

Minutes of the Work Session 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, April 21, 2015.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Daniel Donahue, President  
Mr. Paul Giambona, Vice President  
Mrs. Kristen Daum  
Mr. Brian Fielding  
Mrs. Kim McDonough  
Mrs. Barbara Medellin  
Mr. Michael T. Rich, Jr.

**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. Concetta Carr, District Clerk

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

#### **BUDGET COMMITTEE:**

During this time, the Island Trees School District Budget Advisory Committee presented the second half of their report to the Board of Education. A hand-out was distributed, and Mr. Ted Maleska went over the committee's recommendations. Ms. Mahon made a comment regarding the state aid money. Dr. Braverman spoke about the science research program. Mr. Donahue thanked the committee for all the time and effort they put into the budget. Dr. Murphy spoke about the science research program that was proposed. He looked at how many students would benefit and how the costs would escalate each year. Dr. Murphy met with Mrs. Rigo, Mr. Grande and Mrs. Roemer and they discussed making some enhancements with Science Olympiad that would run from September to February, 5 days a week, for one period at the end of the school day. More students would be able to get involved and compete in competitions, and the program is more affordable. At the high school, the district will continue to pursue the AP Capstone program. Dr. Murphy also mentioned developing a high school team of science students to compete in LISEF (L.I. Science and Engineering Fair). Dr. Murphy feels we would be moving forward with a lot of good things for all students in a more cost effective manner.

**SPECIAL MEETING:** The Board voted on Action Items during a Special Meeting at 7:08 PM. The Board reconvened to the Work Session at 7:13 PM.

**COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:**

A resident asked a question about the tax certior funds (\$395,000) mentioned at the budget meeting. The same resident also asked a question about fund balance.

A resident had a question on the revenue portion of the budget.

**ACTION ITEMS:** The Action Items listed on the agenda were reviewed and discussed.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Advocacy Letter – Dr. Murphy stated that two years ago with the approval from the Board the district put together a letter addressing our concerns with the state tests and the direction of the New York State’s high-stakes testing. The letter was sent to all state officials, the Chancellor of Education and Governor Cuomo. A Board member asked what we could do now. Dr. Murphy stated that other districts are sending letters to state representatives, and he asked the Board if they are interested in drafting a new letter. The Board agreed to draft a new letter.
2. SAT Phase-In – Mrs. Roemer shared information about the SAT Phase-In. The SAT is undergoing a redesign. The first test is to be administered March 2016. Juniors next year will take the old exam in January and then take a redesigned test in March then take the last test in October in their senior year. The district is working with Kahn academy. Anyone could see the redesigned test on-line.
3. Memorial Middle School Softball – Dr. Murphy stated that the number of players has been dwindling. Currently, the number is down to 20.

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

A resident asked a question about the minutes and when they are posted on the website.

A resident asked a question about the Personnel Report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

On **Motion** of Mr. Giambona, seconded by Mr. Fielding, and unanimously carried (7-0), the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:51 PM to discuss personnel issues and negotiations.

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:**

On **Motion** of Mr. Giambona, seconded by Mrs. Medellin, and unanimously carried (7-0), the members came out of Executive Session at 9:02 PM.

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**ADJOURNED:** On **Motion** of Mr. Rich, seconded by Mr. Fielding, and unanimously carried (7-0), the meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr  
District Clerk

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