

The **REGULAR MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** of the Board of Education West Hempstead Union Free School District was called to order in the High School Auditorium on November 16, 2010 at 7:25 p.m.

PRESENT: Ms. Lotito, who presided, and six other members of the Board: Mr. Brita, Ms. Di Miceli, Mr. Ejnes, Mr. Mariano, Ms. Rilling and Mr. Schindler. Also present were Mr. Hogan, Ms. Peluso, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Guercio, Mr. Sheahan, Ms. Castonguay, Ms. Girolamo and members of the staff and community.

Ms. Lotito began by introducing members of the Budget Advisory Committee who were in the audience – Paula Uhl, Dr. Joseph Bacigalupo, Glen Boehmer, Mark Koffsky, Patricia Pamulo and Joaquin Pradas, who was not in attendance. Immediately after she introduced members of the Audit Committee – Jack Pepitone and Naomi Goldenberg. She announced the PTA/PTSA/SEPTA presentation by Teresa Corrigan of the District Attorney’s Office, “Not My child” taking place on November 17th, 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School Cafeteria, which addresses the problem of heroin in the county and its threat to our children. Ms. Lotito then introduced Mr. Alan Yu from the firm Cullen and Danowski to give his annual Audit Report to the Board and community.

Mr. Yu informed the public that he was covering the audit year ending June 30, 2010. He recently met with the Audit Committee in a two-hour meeting where he gave them a summary report. This is the first year that West Hempstead has done the financial statement on its own. It was prepared by Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Castonguay. Mr. Yu’s results issued an unqualified opinion, which is the best result you can receive. He covered internal controls, general fund,

tuition revenues, state aid, federal stimulus fund, expenditures, pension contributions, health insurance costs and gave his recommendations for the future. He also covered uncertainties of Nassau County assessments if legislation were to pass on changes and errors in property taxes. Mr. Yu informed the Board and residents that West Hempstead, for the last two years, has spent almost all of its budget and there is little wiggle room going forward. He advised on replenishing our reserves. He then took questions by residents.

Ms. Lotito announced 10th grader, Pierre Leconte Jr., was a participant in the “Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2010” contest, sponsored by the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University and Eastern Suffolk BOCES. Through his efforts, the District will receive a \$200 award to be used toward diversity related issues.

The girls’ varsity soccer team were conference champ winners. They were presented Certificates of Achievement. Members included Michelle Addonizio, Kaitlin Augustine, Hayley Bifulco, Nina Boria, Ashley Centrella, Jacqueline Christenson, Olivia Czavar, Taylor Freiermuth, Bryanna Grogan, Erin Guerrero, Nia Jones, Kaitlyn Kurs, Christine LoFaso, Ashley Merrill, Jamie Rodriguez, Brittany Schimmenti, Sasha Selim, Courtney Sills, April Slamowitz, Taryn Squiciarino and Kimberly Velazquez. Seven players received post season honors including All Class – Kaitlyn Kurs and Ashley Merrill; All Conference – Haley Bifulco, Ashley Centrella and Erin Guerrero; All County – Olivia Czavar and Kimberly Velasquez. In addition, April Slamowitz was Senior Scholar Athlete and Olivia Czavar was Conference Player of the Year.

Under **ROUTINE MATTERS** action was taken as follows:

Docket #0-109: The **MINUTES** of the Regular Business Meeting held on October 19, 2010, having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, were

presented, and upon motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Ms. Rilling, and carried by seven, that the reading of the Minutes of said meeting be dispensed with and that they be adopted as received.

Docket #0-110: The **TREASURER'S REPORT** for September 2010 having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, was presented, and upon motion of Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the Schedule of Claims & Warrants Nos. 2 – 24, appropriation status report and revenue status report were placed on the table for discussion and then filed.

Under **REPORT OF COMMITTEES** – Mr. Ejnes discussed the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee that reviewed the procedure of the evaluation instrument and process of a superintendent. They put together a report that they presented to the Board. He suggested maybe a "mid-year" evaluation and the next step maybe meet as the Board as a Whole. Ms. Lotito thanked him, Cynthia Di Miceli and Rudolf Schindler for their work on the committee.

Mr. Mariano gave a report on the Sports Council meeting that took place on November 3rd. Covered topics were Booster Clubs, summer camps and clinics, students coaching as a community service, and building teams up since enrollment is going down, which may be due to the economy. Ms. Di Miceli added that there should be better communication with outside sources and they are planning another meeting – the date to be announced.

Student Council Representatives, Judy Chen and Melissa Ford, gave their report on happenings in the schools including their Toys for Tots drive thru December 15th; Thanksgiving Food Drive; Beauty and the Beast auditions and Athletes Helping Athletes visiting Lincoln Orens school.

Under **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** - Mr. Hogan then introduced Ms. Debra Strell, Director of Guidance, who gave the Board and audience a presentation on the Guidance Department. Ms. Strell's report covered the definition of guidance/school counseling; what a counselor does; high school activities; visits to colleges; middle school activities; programs for parents and students; College Information Night; Middle School College Awareness Night; high school diploma information; post high school plans; professional development; new initiatives begun since February and plans and goals of the department. Ms. Strell then took questions from the Board.

Mr. Hogan thanked resident Rochelle Simonson for her efforts that enabled a crossing guard to be posted at the Middle School. He finished with Budget Challenges/Items for 2011/12 that covered District and Building Administrators already working on next year's budget; the Residents' Budget Advisory Committee already working with the goal of making recommendations to the Board by February; zero based budgeting (looking into needs, not wants); the economy still being in a recession; expenses continue to rise; revenue continues to be stagnant or less; loss of Island Park students to Long Beach; ARRA funds (federal monies); Race to the Top Funds amounting to \$8,000 a year for the next four years; political/fiscal realities; tax cap talks continuing; certiorari refunds and sewage costs being passed on to school districts. Mr. Hogan continued his report with possible remedies for the fiscal situation that included collaborating with residents and families with school-age children, prudent budgeting, prudent spending, more with less, pride in West Hempstead and initiatives of the Strategic Planning Council and Residents' Budget Advisory Committee being the solid first steps. He finished with stating that we have a solemn obligation to do the best we can for the students in our care each day.

Ms. Lotito then opened the meeting for residents to address the Board.

Under **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION** action took place as follows:

Docket #0-111: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven,

Appointments, Resignations, etc. were made, accepted, granted and approved as follows:

Topic: Per Diem Substitute Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Barbou, Christine	\$90.00 per day
Browning, Amanda	\$90.00 per day
Burke, Daniel	\$90.00 per day
Cella-Bradley, Kimberly	\$90.00 per day
Costanzo, Nancy	\$90.00 per day
Fogel, Andrew	\$90.00 per day
Gibbons, William	\$90.00 per day
Gilliam, Hashana	\$90.00 per day
Kopec, Lauren	\$90.00 per day
Livi, Jessica	\$90.00 per day
McKenna, Bridgette	\$90.00 per day
Meyeroff, Jackie	\$90.00 per day
Morello, Jodi	\$90.00 per day
Palmeri, Antoinette	\$90.00 per day
Russo, Jocelyn	\$90.00 per day
Sarro, Jessica	\$90.00 per day
Schriefer, Ashley	\$90.00 per day
Shelley, Sam	\$90.00 per day
Sinatro, Pamela	\$90.00 per day
Tynan, Jennifer	\$90.00 per day

Topic: Removal from Per Diem Substitute Lists

<u>Name</u>
Fernandez, Suzana
Leto, Regina
Schuster, Renee
Spiteri, Joseph

Topic: Resignation(s)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Dar, Susana	School Monitor HS/MS	11/28/10
Dods, Diane	Leave-Replacement Teaching Assistant - CA	11/9/10

Docket #0-112: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the Board approved tenure appointments as follows:

Topic: Tenure Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tenure Area</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Guzman, Megan	Teaching Assistant	12/10/10

Docket #0-113: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Ms. Rilling, and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted that Extra Pay for Extra Responsibility be approved as follows:

Topic: Extra Pay for Extra Responsibility

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Henriquez, Christie	Kickline Co-Advisor	\$1,616.50 plus negotiated increase

Docket #0-114: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted that the Senior Citizen Exemption, in accordance with new law, Chapter 512 of the laws of 2003, amends Section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law. The sliding scale benefits are still available to taxpayers, so the maximum benefits available, if all options in the law are selected, are described by the following table:

<u>Income</u>	<u>Percent Exemption</u>
Less than \$29,000	50%
At least \$29,001 but less than \$30,000	45%
At least \$30,000 but less than \$31,000	40%
At least \$31,000 but less than \$32,000	35%
At least \$32,000 but less than \$32,900	30%
At least \$32,900 but less than \$33,800	25%
At least \$33,800 but less than \$34,700	20%
At least \$34,700 but less than \$35,600	15%
At least \$35,600 but less than \$36,500	10%
At least \$36,500 but less than \$37,400	5%

This exemption will take effect for assessment rolls with taxable status dates occurring on or after January 2, 2011, and will apply to the 2011-2012 school tax bills.

Docket #0-115: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted that the Exemption for Persons with Disabilities and Limited

Income, in accordance with the new law, Chapter 462 of the laws of 2003, amends Section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law. The sliding scale benefits are still available to taxpayers, so the maximum benefits available, if all options in the law are selected, are described by the following table:

<u>Income</u>	<u>Percent Exemption</u>
Less than \$29,000	50%
At least \$29,001 but less than \$30,000	45%
At least \$30,000 but less than \$31,000	40%
At least \$31,000 but less than \$32,000	35%
At least \$32,000 but less than \$32,900	30%
At least \$32,900 but less than \$33,800	25%
At least \$33,800 but less than \$34,700	20%
At least \$34,700 but less than \$35,600	15%
At least \$35,600 but less than \$36,500	10%
At least \$36,500 but less than \$37,400	5%

This exemption will take effect for assessment rolls with taxable status dates occurring on or after January 2, 2011, and will apply to the 2011-2012 school tax bills.

Docket #0-116: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Mariano and carried by seven, the Board approved the Club Charters.

Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita and carried by seven the Board motioned to go into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m., to discuss Docket #0-117. Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes and carried by seven, the Board motioned to resume the Business Meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Docket #0-117: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by six, Ms. Di Miceli opposed, the Board approved permission for a non-resident student to remain at West Hempstead High School to complete grade 12.

Docket #0-118: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Ms. Rilling, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Individual Services Contracts for Professional Development.

Docket #0-119: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Instructional Service Agreements.

Docket #0-120: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Ms. Rilling, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Service Agreement with Healthcare Waste Solutions.

Docket #0-121: Upon the motion of Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the Board accepted the donation of a Salter Nutri-Weigh and Go Scale.

Docket #0-122: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, that pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 853, Laws of 1976, as amended, the Committees on Special Education and Pre-School Education recommend to the Board of Education placement, change of placement, and transfers of students, identified by number only, in the school indicated.

The **REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT**, having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, was presented, and action items therein were considered as follows:

Docket #0-123: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, the Board approved the budgetary transfers.

Docket #0-124: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Amendment to the Energy Performance Contract.

Docket #0-125: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the Board accepted the Independent Auditor's Report, prepared by Cullen & Danowski, LLP, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010.

Docket #0-126: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Grant Disbursement Agreement between the West Hempstead Union Free School District and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.

Docket #0-127: Upon the motion of Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Use of Facilities as follows:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>	<u>Room/ Field</u>
HIGH SCHOOL		
YIWH	12/05/10 1:30-4:00 p.m. Gym Program	Gym
WH Chiefs Soccer	11/20/10-03/27/11 Sat – 5:00-10:00 p.m. Sun – 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Soccer Practice	Gym
WH Lions Club	11/20/10 5:00-11:00 p.m. Play	Auditorium
GEORGE WASHINGTON		
West Hempstead-Hempstead Gardens Water District	12/14/10 3:30-9:00 p.m. Water District Elections	Hallway on the 1 st Floor

Under **OLD BUSINESS** and **NEW BUSINESS** action was taken as follows:

Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the following dockets were motioned to be discussed at the December 7, 2010 Policy Meeting. Dockets 0-79, 0-80, 0-82, 0-128, 0-129, 0-130, 0-131, 0-132 and 0-133.

Under **NEW BUSINESS** action was taken as follows:

Docket #0-134: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted that the District incur the expense of Board Members or Administrators to attend NYSSBA's Introduction to Collective Bargaining workshop on December 8, 2010.

Docket #0-135: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Schindler, and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted that the District incur the expense of Board Members or Administrators to attend NYSSBA's Raising Expectations! Raising Results! on December 15, 2010.

Under **BOARD PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** – The Board discussed communication methods for the District. Among items discussed were the District’s new website, bulletins, messages from the Board to the public being posted on the website and articles. Mr. Brita requested all schools keep up to date on their portion of the site; Mr. Schindler addressed maybe having links to other educational resources on the site and Ms. Di Miceli suggested having a “template” to make it easier to post articles on the website.

Ms. Lotito again opened the meeting for residents to address the Board.

At 10:00 p.m., upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the Board adjourned the Business Meeting to Executive Session.

At 10:05 p.m., upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, the Board reconvened the Business Meeting to adopt the following docket:

Docket #0-136: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Ms. Rilling, and carried by six affirmative votes to one negative vote by Ms. Di Miceli, the Board upheld the Superintendent’s determination to deny the parents’ request for late bus transportation on behalf of the student identified on confidential schedule “B”.

At 10:27 p.m., upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Ejnes and carried by seven, the Board reconvened their Executive Session, which ended at 11:45 p.m.

Kathryn Girolamo