

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 Geneva N. Gallow School, 74 Farmedge Road, Levittown, New York, on Wednesday, November 15, 2006.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Peter Ray, at 8:04 PM.

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

Also Present: Mr. James Parla, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Salvatore Carambia, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Administration; Mr. David S. J. Rubin, Chief Legal Officer; and Mrs. Concetta Carr, District Clerk.

Mr. Ray led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**PLEDGE**

Mr. Ray called for a moment of silence for our troops.

### **STUDENT RECOGNITION**

Recognition of Flag Etiquette contest winners by American Legion Post 1711. Eighteen fifth grade students from Island Trees Memorial Middle School were presented with certificates.

**FLAG ETIQUETTE  
CONTEST WINNERS**

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

**MINUTES  
APPROVAL**

RESOLVED, To approve the following minutes, as presented:

Regular Meeting & Executive Session – October 25, 2006  
Committee on Special Education – September 7, 21, October 3, 2006  
Committee on Preschool Special Education – September 6, 7, 14, 21,  
October 3, 2006

*Unanimously carried*                      Ayes 7                      Nays 0

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Parla made the following announcements:

1. On Monday, November 13, was the reaffirmation of the Island Trees Memorial Middle School. Mr. Parla thanked the V.F.W., American Legion, members of the Board of Education and administrators for attending the ceremony. He also praised William Marr who coordinated the event on a job well done.
2. The American Legion is donating six plaques, which will be displayed in each building in the district, in recognition of those from our area who made the sacrifice.
3. Two new Island Trees Memorial Middle School signs will replace the current signs on Wantagh Avenue.
4. The Island Trees Board of Education approved the dissemination of a Budget Advisory Committee. Applications are available in the District Office or on the Island Trees website. The deadline date for submission of an application is November 22.
5. Island Trees High School drama production, *Noises Off*, will be performed on Friday and Saturday, November 17 and 18 at 7:30 pm.
6. Hempstead Town Supervisor, Kate Murray, presented a Citation to the Island Trees Memorial Middle School.

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

**LIMITED INCOME**  
**DISABILITY**  
**EXEMPTION**

WHEREAS the maximum income level to qualify for the Persons with Disabilities and Limited Income Property Tax Exemption will be \$34,400 as indicated in Chapter 459 of the New York Real Property Tax Laws of 2006, and

WHEREAS school districts may grant an exemption of 50 percent to persons with disabilities whose income is less than \$26,000, and

WHEREAS for persons with disabilities earning above \$26,000 the following sliding scale of benefits applies:

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>PERCENT EXEMPTION</u>
Up to and including \$26,000	50%
At least \$26,001 but less than \$27,000	45%
At least \$27,000 but less than \$28,000	40%
At least \$28,000 but less than \$29,000	35%
At least \$29,000 but less than \$29,900	30%

At least \$29,900 but less than \$30,800	25%
At least \$30,800 but less than \$31,700	20%
At least \$31,700 but less than \$32,600	15%
At least \$32,600 but less than \$33,500	10%
At least \$33,500 but less than \$34,400	5%

and,

WHEREAS this exemption also has the following provisions that the Island Trees Board of Education is including in this exemption:

1. Unreimbursed medical expenses can be excluded from income
2. A child may live on the property and attend public school
3. Exemption granted on Cooperative apartments
4. Unreimbursed medical expenses can be excluded from income for Cooperative apartments

WHEREAS this exemption has the following provisions that the Island Trees Board of Education is not including in this exemption:

1. Veteran's Disability Compensation can be excluded from income
2. Veteran's Disability Compensation can be excluded from income for Cooperative apartments

WHEREAS a resolution is needed by the Island Trees Board of Education to allow persons with disabilities and limited income residing in Island Trees to take advantage of the sliding scale for the 2007-2008 school and the 2007 municipal tax levies

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Island Trees UFSD property owners with disabilities and limited income be granted a Real Property Tax Exemption according to the schedule as stated above.

*Unanimously carried*                      Ayes 7                      Nays 0

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

WHEREAS the maximum income level to qualify for the Senior

**LOW INCOME**  
**SENIOR CITIZENS**  
**TAX EXEMPTION**

Citizen Property Tax Exemption will remain at \$34,400 as indicated in Chapter 467 of the New York Real Property Tax Laws of 2006, and

WHEREAS school districts may grant an exemption of 50 percent to seniors whose income is less than \$26,000, and

WHEREAS for senior citizens earning above \$26,000 the following sliding scale of benefits applies:

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>PERCENT EXEMPTION</u>
Less than \$26,000	50%
At least \$26,001 but less than \$27,000	45%
At least \$27,000 but less than \$28,000	40%
At least \$28,000 but less than \$29,000	35%
At least \$29,000 but less than \$29,900	30%
At least \$29,900 but less than \$30,800	25%
At least \$30,800 but less than \$31,700	20%
At least \$31,700 but less than \$32,600	15%
At least \$32,600 but less than \$33,500	10%
At least \$33,500 but less than \$34,400	5%

and,

WHEREAS this exemption also has the following provisions that the Island Trees Board of Education is including in this exemption:

1. Unreimbursed medical expenses can be excluded from income
2. Veteran's Disability Compensation can be excluded from income
3. A child may live on the property and attend public school
4. Exemption granted on Cooperative apartments
5. Unreimbursed medical expenses can be excluded from income for Cooperative apartments
6. Veteran's Disability Compensation can be excluded from income for Cooperative apartments

WHEREAS a resolution is needed by the Island Trees Board of Education to allow senior citizens residing in Island Trees to take advantage of the sliding scale for the 2007-2008 school and the 2007 municipal tax levies

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Island Trees UFSD property owners, sixty-five (65) years or older, be granted Senior Citizens Real Property Tax Exemption according to the schedule as stated above.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

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

WHEREAS the New York State Legislature amended section 466-C of the Real Property Tax Law, extending the county and town property tax exemption that volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers are eligible to receive, and

**VOLUNTEER FIRE-  
FIGHTER/AMBULANCE  
WORKER TAX  
EXEMPTION**

WHEREAS school districts now have the local option to adopt this exemption for school taxes by Board resolution, and

WHEREAS volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers with more than five years of service and who reside within the district may apply for an exemption to reduce their assessed value by 10 percent for the 2007-08 school tax levy, and

WHEREAS this exemption also has the following provisions that the Island Trees Board of Education is including in this exemption:

1. Home Improvement exemption
2. Business exemption

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Island Trees UFSD volunteer firefighters or ambulance workers be granted this exemption.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

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

**SURPLUS  
EQUIPMENT**

RESOLVED, To declare surplus and dispose of two aerial work platform Genie's: Model #PL24PAC, Serial #1482-3967; and Model #PLCAC, Serial #1489-18693B.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes    7            Nays    0

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

WHEREAS smoking is the number one cause of preventable death in the United States; and

WHEREAS each day more than 4,000 youth try smoking for the first time, and another 2,000 youth become regular daily smokers, and

WHEREAS the Surgeon General has concluded that tobacco advertising contributes to youth smoking rates, and

WHEREAS an estimated 1/3 of adolescent experimentation with smoking can be directly attributed to tobacco advertising and promotional activities, and

WHEREAS in 2002 tobacco companies spent \$12.5 billion to market cigarettes in the United States, including \$830 million in New York, and

WHEREAS these marketing expenditures tend to overwhelm and counteract efforts by school systems, government, and the medical community to decrease smoking rates, particularly when advertisements are displayed in educational and health care settings, and

WHEREAS in the fall of 2003, the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) and four tobacco companies (Philip Morris, RJ Reynolds (Reynolds America), US Smokeless Tobacco Company and Sante Fe Tobacco Company) reached an agreement to eliminate tobacco advertising in the classroom program versions of *Times*, *Newsweek* and *US News and World Report* to, and

WHEREAS between October and December of 2004, Reality Check surveyed 233 school libraries across New York State (at least one in each county) to assess what magazines were carried in those libraries and of those magazines which ones carried tobacco ads thus encouraging youth to begin smoking, and

WHEREAS nearly three of four (75%) school libraries carry *Time*, *Newsweek* and/or *US News and World Report*, and

**REALITY CHECK**  
**YOUTH ACTION**  
**PROJECT: ELIMINATING**  
**TOBACCO ADVERTISING**  
**FROM SCHOOL EDITIONS**  
**OF MAJOR NEWS**  
**MAGAZINES**

WHEREAS 70% of school libraries carry *Sports Illustrated* and/or *People*, and

WHEREAS all five of these magazines accept tobacco advertising, and

WHEREAS less than 24% of the schools surveyed participated in the classroom magazine programs of *Time*, *Newsweek* and/or *US News and World Report*, and

WHEREAS school is a place where children and teenagers can learn and grow in a safe and secure environment, and

WHEREAS schools and school libraries should not be an outlet for the tobacco industry to target youth and find replacement smokers

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the School Board of Island Trees hereby expresses its opposition to tobacco advertisements in magazines in the school setting including school libraries and enthusiastically supports the extension of the 2003 selective binding agreement between NAAG and four tobacco companies to include versions of *Times*, *Newsweek*,

*US News and World Report* and to expand the agreement to include *Sports Illustrated*, *People* and *Rolling Stone*, to the entire school setting, including school libraries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Because there are still many magazines in school libraries that contain tobacco advertisements, the School Board of Island Trees will support future efforts of Reality Check and the Attorney General to reduce and eliminate tobacco company access to youth.

*Unanimously carried*                      Ayes 7                      Nays 0

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

**AISM DIRECT**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education enter into an agreement with Centris Group to purchase software maintenance and a support contract for tracking Academic Intervention Services for the district

at a cost of \$2,903.25.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

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

**WINTER TRACK**

WHEREAS Michelle Meyer, a 12<sup>th</sup> grader, and Michelle Duffy, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader, in Island Trees High School, are requesting permission to participate in winter track with the Farmingdale School District, and

WHEREAS Island Trees High School does not have a winter track team, and

WHEREAS Coach Katie Dunne from the Farmingdale School District has agreed to be their coach, and

WHEREAS Michelle Meyer's and Michelle Duffy's parents have agreed to be responsible for their transportation and any fees involved in track, and

WHEREAS there will be no cost to Island Trees School District

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, To approve Michelle Meyer's and Michelle Duffy's participation in winter track with the Farmingdale School District team.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

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

**H.S. MUSIC DEPT.**  
**FIELD TRIP**

WHEREAS the Island Trees High School Music Department is requesting approval for a field trip to the "High Note Music Festival" at Great Adventure in Jackson, New Jersey, on Thursday, May 17, 2007, and

WHEREAS the high school band, orchestra and chorus students will perform repertoire for adjudication by music clinicians, and

WHEREAS the students will have an opportunity to attend Great Adventure Amusement Park, and



WHEREAS the class would leave the high school at 6 a.m. and will return to the high school at approximately 9 p.m., and

WHEREAS approximately 230 students will attend accompanied by the requisite number of chaperones, and

WHEREAS the cost will be approximately \$70-75 per student

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education supports the request from The Island Trees High School Music Department to sponsor a field trip to the "High Note Music Festival" at Great Adventure in Jackson, New Jersey, on Thursday, May 17, 2007.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes    7            Nays    0

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

WHEREAS the Island Trees Memorial Middle School Music Department is requesting approval for a field trip on Wednesday, February 7, and

**I.T. MEMORIAL**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**MUSIC DEPT.**  
**FIELD TRIP**

WHEREAS the Music Department would like to take the performing music students in grades 7 and 8 to the Broadway production of "Mary Poppins," at the Amsterdam Theater on 42nd Street, New York City, and

WHEREAS the class would leave the memorial middle school at 11:30 a.m. and will return to the memorial middle school at approximately 7 p.m., and

WHEREAS approximately 76 students will attend accompanied by the requisite number of chaperones, and

WHEREAS the cost will be \$75 per pupil, which includes the cost of the ticket plus the cost of transportation

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education supports the request from

The Island Trees Memorial Middle School Music Department to sponsor a field trip to the Broadway production of “Mary Poppins” at the Amsterdam Theater on 42nd Street, New York City, on Wednesday, February 7, 2007.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes    7            Nays       0

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

**TRI-M FIELD TRIP**

WHEREAS the Island Trees High School Music Department is requesting approval for a field trip on Wednesday, January 31, 2007, and

WHEREAS the Music Department would like to take the Tri-M students to the Broadway production of “The Producers,” at the St. James Theater on 44th Street, New York City, and

WHEREAS the class would leave the high school at 11:30 a.m. and will return to the high school at approximately 6:30 p.m., and

WHEREAS approximately 37 students will attend accompanied by three (3) chaperones, and

WHEREAS the cost will be \$64 per pupil, which includes the cost of the ticket plus the cost of transportation

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education supports the request from The Island Trees High School Music Department to sponsor a field trip to the Broadway production of “The Producers” at the St. James Theater on 44th Street, New York City, on Wednesday, January 31, 2007.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes    7            Nays       0

On motion of Mr. Buda, and seconded by Mr. Rochon,  
**CLASS**

**H.S. SPANISH**

**FIELD TRIP**

WHEREAS the Island Trees High School Foreign Language Department is requesting approval for a field trip to the Repertorio Español at 138 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City, on Wednesday, December 13, 2006, and

WHEREAS the class would leave the high school at 8 a.m. and will return to the high school at approximately 2:30 p.m., and

WHEREAS approximately seventy-two (72) Spanish 4A students will attend accompanied by five (5) chaperones, and

WHEREAS the cost will be approximately \$21 per student

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education supports the request from The Island Trees Foreign Language Department to sponsor a field trip to the Repertorio Español at 138 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City, on Friday, December 1, 2006.

*Unanimously carried*                      Ayes    7                      Nays       0

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

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
**A.P. GOVT.**  
**FIELD TRIP**

WHEREAS the Island Trees High School Social Studies Department is requesting approval for a field trip to the Consulate of Russian Federation at the United Nations in New York City, on December 6, 2006, and

WHEREAS the high school A.P. Government students will attend, and

WHEREAS the class would leave the high school at 10 a.m. and will return to the high school at approximately 5 p.m., and

WHEREAS approximately 24 students will attend accompanied by two (2) chaperones, and

WHEREAS the cost will be approximately \$30 per student

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education supports the request from The Island Trees High School Social Studies Department to sponsor a field trip to the Consulate of Russian Federation at the United Nations in New York City, on December 6, 2006.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes    7            Nays    0

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

**BUDGET DATES**

RESOLVED, To accept the dates listed below for preparation of the 2007-2008 budget:

- Tues., Oct. 3, 2006*    -    Budget material from Business Office to all Administrators.
- Mon., Dec. 4*            -    Administrators return all completed budget pages to Mr. Carambia in the Business Office.
- Tues., Jan. 2, 2007*    -    Petitions for Board Trustee available in District Clerk's office.
- TBD*                        -    Board of Education meets to review entire budget proposal.
- Thurs., March 22*        -    Amendments/Propositions to Budget due.
- Budget Newsletter to printer.
- Business Office prepares budget in outline form for presentation at May 3<sup>rd</sup> Budget Hearing.
- Wed., March 28*        -    Board of Education Meeting to adopt 2007-2008 Budget.
- Thurs., April 12*        -    Budget Newsletter mailed to residents.
- Applications for Absentee Ballots available in District Clerk's office.
- Mon., April 16*         -    Petitions for Board Trustee due in District Clerk's office no later than 4 PM.
- FAX *Property Tax Report Card* to Levittown Tribune for publication in April 20th issue.
- Tues., April 17*        -    Drawing for ballot placement – 9:00 AM District Clerk's Office

- Tues., April 24* - Board of Education Meeting to vote on BOCES 2007-2008 Administrative Operations Budget.
- Adopted Budget available in the district schools.

- Thurs., May 3* - Budget Hearing, 8 PM, General Purpose Room in the Geneva N. Gallow School.
- Registration for Budget Vote, 4 PM to 8 PM in District Clerk's office.

**ALSO:** Open registration on all school days – 9 AM to 3 PM in the Office of the District Clerk, Gallow School, up to and including Thursday, May 11, 2007.

- Fri., May 4* - Budget Postcard reminder to residents.

*Date to be determined-* “Meet the Candidate”

- Tues., May 15* - **BUDGET VOTE & TRUSTEE ELECTION**  
12 Noon to 9 PM  
Gymnasium in the M. F. Stokes School

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes    7            Nays       0

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

RESOLVED, To reject all bids for the video surveillance cameras, Bid #673.007.001.

**REJECTION OF  
BID #673.007.001 -  
VIDEO SURVEIL-  
LANCE CAMERAS**

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes    7            Nays       0

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

WHEREAS Staples of 2310 Jericho Tpke, Garden City Park, New York, has offered to donate office furniture and various office supplies to the district, and

**DONATION OF  
OFFICE FURNITURE  
& SUPPLIES**

WHEREAS these items are being donated by Mr. Steven Connelly,

Manager, and

WHEREAS the items being donated are:

- 7 Bush corner desks
- 2 Sauder hutches
- 1 Sauder desk
- 7 large brown file folders
- 5 small brown file folders
- 12 pens
- 6 small blue chests
- 2 small green chests
- 1 box black binders

WHEREAS these items can be utilized throughout the district

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, To accept the above-mentioned donation from Staples and send a letter from the Board of Education to Mr. Steven Connelly, Manager, thanking him for his generosity.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes    7            Nays      0

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

**PERSONNEL  
REPORT**

RESOLVED, To approve, as presented, the Personnel Report dated November 15, 2006, items 1 through 65 inclusive.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes    7            Nays      0

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

**USE OF BUILDINGS**

WHEREAS community and school organizations have applied for use of district facilities for the 2006-2007 school year, and

WHEREAS the required insurance certificates have been received and all other requirements of policy and regulation of Island Trees and New York have been met, and

WHEREAS the principals and athletic director have certified that the

use of these facilities will not interfere with the instructional program or co-curricular activities in our schools

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the requested use of buildings or fields is approved subject to the limitations of policy and regulation, as presented.

*Nassau County Girl Scouts*

International Night

Square Dance

Daisy Party Night

Poinsettia Sale

No Fee

*Stokes PTA*

Plant Sale

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Event

Father's Day Sale

No Fee

*SEPTA*

Meeting

No Fee

*Island Trees Baseball*

Meetings

Little League Registration

Little League Pictures

No Fee

*Island Trees Fundraising Committee*

Fundraiser for IT Family

No Fee

*Steppin-N-Style Dance Inc.*

Dance Rehearsal & Recital

\$3,321

*Claudia Perri School of Dance*

Dance Rehearsal & Recital

\$720

*Unanimously carried*

Ayes 7

Nays 0

**REPORT BY ASST. SUPT. FOR FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

The Board of Education accepted the Financial Reports for October 2006, as presented.

**FINANCIAL  
REPORT REC'D.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. A resident questioned the resolution for the rejection of bids for video surveillance cameras.
2. The parent of the eighth grade student who had concerns regarding a book that was assigned for summer reading at the middle school asked if this issue was brought before the Board of Education.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Two residents expressed their desire to have a second J.V. baseball team added.
2. A resident had questions regarding Westech Security.
3. A resident expressed concerns regarding a teacher at the high school.

On motion of Mr. Bonsignore, seconded by Mr. Buda and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 9:10 PM.

**TO EXEC. SESSION**

The following items were addressed in Executive Session:

**EXEC. SESSION**

1. Personnel issue

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr  
District Clerk

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