

# REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 14, 2009 – Oquenock Elementary School  
President George Smith, Presiding

PRESENT: MRS. BIESELIN, MR. GELLAR, MRS. LAROSA, MR. G. SMITH

ABSENT: MR. BLOOM, MR. W. SMITH, MR. ULRICH

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

Attorney: Mr. Volz

Meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

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 Special Meeting of March 24, 2009, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 2, 2009, the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 16, 2009, and the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 22, 2009.

RECOGNITION: National Geography Bee Winners: First Place Winners: Matthew M.– Bayview, Meghan B. – Paul J. Bellew, Joseph R. – Captree, Matthew D. – Manetuck, James Z. – Oquenock, James K. – Westbrook. Nurses' Appreciation Week: Trish Reimer and Maria McAlister. Teachers' Appreciation Week: William Sorrese and Joe Dixon.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: RESIGNATION: Joseph Stern, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; effective June 2, 2009.

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Biesel, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: RETIREMENT: Kenneth Hartill, High School Principal; effective July 1, 2009 (17 years).

Motion was made by Mrs. LaRosa, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: RETIREMENT: Anne Shierant, Beach Street Principal; effective July 1, 2009 (26 years).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: RETIREMENT: J. Wayne Shierant, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health and Recreation; effective December 31, 2009 (39 years).

Motion was made by Mrs. Bieselin, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Margaret Garbarino, Family and Consumer Science Teacher; effective July 1, 2009 (14 years).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Lynda Hungerford, Elementary Teacher; effective July 1, 2009 (25 years).

Motion was made by Mrs. Bieselin, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Charles Mascaro, Mathematics Teacher; effective July 1, 2009 (15 years).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: JoAnn Posnanski, Library Media Specialist; effective July 1, 2009 (29 years).

Motion was made by Mrs. Bieselin, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Joan Rizzo, Business Teacher; effective July 1, 2009 (25 years).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: William Sorrese, Mathematics Teacher; effective July 1, 2009 (37 years).

Motion was made by Mrs. Bieselin, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Kristin Benson, Orchestra Teacher; effective September 3, 2009 to September 1, 2010 (Udall/Manetuck; Step 6<sup>4</sup>; replacing M. Martin).

Motion was made by Mrs. LaRosa, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-BEARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (paid): Heather Enright, English Teacher; effective May 4, 2009 (Beach).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-BEARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (paid): Rita Manetta, Special Education Teacher; effective April 14, 2009 (Beach).

Motion was made by Mrs. LaRosa, 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-week continuous medical coverage): Kathleen Finn, Speech Teacher; effective May 11, 2009 – June 5, 2009 (Westbrook).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, 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-week continuous medical coverage): Mary Ellen Kelley, Speech Teacher; effective April 13, 2009 – May 22, 2009 (Udall).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Cassandra Mercurio, English Teacher; effective November 17, 2008 to June 30, 2009 (Udall; Step 1<sup>4</sup>; replacing L. Gottesman {child-bearing / FMLA}).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Joseph McErlean, Science Teacher; effective September 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 (High School; Step 2<sup>4</sup>; replacing D. Altschuler).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING ASSISTANT: RETIREMENT: Anne Marie McGuire; effective July 1, 2009 (25 years).

Motion was made by Mrs. Bieselin, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING ASSISTANT: RETIREMENT: Maria McNamee; effective July 1, 2009 (21 years).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: Diane Bronson, School Nurse; effective June 30, 2009 (DOE 09/04/85; Westbrook).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: Pearl Joy French, Assistant Cook; effective June 30, 2009 (DOE 01/23/78; Bayview).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: Jean Kinnear, Cafeteria Aide; effective June 30, 2009 (DOE 04/23/90; Beach Street).

Motion was made by Mrs. LaRosa, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: Linda McGuinness, Teacher Aide; effective June 30, 2009 (DOE 09/04/84; Manetuck).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: Nicholas T. Vinciguerra, Maintenance Mechanic III; effective July 1, 2009 (DOE 11/25/95; High School).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: Diane Wolfe, Bus Driver; effective June 26, 2009 (DOE 09/02/92; Transportation Department).

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: SUBSTITUTE FOOD SERVICE WORKER (\$9.75/HR): Stella Branigan, effective May 1, 2009.

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 TEACHER AIDE (\$9.75/HR): Daniel Sparby, effective March 31, 2009.

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: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Daniel Sparby, Special Ed Aide; effective April 2, 2009 (Step 1; Captree; new position as per IEP).

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: RESIGNATION: Christian Becker, Custodial Worker 1; effective May 23, 2009 (High School).

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: RESIGNATION: Christina Lapreziosa, Special Education Aide; effective June 30, 2009 (Captree).

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Biesel, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$100 per diem): Sean Kerrigan, effective May 1, 2009; \*Sabrina Oddo, effective May 6, 2009.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: COORDINATOR OF DRIVER EDUCATION: Vincent LaSorsa - \$2,736; effective July 1, 2009.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: INSTRUCTIONAL SWIM SUMMER CAMP 2009: Thomas Loudon, Supervisor (\$40 per hour); KristieLee Schubert, Supervisor (\$40 per hour); Jamie Storoshenko, Supervisor (\$40 per hour); Dana Bellona, Lifeguard (\$10 per hour); John Bruno, Lifeguard (\$10 per hour); Rafal Bystry, Lifeguard (\$10 per hour); Megan Hyland, Lifeguard (\$10 per hour); Sarah Linder, Lifeguard (\$10 per hour); Sean McCaffery, Lifeguard (\$10 per hour); Tom Monaghan, Lifeguard (\$10 per hour); Gabrielle Pelle, Lifeguard (\$10 per hour); Laura Riegel, Lifeguard (\$10 per hour); Michelle Rooney, Lifeguard (\$10 per hour); Kayla Rosenberg, Lifeguard (\$10 per hour); Matt Russo, Lifeguard (\$10 per hour); Kamil Sinakowitz, Lifeguard (\$10 per hour). CAMP ADVENTURE SUMMER CAMP 2009: Brian Cameron, Director

\*Conditional pending fingerprint clearance

Page 5 Regular Meeting May 14, 2009

(\$48.08 per hour); James Klimkoski, Director (\$48.08 per hour). GYMNASTICS SUMMER CAMP 2009: Karyn Storan, Director (\$48.08 per hour); Vanessa Lillis, Director (\$48.08 per hour); Gabrielle Pirkli (\$12.00 per hour); Melanie Schaeffner (\$11 per hour); Blair Engeldrum (\$10 per hour); Tori Scuteri (\$10 per hour); Alyssa Hourrican (\$10 per hour). FOOTBALL SUMMER CAMP 2009: Steve Mileti, Director (\$25.00 per hour); Anthony Yuli (\$25.00 per hour); Tom Powers (\$25.00 per hour); Jim Dooley (\$25.00 per hour); Nick LaGiglia (\$25.00 per hour); Shawn Rush (\$25.00 per hour); Dennis Montalto (\$25.00 per hour); John Lavery (\$25.00 per hour); Phil Kane (\$25.00 per hour); Shanan Mauro (\$25.00 per hour); Vinny Luvera (\$25.00 per hour); John Denninger (\$25.00 per hour).

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: AUDITORIUM TECHNICIAN 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR (School functions - \$75 per event; Rental functions - \$50 per hour): Michael Saganic – High School.

CURRICULUM UPDATE: Mr. Stern gave a presentation on the 2007-2008 New York State Report Card.

REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEES: Mr. Gellar reported on the Finance Committee meeting of 5/12/09. Mrs. Biesel reported on the School Board/Student Liaison Committee meeting of 5/14/09 at the High School. Mrs. LaRosa reported on the School Board/Student Liaison Committee meetings of 5/13/09 at Udall Road Middle School and 5/14/09 at Beach Street Middle School. Mr. Gellar reported on the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting of 5/12/09. Mrs. LaRosa reported on the Education Committee meeting of 4/30/09 and the Committee on Special Education/Preschool Special Education meeting of 5/13/09 and recommendations re: classification/placement/I.E.P. modifications of students as delineated. Mr. Gellar reported on the West Islip Summit Coalition Community Forum of 4/28/09.

The following committees did not meet: Policy Committee, Public Relations Committee, Audit Committee, Legislative Action Committee, Health and Wellness Committee, COMPASS, and Bullying Awareness Committee.

The Treasurer's Report for March 2009 was presented. Beginning balance as of February 28, 2009 – \$24,212,799.84; ending balance as of March 31, 2009 – \$29,915,454.19.

Motion was made by Mrs. LaRosa, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve budget transfers, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve Resolution for the BOCES Cooperative Purchasing Service Contract for 2009-2010.

Approval of the Agreement for Construction Management Services was tabled.

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve the Professional Service Agreement for In-Car Driver Education Instructions with Vehicles.

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve the Breakfast Program Exemption Resolution: RESOLVED, that the West Islip UFSD shall request a Breakfast Program exemption for the 2009-2010 school year for the schools listed below. This request is based on documentation indicating the lack of need for such a program in the West Islip School District for these schools: Bayview Elementary School, Captree Elementary School, Manetuck Elementary School, Oquenock Elementary School, Paul J. Bellew Elementary School, Westbrook Elementary School.

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve the following donations, with thanks: Allstate Foundation to the High School for \$1,000; Suffolk Transportation Service Scholarship for \$1,000.

Motion was made by Mrs. Bieselin, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve the following health service charges: Babylon UFSD (Babylon Christian School) 2 students @ \$1,514.31 = \$1,514.31; Manhasset UFSD (St. Mary's Elementary and HS) 3 students @ 787.38 = \$2,362.14; Half Hollow Hills CSD (Upper Room Christian School) 3 students @ \$594.82 = \$1,784.46; Smithtown CSD (Smithtown Christian School) 3 students @ \$707.44 = \$2,122.32; South Huntington UFSD (St. Anthony's High School and Long Island School for the Gifted) 33 + students @ \$764.83 = \$25,602.67.

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve appointment of Louis Zocchia as Deputy Treasurer, for the period of May 14, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve Board Meeting Dates for the 2009-2010 School Year.

After a brief discussion, Tuesday, July 14, 2009, was set as the date for the Reorganizational Meeting.

President G. Smith read the following Letter to the Community from the West Islip Board of Education: Residents,

In October, 2008, the West Islip Board of Education issued a statement regarding the school district's vending machine operation. In that statement, the board summarized the sequence of events that led to the discovery of the contract, and the subsequent knowledge that the proceeds of the vending machine were not being allocated in accordance with statutes governing public funds. The board took immediate action to correct this process, and directed our internal auditors, Nawrocki Smith LLP, to conduct a forensic audit of the operation.

The audit process is now complete, and the board has received the report as well as a presentation describing the vending machine operation and suggested procedures for correcting any financial control weaknesses as they pertain to contracts of this nature. While the report accounts for the proceeds accumulated during the audit period by outlining the expenditures made by the Coaches Association on behalf of the school district and athletic operations, it is clear that the processes by which the expenditures were made were not in accordance with local law. As a Board, we take full responsibility for this lack of oversight, and acknowledge that the Coaches Association was simply carrying out a task assigned to them by a previous administration.

Having included the district's attorney, Guercio & Guercio LLP, in the process, the board asked Guercio & Guercio to offer a legal opinion as to how we should proceed in regard to the misuse of public funds. Our attorney has advised us that as public officers and trustees, we are required to forward the report to the District Attorney and State Comptroller. While the board, as a whole, does not believe there was any criminal intent or fraud related to the operation, it is our responsibility to protect the financial integrity of the school district by reporting any misuse of public funds.

This issue has certainly not been an easy one for the parties involved, including the Coaches Association and the Board of Education. We have received inquiries from people on both sides of the issue, and have determined that the most prudent course of action is to follow our attorney's advice. We do not take this action because we seek to punish anyone, but do so because we believe it is our responsibility to do so. The individuals immediately connected to the vending machine operation are by all accounts upstanding and trustworthy members of our community who have had tremendous impact on the students that they touched throughout the course of their careers. It is our hope that we can move past this issue, and that our programs will continue to thrive under the hard work and dedication of these individuals.

The Board of Education and the Superintendent have scheduled a public presentation of the audit findings and opinions at June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education. We encourage you to attend this meeting to understand the findings and the decisions that have been made.

The vending machine operation is currently being facilitated by the business office, and proceeds from the machines will be used in accordance with the laws governing the use of public funds.

Board of Education  
West Islip School District

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve the Jesse Greenwald Scholarship Recipient – Sherilynn H..

Motion was made by Mr. Gellar, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve Memorandum of Agreement for a Preferred Substitute Position.

NOTICES/REMINDERS: May 19<sup>th</sup> – Annual Budget Vote and Celebrate Education.

Three 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 Mrs. Bieselin, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:54 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 11:30 p.m. on motion by Mrs. Bieselin, seconded by Mr. Gellar, and carried when all board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m. on motion by Mrs. Bieselin, seconded by Mr. Gellar, 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.