptance of Donation of Console Piano to the Island Trees High School Music Department**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a **Motion** was made by Mrs. Medellin, seconded by Mrs. Daum, and unanimously carried (7-0) to accept a donation of a console piano, estimated value of \$1,000.00, from Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Barcia to the Island Trees High School Music Department, and directs that a letter be sent from the Board of Education thanking them for their generosity.

### **3. Board of Education Approval to Declare Surplus and Dispose of Library Books from Michael F. Stokes Elementary School**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a **Motion** was made by Mrs. Daum, seconded by Mrs. McDonough, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve to declare surplus and dispose of library books that are obsolete or in poor condition from the Michael F. Stokes Elementary School as it sees fit pursuant to the State Education Department's recommended procedures.

### **4. Board of Education Acceptance of 2014 Budget Vote and Trustee Election Legal Notice**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a **Motion** was made by Mrs. McDonough, seconded by Mr. Storm, and unanimously carried (7-0) to accept the legal notice as presented, which was reviewed and approved by District Counsel, which is to be published four times within seven weeks preceding the 2014 Budget Vote and Trustee Election, the first publication to be made April 4, 2014, in the *Levittown Tribune* and *Bethpage Tribune*.

### **5(a). Board of Education Approval to Adopt Veterans Partial Tax Exemption from School District Real Property Taxes\***

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a **Motion** was made by Mr. Storm, seconded by Mr. Donahue, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Chapter 518, section 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraph (d), subparagraph (i), of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York, allows the District to provide tax exemptions to certain qualified owners of qualified real property who are veterans, as defined by section 458-a, and

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WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the community to provide such relief to the veterans of our District, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education elects to participate in the exemptions of Real Property Tax Law section 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraphs (a), (b), and (c),

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District adopts the statutory basic maximums as defined by Real Property Tax Law section 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) for its maximums for exemptions of Real Property Tax Law section 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraphs (a), (b), and (c).

**5(b). Board of Education Approval to Adopt Veterans Partial Tax Exemption from School District Real Property Taxes for a Cooperative Corporation**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a **Motion** was made by Mr. Storm, seconded by Mr. Donahue, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, that the Island Trees Union Free School District has adopted the statutory basic maximums as defined by Real Property Tax Law section 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) for its maximums for exemptions of Real Property Tax Law section 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraphs (a), (b), and (c); it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the Island Trees Union Free School District does hereby allow a cooperative corporation to be eligible to receive such exemption pursuant RPTL § 458-a (6) (d).

**6. Board of Education Approval of RFQ Award – Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Services**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a **Motion** was made by Mr. Donahue, seconded by Ms. Mahon, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve to award RFQ#673.014.004, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Services, to Cassin Cooling Corp., 27 Sandy Lane, Massapequa, NY 11758, at the rates stated below, and authorizes the district to issue a purchase order to be used on an as needed basis for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year:

Mechanic Per Hour - \$60.00  
Mechanic – Overtime Per Hour - \$90.00  
Materials – 10% Mark Up

**7. Board of Education Acceptance of Donation from Astoria Federal Savings Bank**

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### **to the Island Trees School to Business Partnership**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a **Motion** was made by Ms. Mahon, seconded by Mrs. Medellin, and unanimously carried (7-0) to accept the donation in the amount of \$3,800.00 from Astoria Federal Savings Bank for credit to account A2110.400-10-30 for the Support of the Career Advantage Program, and directs that a letter be sent from the Board of Education thanking Astoria Federal for their support.

### **8. Board of Education Approval of Personnel Report**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a **Motion** was made by Mrs. Medellin, seconded by Mrs. Daum, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve, as presented, the Personnel Report dated February 12, 2014, 1 through 48 inclusive.

### **9. Board of Education Approval of Use of Buildings**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a **Motion** was made by Mrs. Daum, seconded by Mrs. McDonough, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the use of buildings or fields by the following community and school organizations for the 2013-2014 school year subject to the limitations of policy and regulation:

Girl Scouts Troop 3120  
Cub Scouts Pack 600  
Island Trees Baseball/Softball  
Girl Scouts of Nassau County  
Island Trees PTSA  
Island Trees Travel Baseball 10 & Under  
Island Trees Soccer Club  
Island Trees Elementary PTA

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

A **Motion** was made by Mrs. McDonough, seconded by Mr. Storm, and unanimously carried (7-0) to postpone accepting the December, 2013, Financial Report until the February 26, 2014, Special Board Meeting/Budget Discussion.

### **COMMENTS FROM VISITORS (OLD & NEW BUSINESS):**

A resident asked when the next meeting will be for the Farmedge sale.

### **EXECUTIVE**

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**SESSION:** On **Motion** of Mr. Storm, seconded by Mr. Donahue, and unanimously carried (7-0), the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:10 PM personnel issues and contract negotiations.

**RETURN TO  
REGULAR  
SESSION:**

On **Motion** of Mr. Storm, seconded by Mrs. Daum, and unanimously carried (6-0, Mr. Donahue left at 9:18 p.PM), the meeting came out of Executive Session at 9:30 PM.

**ADJOURNED:** On **Motion** of Mrs. Medellin, seconded by Mr. Storm, and unanimously carried (6-0), the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr  
District Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_