

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 Monday, November 3, 2008.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Peter Ray, President, at 7:00 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. Connie Ecker, Acting 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 Ms. Mahon, seconded by Mr. Bonsignore, and carried by a vote of 6-1(Mr. Buda), the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:05 PM.

TO EXEC. SESSION

The following item was addressed in Executive Session:

EXEC. SESSION

1. Environmental Attorney

On motion of Ms. Mahon, seconded by Mr. Bonsignore, and unanimously carried, the members came out of Executive Session at 7:50 PM.

**RETURN TO
REGULAR SESSION**

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL
ATTORNEY**

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education appoints Twomey, Latham, Shea, Kelley, Dubin & Quartararo LLP as Environmental Attorneys for the District at a rate of \$275 per hour, and authorizes the Board President to sign the letter of engagement dated October 30, 2008.

Unanimously carried Ayes 7 Nays 0

Mr. Buda stated that he was going to ask Mr. Parla to resign, but decided not to with the hope that they can all work together. Mr. Parla said that he is glad Mr. Buda did not call for his resignation. He asked that we move forward and get this resolved.

A resident asked to be briefed with regard to the new attorneys. Why is the district hiring them? Mr. Ray responded that the district is hiring them to resolve all the issues.

A resident expressed concerns about the newly hired attorneys. How can we trust them? Mr. Ray responded that he has done everything he was told to do.

A resident would like to know about the previous superintendent. Is the district going after him? Mr. Ray stated that he would welcome any investigation.

Ms. Mahon stated that she is concerned whether or not the three board members who were here during the previous administration are able to be objective. Mr. Ray said they can be objective.

A resident requested the Superintendent's resignation. Mr. Condela stated that the Superintendent inherited a problem. The Board hired the best people at the time because they couldn't do this by themselves. The District was never told that the high school was unsafe. They were told that it was okay for students to attend. If one agency would have said the school was unsafe, all of the Board members would have voted to close down the school. Mr. Condela also stated that it is uncalled for asking the Superintendent to resign. He is doing the best he can in this situation.

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

**INVESTIGATION
COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED, The Board of Education approves the formation of an investigation committee comprised of residents and public officials.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Buda to move any classroom out of the high school basement (art class, robotics, wrestling room) pending we

