

The **REGULAR MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** of the Board of Education West Hempstead Union Free School District was called to order in the Chestnut Street Board Room on February 26, 2008 at 8:07 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Trocchia, who presided, and five other members of the Board: Mr. Brita, Mr. Kaye, Ms. Lotito, Mr. Mariano and Mr. Whelpley. Ms. Rilling was absent. Also present were Mr. Hogan, Ms. Peluso, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Sheahan, Ms. Girolamo, Ms. Castonguay and members of the staff and community.

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

Docket #7-204: The **MINUTES** of the Regular Business Meeting held on January 15, 2008, having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, were presented, and upon motion of Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mr. Whelpley, and carried by six, that the reading of the Minutes of said meeting be dispensed with and that they be adopted as received.

Docket #7-205: The **MINUTES** of the Policy Meeting/Work Session held on February 5, 2008, 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 Mr. Brita, and carried by six, that the reading of the Minutes of said meeting be dispensed with and that they be adopted as received.

Docket #7-206: The **TREASURER'S REPORT** for December 2007 having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, was presented, and upon motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by six, the Schedule of Claims & Warrants Nos. 10 – 38, appropriation status report and revenue status report were placed on the table for discussion and then filed.

Under **REPORT OF COMMITTEES** – Mr. Kaye announced he will be attending the New York State School Boards Association’s 2008 State Legislative Network News Conference on March 2 – 4, 2008. The SLN Conference gives all local school Board members from New York State an opportunity to meet with all of their elected legislators and leaders to discuss education issues. Among those topics to be discussed: the Governor’s budget proposal and how it will impact the delivery of educational services to children; local delegation efforts to make sure that our schools receive their adequate share of state education funding and Board members demonstrating to representatives that our districts require additional support to meet the growing cost of special education, transportation and the many “unfunded mandates” thrust upon public school districts without regard to their costs. Mr. Suozzi’s “tax cap” panel is a hot topic for exchange of ideas. The Governor’s proposal on tax capping must be carefully reviewed. New local government service costs are being transferred over to school districts compelling them to include these additional mandates into their own budgets and these must be voter approved, unlike municipal budgets. Our legislative network teams will be addressed by elected officials and shall personally urge their support in assisting efforts to continue to properly fund public education with badly needed shared dollars. Mr. Kaye will give the Board a full report at the next meeting.

Mr. Cunningham reported on the Chestnut Street Space Utilization Committee’s three meetings. His overview of the brainstorming of the meetings included pre-kindergarten, district-wide Special Education, high school alternative learning area, revenue from a community-based program, a community center and high school fitness space. He recommended four uses of the empty space to the Board: 1) Special Education to consolidate space and give more space back to the High School 2) universal pre-kindergarten 3) leasing the space to an independent pre K program and 4) lease it out to the community.

Ms. Lotito requested copies of the minutes of those meetings. Mr. Hogan suggested the Board discuss practicality and resources in the above-mentioned suggestions. Before the end of the school year, the library space will be gutted out.

Under **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** – Mr. Hogan covered the budget proposal for the 2008 – 2009 school year; his and Mr. Cunningham's attendance at a meeting sponsored by the Senate majority that discussed proposed education cuts island wide; DSPC meetings that is charged with developing a 3-to-5 year plan for the further enhancement of the educational experience in West Hempstead; the third quarter of the school year finishing ELA assessments and preparation for March math assessments; kindergarten registration for next year going smoothly; the new look of the district web site; Island Park breakdown of students attending our school next year; and lastly, the assurance of the district's law firm, Guercio and Guercio, not being a part of the state pension system misgivings recently reported in the media.

Mr. Hogan announced that the upcoming budget meetings will take place in the High School Video Conference Room instead of the Middle School cafeteria.

Mr. Brita inquired on what the district had expected as far as the number of students from Island Park attending our school next year and Ms. Lotito asked if an agreement has been drawn up yet.

Mr. Sheahan, representative from Guercio and Guercio, read the following to the Board and residents: *“Recent articles in Newsday have been critical of a Long Island school attorney and the practice pursuant to which he was classified as an “employee” by several of his school district clients while maintaining a private law practice. The attorney has repeatedly defended his conduct by asserting that the practice is a common one among school attorneys in the region. In response to the article and inquiries from our clients and members of the communities, which we service, we take this opportunity to issue a statement regarding this important topic.*

Throughout its history, and that of its predecessor entities, our firm's relationship with its municipal clients has always been pursuant to written agreements, which provide for services in exchange for annual retainers and/or hourly rates. No attorney or employee of Guercio & Guercio, LLP or its predecessor entities, has ever been classified as an employee by any municipal client while working for the firm. During employment with the firm, no one has ever received salary or benefits of any type from a municipal client except to the extent that he/she may be entitled to as the spouse of a municipal employee.

It is unfortunate that the attorney under scrutiny has attempted to deflect away from himself by calling into question the integrity of other members of an honorable profession. However "common" this practice may be, we pledge that it has never been engaged in by an attorney or staff member at Guercio & Guercio, LLP or any of its predecessor entities."

Mr. Kaye requested to publicize this statement to assure the community our district has not been involved with this practice. Ms. Lotito asked this to be placed on the district web site. Mr. Brita asked to verify the facts before we send out a letter and the district should be open and honest. Mr. Trocchia agrees we should have a mass mailing to the residents.

Mr. Whelpley left the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Mr. Trocchia then opened the meeting for residents to address the Board.

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

Docket #7-207: Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by five, Appointments, Resignations, etc. were made, accepted, granted and approved as amended:

Topic: Probationary Appointment(s)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tenure Area</u>	<u>Certification</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>End of Probation</u>
Gutierrez, Daniel	Teaching Assistant HS	Elementary Ed Grades 1-6	\$16.55/hr. Step 1	1/31/08	1/31/11
Nappi, Gina	Social Studies HS	Social Studies 7-12	\$51,972 (pro-rated) 1 MS	1/25/08	1/25/11

Topic: Appointment of Regular Daily Substitute Teacher(s)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Nelson, Daniel	\$95.00/day	2/25/08
Sapiane-Cafone, Daphine	\$95.00/day	2/11/08

Topic: Appointment of Non-Teaching Personnel

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Heinimann, Robert	Custodian High School	\$37,195 + neg. increase (pro-rated)	3/17/08

Topic: Annual Appointment(s)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Period</u>
Rodriguez, Silvia	School Monitor CA	\$13.83/hr. Step 1	2/4/08 – 6/27/08

Topic: Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Yarow, Sandi	Regular Daily Substitute GW	1/17/08

Topic: Leave(s) of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Barbo, Michele	3 rd grade teacher GW	9/1/08	6/30/09

Topic: Resignation Request(s) for Purpose of Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Cluxton, Richard	Math Teacher High School	\$103,722	6/30/08
Doyle, Timothy	Physical Education/ Health Teacher Middle School	\$ 99,960	6/30/08

Keilty-Michaleski, Barbara	Elementary Teacher Cornwell Avenue	\$111,396	6/30/08
Skinner, Mary	Director of English	\$117,278	6/30/08

Docket #7-208: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by five, 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>	<u>Effective</u>
Albinder, Eric	Co-Director HS Drama	\$2,022.50 (pro-rated)	1/16/08
Carre, Dominic	Boys' Lacrosse Coach - MS	\$3,037.00	

Topic: Extra Pay for Extra Responsibility Rescinded

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Carre, Dominic	HS Boys' Varsity Assistant Lacrosse Coach
Cestaro, Michael	MS Lacrosse Coach

Docket #7-209: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Ms. Lotito, and carried by five, the Board approved the amendment to the Budget Calendar 2008 - 2009.

Docket #7-210: Upon the motion of Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by five, the Board approved the Biennial Review of the District Plan for the Participation of Parents/Teachers in School Based Planning and Shared Decision Making.

Docket #7-211: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Ms. Lotito, and carried by five, the Board adopted the Biennial Academic Intervention Services Plan for the school years 2008 - 2009 and 2009 - 2010.

Ms. Lotito suggested the Biennial Review of the District Plan for the Participation of Parents/Teachers in School Based Planning and Shared Decision Making and the Biennial Academic Intervention Services Plan be discussed in work sessions in the future before adoption due to the importance of these plans in the education of our students.

Docket #7-212: Upon the motion of Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by five, the Board approved the Health and Welfare Services Agreements with Hempstead and Great Neck school districts.

Docket #7-213: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by five, the Board approved the Stipulation of Settlement and General Release for a student with disabilities.

Docket #7-214: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by five, a resolution was adopted that the Board of Education, West Hempstead Union Free School District, approve the Individual Services Contracts for A+ Therapy LLC and Nassau County Department of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Developmental Disabilities Services.

Docket #7-215: Upon the motion of Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by five, the Board accepted the gift of \$241.00 for *Japanese Woodblock Printing* Project by Craft Class at the high school.

Docket #7-216: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by five, 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 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS**, 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 #7-217: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Ms. Lotito, and carried by five, the Board approved the budgetary transfers.

Docket #7-218: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by five, the Board approved the contract of Records Management Clerk for the school year 2007 – 2008, with dates amended.

Docket #7-219: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by five, the Board approved the Settlement Agreement.

Docket #7-220: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by five, the Board approved the bid for Freezer Installation at the High School – Contract No. 1 – to Mountain Air Conditioning & Heating Corp.

Docket #7-221: Upon the motion of Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by five, the Board accepted the award and donation from Nassau TRACT Teacher Center and General Mills Box Tops for Education.

Docket #7-222: Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by five, the Board approved the use of facilities as follows:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>	<u>Room/ Field</u>
GEORGE WASHINGTON		
YIWH	03/16/08-06/21/08 Sun – 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Baseball	Both Fields
St. Thomas CYO	03/01/08-06/30/08 Mon-Fri - 5:30 p.m.- Dark Sat – 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Baseball	Both Fields
CORNWELL AVENUE		
YIWH	03/16/08-06/21/08 Sun – 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 a.m. Baseball	Both Fields
YIWH	03/16/08-08/31/08 Sun – 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. Adult Softball	Both Fields
Girl Scouts	04/18/08 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting	Gym

MIDDLE SCHOOL

St. Thomas CYO	03/01/08-06/30/08 Sat – 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Baseball	Baseball Field
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CHESTNUT STREET

St. Thomas CYO	03/01/08-06/30/08 Sat – 3:30 p.m.-Dark Baseball	Baseball Field
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WH Chiefs Soccer	03/01/08-06/14/08 Sat – 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Practice & Games	Both Fields
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HIGH SCHOOL

WH Chiefs Soccer	04/07/08, 05/05/08 & 06/02/08 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Board Meetings	Cafeteria
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WH Chiefs Soccer	03/01/08-06/08/08 Sat – 1:00 p.m.-Dark Sun – 12:00 p.m.-Dark Practice & Games	Football Field
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WH Lions Club	04/05/08 4:00 - 11:00 p.m. Theatre Play	Auditorium
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EAGLE AVENUE

WH Chiefs Soccer	03/01/08-08/31/08 Mon-Fri – 4:00 p.m. - Dark Sat & Sun – 9:00 a.m. - Dark Practice & Games	Both Fields
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Under **OLD BUSINESS** action was taken as follows:

Docket #7-98: Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by five, the Board adopted changes to Policy 2150 – Staff Recruiting and Hiring for Certificated Positions/Conflict of Interest/Nepotism.

Docket #7-101: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by five, the Board adopted changes to Policy 5159 – Reporting Child Abuse and Maltreatment.

Docket #7-156: Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by five, the Board adopted the changes to Policy 3160 – Transfer of funds Between Categories.

Docket #7-161: This docket was removed from the agenda as suggested by Mr. Hogan because it is a part of Docket #7-162.

Docket #7-162: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by five, the Board adopted Policy – Revenue and Cash Management, as amended.

Docket #7-163: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by five, the Board adopted Policy – Accounting and Fixed Assets.

Docket #7-201: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by five, the Board adopted changes to Policy 8230 – Reimbursement for Expenses.

Docket #7-202: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by five, the Board adopted Policy – Internal Claims Auditor.

Docket #7-203: Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by five, the Board adopted Policy – Closed/Open Campus, as amended.

Docket #7-189: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by five, the Board authorized the creation of three positions.

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

Docket #7-223: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by five, a resolution was adopted that the District incur the expense of those Board Members and administrators to attend New York State School Boards Association's 2008 State Legislative Network News Conference on March 2 – 4, 2008.

Docket #7-224: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by five, the Board approved the contract with Iron Mountain for Records Shredding and Disposal Services for the 2007 – 2008 school year.

Under **BOARD PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** – Mr. Kaye reported to all in attendance that West Hempstead lost a great friend and fine newspaper publisher in former resident Peter Hoegl, who passed away on February 14th. Mr. Hoegl was the owner and editor in

chief of the West Hempstead *Beacon* newspaper. A graduate of West Hempstead High School, Mr. Hoegl was a great supporter of public education and always made certain that events, photos and articles of interest about West Hempstead schools would regularly appear in the *Beacon*. Peter was the son of Sheila Noeth, the founder of the *Beacon* in 1951. She also served on the West Hempstead Board of Education more than 58 years ago. She was the first woman member to be elected. We extend our condolences to the family of Peter Hoegl and his family newspaper.

Mr. Trocchia shared with all in attendance the sad news that former Board member, Lynn Carbone, recently passed away. She served on the Board from 1971 to 1991 and did a lot for the students and community.

Building Inspection Items were discussed for the upcoming budget including a new chain link fence, new pathway to portable classrooms and asbestos removal at George Washington school; gym door replacement and removal of asbestos in the music room at Cornwell Avenue; new library room carpet and repairs to the parking lot at the Middle School; new clock/bell system at the Middle and High schools; and additional PA speakers in the hallways and auditorium, upgrade of stage lighting, library carpet, gym floor Section 8 change and new weight room machine at the High School; replacement door at northeast corner of Chestnut Street School.

Mr. Trocchia again opened the meeting for residents to address the Board.

At 9:55 p.m., upon the motion of Mr. Trocchia, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by five, the Board adjourned to Executive Session, which ended at 10:50 p.m.

Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk