

MINUTES OF BABYLON SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING

DATE OF MEETING:

January 13, 2014

PLACE:

Babylon Junior-Senior High School, 50 Railroad Avenue, Babylon, NY 11702

Members Present

Mr. Roger A. Katz, President
Mrs. Lisa McKeown, Vice President
Mr. Gregory Antolini
Mr. Dominic P. Bencivenga
Ms. Alena Berenblatt
Mrs. Ann Donaldson
Mr. Dominick Montalto

District Superintendent

Mr. Richard S. Rozakis

Central Office Administration

Dr. Peter Daly, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Daniel D'Amico, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

District Clerk

Linda Pesce

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Katz, President. At this time a motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person, negotiations, and advice from counsel was made by G. Antolini, seconded by D. Montalto and approved. (6-0). D. Bencivenga arrived at 7:21 p.m. Public Session resumed at 7:40 p.m. at which time Mr. Katz, President, led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 2, 2013, Special Meetings of December 9, 2013 and December 10, 2013 and Work/Study Meeting of December 16, 2013 was approved on motion by G. Antolini and seconded by L. McKeown. (7-0)

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's and Business Office Financial Reports and Extra Curricular Fund Report for November 2013 was approved on motion by L. McKeown and seconded by D. Bencivenga. (7-0)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Delegate, Giovanna Domingo, reported senior high school student council events which include a bowling fundraiser on January 5, rehearsals for BHS Presents have begun and the show will be held on February 7 and 9 in Rowe Hall and preparations for Powder Puff have also begun. The DECA Club scored big at the Suffolk County DECA Career Competition. Two art students had their work displayed at CW Post in the Advanced Visions 10 art show and four art students will have work displayed in the SCALA art show at the Babylon Old Town Hall in February. The music department had two students selected for SCMEA All County Percussion Ensemble and several students were selected to participate at the Long Island String Festival. Three students participated in the NYS Theatre Education Associations Students' Conference. Four members of Panther Tales attended Hofstra University's Annual Student Press Day. The science department reported that 8th grade students in the Introduction to Research course are conducting a microbiology study, 7th grade science students finished exploring our Solar System using an inquiry-based STEM Rocketry Project and the Syracuse Forensic Science class visited Stony Brook University's Biotechnology Lab. Congratulations to Ms. Csorny, BHS Library Media Specialist, for being recognized as a "bright light" from ASSET for her integration and promotion to technology in our schools. Mr. Rozakis, congratulated Lisa Brush on her tenure appointment this evening. The principals reported on highlights in each of their buildings. Mr. Roger Smith, BBS Architects, presented the Bond timeline and scope of work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Donaldson, audit committee chair, reported that the committee will meet after receipt of the report from the auditors. L. McKeown, finance committee chair, reported that the committee met and discussed the appropriation status report, preliminary budget forecast and starting a capital improvement reserve. A finance committee meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2014 at 6:45 p.m. D. Bencivenga, buildings and grounds committee chair, reported that he would like to schedule a meeting to discuss the bond schedule. D. Montalto, technology committee

chair, reported that the committee met in December to discuss next year's budget and a committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28 at 8:30 a.m. A. Berenblatt, policy committee chair, reported that a first reading of policies will be conducted this evening and that the two policies regarding evaluations are being revised due to APPR. The policy committee scheduled a meeting for January 24 at 9:30 a.m. All meetings are posted on the district's website.

The following first readings was presented:

FIRST READING OF POLICIES 5140-ENTRANCE AGE, 5252-STUDENT ACTIVITIES FUNDS MANAGEMENT, 9420-EVALUATION OF STAFF, 9420.1-BUILDING PRINCIPAL AND CLASSROOM TEACHER EVALUATION

1. **FIRST READING OF POLICIES 5140-ENTRANCE AGE, 5252-STUDENT ACTIVITIES FUNDS MANAGEMENT, 9420-EVALUATION OF STAFF, 9420.1-BUILDING PRINCIPAL AND CLASSROOM TEACHER EVALUATION: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education conduct a first reading of policies 5140-Entrance Age, 5252-Student Activities Funds Management, 9420-Evaluation of Staff, 9420.1-Building Principal and Classroom Teacher Evaluation and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education waive the formal first reading of policies 5140-Entrance Age, 5252-Student Activities Funds Management, 9420-Evaluation of Staff, 9420.1-Building Principal and Classroom Teacher Evaluation, as attached.

On motion by D. Bencivenga, seconded by A. Berenblatt, the Board of Education conducted a first reading of policies 5140-Entrance Age, 5252-Student Activities Funds Management, 9420-Evaluation of Staff, 9420.1-Building Principal and Classroom Teacher Evaluation and waived the formal first reading of policies 5140-Entrance Age, 5252-Student Activities Funds Management, 9420-Evaluation of Staff, 9420.1-Building Principal and Classroom Teacher Evaluation, as attached.

SECOND READING OF POLICY 1800-GIFTS FROM THE PUBLIC

2. **SECOND READING OF POLICY 1800-GIFTS FROM THE PUBLIC: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education conduct a second reading of policy 1800-Gifts From The Public and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education waive the formal second reading of policy 1800-Gifts from the Public, as attached.

On motion by A. Berenblatt, seconded by G. Antolini, the Board of Education conducted a second reading of policy 1800-Gifts From The Public and waived the formal second reading of policy 1800-Gifts from the Public, as attached.

BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

The Board of Education discussed particular agenda items. Questions from visitors on agenda items, Policy 5140-Entrance Age, and the bond referendum were addressed.

New Business

BOND RESOLUTION

1. **BOND RESOLUTION: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the issuance of \$26,600,000 Bonds of the Babylon Union Free School District, Suffolk County, New York, to pay costs of the reconstruction and construction of improvements to various school district facilities, in and for said school district as per the attached resolution. (roll call vote required)

On motion by D. Bencivenga, seconded by L. McKeown, Resolution 1 was approved. (7-0)

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

2. **BUDGET DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the Budget Development Schedule for the proposed 2014-2015 school budget, as attached.

On motion by L. McKeown, seconded by A. Berenblatt, Resolution 2 was approved. (7-0)

HIGH STAKES TESTING RESOLUTION

3. **HIGH STAKES TESTING RESOLUTION: WHEREAS**, every student in the Babylon Union Free School District deserves a quality public education dedicated to preparing engaged citizens, creative and critical thinkers and lifelong learners ready for college and careers; and

TABLED TO FEBRUARY 10, 2013 BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

WHEREAS, the over reliance on high stakes standardized testing in state and federal accountability systems is undermining educational quality and equity in United States public schools by hampering educators' efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences that promote the innovation, creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and deep-subject matter knowledge that will allow students to thrive in a democracy and an increasingly global society and economy; and

WHEREAS, the current high stakes testing is widely recognized as an unreliable measure of both student learning and educator effectiveness and it has negative effects for students from all backgrounds, and especially for low-income students, English Language Learners and those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, there has been a reliance upon the Common Core standards in the development of state testing despite the fact that students have not been exposed to these standards for a sufficient amount of their school experience; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that research recommends the use of multiple measures to gauge student performance and teacher effectiveness, the State's growing reliance on standardized testing is adversely affecting students across all spectrums and the morale of our educators and is further draining already scarce resources; and

WHEREAS, federal and state funding sources do not adequately address the significant costs associated with the implementation of the new annual Professional Performance Review (APPR), Common Core Learning Standards and the technological needs required to build capacity for the future advent of computer-based statewide high stakes testing; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act's testing policies fail to appropriately accommodate the unique needs of students with disabilities and English language learners in assessing their academic achievements which results in test scores that do not accurately represent a true measure of the impact of teachers and schools; and

WHEREAS, it is time for policymakers to reconsider the number, duration and appropriate use of standardized tests so that our schools can refocus their efforts on improving student learning outcomes; testing of any kind should not dominate instructional time nor narrow the scope of student learning; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we call upon Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, State Education Department Commissioner John B. King and Chancellor of the Board of Regents Merryl Tisch, to re-examine public school accountability systems in the state, including APPR, to involve all stakeholders in the development of a research-based, age appropriate system which is based on multiple forms of assessment, does not require extensive standardized testing, more accurately reflects the broad range of student learning, is implemented on a well thought out timeline and is used to support students and improve schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Babylon Union Free School District calls on the President of the United States of America and the United States Congress to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act ("No Child Left Behind"), reduce the testing mandates, not mandate any fixed role for the use of student test scores in evaluating educators and promote multiple forms of evidence of student learning and school quality in accountability.

A motion was made by A. Donaldson, seconded by D. Montalto. Upon motion a discussion was held. After a discussion on Resolution 3 a motion to table this resolution was made by D. Bencivenga, seconded by G. Antolini to the next regular meeting of the Board of Education on February 10, 2014 was approved. (4-3) RESOLUTION TABLED TO NEXT MEETING.

Voting Yes: A. Berenblatt, L. McKeown, D. Bencivenga, G. Antolini

Voting No: A. Donaldson, D. Montalto, R. Katz

4. **TENURE APPOINTMENT: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education grants tenure to Lisa Brush as a Family and Consumer Science Teacher 7-12, effective February 1, 2014.

On motion by G. Antolini, seconded by L. McKeown, Resolution 4 was approved. (7-0)

**TENURE
APPOINTMENT**

OMNIBUS MOTION

On motion by D. Bencivenga, seconded by G. Antolini a motion to omnibus Items 5-11 and 14-17 was approved (7-0).

On omnibus motion by D. Bencivenga, seconded by L. McKeown Items 5-11 and 14-17 was approved (7-0).

CASUAL APPOINTMENTS

5. **CASUAL APPOINTMENTS: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following casual appointments for the 2013-2014 school year. Compensation for these positions to be in accordance with the Babylon Teachers' Association Contract.

Grade School Operation Success

Jennifer Brown	Matt Barone	Joe Rossi	Scott Jankow
Eric Solnick	Erin Kennedy	Eileen Ratto	Bill Singleton
Lisa Necroto	Danielle Vedder	Cathy O'Connor	Kim Ricchiuti
Rayna Zwerlein	Rick Punzone	Joanne Fasano	

High School

Intramural Volleyball	- Brenda Mayo
Drama Prod-Tech Director	- Colleen Angerami
Drama Club Production Director	- Derek Kinnear

APPOINTMENT SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

6. **APPOINTMENT SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Marissa Dittmer as a substitute school psychologist effective January 14, 2014 to June 30, 2014. Compensation for this assignment to be \$100.00/day.

APPOINTMENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

7. **APPOINTMENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Patricia Goebel and Dayna Natter as substitute teachers effective January 14, 2014 to June 30, 2014. Compensation for these assignments to be \$100.00/day.

APPOINTMENT SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAL WORKERS

8. **APPOINTMENT SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAL WORKERS: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following substitute custodial workers effective January 14, 2014 to June 30, 2014. Compensation for these assignments to be \$11.00/hour.

Joshua Steinhauer	Rodearrick Holder	Satchel Holder
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STUDENT TEACHERS

9. **STUDENT TEACHERS: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the placement of the following student teachers for the 2013-2014 Spring semester.

Anna Domingo	World Languages	HS
Nicole Scoca	Art	HS/GS

APPROPRIATION TRANSFER

10. **APPROPRIATION TRANSFER: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following appropriation transfer for the 2013-2014 school year:

1. From:	A 2020.1503-01-000	Supv-Principals Sal Jr/Sr	
To:	A 2010.1504-01-000	Curr Develop/Supv-Directors	7,834

This transfer is to cover a Director position added as part of the High School Administration realignment.

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP

11. **OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve student participation for varsity cheerleaders to attend the UCA National High School Cheerleading Championships at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida from February 7-10, 2014.

DONATION

12. **DONATION: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept a donation of 70 baseball uniforms valued at approximately \$3850.00 from Mr. Chris Panza, owner of Jersey National Cleaning Inc., with appreciation for this generous gift.

On motion by D. Bencivenga, seconded by L. McKeown, Resolution 12 was approved. (7-0)

**ADOPTION OF
POLICY 1800-GIFTS
FROM THE PUBLIC**

13. **ADOPTION OF POLICY 1800-GIFTS FROM THE PUBLIC: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve and adopt policy 1800-Gifts From The Public, as attached.

On motion by A. Berenblatt, seconded by L. McKeown, Resolution 13 was approved. (6-1)
Voting Yes: A. Berenblatt, L. McKeown, G. Antolini, A. Donaldson, D. Montalto, R. Katz
Voting No: D. Bencivenga

**ANNUAL FIRE
INSPECTION
REPORT**

14. **ANNUAL FIRE INSPECTION REPORT: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the annual fire inspection report for 2014/2015; **IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby directs the filing of said inspection in the Office of the District Clerk and the Office of the Commissioner of Education; **IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby gives public notice of the filing of said report as follows: Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for the year 2014/2015 of the school buildings, Babylon Elementary School, Babylon Memorial Grade School and Babylon Junior-Senior High School within the boundaries of the Babylon Union Free School District for fire hazards which might endanger the lives of students, teachers and employees therein, has been completed and the report thereof is available at the Office of the District Clerk of the Babylon Union Free School District at 50 Railroad Avenue, Babylon, New York for inspection by all interested persons and **IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish said notice in the Babylon Union Free School District's official newspaper within twenty (20) days.

**CONSULTANT
SERVICES
AGREEMENT**

15. **CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the consultant service agreement to provide Affordable Care Act compliance monitoring services in the 2013-2014 school year between the Babylon UFSD and Seneca Consulting Group, Inc.

**HEALTH AND
WELFARE SERVICES
AGREEMENTS**

16. **HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES AGREEMENTS: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve health and welfare services agreements between the Babylon UFSD and the following school districts for the 2013-2014 school year: Amityville UFSD, Syosset CSD, Bay Shore UFSD and Jericho UFSD.

**COMMITTEE ON
SPECIAL EDUCATION
AND PRESCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION**

17. **COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION AND COMMITTEE ON PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION: RESOLVED**, that the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education for cases from October 2013 to January 2014 be approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board congratulated Lisa Brush on her tenure appointment. A board member had questions regarding rosters, coaches, and security at athletic events.

**REPRESENTATIVES
OF ORGANIZATION**

As there was no report from representatives of organizations the Board moved to the next item.

**QUESTIONS FROM
VISITORS**

The Board addressed questions and/or listened to concerns from visitors regarding the bond referendum, elementary school sign, and a resident presented a petition to the Board of Education regarding second grade class size.

**FUTURE BOARD
MEETINGS**

A Work/Study Meeting will be held on Monday, January 27, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Babylon Junior-Senior High School library. A Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Babylon Junior-Senior High School library.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. on motion by D. Bencivenga, seconded by L. McKeown and approved. (7-0)