

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, October 25, 2006.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Peter Ray, at 8:00 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**

**STUDENT  
RECOGNITION**

Six students at Island Trees High School were selected for All State by the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA). Three students, Matt Cruz, Shuyang Yao, and Alex Sherry were selected as winners of the NYSSMA Electronic Music Composition Showcase. Vocalists Amanda Hall, Victoria Fairclough and Kevin Covais were selected for the choral ensembles. Mr. Parla stated that this is a tremendous accomplishment and congratulated the students and Mr. Peter Gibbons, Director of Fine and Performing Arts. Mr. Gibbons introduced each winner and said a few words about their accomplishments. All six students were presented with certificates from the Board of Education by Mr. Peter Ray, President. They will perform at the 2006 NYSSMA All-State Conference in Rochester, New York, on November 30 to December 3, 2006.

**RECOGNITION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Mr. Parla announced that each year the Governor proclaims a week in October as *School Board Recognition Week*. This year, the week of October 23-27, 2006, has been set aside to recognize community members who serve as members of school boards and dedicate many hours to children as they “strive for improvement, excellence and progress in education.” Mr. Parla read the proclamation from the Governor’s office. He then read notes of appreciation written to each of the board members by students from the middle school. Mr. Parla commented that “our kids can say it best.” The PTA Council provided refreshments for the occasion. Offering their thanks on behalf of their respective organizations were Vicki Del Giacco, PTA Council; Ellen Murphy, UTIT; Patricia Guidice, CSEA Clerical Unit; and Peter Gibbons on behalf of central office administration staff. A performance by each of our NYSSMA All State Vocal winners accompanied by Mrs. Susan Oliveto, Chorus teacher, was enjoyed by all.

Mr. Ray, President, thanked all the teachers, parents, students, and everyone at the meeting for the wonderful expressions of appreciation.

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

RESOLVED, To approve the following minutes, as presented:

Regular Meeting & Executive Session – September 27, 2006  
Special Meeting – October 11, 2006

*Unanimously carried*                      Ayes 7                      Nays 0

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

James Parla, Superintendent of Schools, announced the following:

1. Dr. Arlene Sage will be a presenter at the Hofstra University Conference on November 1 & 2. The topic of the conference is “Challenges for Educational Leaders--What every District Educator Needs to Know about IDEA and No Child Left Behind.”
2. Mrs. Cathy Potorski will be a presenter at the L.I. Council’s Annual Conference on November 1 at St. Anthony’s High School on the

**RECOGNITION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION****MINUTES APPROVAL****SUPERINTENDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- topic of “Cyber Bullying and the School.”
3. Sarah Koss, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student from Sparke, won the New York State Kids Safe On Line Poster Contest sponsored by the New York State Office of Cyber Security and Critical Information and Coordination.
  4. The yard sale to benefit the DeVita family helped raise \$8,000. Mrs. Kathy Huller was one of the organizers. Mr. Joseph Buda, Ms. Patricia Mahon, and Mr. Carl Bonsignore also helped with setting up, and other board members attended. Mr. Parla praised the Board of Education for their support

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

**DESIGNATION AND  
AFFIRMATION OF  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

WHEREAS the Board of Education has considered and discussed the appropriate name of the middle school, and

WHEREAS the Board of Education has invited public comment on this matter, and

WHEREAS district records and records of the New York State Education Department affirm that the school was originally dedicated as a memorial school in honor of veterans, and

WHEREAS the Board of Education desires to recognize and reaffirm the middle school building as a memorial school

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the middle school be officially recognized as the Island Trees Memorial Middle School and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to notify the State Education Department and other agencies and to ensure all documentation and signage reflect this resolution accordingly.

*Unanimously carried*                      Ayes 7                      Nays 0

Mr. Andy Booth from the American Legion Post 1711 thanked the Superintendent and Board of Education for their decision on behalf of the veterans.

Mr. Parla announced that a ceremony and program, which will be student-centered, is scheduled for Monday, November 13, 2006, at 9 a.m. for the

rededication of the Island Trees Memorial Middle School. Mr. William Marr, Dean, is coordinating the event. The VFW Color Guard and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band will open the program. In attendance, among others, will be Mr. Dennis Dunne, Mr. Andy Booth, Miss Courtney McCall, Mr. Peter Ray, and Mr. Parla, along with 70 students.

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

**GYMNASTICS**

WHEREAS Jessica Panza, a 9<sup>th</sup> grader in Island Trees High School, is requesting permission to participate in gymnastics with the Bethpage Gymnastics team, and

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

WHEREAS Coach Kim Rhatigan from the Bethpage district has agreed to be her coach, and

WHEREAS Jessica Panza's parents have agreed to be responsible for her transportation and any fees involved in gymnastics, and

WHEREAS there will be no cost to Island Trees School District

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, To approve Jessica Panza's participation in gymnastics with the Bethpage Gymnastics team.

*Unanimously carried*                      Ayes    7                      Nays    0

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

**GRADE 5**  
**FIELD TRIP**

WHEREAS two fifth grade teachers of the Island Trees Middle School have proposed a one-day field trip to The Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, Connecticut, and

WHEREAS the proposed field trip is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, 2007, and

WHEREAS the field trip will reinforce the fourth quarter science curriculum that focuses on weather, oceans, and whales, and

WHEREAS students will receive instruction on GPS devices, an IMAX movie on whales, and a guided visit to the aquarium, and

WHEREAS the cost of the trip is approximately \$30 per student, and

WHEREAS two fifth grade teachers, Mr. Galluzzo and Ms. Previdi, and six chaperones will accompany 48 students, which is in compliance with district Field Trip Guidelines.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the fifth grade field trip to The Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, Connecticut on Tuesday, April 17, 2007, as outlined above.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes    7            Nays    0

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

**GRADE 6**  
**FIELD TRIP**

WHEREAS the sixth grade teachers of the Island Trees Middle School have proposed a one-day field trip to Medieval Times in New Jersey on Thursday, May 4, 2007, and

WHEREAS the study of the Middle Ages is part of the sixth grade curriculum, and

WHEREAS the cost of the trip is approximately \$58 per student, and

WHEREAS it is estimated that 255 students and 15 faculty chaperones will participate, which is in compliance with district Field Trip Guidelines

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education supports the sixth grade field trip to Medieval Times in New Jersey on Thursday, May 4, 2007, as outlined above.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes    7            Nays    0

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

**CONSULTANT -**  
**YOGA WORKSHOP**

WHEREAS Edith Jason/Jules Bender, Consultants from Winthrop University Hospital, and Shernaz Sethra, Consultant from Levittown Schools Adult Ed., will present a workshop in Yoga, and

WHEREAS Superintendent's Conference Day will be held on November 7, 2006, with faculty engaged in curriculum work in the afternoon, and

WHEREAS the morning theme is Health and Wellness in concert with the District's Wellness Plan, and

WHEREAS the fees for these services is \$400 and \$200 respectively

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education is authorized to enter into the agreement with Edith Jason/Jules Bender and Shernaz Sethra, Consultants, to perform workshops in Yoga on November 7, 2006.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

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

**TOP GRADE -  
HOME TUTORING**

WHEREAS the district has entered into a contract with Top Grade in previous school years, and

WHEREAS the services provided by Top Grade have met the expectations of the district, and

WHEREAS the hourly rate for this service is \$37.00

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, To enter into an agreement with Top Grade to provide home tutoring services for the 2006-2007 school year.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

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

**COACHING  
SALARIES -  
KICKLINE**

WHEREAS Varsity and Junior Varsity Kickline has been deemed a

district team, and

WHEREAS coaching salaries for Kickline must be established for the 2006-2007 school year, and

WHEREAS the salaries have been reviewed and agreed upon with the U.T.I.T. per contract

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Kickline coaching salaries for the 2006-2007 school year be established as follows:

Varsity Coach - \$4,091

J.V. Coach - \$3,147

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

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

**SECURITY CONTRACT -  
WESTECH INVESTIGA-  
TIONS, INC.**

WHEREAS the Island Trees U.F.S.D. wishes to enter into a contract with Westech Investigations, Inc., to provide part-time security services at the high school and on the weekends district wide, and

WHEREAS the agreement is for one security person at a rate of \$19.50 per hour for four (4) hours per day and fifteen (15) hours on the weekend, and

WHEREAS the Requests for Proposal for security services have been reviewed by administration and the Board of Education

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves a contract with Westech Investigations, Inc., for the 2006-2007 school year.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

Q. Regarding the May minutes, did the 8<sup>th</sup> Precinct recommend hiring a private security company?

- A. No, the 8<sup>th</sup> Precinct did not recommend this. However, a representative from the precinct stated that patrol cars could not be dedicated to school grounds. Therefore, because of increased vandalism, the district felt it was necessary to hire a private security company.

A resident who lives on Straight Lane thanked the Superintendent and Board of Education for hiring the security company. The patrolling of the high school grounds on the weekends has reduced the number of kids hanging out.

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

**VIDEO SURVEILLANCE  
CAMERAS**

This item was moved into Executive Session to discuss attending legal issues. (The word tabled was used; however, a motion cannot be tabled unless it is made and seconded.)

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

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

**STUDENT ACTIVITY  
ACCOUNTS**

WHEREAS the school district external auditor has determined that Student Activity Accounts should be opened for Michael F. Stokes and J. Fred Sparke schools, and

WHEREAS these accounts will be included in the Student Activity Treasury at Island Trees High School, and

WHEREAS Mrs. Lizabeth Due is the Central Treasurer for these accounts

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Island Trees Board of Education approve the establishment of the Michael F. Stokes and J. Fred Sparke Student Activity Accounts within the Island Trees High School Student Activity Treasury.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

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

**POLICY 3190 -**



WHEREAS Policy Number 3190 of the Business Policy of the Island Trees Union Free School District was originally adopted on August 24, 2005, and

**CELLULAR  
TELEPHONES**

WHEREAS district auditors have recommended modification to this policy

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that Policy Number 3190 of the Board of Education Policy Manual is hereby amended to include the following language:

“Job titles requiring cellular telephones are as follows:  
Superintendent of Schools, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration, Director of Athletics, Assistant Director of Facilities, Coordinator of Technology and Teacher Substitute Coordinator.”

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

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

WHEREAS, Policy Number 3190.1 of the Business Policy of the Island Trees Union Free School District was originally adopted on August 24, 2005, and

**POLICY 3190.1 -  
GAS & OTHER  
CREDIT CARDS**

WHEREAS district auditors have recommended modification to this policy

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that Policy Number 3190.1 of the Board of Education Policy Manual is hereby amended to include the following language:

“Job titles that will be issued a District gas credit card are as follows:  
Superintendent of Schools (in accordance with employment contract), Assistant Supt. for Finance and Administration and Assistant Director of Facilities.”

“In addition to a gas credit card, the District maintains the following credit cards which are retained in a safe at the Business Office: Staples, Office Max, and Home Depot. These credit cards are available for use by district personnel.”

“Individuals authorized to use the gas credit card and the other cards listed accept responsibility for any inappropriate usage by that individual. Receipts that provide evidence that each purchase is prudent and proper should be obtained and submitted to the Business Office in a timely manner.”

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

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

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

WHEREAS a transfer between budget object codes may not exceed \$10,000 in any period without approval by the Board of Education, and

WHEREAS a transfer of funds in the amount of \$19,000 is required to cover unanticipated legal cost

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, To approve a transfer of funds between the Tan Interest and Legal Services codes to cover the legal expenses regarding a Special Education hearing.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

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

**SPECIAL**

**PLAN**

WHEREAS the New York State Education Department requires school districts to update their Special Education District Plans every two years, and

WHEREAS Dr. Arlene Genden Sage, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education, has updated the District's Plan, and

WHEREAS the Special Education District Plan shall be filed and available for public inspection and review by the Commissioner  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, To accept the updated two-year Special Education District Plan, as presented.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

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

**BUDGET ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS the Board of Education wishes to expand public involvement in the budget preparation process, and

WHEREAS the Board of Education has considered and discussed at its Work Session the establishment of a District Budget Advisory Committee to accomplish this, and

WHEREAS the charge of the Budget Advisory Committee shall be to utilize the committee members' expertise in a review of the school budget and to make recommendations to the Board of Education regarding the budgetary proposal, and

WHEREAS the Budget Advisory Committee shall consist of a maximum of twelve community members to be selected by the Board of Education

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to implement procedures to establish a Budget Advisory Committee.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

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

**PERSONNEL  
REPORT**

RESOLVED, To approve, as presented, the Personnel Report dated October 25, 2006, items 1 through 219 inclusive.

*Unanimously carried*      Ayes 7      Nays 0

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

**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.

*Cub Scout Pack 600*

Den Meetings      No Fee

*Nassau County Girl Scouts*

Brownie Meetings

Leadership Meetings

Service Team Meetings      No Fee

*Stokes PTA*

Craft Fair      No Fee

*Sparke PTA*

Vendor Fair

Poinsettia Sale      No Fee

*Island Trees Little League*

Board Meeting

Registration      No Fee

*Levittown Red Devil Cheerleading*  
Cheerleading Competition/Show \$1,704.00

*Unanimously carried*      Ayes 7      Nays 0

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

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

**FINANCIAL  
REPORT REC'D.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**OLD BUSINESS**

A member of the audience thanked the Board of Education on behalf of his uncle who is a WWII veteran for the reaffirmation of the middle school as the Island Trees Memorial Middle School.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. A resident voiced concerns about the transcription of the minutes of the board meetings.
2. A resident who has children in Stokes, the memorial middle school and high school and are involved in the sports program, voiced his concerns regarding the need to update athletic fields/program.
3. Mr. Peter Ray commented on the security issue. He stated that hopefully we can get this straightened out, and it is something that has to really be worked on. He stressed that it's our own students who may be partaking in the vandalism, and parents should be part of the solution.

On motion of Mr. Condela, seconded by Ms. Mahon, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 9:39 PM.

**TO EXEC. SESSION**

The following items were addressed in Executive Session:

**EXEC. SESSION**

1. Date of November Work Session (The board agreed to change the date of the work session from November 8 to November 7.)
2. Video surveillance bid – no action taken on this item

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr  
District Clerk

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