

Minutes of the Special 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 Geneva N. Gallow School, 74 Farmedge Road, Levittown, New York, on Thursday, September 11, 2008.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Peter Ray, President, at 7:02 PM.

PRESENT: Mr. Peter Ray, President  
Mr. Carl Bonsignore, Vice President  
Mr. Joseph Buda  
Mr. Robert M. Condela  
Mrs. Christine Holt  
Ms. Patricia Mahon  
Mr. Kenneth Rochon

Also Present: Mr. James Parla, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Arlene Genden Sage, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education; Ms. Dana DiCapua, Assistant Superintendent for Business; and Mrs. Randy Glasser, General Legal Counsel; and Mrs. Concetta Carr, District Clerk.

Mr. Ray led the pledge of allegiance to the flag followed by a moment of silence for our soldiers, veterans and 9/11 victims.

**PLEDGE**

**PRESENTATIONS**

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Mr. Ray, President, welcome everyone to this evening's meeting. He stated that it was believed this issue was resolved at the meeting two weeks ago. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Parla.

Mr. Parla stated that the lead issue has been foremost in the minds of parents and students due to the amount of media attention the district has been receiving. He also stated that Island Trees is a great school district and hopes that we could come together to address the issues and put a plan in place. He stated that there was no backtracking by the New York State Dept. of Health as was implied in *Newsday*. Mr. Parla contacted the New York State Dept. of Health and their stand remains the same. No lead exposure exists. They felt that this issue was important enough to attend this meeting and to address the community directly. Should the vents be cleaned or not? The Board of Education has discussed the idea of moving forward to approve a plan to clean the HVAC system in the high school to allay any and all concerns. The plan is to put another layer of plastic sheeting over the existing sheeting in the sand tunnel. Commencing Friday night, September 12, and continuing through the weekend, the ducts will be cleaned in the

auditorium. The auditorium will be sealed over and will not be used until the completion of the project. The following weekend, the gym and locker rooms will be cleaned. They will be sealed off until the project is completed. All the HVAC systems will be cleaned and tested. Monday, September 29, will be a Superintendent's Conference Day. All students in the district will have the day off. The teachers and staff will be relocated to other schools. A resolution would have to be passed to change the calendar.

Mr. Parla asked the New York State Dept. of Health to address the concerns that have been expressed. Ms. Sharon McLelland from the NYSDOH was at the meeting to address the issue and express where they stand on this issue. She stated that the NYSDOH's position has not changed. The school does not present a lead hazard to the students and staff. She explained that we have all been exposed to lead because it is in our environment. She gave a slide presentation and explanation. Homes built before 1978 have levels of lead from lead paint and lead solder in plumbing. There is lead in gasoline, soil, roadways and dust near lead industries. There are lead based paints and glazes on pottery.

The vents on the roof of the high school that have high levels of lead are inaccessible to students and staff. The roof vents were sampled in 2006. They were cleaned and sampled in August 2006 and the results were less than 40 PPM. They were sampled again in March 2008. One duct exceeded 400 PPM that came from the janitors closet. It was cleaned and retested. She gave the following telephone number, e-mail address and mailing address for anyone who wants to contact her:

Sharon McLelland, Public Health Specialist  
NYS Dept. of Health  
547 River Street  
Troy, New York 12180  
1-800-458-1158 Ext. 2788  
e-mail: [spm03@health.state.ny.us](mailto:spm03@health.state.ny.us).

Mr. Buda asked what were the results of the ducts tested in August 2008 and March 2008? Ms. McLelland replied that there was one sample that was 870 ppm's. Exit ports on the roof were tested, not the ducts.

Ms. Mahon asked with all the agencies telling us what to do, where do we go with this? Ms. McLelland stated that it is the school district's responsibility to do what is required.

A resident asked why hasn't cement been put down in the sand tunnel? Mr. Bonsignore stated that in 2004 the DEC said not to put down cement. Ms. McLelland stated that the DEC said no because the best course of action had to be decided. Samples of the soil are still being taken. If there was concrete, holes would have to be drilled in the concrete to get soil samples. The remainder of the soil cannot be removed until the students are out of the school. The DEC has to tell us how to remove the sand.

Mr. Jim DeMartinis from J.R. Holzmacher was the next to speak. He explained how the sand was removed from the tunnel in 2006. He also stated that there was full concern from Board members. He took the project very personally to do the job correctly. The school took every precaution to get the school opened on time. The Superintendent was at the site everyday to make sure the job was being done right. Mr. DeMartinis gave an explanation how the sand was removed down to the hard pan. End point samples were taken as the sand was being removed. An individual from the DEC was with Mr. DeMartinis and asked for additional samples at different locations. The samples were taken to two different labs and two different readings were found. Mr. DeMartinis explained that if a sample has a microscopic fragment (bullet) in it, there will be a reading of lead in the soil.

A resident asked if testing was done in the art room. The answer was that air and wipe sampling was done and the results have been acceptable.

A resident asked why the basement hasn't been closed off (art rooms)? Mr. Parla stated that the art rooms and outside corridor were tested and the results were less than 10 PPM, and the district is convinced the art room is safe. The corridor was tested many times. There are double doors that are locked and a room in between the art room and the sand tunnel.

It was pointed out that cuts were made in the existing plastic in the

tunnel by the DEC to do additional soil sampling. The NYSDOH did not recommend placing another layer of plastic over the existing layer. That was a district decision.

A statement was made by a district employee, and resident, on behalf of Island Trees residents and taxpayers in support of the Board members who were cited in a *Newsday* article on September 9. A statement was also made by a high school faculty member and graduate of Island Trees in support of the district.

A representative from Cunningham Duct Cleaning Co., Inc. explained the process of cleaning the univents and ductwork at the high school.

Brendan Broderick from J.C. Broderick & Associates Inc. explained how they will be testing and supervising the clean up. They will monitor Cunningham Duct Cleaning Co. to make sure there will be no cross contamination, and they will perform the wipe sampling.

There was discussion whether the district should test/clean/test or clean/test the ductwork.

On motion of Mr. Rochon, and seconded by Mr. Bonsignore,

**HVAC CLEANING  
AT HIGH SCHOOL**

RESOLVED, That the 2008-2009 school calendar be changed to declare Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, Superintendent's Conference Day, whereas teachers will engage in staff development opportunities and students will be off from school enabling five consecutive days (Saturday through Wednesday) to complete the cleaning of the HVAC system at the high school.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 6            Nays 0  
(Mrs. Holt not present)

On motion of Ms. Mahon, and seconded by Mr. Condela,

**BOCES COOPERATIVE  
BID**

WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Island Trees School District of New York State desires to participate in a Cooperative Bidding Program conducted by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County for the purchase of

various commodities and/or services, and

WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Island Trees School District of New York State is desirous of participating with the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County in the joint bid of the commodities and/or services mentioned below as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, and

WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Island Trees School District of New York State has appointed the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County as representative to assume the responsibility for drafting of specification, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, reporting the results to the Board of Education of the Island Trees School District of New York State and making recommendations thereon

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the Island Trees School District of New York State and the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County hereby accepts the appointment of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County to represent it in all matters related above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the Island Trees School District of New York State authorizes the above-mentioned Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County to represent it in all matters regarding the entering into contract for the purchase of the below-mentioned commodities and/or services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the Island Trees School District of New York State agrees to assume its equitable share of the costs incurred as a result of the cooperative bidding, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the School Business Administrator on behalf of the Board of Education of the Island Trees School District of New York State is hereby authorized to participate

in cooperative bidding conducted by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County for various commodities and/or services and if requested, to furnish the Board of Cooperative Educational Services an estimated minimum number of units that will be purchased by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County. The Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County is hereby authorized to award cooperative bids to the bidder deemed to be the lowest responsible meeting the bid specifications and otherwise complying with Article 5-A of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York relating to public bids and contracts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That BOCES intends to solicit bids in the name of the Island Trees School District for the following:

**Abatement and Disposal of Asbestos and Lead Materials  
(08/09-031A)**

*Unanimously carried*                      Ayes 7                      Nays 0

On motion of Mr. Bonsignore, and seconded by Ms. Mahon,

**J.C. BRODERICK  
& ASSOCS., INC.**

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the island Trees School District approves J.C. Broderick & Associates, Inc. to perform the monitoring and testing during Duct Cleaning at the District's High School at a price not to exceed \$30,000, pursuant to the Nassau County contract approved September 1, 2007.

*Unanimously carried*                      Ayes 7                      Nays 0

J.C. Broderick's recommendation was that the school does not need to have pre-cleaning testing done because all of the vents and ducts are being cleaned and the testing standard that will be used after the cleaning is done is 40 PPM.

On motion of Mr. Condela, and seconded by Mrs. Holt,

**BRANCH  
RESTORATION SVCS.**

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the Island Trees School District approves Branch Restoration Services, Inc. to perform the

