

WEST HEMPSTEAD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

On Tuesday, September 18, 2007, West Hempstead Board of Education member, President Vincent Trocchia called the meeting to order in the Chestnut Street Board Room.

Under "Routine Matters," the reading of the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting held on August 21, 2007, were dispensed with and the minutes were adopted as received. The reading of the minutes of the Special Business Meeting held on September 4, 2007, were dispensed with and the minutes were adopted as received.

Under "Treasurer's Report," for the July 2007 report and Schedule of Claims & Warrants Nos. 3-14 were placed on the table for discussion and filed.

Under "Report of Committees," Ms. Lotito began with a report covering her attendance at the SEPTA meeting on September 17, 2007, with a presentation by Ms. Lee and Ms. Scheel. Ms. Rilling and Mr. Hogan were also in attendance. Ms. Loewy also gave an overview of changes to Special Education laws. There are ten new policy areas of the law, a plus for our district.

Ms. Lotito also spoke on her recent attendance at the 2007 Board Officers Academy that had many featured guest speakers covering legal summaries. She commented on a "new

Superintendent entry plan” portion of the seminar, and applauded Mr. Hogan on his entry plan into our district.

Mr. Mariano gave an overview of the Veterans and New School Board Members Academy workshop that he attended in July. Four other Board members attended including Mr. Brita, Mr. Kaye and Ms. Rilling. Topics covered at the workshop were Teachers as Predators/Students as Predators and the legal issues regarding both. He suggested we look into a Human Rights Officer. All complaints regarding predators should ultimately be reported to the Board president.

Ms. Rilling, who also attended, stated “staying current on changes and events are what make a Board member effective.” She stressed “always remember what it’s all about – the children.” She suggested that the district have a Board library with recommended books and videos from these conferences. A subject in this workshop she discussed was “marginalized” students – generally they stay in the same area and are the ones who ultimately vote on their local budgets, while college students leave the community. Mr. Kaye commented it is difficult for adolescents now – there are many vast challenges that they face. The district must address issues to give the students a safe and nurturing environment.

Mr. Lee, Principal of the High School, explained 9th grade teaming on the high school level. Marginalized students that don’t normally get involved in school activities are chosen and placed on teams. There is a common prep period with students, teachers and parents to address the needs of students.

Mr. Whelpley commented on the importance of going to conferences, seminars and workshops because the networking of meeting other school representatives can be invaluable and you learn about successful programs in other schools.

SEPTA representative, Lauren Lee, reported on their September 17th meeting having a great turnout and they appreciate the support of the Board and the community. In October a professor from Molloy will be speaking.

Under “Superintendent’s Report,” Mr. Hogan covered opening day at the schools going smoothly, traffic concerns at Cornwell Avenue have been looked into and will be addressed, and Ms. Ganley’s exit strategies for students at the end of the day have helped streamline traffic problems at George Washington. Mr. Hogan posthumously thanked Anna Gallagher, who donated \$30,000 to be placed in a district scholarship fund. She was 94 years old when she passed and was well known and active in the West Hempstead community. Mr. Hogan then turned the meeting over to Mr. Cunningham, who gave a brief report on security audits and the district is looking into more cohesive proposals.

Ms. Peluso and Ms. Stone then gave an excellent presentation on Foreign Language in the Elementary School. Subjects covered were why study foreign language at the elementary level, goals of foreign language instruction, what early foreign language instruction supports, the benefits of early foreign language instruction, research documents and their support of teaching language early; national and state documents recommend these programs; covered foreign language studies around the county and around the world, FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary School) and FLEX (Foreign Language Exploration) the purpose of the program, projected staffing and a timeline for the district to set this up, and suggested next steps to get this program started in this district.

Next, Mr. Hogan made several recommendations that were approved by the Board of Education. These included the following:

- Appointment of Regular Daily Substitute(s)
- Teaching Assistant Appointment(s)
- Part-time Teaching Appointment(s)

- Appointment(s) for PSAT Review Courses
- Annual Appointment(s)
- Appointment of a Substitute Clerical Worker
- Appointment(s) Rescinded
- Appointment of Salary Credits
- Approval of Resignation(s)
- An adopted resolution for Extra Pay for Extra Responsibility
- Board approval of Amendment to Docket #6-914
- Board approval of Amendment to Docket #7-6
- Board approval of Amendments to Dockets adopted on 8/21/07
- An adopted resolution for Title I Proposal for the 2007-2008 school year
- Board approval of the Budget Timetable for the 2008-2009 school year
- An adopted resolution that the Board accepts the addition of the Appointments of the District Committee on Special Education
- Board approval of the Appointment of Dr. Allison Mueller as Chairperson of 504 Meetings for the 2007-2008 school year
- An adopted resolution that the Board accepts the addition of the Appointments of the District Committee on Pre-School Special Education
- Board approval of the Instructional Services Agreement with the Sewanhaka Central High School District for the 2007-2008 school year
- Board tabled Docket #7-86
- Board approval of the agreement for Internal Audit Services with Sheehan and Company for the 2007-2008 school year
- Board approval of Individual Services Contracts for Professional Development
- Board approval of the increase in ESL staff
- Board acceptance of a bequest from the estate of Anna M. Gallagher in the amount of \$30,000 to be used in a scholarship fund

- Board approval of the Committees on Special Education and Pre-School Education regarding placement, change of placement, and transfers of students, identified by number only in the school indicated.

Under “Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Report,” the following recommendations were made:

- Board approval of the Use of Facilities
- Board authorization of the Budgetary Transfers
- Board approval the contract to furnish Internal Auditing Services to Sheehan & Company for the 2007-2008 school year

Under “Old Business” the following recommendations were made:

- Board approval of the contract with Nassau BOCES for Elementary Library Automation

Under “New Business” the following recommendations were made:

- The Board motioned to discuss a proposed policy on central office administrator’s salaries and stipend at the 10/9/07 Policy Meeting
- The Board motioned to discuss existing policy 2150 – staff recruiting and hiring for certification positions at the 10/9/07 Policy Meeting
- An adopted resolution that the District incur the expense of those Board members and administrators to attend Adelphi University’s workshop “High Stakes Testing” on 10/9/07
- An adopted resolution that the District incur the expense of those Board members and administrators who wish to attend “Battelle for Kids – The Power of Two” the 2007 National Value-Added conference on 10/14-10/16/07
- Board approval and ratification of the lease of two rooms at the Chestnut Street School

At this point of the meeting, Mr. Kaye requested that an anti-nepotism policy be discussed at the 10/9/07 Policy Meeting.

Under “Board Privilege of the Floor” the following action was taken:

Ms. Lotito commented on the subject of K-12 Technology. Some covered topics were the district being a \$100,000 grant recipient, wireless laptops, enhanced e-mails, LCD and Smart Boards. She asked where we left off on our district wide technology curriculum and our five-

year plan. She also discussed enhancing goals in computer courses for college credits. She feels the Technology Committee should look into a better technology program for a global community because it's a new world out there. Our students must be kept up to date. Mr. Kaye added the district should re-energize this committee. Principal Joseph Cirnigliaro commented that the ITEC Committee is not for curriculum. Mr. Brita added maybe looking into hiring an IT consultant. He also brought up the subject of e-mails to Board members thru the district website.

Mr. Kaye brought up discussion on the New York State School Boards Association's Proposed Resolutions for the Annual Business Meeting in October. He informed the Board there were twelve resolutions recommended for adoption, and ten that were not. Many of the resolutions are from Long Island school districts and BOCES. There are no by-laws to vote on this year. Mr. Brita and Mr. Kaye both agree on the resolutions that were recommended for adoption.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 9, 2007, Policy Meeting/Work Session Meeting at 8:00 p.m. in the Chestnut Street Board Room.