

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 Thursday, August 28, 2008.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Peter Ray, President, at 7:05 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; Mr. Richard Guercio and 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.

PLEDGE

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

**PERSONNEL
REPORT**

RESOLVED, To approve, as presented, the Personnel Report dated August 28, 2008, items 1 through 23 inclusive.

Unanimously carried Ayes 6 Nays 0 Abstentions 1 (J. Buda)

PRESENTATIONS

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Mr. Ray introduced the different agencies giving presentations regarding the lead issue at the high school. He asked the audience to wait to ask questions after all of the agencies completed their presentations.

Mr. Don Miles from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) gave a thumbnail sketch via PowerPoint showing what was done each step of the way to get the high school ready for students and teachers for the opening day of school.

Ms. Sharon McLelland from the New York State Department of Health

(NYSDOH) also gave a PowerPoint presentation. She stated that the NYSDOH has been working with the regulatory agencies (Nassau County Dept. of Health, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, and the U.S. EPA) to see that the school is safe. She stated that the U.S. EPA is making sure everyone is doing their job. She explained what is exposure. She also stated that there is no direct contact and the lead soils are encapsulated with plastic. The soil cannot be ingested and the school has been cleaned. There can be no inhalation because the soil has been encapsulated and the air pathways have been sealed. She presented a timeline of testing and cleanup for August 2008. Exposure pathways have been mitigated. There is continued existence of small areas of lead contaminated soils, which do not pose a health hazard. She stated that the school has been cleaned thoroughly and is one of the cleanest schools on Long Island.

Mr. Bob Stewart from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation gave an overview of the investigation and remediation of the pipe tunnel area. Flyers of his presentation were available for the audience. He said that everyone did the best job they could with the technology that is available. Since the plastic sheeting temporarily prevents potential exposures, any further actions will be implemented during the summer of 2009.

A presentation was also done by Mr. Guy Page and Mr. Saverio Belfiore from the district architects, H2M Group.

Mr. Ed McGuire from J.C. Broderick & Assocs. Inc. gave a PowerPoint presentation where he showed pictures of areas that were sampled and protected with plastic. He also showed pictures where wipe samples were taken in different areas of the school building.

Mr. Jim DeMartinis, project manager for the remediation of the sand tunnel, from J.R. Holzmacher was the next to speak. He explained that over 100 soil samples were collected in the basement and identified as areas to be remediated. He explained the process by which the sand was removed from the basement.

Mr. Bob Weitzman from the Nassau County Department of Health (NCDOH) stated that NCDOH worked closely with the District, NYSDOH, the EPA and the DEC on this project.

Various questions were asked by members of the audience.

A resident asked how often will retesting be done? Mr. Parla stated that there should be periodic testing throughout the year. He will ask for recommendations from the Dept. of Health. The district will continue testing and re-monitoring.

A resident had a question about the wrestling room. Mr. Parla stated that the wrestling room hadn't been painted in 30 years and a corner of a wrestling mat was likely contaminated by a paint chip that fell from the ceiling. The room has been repainted and new mats were purchased. The room and outside hallway were tested and lead was undetectable.

Mr. Peter Scully from the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation addressed the audience.

Mr. Buda made a comment about the Notice of Violation that was served the district in 2005, and why wasn't the cleanup done earlier? Mr. Parla explained that when the notice was served in 2004, Holzmacher was hired. The district was not able to move the sand until there was a work plan approved by the DEC and that took time. The district was doing everything that could be done. The district had to follow the work plan, which had to be approved by the DEC before the district could move forward.

A resident asked about the effects of lead exposure for people who attended the school in the past. Mr. Miles suggested that people contact him with questions regarding health effects of lead. If anyone has any questions, they can call Don Miles or Sharon McLelland at the New York State Department of Health at 1-800-458-1158, Ext. 27880.

Mr. Ray and Mr. Parla assured the audience that no agency said that the District should close the school, and that there is no lead exposure hazard in the school according to the New York State Dept. of Health

On motion of Mr. Condela, seconded by Mrs. Holt, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 9:48 PM.

TO EXEC. SESSION

The following items were addressed in Executive Session:

EXEC. SESSION

1. Superintendent's Evaluation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr
District Clerk

Minutes approved _____