

Minutes of School Board Meeting – March 17, 2014

Board Room - Administration Building – Mattlin Middle School

Present: Mrs. Lieberman, Mrs. Schulman, Mrs. Rothman, Mrs. Bernstein,
Mrs. Pierno, Mr. Greenberg.

Also Present: Dr. Lewis, Ms. Gierasch, Dr. Eagen, Mr. Ruf, Mr. Gregory Guercio,
Ms. Aloe, Mrs. Tyler.

Absent: Mr. Bettan

Acting District Clerk

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Mrs. Schulman that the Board of Education appoint Mr. Ruf Acting District Clerk.

Executive Session

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Rothman, seconded by Mrs. Pierno that the Board of Education recess to Executive Session for the purpose of personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Ruf
Acting District Clerk

Approved: _____
Ginger Lieberman, President

There were approximately 30 district residents and staff members present.

Mrs. Lieberman called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

High School Up-Date

Amanda Bressner, our high school representative, updated the Board of Education of events that occurred and events that will happen at the high school.

- Sing (Seniors won)
- Tri-M Induction
- Senior Show-April 4th

Board Announcements

Mrs. Rothman attended the World Culture Fair held at POBMS. She stated how very informative it was and how she ate her way through it. She also spoke about attending PARP at Stratford Road and what a terrific experience it was.

Mrs. Pierno spoke about Founder's Day and that all the Board members attended. She said that approximately 450 people attended and congratulated everyone who was honored. She also wanted to mention that the production of The Wizard of Oz is this week at Mattlin MS.

Mrs. Bernstein attended SING. She said it was an amazing experience and she thinks that it's wonderful that it brings the students from all grades together. She wanted to thank the students, staff and parents for bringing it all together.

Mrs. Lieberman spoke of former Board Member Anna Goidell who passed away this week. She spoke of her dedication to the children and the district. She also spoke of the possibility of establishing a scholarship for a deserving H.S. student in memory of Ms. Goidell.

Mrs. Lieberman said she and Dr. Lewis attended the Tri-M induction. She spoke of how amazing it is to see the children up there, and how they really have a true gift. She spoke about the Legislator's Breakfast held on Saturday; there were 30 people from the Board of Ed. Administration, PCT, PTA and ASA in attendance. They spoke of many issues in a way that was very productive. An item that was addressed was the calendar and what can be done during zero period. Health was heavily focused on. The extra help pilot program in the elementary schools was also discussed. She stated that it is very frustrating that children are being pulled out of gym, art, music and technology for services. In speaking with Mr. Rosenfeld he said that the IEP states that these services need to be provided during these times. It's the law.

Dr. Lewis spoke about how they addressed the issue of the 2014-15 & 2015-16 calendars, adding that the calendars will be amended at the April 9th Board meeting with changes to the first day of school, which will be a full day of school. Instead, for the next two years we will have the students come to school on Election Day. She spoke of the challenges in regard to extra security, parking and not having voters walking through the buildings. She also stated that they spoke about adding extra staff for health and about the SAT's.

Mrs. Bernstein thanked everyone for giving up their Saturday morning, and was happy to see how productive the discussions were and how so much got accomplished.

Mrs. Lieberman said that it was great to get all the groups together so that each has a better understanding.

Superintendent's Announcements

Dr. Lewis joked about how "tough" it was to keep having to announce all of the awards that POB students keep winning. She spoke about the 88 students moving on in DECA, seven honorable mentions in Toshiba and how Joyce Barry kept sending e-mails as the students kept winning the Long Island Science and Engineering and the International Science Fair. This weekend is POBOTS.

Ms. Gierasch spoke about the Medical Marvel competition sponsored by North Shore LIJ where out of 22 teams one of POB's teams came in third place. She was very impressed at how professional they were in their presentation.

Dr. Lewis announced that Scott Smith was on Fox 5 this evening and CNN will be next. Newsday also did an article on him this week and Computer Associates would like to meet with him. She said how amazing it is to have a student create an App and how he is carving a pathway to success. She thanked Ms. Lasher for being his "agent".

Dr. Lewis spoke of the incident at Parkway on Friday. There was a malfunctioning coil in the heating/cooling system in the library. The students were moved to another part of the building and air quality was checked. Unfortunately the systems were part of the 2001 updates and will probably have to be replaced. She stated that there was no leak of carbon monoxide. The communication to parents worked and was put out in a timely manner.

Testing Procedures

Dr. Lewis met with the principals to discuss a uniform policy for students in grades 3-8 and their refusal to take the State tests. The parents refusing the State test for their child will receive a letter stating the plan; the children will be in a separate location and can only bring a book of their own. Children taking the test will do so in an environment free of distractions.

Mrs. Bernstein asked about the refusal letter.

Dr. Lewis stated that it must be a hard copy to keep on file.

Budget Presentations

Mr. Ruf gave a brief overview on the budget process. He stated that the budget is also online.

Middle Schools

Mr. Mittleman and Mr. McNamara spoke of the Middle Schools Points of Pride. They stated that their budget is increasing slightly.

Discussion:

Mrs. Rothman asked for an explanation in the differences between a classroom library, library and bookroom.

Mr. McNamara explained the classroom libraries and how it was important for the students to have the books at their fingertips. He also explained how the teachers are familiar with the books and this really helps when a student is looking for a “Just Right Book”.

Mr. Mittleman spoke about the bookrooms and how there are many more titles; teachers can get many books of one title to bring into the classrooms.

Mrs. Schulman expressed concerns about the Go-Math program.

Mr. McNamara stated that the teachers are using the Go-Math program and infusing the lessons with other sources.

Ms. Gierasch responded saying that in the beginning there were some challenges and the company was slow to get the materials out, but it has gotten better. She also stated that the program was aligned to the Common Core.

POBJFK High School

Mr. Murray and Ms. Lasher spoke of the High School's Points of Pride. They stated that their budget is increasing.

Discussion:

Dr. Lewis stated that the budget is never changed in regard to the decrease in the textbook budget, but what is done is a "Budget Amendment".

Mr. Ruf explained how the chart is amended.

Mr. Greenberg left the room at 8:00 and returned at 8:03.

Mrs. Bernstein asked about the change in textbook and supplies, now that the two classes will not be running, and asked if they will submit the changes.

Ms. Lasher stated yes.

Mrs. Schulman asked if the increase in the number of students taking the AP's is still high and are they getting a passing rate.

Mr. Murray said "yes".

Dr. Lewis said that it's a significant number; 70% of the graduating class has taken at least one AP course.

Mrs. Pierno mentioned the graphing calculators and feels there is a redundancy in the purchasing of them.

Dr. Lewis said that they will look into it before the April 9th meeting.

Ms. Gierasch said she will have a breakdown of where they are needed, and will focus on replacing them, although she believes we are up to speed.

Mrs. Pierno asked about the reduction in speakers. She was surprised that the number was down instead of up, given the increasing problems with heroin on Long Island.

Mr. Murray said that they are using more free services from the county. He also said that Ms. Lasher is now coordinating the pre-prom program.

Mrs. Lieberman thought that “no cost” was wonderful.

Mrs. Schulman asked about new courses based on enrollment numbers.

Mr. Murray responded that the list that was provided was Board approved, but due to lack of student interest, not all will be running.

Ms. Gierasch noticed two foreign language students in the Power Point presentation and wanted to mention that they made a video promoting the French language in which they won a monetary award.

Research

Ms. Lasher spoke of the Research/Media budget. She stated that the budget is increasing.

Pupil Personnel Services

Ms. Becker spoke of the Pupil Personnel budget. She stated that their budget is increasing by 7.3%.

Discussion:

Mrs. Schulman questioned one of the decreases in a budget code. She also asked about the reduction in ABA.

Ms. Becker responded.

Mrs. Schulman spoke of the many wonderful benefits in regards to TAG and SOS.

Mrs. Lieberman also questioned a budget code.

Ms. Becker responded.

Mrs. Bernstein asked if, there was a contingency plan for those 2 codes.

Mr. Ruf responded that there was.

Mrs. Rothman asked about the ultimate goal of declassification and what is the rate for that.

Ms. Becker stated that it is a goal of Special Ed. for a student not to be in Special Ed. She will get back to the Board with those figures.

BOCES

Mr. Ruf reviewed this code.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pierno asked about the library databases we use through BOCES.

Ms. Gierasch said that Scholastic, Capstone and Brain Pop are a few.

District wide

Mr. Ruf reviewed this code.

Undistributed/Benefits/Debt

Mr. Ruf reviewed this code.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pierno asked about increase in the food service. She thought that it was self funding.

Mr. Ruf stated that it was for kitchen upgrades. He also said that it would be a good idea to look at the kitchens when they do the school walk- through.

Mrs. Rothman asked about any savings from the energy contracts, and what else can be done.

Mr. Ruf replied that in the beginning there were, but over time, it's not as cost effective. He also stated that Mr. Ward is in contact with PSEG and they are also working with Johnson Controls to see what else can be done.

Mrs. Lieberman asked about the burners and if we are locked into a gas contract.

Mr. Ruf stated that the burners are being replaced and there is one new boiler in each building, and for the most part they are the original boilers. He stated that we have converted to natural gas. He also said that we are part of a co-op that has us locked in to preferred pricing.

Revenue/Tax Levy

Mr. Ruf reviewed this code.

Discussion:

Mrs. Bernstein asked if that included the childcare transfer.

Mr. Ruf said "yes".

Staffing

Dr. Eagen reviewed this code.

Discussion:

Mrs. Schulman asked about the new ABA class and if we have the personnel to step into that class.

Dr. Eagen said that we do.

Mr. Greenberg stated that he felt uncomfortable waiting until the summer to decide if there will be another first grade class. He also expressed his concerns about the cuts in XR and other programs.

Dr. Lewis stated that if the number warrants, they will add another class. She feels that there will be no concerns in regard to hiring someone. She also expressed that she is committed to the class sizes being equal across the district.

Mrs. Lieberman asked about the two classes with high numbers at Pasadena. She also asked how we can deliver health in the middle schools through Phy. Ed.

Dr. Lewis stated that they were, and that they will put that staffing increase in the budget amendment.

Mrs. Schulman questioned if the ICT teacher was needed, and do we have someone to step into the ABA class at the K-Center.

Dr. Eagen replied that there will be.

Mrs. Lieberman questioned the decrease by .3 in English.

Dr. Eagen stated that it was attributed more to electives.

Mrs. Pierno asked about any changes to the non- instructional staff.

Dr. Eagen stated that there were no changes.

Mrs. Pierno asked about AIS staffing and how we will determine the needs of the students.

Ms. Gierasch said that the budget is flat and that they are following the same procedure as last year. She stated that we will be providing the same level of support even though the State does not require it. She also said that the AIS policy is on the web-site. She added that there is an increase in student referrals, and explained how we are obligated to follow through with those requests.

Mrs. Lieberman asked about the three teachers in reserve. She feels that two are already spoken for and she is not comfortable with leaving just one in reserve.

Mrs. Rothman asked about the sub-code and are we looking to reduce it. She also questioned if we could use this code to fund the reserve teacher now that the teachers will be pulled out less for staff development due to the Common Core. She asked if we could decrease that code now.

Dr. Eagen responded.

Mrs. Pierno asked about using teachers and librarians with free periods to cover classes.

Ms. Gierasch stated that they will be doing less pulling out for staff development for the teacher's in K-8, but there will be an increase in staff development in the high school. She stated that the librarians do cover CSE classes in their free periods.

Mr. Greenberg said that he was happy to see an increase in the security guards. He asked if the increase was in the hours.

Dr. Eagen explained how the funding changed.

Dr. Lewis said that in terms of elementary extra-help, they will need to consider the need for a.m. security.

Mrs. Lieberman spoke of the extra security needed on voting and Election day.

Mrs. Pierno asked about using teachers with free periods to cover classes.

Mrs. Bernstein asked about the reversal of the hiatus in overnight trips and if we will need to put money back into that code. She also suggested that maybe we should have another Board meeting before we adopt the budget April 9th, so that the public can share their concerns. She stated that she just wants it done right.

Dr. Lewis stated that we don't have to adopt the budget that night, but then we are on vacation.

Mrs. Lieberman asked if we should have a public hearing before April 9th. She stated that they already know that some of the codes already have changes.

Public Participation

Emry Granat and Carley Schindler presented to the Board a Proposal for the Mixed Choir International Tour for 2015.

Mr. Bill Becker spoke as a parent of a child who went on the trip a few years ago. He thanked the Board and Administration for their ongoing support of the music department. He expressed his full support for the Choir Trip.

Mr. Ben Becker went to Italy as a POB student, and read a poem he wrote detailing his experiences.

Mr. Jacque Wolfner expressed his budget concerns.

Routine Business

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Rothman, seconded by Mr. Greenberg that the Board of Education approve the following routine business items:

1. Students

Student Placements

That the Board of Education approve the student placements as recommended by Pupil Personnel Services.

2. Personnel

Professional Staff – Extension of Leave of Absence With-out Pay

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>
Jeannine Gulli-Kachuba	Special Ed. Teacher Mattlin MS	Child Care	3/31/ 14 thru 6/30/14
Valerie Zaffers	Guidance Counselor POBMS	Child Care	4/7/14 thru 5/4/14

Professional Staff – Regular Substitute Position

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Danielle Gioe	Reading Teacher Regular Substitute Stratford Road (Replacing D. Futterman on Leave of Absence)	3/31/14 thru 6/30/14	Step 1MA \$62,396 (salary to be prorated)
Laura Ok	Guidance Counselor Regular Substitute POBMS (Replacing V. Zaffers on Leave of Absence)	4/7/14 thru 5/2/14	Step 1 MA +GUID \$62,396+\$428 (salary to be prorated)

Non-Teaching Personnel – Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>
Gino Corrado	Custodian POBMS	Retirement	3/1/14

Non-Teaching Personnel – Leave of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>
Justin Lazaro	Special Ed. Teachers Aide POB JFKHS	Personal	3/24/14 thru 1/31/15
Leeann Pallotta	Special Ed. Teachers Aide 6hrs. Stratford Road	Leave Replacement	3/31/14 thru 6/30/14

Non-Teaching Personnel – Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Marcy Allen	School Monitor Part Time Cafeteria 2hrs. Stratford Road	3/18/14	\$6,998.40 (salary to be prorated)

(Replacing E. Eilberg who took
another position in the District)

Personnel Recommendation- Parent University Facilitators/Workers
2013-14 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Stacey Rogers	Facilitator	13-14 School Year	\$54.84/hr.	4.5

Personnel Recommendation – In District Facilitators- 2013-14 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Amanda Maltese	Facilitator	2013-14 School Year	\$54.84/hr	1
Sherri Winick	Facilitator	2013-14 School Year	\$54.84/hr	1

Coaching Recommendations – 2013-14 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Cat/Lev.</u>	<u>Eff.</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Troy Casamassina	Asst. Coach, JV Mens Lacrosse	8 1	3/10/14	\$3750.24
Colin Jones	Head Coach, JV Mens Lacrosse	7 1	3/10/14	\$4197.96 (salary to be prorated)

3. Finance

a. Budget Reports

That the Board of Education approve the following:

- Informational Transfers as of March 12, 2014
- Budget Status Report as of December 31, 2013
- Revenue Status Report as of December 31, 2013
- Quarterly Vendor Report as of December 31, 2013

b. Treasurer Reports

That the Board of Education approve the following:

- Treasurer's Report for December, 2013
- Trial Balance as of December 31, 2013
- Cash Flow Projection as of December 31, 2013

New Business

1. Additional Staff Development Courses - 2013/2014

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Bernstein seconded by Mrs. Rothman that the Board of Education approve the following additional staff development courses for the 2013/2014 school year:

- Choice Words- How Our Own Language Affects Children's Learning
- File Management: It's Time for a "Spring Cleaning"
- Checking out your Inbox in Microsoft Outlook

2. Middle School Regents Review Classes- 2013-2014

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Bernstein, seconded by Mrs. Schulman that the Board of Education approve the following additional Middle School Regents Review courses for the 2013/2014 school year:

Regents Math

Two, 1.5 hour sessions – Algebra (for the Common Core Regents)

Four, 1.5 hour sessions – Integrated Algebra (for the old Algebra Regents)

Regents Science

Three, 1 hour sessions Earth Science

3. POBJFKHS Courses Under 15 Students – 2014-2015

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Schulman, seconded by Mrs. Bernstein that the Board of Education approve the following Under 15 courses listed on the memo from Mr. Murray dated on March 13, 2014, for the 2014/2015 School Year.

Discussion:

Mrs. Schulman asked about the Chinese class not running at the High School, and if there were any staffing implications associated with that.

Dr. Eagen stated that for the most part no.

Mrs. Schulman asked about Chinese at the Middle Schools.

Ms. Gierasch stated that it's running at the fifth grade level.

Mrs. Pierno said that it is disappointing that the enrollment is low in the college courses.

4. Employment Stipulation

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Bernstein, seconded by Mr. Greenberg that the Board of Education approve the following Employment Stipulation.

Executive Session

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Bernstein seconded by Mrs. Rothman that the Board of Education recess to Executive Session for the matter of personnel items.

The meeting was recessed at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Tyler
District Clerk

Approved: _____
Ginger Lieberman, President