

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 11, 2008 – Udall Road Middle School

President George Smith, Presiding

PRESENT: MRS. BIESELIN, MR. BLOOM, MR. GELLAR, MRS. LAROSA,
MR. G. SMITH, MR. W. SMITH, MR. ULRICH

ABSENT: NONE

Administrators: Dr. Blau, Mrs. Duffy, Mr. Stern, Mr. Zocchia

Attorney: Mr. Volz

Meeting was called to order at 8:01 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

A moment of silence to commemorate September 11, 2001. Mr. Eidenback and students from Udall Road Middle School's Vocal Ensemble performed The Star-Spangled Banner.

No one wished to speak during an "Invitation to the Public."

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Biesel, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 14, 2008 and the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 28, 2008.

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve the amended minutes from June 12, 2008 as follows: TEACHING: TENURE APPOINTMENTS: effective September 2, 2008: Kathleen Finn, Speech; TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENTS: Jessica Schwartz, Special Education Teacher; effective September 2, 2008 to September 1, 2010 (Udall; Step 2¹; newly-budgeted position).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Biesel, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PART-TIME DEAN APPOINTMENTS (Stipend \$6,068 prorated for 2008-2009 school year): Craig Evans, Teacher/Dean, effective September 2, 2008; Lynn McVeety, Teacher/Dean, effective September 4, 2008; John Sparacio, Teacher/Dean, effective September 2, 2008; Shawn Wallace, Teacher/Dean, effective September 4, 2008.

Motion was made by Mrs. LaRosa, seconded by Mr. Ulrich to approve TEACHING: RESIGNATION: Ed Kemnitzer. Mr. W. Smith questioned the reason for Mr. Kemnitzer's resignation. After a brief discussion, motion was carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RESIGNATION: Ed Kemnitzer, English Teacher; effective September 10, 2008 (High School).

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Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Jaclyn Cucci, English Teacher; effective September 10, 2008 – September 9, 2009 (High School; Step 3²; replacing E. Kemnitzer).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid) (Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 – 12 weeks continuous medical coverage): Christine Chocko, Elementary Teacher; effective October 6, 2008 to December 12, 2008 (Manetuck).

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid) (Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 – 12 weeks continuous medical coverage): Josephine Hassett, Physical Education Teacher; effective September 8, 2008 to December 1, 2008 (High School).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid) (Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 – 12 weeks continuous medical coverage): Liza Hunt, Elementary Teacher; effective September 15, 2008 to October 17, 2008 (Captree).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Biesel, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid) (Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 – 12 weeks continuous medical coverage): Robin Napolitano, Reading Teacher; effective October 6, 2008 to December 22, 2008 (Manetuck).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-BEARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (paid): Beth Sherwood, Physical Education Teacher; effective September 15, 2008 (Manetuck).

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING ASSISTANT: LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Maria McNamee, Teaching Assistant; effective September 15, 2008 to June 30, 2009 (High School).

Motion was made by Mr. W. Smith, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: RESIGNATION: Fred Koelbel, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds; effective September 14, 2008.

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Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENTS: William Dixon, Microcomputer Repair Technician; effective September 26, 2008 (\$46,000; District Office; replacing J. Alexander who retired).

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENTS: Jennifer Martinez, Part-Time Teacher Aide (Biotechnology Lab Aide, 200 hours); effective September 15, 2008 (Step 1; High School; new position).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENTS: John Testa, Maintenance Mechanic III; effective October 13, 2008 (Step 1; Maintenance Department; replacing B. Miller who retired).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Biesel, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN (\$9.75 PER HOUR): *Thomas LaSalle, effective September 8, 2008.

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$100 per diem): Anthony Russo, effective September 4, 2008, student teacher; Vita Capelluto, effective September 12, 2008.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. Gellar to approve OTHER: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL FACULTY. Mr. W. Smith questioned if this appointment is in addition to or a replacement of the faculty approved at the August 28, 2008 meeting. After a brief discussion, motion was carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL FACULTY \$8,079 per full year class: Kelly Sepe, Science.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. Bloom, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: CONCERT MANAGERS 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR: Salvatore Fiore, High School (\$3,372 stipend); Arthur Machowicz, Beach Street Middle School (\$775 stipend); William Eidenback, Udall Road Middle School (\$775 stipend).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Biesel, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: AUDITORIUM TECHNICIANS 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR (School functions - \$75 per event; Rental functions - \$50 per hour): Salvatore Fiore, High School; James Kraus, High School; David Kaufman, High School; Jerry Mangone, High School; John Simeone, Beach Street Middle School; John Kennedy, Beach Street Middle School; William Eidenback, Udall Road Middle School; Michael Gural, Udall Road Middle School; Melissa Prieto, Udall Road Middle School.

*Conditional Pending Fingerprint Clearance

CURRICULUM: Mr. Ken Hartill, High School Principal, and Mr. Peter McAllister, High School International Baccalaureate Coordinator, made a presentation on the International Baccalaureate Program. Following the presentation, board members had the opportunity to ask questions and a brief discussion was held regarding the program.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve **RESOLUTION: BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the West Islip Union Free School District fully endorses and supports the application of West Islip High School to participate in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education is committed to allocating the necessary funding and staffing to implement this program for a minimum of five (5) years following its implementation.

REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEES: Mr. W. Smith reported on the Finance Committee meeting of 9/9/08. Mr. Gellar reported on the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting of 9/9/08. Mrs. LaRosa reported on the Education Committee meeting of 8/26/08. Mrs. LaRosa reported on the Committee on Special Education/Preschool Special Education meeting of 9/9/08. The following committees did not meet: Policy Committee, School Board/Student Liaison Committee, Public Relations Committee, and Health and Wellness Committee.

The Treasurer's Report for July 2008 was presented. Beginning balance as of June 30, 2008 – \$14,174,723.28; ending balance as of July 31, 2008 – \$11,112,783.48.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve **RESOLUTION: 2008/2009 TAX LEVY: WHEREAS**, the estimated expenditures for the West Islip Union Free School District, for the school year 2008/2009 in the amount of \$99,697,309 proposed in accordance with Section 1716 of the Education Law, were approved by the voters of the District on May 20, 2008, and, **WHEREAS**, the estimated expenditures for the West Islip Public Library, for the fiscal year 2008/2009 in the amount of \$3,696,125, proposed in accordance with Section 259 of the Education Law, were approved by the voters of the District on April 15, 2008, for a total approved budget of \$103,393,434 therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 2008/2009 tax levy in the amount of \$62,821,871 for the West Islip Union Free School District and \$3,638,125 for the West Islip Public Library, for a combined tax levy of \$66,459,996 be approved and levied upon the real property of the District. (The tax levy of \$62,821,871 for the School District plus \$35,685,438 other income as estimated on July 1, 2008, including State Aid and \$1,190,000 of additional Appropriated Fund Balance equals a budget of \$99,697,309. The tax levy of \$3,638,125 for the Public Library plus \$58,000 other income as estimated on July 1, 2008 equals a budget of \$3,696,125).

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve the following donation, with thanks: West Islip Soccer Club for one set of 8 x 24 "Kwik Goal" soccer goals valued at approximately \$4,000.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President G. Smith welcomed everyone to a new school year. A discussion was held regarding the practice of board members conducting "building walk-throughs" of the schools in the district. This practice will be resurrected, and board members are to submit their building assignment preferences.

Motion was made by Mr. Ulrich, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve Memorandum of Agreement with Paraprofessionals.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Blau reported that the new school year had a smooth opening. The total enrollment for the district as of September 4, 2008 is 5,583 students, which is 87 less than the enrollment at the end of the 2007/2008 school year.

Two residents wished to speak during an "Invitation to the Public." Subjects of concern have been recorded in the public participation log.

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:05 p.m. on motion by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Mrs. LaRosa, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve Memorandum of Agreement for Deans.

Motion was made by Mr. W. Smith, seconded by Mr. Bloom, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve RESOLUTION: RESOLVED, that pursuant to §913 of the Education Law, the employee named in executive session is hereby directed to appear for a psychiatric examination in the office of Dr. Karin Burkhard and it is FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dr. Karin Burkhard, is hereby appointed school medical inspector pursuant to §913 of the Education Law in order to evaluate said employee's ability to perform her duties.

Motion was made by Mrs. LaRosa, seconded by Mrs. Biesel, and carried when all board members present voted in favor, except Mr. Bloom who opposed, to approve settlement of special education impartial hearing for student named in Executive Session.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve tuition agreement for children of employee named in Executive Session to attend West Islip Schools, as per Policy #7131.

A discussion was held about a proposed donation of a scoreboard for the girls' lacrosse field.

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Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m. on motion by Mrs. LaRosa, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin, and carried when all board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by

Nicole M. Schiano
District Clerk

All correspondence, reports, or related materials referred to in these minutes are on file in the District Office.