

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 17, 2009 at 7:40 p.m.

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, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Guercio, Mr. Sheahan, Ms. Girolamo and members of the staff and community.

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

Docket #9-126: The **MINUTES** of the Regular Business Meeting held on October 20, 2009, having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, were presented, and upon motion of Mr. Whelpley, 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 #9-127: The **TREASURER'S REPORT** for September 2009 having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, was presented, and upon motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the Schedule of Claims & Warrants Nos. 5 – 25, appropriation status report and revenue status report were placed on the table for discussion and then filed.

Under **REPORT OF COMMITTEES** – Mr. Kaye gave a legislative report covering updates from Albany including the currently debated budget deficit reduction plan in education and health care. Senators have formed a caucus leadership group that is looking into possible

funding cuts, which will not be too painful to any one sector. If agreed upon, a formula reduction in state aid and operating aid will be used for schools and West Hempstead will “take a hit”; probably forcing reduction in personnel, creating larger class sizes and program cuts. The governor and the legislature are looking for \$3.2 billion in state aid reduction for this mid year. On the calendar, NYS budget deficits projected for the year 2010-11 will be \$14.8 billion and \$17.9 billion for year 2011-12. Added to this growing deficit, the federal stimulus plan payment for next year will be reduced in comparison to monies already given school districts for this current school year. Schools are having cash flow problems because of late state aid payment and Star program reimbursements. Mr. Kaye stated that in December we shall have much more information on what the future holds for NYS public education funding. Mr. Whelpley asked Mr. Kay where unexpected revenues sources may come from and Mr. Kaye replied it would come from increased user, permit fees and perhaps a restructuring of the NYS tobacco settlement bond fund monies; and of course higher taxes, target particularly to the wealthiest New Yorkers.

Ms. Rilling gave a report on her recent attendance, along with Mr. Ejnes and Mr. Kaye, at the New York State School Boards 90th Annual Convention. She remarked on wonderful speakers in workshops that included wellness, overcoming adversity, working with minority and underprivileged students, rigorous teacher qualifications, literacy and public engagement being critical. Mr. Kaye added that it was a terrific convention and commented on his workshops that included review of assessments on children and other ways to evaluate kids, and relief of mandates.

Ms. Lotito reported on her visit to St. Thomas with Mr. Hogan. They toured the school and discussed concerns. Mr. Kaye and Mr. Hogan also visited HANC with similar discussions.

Mr. Mariano gave a report on the Health and Safety Committee meeting on October 7th. Topics included building plan updates; Mr. Banfield being on the Leadership Council;

community representation from each school is encouraged; vaccine updates and their side effects; good hygiene and precautions; use of website for important health issues; class sizes; debris on our fields; hiring another guard for the Middle School and no asbestos concerns.

PTSA representative, Josephine DeMarco, gave a brief report covering Rachel's Challenge; 8th grade dance committee; the High School's Fashion Show committee; next meeting is December 7th; and thanked Mr. Lederer for all his good work as principal of the High School. PTA representative, Theresa Walz, announced a joint meeting on November 18th; Cornwell Avenue and George Washington's Special Persons Day; 5th grade pictures and the next meeting is November 30th.

Student representative, Kayla Perez, gave a report on the Key Club's turkeys for needy families; Financial Aid Night by the Guidance Department on January 14th and Rachel's Challenge.

Under **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** – Mr. Hogan turned the meeting over to Mr. Chris Mistretta, Director of Health and Physical Education. Mr. Mistretta's presentation covered what physical education is, why we need it, why be physically active; New York State Standards; concepts addressed; team sports; recreational sports; philosophy; teachers meeting New York State teaching requirements; health classes; philosophy of interscholastic athletics; fall, winter and spring sports; college planning for the student athlete and what our goals are for graduate students. He then took questions from the Board and residents.

Mr. Hogan's report included a state update regarding the budget; residency issues; Rachel's Challenge on November 18th; the Middle School play the "Little Mermaid" on November 20th; the end of the first marking period and thanked Mr. Lederer for stepping in as interim principal at the High School.

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

Under **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION** action took

place as follows:

Docket #9-128: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven,

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

Topic: Appointment of Non-Teaching Probationary Personnel

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Courtman, Christine	Clerk Typist HS	\$31,367.00 (pro-rated) Step 3 10-month	11/23/09

Topic: Annual Appointment(s)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Period</u>
Pellechi, Joanne	One-to-One Monitor	\$14.32/hr. + neg. increase Step 3	11/5/09 – 6/25/10

Topic: Per Diem Substitute Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Esposito, Corrine	\$90.00/day
Gerson, Lisa	\$90.00/day
Gonzalez, Felix (cleaner)	\$11.36/hr.
Guevara, Rolando	\$90.00/day
Lyons, Jennifer	\$90.00/day
Mantello, Lorraine	\$90.00/day
Pramnieks, Martha	\$90.00/day
Rind, Morgan	\$90.00/day
Singer, Jacqueline	\$90.00/day
Spiferi, Joseph	\$90.00/day
Wilensky, Neil	\$90.00/day

Topic: Appointment of Mentors

<u>Mentor</u>	<u>Subject Area</u>
Gould, Dina	Technology
Kurzban, Sandra	Math
Ritrovato, Laura	Special Education

Topic: Appointments for Regents Review Classes

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Period</u>
Kufta, Jared	English Regents Review	\$63.75/hr. plus neg. increase	4 sessions
McCarthy, Lisa	English Regents Review For ESL/At-Risk Students	\$63.75/hr. plus neg. increase	4 sessions

Topic: Appointment of Adult Education Coordinator

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Murray, Marcia	Adult Education Coordinator	\$1,500.00

Docket #9-129: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Kaye 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>
Brown, Adam	Asst. Varsity Wrestling Coach	\$4,525.00 plus neg. increase
Carre, Dominic	Boys' Varsity Lacrosse Coach	\$6,469.00 plus neg. increase
Cosgrove, Edward	Boys' Intramural Basketball Coach	\$ 537.00 plus neg. increase (per ten sessions)
Hovanec, Michael	Girls' Varsity Asst. Softball Coach	\$4,525.00 plus neg. increase
Mille, Darlene	Science Olympiad Advisor	\$ 946.00 plus neg. increase

Topic: Extra Pay for Extra Responsibility Rescinded

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Brown, Adam	JV Wrestling Coach

Docket #9-130: Upon the motion of Mr. Whelpley, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the Board approved tenure appointments as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tenure Area</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Stern, Barbara	Library Media Specialist	12/13/09

Docket #9-131: Upon the motion of Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted that the Senior Citizen Exemption, in accordance with Chapter 512 of the laws of 2003, amends Section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law and raises the maximum income for which fifty percent exemption may be granted from \$28,000 to \$29,000. 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, 2010, and will apply to the 2010-2011 school tax bills.

Docket #9-132: 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 Chapter 462 of the laws of 2003, amends Section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law and raises the maximum income for which a fifty percent exemption may be granted from \$28,000 to \$29,000. 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, 2010, and will apply to the 2010-2011 school tax bills.

Docket #9-133: Upon the motion of Mr. Whelpley, seconded by Mr. Brita and carried by seven, the Board approved the Club Charters.

Docket #9-134: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Ms. Rilling, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Individual Services Contracts for Professional Development.

Docket #9-135 Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Instructional Service Agreements with Franklin Square and Rockville Centre school districts.

Docket #9-136: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita and carried by seven, the Board approved the Stipulation of Settlement and General Release.

Docket #9-137: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Kaye, 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 #9-138: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the Board approved the budgetary transfers.

Docket #9-139: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, the Board approved the repairs to George Washington School – State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

Docket #9-140: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, the Board approved the repairs to Chestnut Street School – State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

Docket #9-141: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, the Board approved the repairs to Cornwell Avenue School – State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

Docket #9-142: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, the Board approved the repairs to West Hempstead Middle/High Schools – State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

Docket #9-143: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita, 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		
WH Chiefs Soccer	12/05/09-03/14/10 Sat – 5:00-9:30 p.m. Sun – 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Practice	Gym
GEORGE WASHINGTON		
West Hempstead-Hempstead Gardens Water District	12/08/09 3:30-9:00 p.m. Election	Hallway on 1 st Floor Near Main Entrance

Under **OLD BUSINESS** action was taken as follows: No discussion.

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

Docket #9-144 to 9-148: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, the Board agreed to discuss the following policies at the December 8, 2009 Policy Meeting: Existing Policy – 2360 – Teacher Meetings; existing Policy 2381 – Release to Public of Reports to the Board of Education; existing Policy 2475 – Communicable Diseases – Administrative Regulations only; existing Policy 3522 – Operation and Maintenance of Buildings; proposed Policy – Tie Breaking Procedures for Determining Seniority.

Docket #9-149: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted that the District incur the expense of Board members and District Administration to attend NYSSBA’s Winter Law Conference on December 9, 2009 or January 21, 2010.

Docket #9-150: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the Board approved compensation for Extra Work Days to an employee.

Under **BOARD PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** – Mr. Ejnes had questions regarding the science program including changing the handling of the Science Fair, honors mandatory

participation and students volunteering to be included in the fair. Mr. Daempfle, Director of Science, was on hand to answer the Boards' concerns.

Under **FUTURE MEETING DATES** – No discussion took place.

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

At 9:45 p.m., upon the motion of Mr. Whelpley, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, the Board adjourned the Business Meeting to Executive Session, which ended at 11:20 p.m.

Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk