

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, March 25, 2009.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Peter Ray, President, at 7:07 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 (arrived 7:25 PM)

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

On motion of Mr. Bonsignore, and seconded by Mrs. Holt and carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Rochon not present), the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:08 PM to discuss pending litigation.

**TO EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

Mr. Buda recused himself from Executive Session at 7:22 PM.

On motion of Mr. Bonsignore, seconded by Mr. Condela, and carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Buda not present), the members came out of Executive Session at 8 PM.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION  
ADJOURNED**

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mr. Ray at 8:05 PM

**REGULAR SESSION**

Mr. Ray led the pledge of allegiance to the flag followed by a moment of silence to honor our soldiers and veterans.

**PLEDGE**

On motion of Mr. Rochon, and seconded by Mr. Bonsignore,  
RESOLVED, To approve the following minutes, as presented:

**MINUTES  
APPROVAL**

Budget Workshop and Executive Session – February 24, 2009  
Regular Meeting and Executive Session – February 25, 2009  
Committee on Special Education – February 3, 4, 10, March 3, 10, 2009  
Committee on Preschool Special Education – February 5, 12, 25, March 4, 2009

*Unanimously Carried*                      Ayes    7                      Nays    0

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

James Parla, Superintendent of Schools, commented on the following:

**SUPT'S. OPENING  
COMMENTS**

1. Mr. Parla announced that Samantha Bunster and Suzanne Alahverdian, Home and Careers teachers in the Island Trees Memorial Middle School, were recipients of the highest honors from the 2009 Long Island Family and Consumer Sciences Association. They were recognized for their outstanding leadership and education in Home and Careers in school districts in Nassau County. Mrs. Bunster is the Nassau County LIFACS Educator of the Year Award Recipient, and Mrs. Alahverdian is the Nassau County LIFACS Promising New Professional Award Recipient.
2. Mr. Parla announced that both the boys and girls winter track teams received the Sportsmanship Awards from the Nassau County Track Coaches Association.
3. Mr. Parla announced that a number of Island Trees' students participated in the Art Supervisors Association All-County Art Exhibition at Adelphi University on Sunday, March 22, 2009. The students and their teachers were commended.

Mr. Ray read to the Board and the audience a thank you letter from the president of the class of 2009 thanking the Board of Education for listening to their concerns and the concerns of their parents regarding the June 2009 graduation ceremony.

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

**H.S. MUSIC DEPT. -  
HIGH NOTE MUSIC  
FESTIVAL**

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education supports and agrees to sponsor the trip of the Island Trees High School physics students to Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, New Jersey, for Physics Day on Friday, May 1, 2009, at a cost of \$68 per student.

*Unanimously Carried*                      Ayes    7                      Nays    0

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

**SURPLUS EQUIPMENT -  
IBM SELECTRIC II**

RESOLVED, To declare surplus and dispose of an IBM Selectric II typewriter, Serial #066442000, Inventory Tag #101511, located in the Michael F. Stokes School. The typewriter is no longer operable and cannot be repaired.

*Unanimously Carried*            Ayes    7            Nays    0

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

RESOLVED, To award the following Bid #673.009.005, to the lowest responsible bidder dated February 23, 2009, for printing of the high school IMAGES Literary Magazine for the 2008-2009 school year to Origin Press, 131 Liberty Avenue, Mineola, NY, 11501, in the amount of \$8,250.

**BID AWARD -  
H.S. LITERARY  
MAGAZINE**

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes    7            Nays    0

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

RESOLVED, That Board of Education approves the establishment of The J. Fred Sparke Scholarship, which will be funded by the J. Fred Sparke staff in an amount not to exceed \$500 per scholarship, and will be awarded to a high school senior who attended Sparke School as an elementary student and plans to attend a two or four year college.

**THE J. FRED SPARKE  
SCHOLARSHIP**

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes    7            Nays    0

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

RESOLVED, To adopt the proposed 2009-2010 school calendar, as presented.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR  
2009-2010**

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes    7            Nays    0

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby approves an addendum to the contract with H2M to provide certain enumerated architectural and engineering services to the District for the 2008/2009 school year, in order to provide the engineering and architectural services to the District for preparation of the Remedial/Alternatives Study and Work Plan, and oversight regarding any remedy or remedial alternative at the District's high school designated by the Department of Environmental Conservation pursuant to its Notice of Violation.

**ADDENDUM TO H2M  
CONTRACT**

*Carried*            Ayes    5            Nays    1 (J. Buda)            Abstentions    1 (P. Mahon)

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

**J. FRED SPARKE**

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education accepts the donation in the amount of \$39,320 from the J. Fred Sparke School Student Activity Fund to be used for the purchase and installation of equipment for a fitness trail around the perimeter of the blacktop in the rear of Sparke school, and the purchase and installation of replacement parts for the existing playground.

**STUDENT ACTIVITY  
FUND DONATION**

*Unanimously carried*                      Ayes 7                      Nays 0

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

**BID AWARD – SPARKE  
& STOKES PLAYGROUND  
RENOVATION**

RESOLVED, To award the following Bid #673.009.006, to the lowest responsible bidder dated March 10, 2009, for the renovation of the playground at J. Fred Sparke and Michael F. Stokes Elementary Schools to Louis Barbato Landscaping, Inc., 1600 Railroad Avenue, Holbrook, NY, 11741. The base amount is \$160,160, which includes Alternates 1, 2, and 3; plus Alternates 4 and 5, which is funded through a private donation of \$39,320, for a total of \$199,480. The Board President is authorized to sign such agreement contingent upon review and approval by District Counsel.

*Unanimously carried*                      Ayes 7                      Nays 0

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

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

RESOLVED, To authorize a transfer of funds for the following:

1. In the amount of \$70,000 to cover the cost of renovating the varsity baseball and softball fields – between codes 1620.560.98.0000 and 1621.500.98.0000.
2. In the amount of \$58,000 to cover the cost of additional projects and repairs – from code 1620.560.98.0000, to codes 1620.450.98.0000, 1621.520.98.0000, and 1621.400.98.0000

*Unanimously carried*                      Ayes 7                      Nays 0

Mr. Buda asked what the \$58,000 was being spent on. Mr. Sabia, Director of Facilities, stated that a breakdown of the projects and repairs was provided.

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

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

RESOLVED, To approve, as presented, the Personnel Report dated March 25, 2009, items 1 through 63 inclusive.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

Mr. Parla announced the retirement of Mrs. Cathy Potorski, Assistant Principal of the Island Trees Memorial Middle School. He also stated that a formal recognition will be done at a later date.

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 2008-2009 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.

<i>Island Trees Little League Baseball</i>	
Baseball Practice	No Fee
<i>Girl Scouts of Nassau County</i>	
Rededication & Investiture Ceremony	
Skit Rehearsal	No Fee
<i>Girls Soccer Section VIII</i>	

High School Soccer Alignment	No Fee
<i>Island Trees Soccer Club</i> Coaches Training Course	No Fee
<i>Island Trees PTA Council</i> Puberty Workshop	No Fee
<i>IT Youth Football Cardinals</i> Youth Football Registration	No Fee
<i>M. F. Stokes PTA</i> L.I. Philharmonic – Cultural Arts Program	No Fee
<i>Cub Scout Pack 600</i> Derby Registration	No Fee
<i>CAPIT</i> Senior Citizen Prom	No Fee
<i>Nassau County Soccer Officials</i> Instructions on the Rules of H.S. Soccer	No Fee

*Unanimously carried*                      Ayes 7                      Nays 0

Mr. Buda made a recommendation that since the baseball field at Stokes was not fixed this year, we should let teams use the baseball field at the high school.

**REPORT BY ASST. SUPT. FOR BUSINESS**

The Board of Education accepted the Financial Report for February 2009, as presented.

**FINANCIAL**  
**REPORT REC'D.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**OLD BUSINESS**

A resident asked a question regarding the lead issue being discussed by the Board in Executive Session. The resident also had a question about the recent *Newsday* article.

A resident asked if the school attorneys represented the public as well

as the Board of Education.

A resident had a question about the use of the baseball fields.

A resident had a question about the renovation of the varsity baseball field.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

A resident commended Mr. Buda and Mr. Rochon for their actions during an emergency situation at last month's meeting.

Mr. Frank McKenna from the Island Trees Public Library made an announcement regarding the library vote on April 28, 2009.

Mr. Peter Gibbons extended an invitation to the Faculty Concert on April 3 at 7 p.m. in the high school. An application for tickets can be obtained on the Island Trees website.

Mr. Ray commended the students who performed in the high school play on March 22 and 23. He was amazed at the level of talent, and stated that the students did an unbelievable job. He also commended the music teachers.

A resident had a question about the defibrillator cases that are being installed in each of the school buildings.

A resident asked if money could be budgeted for uniforms for the Memorial Middle School wrestling team.

Mr. Parla announced that a CPR course is going to be offered for administrators and staff.

Mr. Buda made some nice remarks about Mr. James Buhse. He also stated that if the school community wants to do anything, donations can be made to the Buhse family.

A resident thanked the Board for their consideration of having the athletic field available for this year's graduation ceremony.

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

**TO EXECUTIVE**

unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:40 PM.

**SESSION**

Executive Session began at 9:03 PM

**EXEC. SESSION**

The following items were addressed in Executive Session:

1. Legal Matter – Article 78
2. Seniority Issue
3. Amendment of Minutes
4. Personnel Issue - Superintendent

On motion of Mr. Condela, seconded by Ms. Mahon, and unanimously carried, the members came out of Executive Session at 9:50 PM.

**RETURN TO  
REGULAR SESSION**

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

RESOLVED, The Board of education approves the amendment to the Superintendent's contract, dated March 25, 2009, to wit:

**AMENDMENT TO  
SUPERINTENDENT'S  
CONTRACT**

Whereas the DISTRICT and PARLA entered into an Employment Agreement employing PARLA as Superintendent of Schools for a term commencing July 1, 2004 for a period of three (3) years, ending June 30, 2007 (the Agreement) which Agreement was amended extending same and modifying the terms and conditions through June 30, 2012.

No therefore, for the good and valuable consideration and mutual covenants, conditions and agreement herein contained, it is agreed as follows:

That if the Employment Agreement is terminated prior to June 30, 2012, and PARLA has completed five years of employment with the DISTRICT, he shall be entitled to seventy-five percent (75%) of family health insurance coverage upon his retirement, as accepted and approved by the New York State Teachers Retirement System and upon reaching the age of Medicare eligibility, he shall receive at no cost to him, the then prevailing State Medicare Supplemental Insurance Policy and reimbursement of Medicare premiums pursuant

to law provided he does not vest for medical benefits into retirement in another school district.

Each, all and every other provision of the previously existing contracts and amendments shall remain in full force and effect.

*Unanimously carried*            Ayes 7            Nays 0

On motion of Mr. Condela, seconded by Mrs. Holt, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr  
District Clerk

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