

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 19, 2008.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Peter Ray, President, at 8:07 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

Also Present: Mr. James Parla, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Arlene Genden Sage, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education; Ms. Dana DiCapua, Assistant Superintendent for Business; 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 and veterans.

PLEDGE

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

MINUTES
APPROVAL

RESOLVED, To approve the following minutes, as presented:

Regular Meeting and Executive Session – October 29, 2008
Committee on Special Education – October 22, 28, 2008
Committee on Preschool Special Education –October 23, 28, 2008

Carried Ayes 6 Nays 1 (J. Buda)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

SUPT'S. OPENING
COMMENTS

1. Mr. Parla announced that the Girls' Varsity Soccer team made it to the finals and played against Southside.
2. Mr. Parla announced that the Music Department received recognition as a Grammy Signature School finalist. Island Trees was selected among 36 nationwide, of which only four schools were from New York State. This is the first step in the process. Mr. Parla commended the Music Department for doing a great job.
3. High School Drama production of *Harvey* on Friday and

Saturday, November 21 and 22, at 7 PM.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education supports and agrees to sponsor the Island Trees Memorial Middle School 8th Grade field trip to Liberty Science Center in New Jersey, on Thursday, December 18, 2008, at a cost of \$50 per student.

**IT MEMORIAL MIDDLE
SCHOOL LIBERTY
SCIENCE CENTER
FIELD TRIP**

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education supports and agrees to sponsor the Island Trees High School Environmental Club field trip to the Bronx Zoo on Thursday, April 2, 2009, at a cost of \$40.50 per student.

**IT HIGH SCHOOL
ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB
FIELD TRIP**

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education supports and agrees to sponsor the Island Trees High School Photography field trip to the International Center for Photography in New York City on Wednesday, December 3, 2008, at a cost of \$16 per student.

**IT HIGH SCHOOL
PHOTOGRAPHY
FIELD TRIP**

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education accepts the donation by the J. Fred Sparke PTA in the amount of \$375 to cover the expense of a cultural arts program entitled "Singing Bus Driver" at the J. Fred Sparke School on November 7, 2008, increasing budget line 2110.490.12 (BOCES Arts and Education), and directs that a letter be sent from the Board of Education thanking them for their generosity.

**J. FRED SPARKE PTA
CULTURAL ARTS
DONATION**

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

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

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

2. \$15,619.99 to Total Restoration, Inc. 285 Post Ave., Westbury, NY 11590, for the emergency clean up due to a major flood that took place in The Island Trees Public Library.

Carried Ayes 6 Nays 1 (J. Buda)

On motion of Mr. Rochon, and seconded by Mr. Bonsignore,
RESOLVED, To authorize a transfer of funds for the following:

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS -
LEGAL FEES & SPEC. ED.
TUITION**

1. In the amount of \$150,000 to cover additional legal fees from the codes on the attached list to 1420.400.96 (Legal Fees)
2. In the amount of \$37,200 to cover the cost of special education tuition for a new student from codes 9060.800.96 and 2250.472.53 (Health Insurance and Special Education Private) to code 2250.471.53 (Special Education Tuition Public)

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

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

CSEA UNIT #7600-01

WHEREAS the District has conducted negotiations with employees representing the clerical staff over terms and conditions of employment in accordance with the provisions of the Public Employees Relations Board, and

WHEREAS these negotiations have resulted in a Memorandum of Agreement between the parties that includes the following increases for the school year noted: 3.5% (2008-2009), 4.0% (2009-2010), 4.0% (2010-2011), 3.5% (2011-2012), and

WHEREAS the members of the unit have agreed to these terms and others specified in the agreement in a formal vote conducted by the CSEA Unit #7600-01

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED That the Island Trees Board of Education ratifies this Memorandum of Agreement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to sign the amended contract between the parties when it is revised in accordance with the Memorandum.

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education adopts Policy Number 9721, Employee and Volunteer Protection & Public Officers Law, dated February 2008.

POLICY #9721 – EMP. & VOL. PROTECTION & PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

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

RESOLVED, To authorize the Island Trees Board of Education to enter into a consulting services agreement for the 2008-2009 school year with North Shore University Hospital Faye J. Lindner Center for Autism, which was reviewed and approved by District Counsel, and authorizes the Board President to sign such contract.

NSUH FAYE J. LINDNER CENTER FOR AUTISM CONTRACT

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

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

RESOLVED, To authorize the Island Trees Board of Education to enter into the following contract reviewed and approved by District Counsel for the purpose of providing instructional services to children residing in the Island Trees School District during the 2008-2009 school year at the State approved rate, and authorizes the Board President to sign such contract:

SPECIAL ED. SERVICES CONTRACT FOR 2008-09 YEAR

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

On motion of Mr. Condela, and seconded by Mrs. Holt, tenure was unanimously granted to Mr. Nicholas Grande, Assistant Principal in the High School effective January 1, 2009.

**TENURE RECOM-
MENDATION**

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

On motion of Mr. Condela, and seconded by Mrs. Holt, tenure was unanimously granted to Mr. William Kealy, Principal in the High School effective January 1, 2009.

**TENURE RECOM-
MENDATION**

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

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

PERSONEL REPORT

RESOLVED, To approve, as presented, the Personnel Report dated November 19, 2008, items 3 through 111 inclusive.

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

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

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.

Cub Scout Pack 600

Den Meetings
Derby Registration No Fee

Girl Scouts of Nassau County
Child Safety Performance
Bronze Award No Fee

Levittown Athletic Club
Softball Clinic No Fee

Island Trees Soccer Club
Soccer Training No Fee

Island Trees Travel Baseball
Baseball Drills & Skills No Fee

M.F. Stokes PTA
Poinsettia Sale No Fee

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

REPORT BY ASST. SUPT. FOR BUSINESS

The Board of Education accepted the Financial Report for September and October, 2008, as presented.

**FINANCIAL
REPORT REC'D.**

OLD BUSINESS

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

**GREENKILL TRIP
CHAPERONES**

RESOLVED, To approve agreement with UTIT to pay teacher chaperones \$100 per day for the Greenkill trip from December 1 through December 5, 2008, and authorizes Board President to sign such agreement.

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

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

**AMENDMENT OF BOARD
OF ED. REGULAR MTG.
MINUTES OF 9-24-08**

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education Regular Meeting minutes of September 24, 2008, be amended to read as follows:

“Mr. Robert Condela, member of the Board of Education, made a statement addressed to the Board and the audience regarding his son, Peter Condela.”

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

A resident asked how much money has been spent on the lead cleanup at the high school? The same resident asked how close are we to getting this resolved?

Mr. Parla announced that the Board is setting up a committee that will be authorized to perform fact finding of the lead issue at the high school, starting from 1999 to date.

A resident asked if the environmental attorneys are on board with working with the NYSDEC?

A resident asked what cost factor would be involved with moving the wrestling team to the Memorial Middle School?

A resident stated that her son had brain injury from eating paint chips containing lead when he was six months old until 18 months old. She feels there is a nominal amount of detriment to the children in the high school, and her concern is the amount of money being spent.

A resident stated that the wrestling room needs to be ventilated.

Dr. Andrew Sass, robotics teacher, thanked the Board for their support of the robotics program. He promised his students that he would come to the meeting to talk about the robotics season that starts on January 3. He stated that the robot has to be built in six weeks. If it isn't completed on time, they are disqualified. When the six weeks start, they cannot miss a day. Moving robotics is not easy. There are electrical issues and ventilation issues that are significant.

Mr. John Price, robotics teacher, also spoke to the board. He stated that he has been teaching downstairs in the high school since 2001.

He says he feels safe and comfortable in the basement area. He wishes that we just move on.

An Island Trees graduate thanked the Board for their support of the robotics program. He is a former robotics student who now attends Stony Brook University.

A resident asked if the small gym in the Memorial Middle School, where wrestling may be moved, is ventilated. The answer was "yes."

A resident asked why we are discussing moving the wrestling room if there is no danger. Mr. Parla stated that according to the Dept. of Health, there is no problem with lead in the wrestling room.

A resident asked Mr. Buda, Board member, if he felt the work done to this point was done satisfactorily. Mr. Buda said "no," and he mentioned several things he was not satisfied with (i.e. vents in cafeteria, 3,000 feet of sand tunnel that is not encapsulated).

A resident asked if the wrestling and robotics areas are clean right now. Mr. Condela stated that if there was any chance of danger to our children and staff, the high school would be closed. The DEC, DOH, EPA and private engineers said that they were okay with the way we were using the school. He would not allow children to be in the high school if it was not safe. Ms. Mahon stated that in 1999, the company Testing Mechanics said everything was fine and the Board trusted them. Mr. Condela stated that Testing Mechanics was not the EPA, DOH or DEC. Mr. Bonsignore responded that the testing in 1999 was not in the sand tunnel. It was for the art suite, which came up clean. He said not to confuse testing in the sand tunnel with the art suite. Mr. Ray stated that the questions will be answered through the committee that will be set up.

A resident stated that what she reads about the lead issue in *Newsday* is embarrassing for the community.

A resident asked if moving more sand from the tunnel would cause dust to be stirred up. Mr. Parla stated that it would have to be removed the way it was in 2006, which was by a vacuum truck.

A resident asked that if the basement is closed, would the district residents be notified. Mr. Parla stated that we would let everyone know that this is being done through a Connect Ed. Message.

A resident asked what the criteria is for picking four community members for the lead committee. Mr. Ray said the Board will make the determination at an open meeting.

A resident said she spoke to the DOH and they assured her that there was nothing to be alarmed about at the high school. They told her the school is completely cleaned.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A resident asked that money be put aside each year for Homecoming for flowers, balloons, breakfast for the football team, etc.

A resident suggested using Connect Ed. to notify district residents of all Board meetings.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the use of Connect Ed. for the notification of all Board meetings.

Carried Ayes 6 Nays 0 Abstentions 1 (R. Condela)

A resident asked what caused the flood in the Island Trees Public Library.

With regard to the state of the economy, a resident asked if there is any projection on how much State Aid the district is going to lose. Are any programs on the chopping block, and how much will taxes go up? Mr. Parla stated that a full cut would be about \$850,000. No programs will be on the chopping block. The district is trying to cut back as much as possible (slowing down purchase orders). At this time, Mr. Parla is unable to project how much the budget will be for next year.

Mr. Buda stated that he had new business. He stated that he tried to give

the district information, and that there was information that was not given to the Board. He stated a number of concerns he had regarding the way the lead issue has been handled thus far. Some were: the DEC order of consent was not filed, H2M told the Superintendent there was no fresh air intake in the wrestling room, H2M never recommended covering the sand tunnel in plastic, a second notice of violation was served in October, etc. Mr. Buda requested that Mr. Parla resign from the district.

Mr. Parla stated that he takes exception to what Mr. Buda said. He said he inherited the problem and is doing everything he is supposed to do. He hired engineers and contractors to correct this problem. There is Right-to-Know training for the faculty and staff. A Safety Plan is in place in each building under "Project Save," and an Emergency Management Plan is in place. Based on the information he received from all the agencies (NYSDEC, NCDOH, NYSDOH, USEPA, etc.), there is no lead exposure hazard at Island Trees. He also said that a plan is being prepared with the DEC to set up programs for testing in the future.

Mr. Condela stated that he feels Mr. Parla has kept the Board abreast of what is being done. He unequivocally supports everything that Mr. Parla has done for this district.

On motion of Mr. Condela, seconded by Mrs. Holt and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr
District Clerk

Minutes approved _____