

The **POLICY MEETING** of the Board of Education West Hempstead Union Free School District was called to order in the High School Video Conference Room on February 8, 2011 at 7:40 p.m.

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**PRESENT:** Ms. Lotito, who presided, and six other members of the Board: Mr. Brita, Mr. Ejnes, Mr. Kaye, Mr. Mariano, Ms. Rilling and Mr. Whelpley. Also present were Mr. Hogan, Ms. Peluso, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Mestecky, Ms. Girolamo, staff members and members of the community.

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

Ms. Lotito addressed the residents stating that the Board would begin with Docket #0-172 – Community Use of School District Facilities.

Mr. Hogan gave a timeline on previous changes to the Permit Form that the Board had made in the past. Discussion ensued addressing the 80/20 rule and the interpretation of it. Ms. Lotito introduced Mr. Mestecky, counsel from the law firm of Guercio and Guercio, who informed the Board the intent and interpretation of the form are up to the Board's discretion. Ms. Di Miceli noted that in prior meetings it was never mentioned that one must be a West Hempstead organization, and commented that the Board must be consistent with its approvals of District facility usage, the form should include all that pay West Hempstead taxes, all resident children should be able to use the fields, the fields are not used all day yet organizations request an entire day; the issue is kids - not politics and how the Board will

define “West Hempstead-based organization”; Mr. Ejnes remarked the word “or” makes a big difference in the interpretation, whether it be Girl Scouts, Lions Club, Kiwanis, etc., that they are a West Hempstead unit, requests are to assist in managing District fields, other districts use the word “majority” of residents must be local and that we are very restrictive with the 80/20 rule; Ms. Lotito added that if we allow “outside” groups, storage bins/lights, etc. will also have to be allowed, groups request blocks of time and the Board must set a precedent because fields are limited and we must support West Hempstead residents and 80/20 residency for a whole organization will set that precedent; Ms. Rilling agreed that the permit should say “West Hempstead-based organizations” and if you live in West Hempstead you should play for a West Hempstead team; Mr. Mariano added he agreed to vote yes last month on a usage because of the current wording on the Permit Form, there were probably times that the Board approved usage that shouldn’t have been, he has been on the West Hempstead Sports Council since its inception and if we don’t place the wording of “West Hempstead-based organization” that we are opening a window for other districts to come in and use our fields and also agreed that the wording “West Hempstead-based organization” should be placed on the permit. Mr. Schindler stated that a preference can be a West Hempstead-based organization with usage subject to availability.

Mr. Hogan asked the Board to give Administration and counsel time to check into correct wording to be placed on the form for the next meeting.

The following policies were discussed and decisions were made as indicated:

**Docket #0-172:**      **Policy 1340 – Community Use of School District Facilities** – It was unanimously agreed that this Policy be placed on the February 15<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting for adoption by the Board, upon wording changes from Counsel and by a consensus of four to

three, Ms. Di Miceli, Mr. Brita and Mr. Schindler opposed, the Board asked for #2 on the Permit Form, first line to read, “A minimum of 80% of each West Hempstead-based organization applying for use of school facilities must be residents of the West Hempstead Union Free School District.”

At this point of the meeting, Ms. Lotito called on residents in the audience to give their respective opinions on the usage of fields and the application for usage.

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Mr. Cunningham introduced Sue Merims, the District’s Consultant for our food service program. He stated that Ms. Merims has conducted two visits to our schools already and turned the meeting over to her for a report to the Board.

Ms. Merims informed the Board that District parents requested healthier food choices for their children with foods to have an appealing look; more vegetables, fruits non-processed and low amounts of transfat foods have been placed on the menus; recent renovations in the school’s cafeterias including a “cook and hold” warmer at the Middle School and Chestnut Street; the Breakfast Program that began last year; prices of food rising; how we follow national food guidelines; monthly profit and loss reports; Point of Sales and how the computer program works and tracks what children eat; more food is prepared from scratch rather than processed; surprise visits to the schools; limited space in the schools for updating food service; and her upcoming visit with Stephanie Haynes from Aramark that will enable them to see what she sees to improve healthy food choices by our students. She explained that revenues from the cafeteria are used to purchase new equipment and that it is important the Cafeteria Fund be self sustaining. Mr. Cunningham told the Board that new slicers and refrigerators were purchased from revenues. Mr. Brita asked, “What the Child Nutrition Act

is?” Ms. Merims replied that it is legislation that will gradually increase food standards and the District has the requirements for that Act in place now, before it is mandated, and that the federal government gave us rules, not tools. Mr. Schindler commented that children do not like green food, that children who eat school lunches are 1/3 heavier than children who do not and that the food lines are too long. Ms. Di Miceli suggested that on Back to School Night the parents be presented with the food program. Ms. Lotito inquired if the Wellness Committee goes over the school menus and Mr. Cunningham informed her they did.

**Docket #0-83:**           **Policy 5120 – District Attendance** – This docket was tabled.

**Docket #0-171:**       **Policy 9340 – Regular Meetings** – It was unanimously agreed that this Policy be placed on the February 15<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting for adoption by the Board with the amendment of paragraph four, first sentence under Regular Business Meetings to read “The individual will be limited to three minutes on **non-confidential** agenda items with an overall maximum of 20 minutes for this part of the meeting, if needed.”

More discussion on this policy included Ms. Di Miceli’s request to have more information on the agendas for residents to see; if index cards can be put out for residents to write down their questions, which can be addressed during a meeting; if there can be an “Attorney Report” placed on the agenda and can the Board create guidelines for how residents should conduct themselves when addressing the Board. Mr. Hogan suggested two books (like they do at county meetings) be placed up front of the Board meeting room that have the complete agenda and dockets in them for the public to peruse before and during the meetings. Mr. Hogan stated that we can scan the dockets and place them online. Mr. Brita and Mr. Schindler agreed it is a great idea to have guidelines for meetings and it was suggested by Mr.

Schindler that we make a statement at the beginning of each meeting to that effect to let residents know how to conduct themselves if they have an issue they want to have addressed. Mr. Mariano informed the Board that when he was President, he read a statement aloud to the audience on that very same thing. Mr. Hogan agreed to create the guidelines and they would be available at the meetings and on the website.

Under **CONSIDERATION OF POLICY TIMES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS** –

Ms. Lotito inquired about a two-hour delayed opening when the District faces inclement weather. Mr. Hogan told the Board it doesn't have to be a policy and that it falls under Administration. Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Hogan have been discussing this item.

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At 11:00 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the Policy Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session, which ended at 12:40 a.m.

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Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk