

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 April 15, 2008 at 8:07 p.m.

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

The meeting began with a statement by Mr. Trocchia, who discussed the tragic car accident last week that involved three of our High School students. He stated, "Our hearts and prayers go out to the families, friends and staff. The event will stay with West Hempstead residents for a long time." He then called for a moment of silence for the two students who were lost in the accident.

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

Docket #7-253: The **MINUTES** of the Regular Business Meeting held on March 18, 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 seven, that the reading of the Minutes of said meeting be dispensed with and that they be adopted with one amendment on page 1 with the correction of Meda Search to Meta Search.

Docket #7-254: The **MINUTES** of the Special Business/Budget Meeting held on April 8, 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. Mariano, and carried by seven, that the reading of the Minutes of said meeting be dispensed with and that they be adopted as received.

Docket #7-255: The **TREASURER'S REPORT** for February 2008 having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, was presented, and upon motion of Mr. Whelpley, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the Schedule of Claims & Warrants Nos. 11 – 46, appropriation status report and revenue status report were placed on the table for discussion and then filed.

Under **REPORT OF COMMITTEES** – Ms. Lotito briefly spoke on the Strategic Planning Committee meeting last week, and explained it was the second time that subgroups met to identify goals for the district. The next meeting will be on April 30th. Mr. Kaye made a statement about the education budget that was recently voted on in Albany stating the district did well and he hopes this will happen again next year.

Under **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** – Mr. Hogan was not in attendance for the meeting. Mr. Cunningham read the following on Mr. Hogan's behalf:

This evening, we continue to mourn the loss of both Saul Lopez and Quintin McDonald and hope for the speedy and complete recovery of Herbert Martinez. Our thoughts and concern continue to be with all three families as they struggle for solace and understanding at this tremendously difficult time.

West Hempstead High School will continue to provide counseling services to our students and faculty as all struggle with the events of the past few days. Dr. Norman Fried, a grief counselor from Winthrop Hospital, again worked with our high school and district faculty today, in order to assist them professionally, as they work with our students, and personally as they go forward themselves.

I want to thank Mr. Lee, Mr. Escobar, Mrs. Murray, all the administrators, faculty and staff at the high school for all they have done these past few days to assist our students. I cannot begin to tell you enough about the level of concern they have exhibited for our boys and girls and the personal and professional manner in which they have cared for them.

I also want to thank all faculty, staff and administrators district wide for their help during this difficult and challenging time. I especially want to note our guidance counselors, social workers and psychologists for all they have done, especially on Friday morning.

I want to take note of the Island Park, Malverne, Jericho and Valley Stream School Districts, all of whom offered not only condolences, but also assistance should we need it. Likewise, HANC also expressed concern for us and offered to help in any way they could. Additionally, Holy Trinity High School, which educates a number of West Hempstead students, also called with an offer of assistance. Our thanks to Msgr. Lisante and Fr. Andy of St. Thomas for their kind assistance these past few days.

Finally, and most importantly, let's note the compassion of our students during this difficult time. They have been simply wonderful in expressing their concern and willingness to help...to help not only the three families, but also each other. If I spoke for hours, I could never adequately express the quality and caring people our students are, and will continue to be, into their adult years. As I thought about them and the way in which they have conducted themselves and dealt with this tragedy, especially at Saul's funeral mass yesterday, the following quote seemed the best way to describe our young people these past few days: *"Quiet and sincere sympathy is often the most welcome consolation to the afflicted. Said a wise man to one in deep sorrow, 'I did not come to comfort you; only God can do that; but I did come to say how deeply and tenderly I feel for you in your affliction.'*" My thanks to the students of West Hempstead High School for their example.

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

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

Docket #7-256: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, Appointments, Resignations, etc. were made, accepted, granted and approved as follows:

Topic: Annual Appointment(s)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Period</u>
Avila, Marie	Door Monitor Chestnut Street	\$13.83/hr. Step 1	4/28/08 – 6/27/08
Bilardello, Anthony	Door Monitor High School	\$13.83/hr. Step 1	4/16/08 – 6/27/08
Gatto, Olga	Door Monitor Middle School	\$13.83/hr. Step 1	4/16/08 – 6/27/08

Topic: Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Mazzone, Maryanne	Stenographer	\$44,536	5/2/08
McIntyre, Sean	One-to-One Monitor	\$13.83/hr.	3/28/08
O'Keefe, Annette	Administrative Assistant	\$66,467	3/12/08

Topic: Appointments for CPSE/CSE Summer Meetings 2008

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Baron, Steven	7/15, 7/16, 7/17, 8/21
Hawxhurst, Dianne	7/15, 7/16, 7/17, 8/21
Schultz, Mimi	7/15, 7/16, 7/17, 8/21

Docket #7-257: Upon the motion of Mr. Whelpley, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, Tenure Appointments were made, accepted, granted and approved as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tenure Area</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Cunningham, Richard	Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations	8/22/08
Healy, Julia	Director of Related Arts	8/25/08
Lee, Thomas	High School Principal	4/16/08
Loewy, Ellen	Director of Pupil Personnel Services	7/1/08
Mistretta, Christopher	Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics	8/1/08
Sordelline, Diane	Director of Social Studies	7/1/08

After the appointments were made, Ms. Peluso said the following:

“The Directors’ tenure will take effect on the third anniversary of their appointment during the upcoming summer. I have had the honor and privilege of working at their sides over the past two years and have witnessed how their commitment to excellence, their knowledge and their tireless efforts have served to improve the departments under their care. We look forward to sharing more information about each director during the tenure tea to be held prior to the June Board of Education meeting. Please join me in congratulating these valuable educational leaders.

The Board of Education has also approved tenure for Thomas Lee as principal of West Hempstead High School. We have seen many instructional and organizational enhancements of our high school program under his leadership. Mr. Lee’s commitment, knowledge, and wisdom are evident on a daily basis. He is well respected by students, staff, parents and fellow administrators. His vision of where West Hempstead High School can be in the future, combined with his leadership capacity, will continue to support the development of a high school of excellence. We congratulate him on this well-deserved honor; his tenure is effective immediately.

Also approved for tenure this evening is Richard Cunningham, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations. Mr. Cunningham’s combined experience in instruction, building administration and school business supports his significant contribution to the smooth operation of our school district. His knowledge, integrity and problem-solving skills make him a valuable member of our leadership team. As a patient teacher, he has increased our community’s understanding of the budget process and business office operations. He is thoughtful and decisive; his sense of humor often brings joy to our workplace.”

Docket #7-258: Omitted – Will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Docket #7-259: Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the Board approved the amendment to Docket #7-225.

Docket #7-260: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted to furnish the Garden City Public Schools with the necessary medical clearance(s), insurance and hold harmless agreement for a student to participate on the Garden City High School Gymnastic Team.

Docket #7-261: Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Instructional Services Contract with Lawrence Public Schools.

Docket #7-262: Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Stipulation of Settlement with WHEA – Occupational Therapist Dues.

Docket #7-263: Upon the motion of Mr. Whelpley, seconded by Ms. Lotito, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Annual Visual Inspections, Five-Year Capital Facilities Plan and Facilities Report Cards.

Docket #7-264: Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Health and Welfare Services Agreements with Hicksville, Mineola and Westbury School Districts.

Docket #7-265: Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Consultant Service Contract with Global Investigations, Inc.

Docket #7-266: Upon the motion of Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the Board adopted the Annual Professional Performance Review and Professional Development Plan for the school year 2008 - 2009

Docket #7-267: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Mr. Whelpley, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Calendar of Board of Education Meetings for 2008 - 2009.

Docket #7-268: Upon the motion of Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the Board accepted the gifts of sweatshirts and sweatpants for the boys' baseball team, \$134.16 from Target, \$75 from Theresa Ganley and \$97.20 from the Funding Factory.

Docket #7-269: Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, 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.

Docket #7-270: Upon the motion of Mr. Whelpley, and seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted that the West Hempstead Union Free School District Budget for the 2008 - 2009 school year in the amount of \$52,607,660 be approved, and hereby adopted by this Board and authorized the placement of a proposition on the voting machines and the raising of such taxes as necessary to provide for said budget.

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 #7-271: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted that the Board of Education approve the Property Tax Report Card for 2008 - 2009 based on the following information:

	<u>Budgeted 2007 – 2008</u>	<u>Budgeted 2008 – 2009</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Total Spending	\$50,766,963	\$52,607,660	3.63
Total Estimated Tax Levy	\$35,189,183	\$35,460,058	0.77
Public School Enrollment	2,390	2,323	(-2.80)
Consumer Price Index			2.80
		<u>Actual 2007 – 2008</u>	<u>Estimated 2008 – 2009</u>
Reserved Fund Balance		\$1,843,787	\$2,435,848
Appropriated Fund Balance		\$1,200,000	\$2,000,000
Unreserved, Unappropriated Fund Balance		\$4,063,139	\$2,104,306
Unreserved, Unappropriated Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget		8.00%	4.00%

Docket #7-272: Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, the Board approved the budgetary transfers.

Docket #7-273: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the Board approved special education programs and for the distribution of 2007 – 2008 Federal Flow-through Funds.

Docket #7-274: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the Board approved the bid for the Printing of Budget Notices to Printstars, Inc.

Docket #7-275: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the Board approved the bid for the Printing of Diplomas and Diploma Covers to Jostens.

Docket #7-276: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Lotito, and carried by seven, the Board approved the contract with Nancy Nunziata as Pupil Transportation Consultant for the Southwest Transportation Consortium for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

Docket #7-277: Upon the motion of Mr. Kaye, seconded by Ms. Rilling, and carried by seven, the Board approved the donation of food to a local food bank.

Docket #7-278: Omitted – Will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Docket #7-279: Omitted – Will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Docket #7-280: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Ms. Lotito, and carried by seven, the Board approved Xerox Corporation to provide leasing services for copies for the 2008/2009 school year.

Docket #7-281: Omitted – Will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Docket #7-282: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, the Board approved the contract with Health Care Waste Solutions.

Docket #7-283: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Use of Facilities as follows:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>	<u>Room/ Field</u>
CORNWELL AVENUE		
YIWH	06/30/08-08/18/08 Mon – 5:30-9:30 p.m. Practice & Games	Baseball Field
MIDDLE SCHOOL		
WH Youth Football	08/01/08-08/31/08 Mon-Fri – 5:00-9:00 p.m. Practice	Field Grass Area

WH Youth Football	09/01/08-11/23/08 Mon-Fri – 6:00 p.m.-Dark Practice	Field Grass Area
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HIGH SCHOOL

Girl Scouts	04/16/08-06/25/08 Wed & Thurs – 4:00-6:00 p.m. Earn a Girl Scout Badge	Tennis Courts & Track
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WH Youth Football	09/07/08-11/22/08 Sun – 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Games	Football Field & Food Shack
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WH PAL	04/20/08-06/08/08 Sun – 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Track & Field	Track & Field
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WH Lions Club	05/14/08 5:30-9:30 p.m. Awards Dinner	Cafeteria
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Docket #7-284: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Internal Audit Report prepared by Sheehan & Company for the year ended June 30, 2008.

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

Docket #7-244: Upon the motion of Mr. Whelpley, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, the Board approved the contract with Nassau BOCES to purchase a subscription to Connect-Ed through June 30, 2008.

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

Docket #7-285: Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted that the District incur the expense of those Board Members and administrators to attend the New York State School Boards Association's "Up to the Challenge" workshop on May 2 or 3, 2008.

Docket #7-286: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Whelpley, and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted that the District incur the expense of those Board Members and administrators to attend the 2007 – 2008 Year-End Dinner Celebration for the Wrestling Team Parents' Club on April 11, 2008.

Under **BOARD PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** – There was no discussion.

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

At 8:55 p.m., upon the motion of Mr. Trocchia, seconded by Mr. Kaye, and carried by seven, the Board adjourned to Executive Session, which ended at 10:00 p.m.

Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk