

The **SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING** of the Board of Education West Hempstead Union Free School District was called to order in the Chestnut Street Board Room on January 25, 2011 at 7:37 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, Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Peluso, Mr. Sheahan and Ms. Girolamo.

Docket #0-176: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by five, Ms. Rilling abstained, Mr. Brita opposed, the Board approved the Volunteer Firefighters & Volunteer Ambulance Workers Exemptions.

Under **BOARD PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** - Ms. Di Miceli asked to discuss the possibility of having a Board newsletter for the District website and wished to discuss the protocol of placing items on the web. She suggested that two members may write something up one month, the next month two others, etc. Ms. Di Miceli likes Mr. Hogan's Superintendent Message on the web, but the Board may not necessarily have to place something on the web every month, but it could run along those lines. Mr. Ejnes agreed with the idea of a newsletter or press release of activities. Mr. Schindler agreed that the Board should place items on the website when needed.

Mr. Sheahan, counsel for the District, alerted the Board that according to Board policy this could not be done without discussing the items in a public meeting, making it a resolution, and with Board approval, items could go onto the web. He further stated that this could become problematic. The Board could form a committee for this purpose. Ms. Rilling reiterated that the whole Board would have to review the information in public and Mr. Mariano added that if a Board member writes a blurb it's still a collective decision to place it onto the website. Ms. Lotito asked counsel, if it was a press release, would it still have to be approved in a public session and the answer was affirmative. It was agreed that this method would take too long and information would then be outdated. It was also stated that the Superintendent already covers happenings in the schools and Board items on the main page of the website.

Further discussion affirmed that the Board, as a whole, would like information of their participation in District activities and decisions for the schools be publicized. They would like a section on the website to cover the happenings. Suggestions of what they would like on the site include the current building inspections, concerts, musicals, and fairs that are attended. Ms. Di Miceli commented that the residents should know what's happening and possibly use the *Educator* as another tool for exposure. She further stated that there are seven unique individuals on the Board and all of their views can be heard in this way.

Mr. Hogan stated he could easily place items on the web for the Board, with the help of Ms. Bryant, Superintendent Secretary. Mr. Mariano suggested the Board discuss items at the end of Board meetings to inform Mr. Hogan what they would like placed on the website. Mr. Cunningham added that the District has newspaper reporters at many of the Board meetings and they do a great job of covering school happenings. Mr. Hogan added that the

“hits” on the website are generally school employees to check out recent activities that the schools had.

Mr. Ejnes stated that if residents don't come to Board meetings the website would be a great tool for recent happenings. Ms. Di Miceli added that we could cover Professional Development classes, Cooperative Board meetings, etc. Ms. Lotito asked if the Board read something incorrectly stated about the District, could they use the web as a tool to correct any incorrect information out there. Mr. Sheahan stated the Board could take action on this or go through Administration. Mr. Schindler added that the web, right now, is of experimental design, is meaningful and will self support itself.

Ms. Di Miceli inquired if we can also send information to St. Thomas and HANC for their websites. Mr. Hogan suggested links to their sites. Mr. Brita asked about Administration writing information, would the Board review it and is there a potential problematic issue with that. Mr. Sheahan retorted that if it is only a blurb, coverage of musicals, fairs, etc. it would be fine. Ms. Di Miceli commented that any Board position statements that pertain to personnel must be done only in Executive Session and cannot be placed on the website.

At 8:07 p.m., upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Brita and carried by seven, the Board adjourned the Special Business Meeting and entered into Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters.

At 12:05 a.m. Executive Session adjourned.

Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk