

Minutes of School Board Meeting – February 24, 2014

Board Room - Administration Building – Mattlin Middle School

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

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

Acting District Clerk

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Rothman, seconded by Mrs. Pierno 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 3 district residents and staff members present.

Mrs. Lieberman called the Public hearing for Veteran's Tax Exemption to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There were approximately 25 district residents and staff members present.

Mrs. Lieberman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mrs. Lieberman thanked everyone for coming out on this cold evening.

Board Announcements

Mrs. Rothman spoke about the unique experience at the High School today. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand met with students at the High School and spoke about her plans to promote STEM education.

Dr. Lewis applauded Ms. Barry; she said without her it wouldn't have happened.

Mrs. Lieberman wanted to bring awareness to a web site promoting suicide. She said that so far 9 children have committed suicide. She asked that parents be aware of what their children are doing on the computer.

Mrs. Pierno mentioned that Friday is the kick-off for Relay for Life.

Mr. Bettan mentioned Parent University which is being held next Tuesday March 4, 2014.

Superintendent's Announcements

Dr. Lewis spoke about the chili cook-off which had to be canceled after Newsday ran a story about it and the Health Commissioner got wind and started questioning where the food was coming from and if the temperatures would be getting checked.

Dr. Lewis mentioned that we still have one snow day left.

Dr. Lewis spoke about the letters that went out to the parents regarding the Algebra extra help sessions. She wanted to thank the teachers for the extra time they are putting in.

Reports

Common Core Adjustments

Dr. Lewis spoke about the Board of Regents findings in regards to the Common Core adjustments. She stated the only delay is the pass rate and that as of now the pass rate will still be 65, but the exams will be much more rigorous and that the class of 2022 will be held to the new pass rate which will be 75 for English and 80 for Math.

Mr. Bettan asked if it was a real 65 or if it was on a curve.

Dr. Lewis said that it will be much harder to get a 65 on the exams.

Mrs. Lieberman stated that it is an election year and now would be a great time to advocate.

Mrs. Rothman said “strength in numbers”.

Dr. Lewis stated that the level two for third through eighth grade is now on track for meeting the regents passing rate. She did note that services will still be offered at that level.

Middle School Reports

Dr. Lewis was asked at the August 12th Board of Education meeting to look into the inequity between the two Middle Schools. She spoke of the committee that was formed. She stated that it was not possible for this to happen this school year. She spoke of some of the challenges, possible solutions and costs. Of all of the proposals she recommends proposal #1 the Principals’ Plan. She will convene a committee to review and will report the finding to the Board in October 2014.

Discussion

Mr. Bettan stated that if the K-Center should be closed he feels that the savings should be used creating a much needed ninth period in the High School. He feels we need to look at the bigger picture.

Mrs. Rothman said that there should be a committee to determine a lot of the factors including the impact on the staff if the K-Center closes. She also asked about the Governors plan for Pre-K and the use of the K-Center for that.

Mr. Greenberg agreed with Mr. Bettan on looking at the “big picture”. He thanked everyone involved in the comprehensive report. He felt that proposal # 6 would be more effective and accomplish the goal. He feels that eliminating the K-Center would have additional benefits such as eliminating transition and it will open up space if needed for Pre-K. He does agree that proposal # 1, tweaked as Dr. Lewis said, does address the issue.

Mrs. Lieberman feels that a plan should be in place by September. She spoke to someone in Albany and they feel Pre-K will happen. She stated how lucky we are to have the room.

Mrs. Pierno questioned proposal # 1 and the dismissal time in regards to the athletic buses.

Mr. Braico stated that the buses will leave 10 minutes earlier on game days and that the buses will be held until everyone is on them. He also stated that there will be no additional cost to the district.

Mrs. Pierno would like to see the extra - curricular activities monitored.

Dr. Lewis stated that the activities will be monitored.

Mrs. Bernstein feels it would be ideal for both Middle Schools to be on the same time schedule.

Dr. Lewis stated that she needs direction from the Board on what to do.

Mrs. Lieberman asked for a sense from the Board and they agreed to move ahead with Proposal #1 for the 2014-15 school year, with an agreement to review in October. Proposals #6 &10 should be further considered and a committee should be formed. She thanked everyone.

Social Media

Mrs. Lieberman stated that they met with the P.R. firm about having a Facebook page and asked for comments from the Board.

Discussion:

Mr. Greenberg first wanted to thank Mrs. Bernstein for the idea. He feels that it is a good way to reach out to the community and he is in full favor. He expressed a few concerns including, which site we would use, what we would use it for, announcements, updates, etc. He also wanted clarification on how it would be administered, in – house or out sourced, and what the cost would be.

Mr. Bettan noted that he is for it, but feels we should proceed with caution. In regards to video or audio streaming he feels that audio would be good.

Mrs. Pierno agrees with both Mr. Greenberg and Mr. Bettan; she also feels that it can mirror what we do with Twitter.

Mrs. Schulman is concerned that it could be used as a bully pulpit. She also stated that we look to see what other schools are doing.

Mrs. Rothman stated it would be a great communication tool. She also feels that the Board should proceed with caution.

Mrs. Bernstein stated that she is clearly in favor of using Facebook; she feels it is a great way to communicate with the community.

Mrs. Lieberman responded that it will be put on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

Budget Presentations

Dr. Lewis spoke about the “Points of Pride” and all its ingredients such as great kids and a great staff that go into it. She spoke about fitting all the pieces together, that’s what the budget is about.

Mr. Ruf stated that enrollment is projected to go down slightly. He also spoke about the Real Property Tax Freeze and how that is a game changer. He mentioned the Tax Cap Levy Limit which is 1.69%.

Dr. Lewis spoke about the distinguished aspects of POB, including small class size and the many enrichment experiences. She spoke of the challenges but how we are still able to maintain that level.

Budget Presentations- Elementary Schools

Ms. Alison Clark started the presentation with an overview of all the Elementary Schools. She spoke of the support for the students and the professional staff. She mentioned all of the community building efforts within all of the schools. She spoke about the curriculum, social and emotional learning and of the whole child experience.

Kindergarten Center

Ms. Fran Leiboff stated that the budget for the Kindergarten Center decreased by 2.3%. She stated that most of the classroom updates have been done.

Discussion:

Mrs. Lieberman asked how many classrooms still need the square tables.

Ms. Leiboff said that only one classroom remains.

Parkway

Ms. Ronelle Hershkowitz stated that Parkway's budget is being increased by 0.8%. She mentioned the use of personal white boards, and putting in classroom libraries. She also stated that the copy machines are being serviced a few times a week.

Discussion:

Mr. Ruf commented on that.

Old Bethpage

Ms. Suzanne Gray stated that the budget for Old Bethpage decreased by 6.9%. This is due to the fact that as of now Old-Bethpage is down one class. She mentioned that the equipment costs were up due to the cost of STEAM equipment and a new school camera.

Stratford Road

Ms. Alison Clark stated that Pasadena's budget is being reduced by 1.7%. She mentioned that consumable costs in the classroom keep increasing.

Pasadena

Ms. Paulette Miller stated that Pasadena's budget is being increased by 3.5%. She stated that enrollment is projected to go up and that she will be adding a least one class.

Discussion:

Mrs. Rothman thanked the Principals; she was happy to hear from each of them. She wanted to hear more about STEAM, as it was one of the Board's goals.

Ms. Miller responded that the schools are exploring some of the project based activities. She also stated that the district is providing grant money. They will be attending a STEAM conference in March.

Mrs. Lieberman stated that STEAM is a board goal and she wants them to have the supplies that they need to get started. She stated that it was a marvelous presentation.

Curriculum

Ms. Gierasch stated the Curriculum budget increased by 0.7%. She spoke about the Curriculum Points of Pride, including new instructional materials, staff development and how the district is providing several workshops for the parents.

Discussion:

Mr. Bettan spoke about going forward and keeping a running total of money spent in regards to STEAM.

Mrs. Pierno asked about concerns in regards to teachers being pulled out of the classroom for staff development.

Ms. Gierasch stated that some development needs to be done out of the classroom, but there is more push in.

Mr. Greenberg asked about extra help on the elementary level and if it is in the budget.

Dr. Lewis said that it is not in the budget. They would need to know how many teachers would be needed.

Mr. Greenberg said that he would like to see more discussions during the next few budget meetings.

Mrs. Lieberman stated that they should start a discussion, maybe starting with two teachers per grade level.

Dr. Lewis responded that it would be a minimum \$75,000, and it is not in the budget but she will wait for the Board to give direction.

Human Resources

Dr. Eagen spoke about the increase of 40% to the budget. He stated that much of the increase was due to extra legal fees because of an increase in litigation and impartial hearings.

Discussion:

Mrs. Lieberman questioned the legal fee increase.

Ms. Aloe stated that it was not for the retainer, but as Dr. Eagen, stated extra services.

Mr. Bettan stated that it was a large increase.

Mr. Guerico replied that the Board has been aware of the separate charges. The increase has spiked in the last 18 months due to litigation, real estate, Special Education.

Mr. Bettan asked Mr. Guerico if in regard to litigation are we trending with the other districts he represents.

Mr. Guerico said it was a great question, and that the district is on the good end with a varied approach.

Board of Education and District Clerk

Mr. Ruf stated the Board of Education and District Clerk code increased by 1.8%.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pierno asked in regard to board docs if we have saved anything.

Mr. Ruf replied that there has not been much of a reduction.

Superintendent's Code

Mr. Ruf stated the Superintendent's code increased by 14.3%.

Business Office

Mr. Ruf stated the Business Office budget has increased by 3.3%.

Public Participation

Ms. Kim Luxenberg wanted to thank everyone for the great information on the budget. She updated the Board on the happenings with the PTA.

K-Center finished up PARP week; the theme was sweet treat. They are looking forward to family circus.

Stratford is getting ready for PARP week; the guest author will be Brain Pinkney. During PARP week along with Parkway they will also be collecting new and used books. Another community service project is "Birthday Wishes"; they will be collecting new toys to give to children in shelters.

Old Bethpage's Drama Club will be performing "Annie" on March 7th.

Parkway also had author Douglas Florian. As a gift from the PTA each child received a signed poetry book.

Pasadena's 3rd. grade classes will be hosting a Hoedown.

JFKHS is looking forward to "Sing" on March 14th & 15th. Good luck to the Deca kids next week.

Septa will have a presentation Wednesday night to discuss diploma requirements.

Ms. Cheryl Dender asked if our buildings have carbon monoxide monitors.

Mr. Ruf replied that we have some in certain areas and we are checking all other areas.

Ms. Dender thanked everyone for the great budget report presentations; she wanted to comment on the XR report and is happy that even with some cuts to the program it worked out. Her concern is the turn from development to literacy.

Ms. Nina Melzer echoed her concerns as well. She also feels that in closing the K-Center the impact of overcrowding would be felt by all the children.

Ms. Lauren Shulruff asked how much time was being set aside for algebra test prep.

Ms. Gierasch stated that in the next month and a half they should have the specific time frame.

Mr. Scott Limmer wanted to thank Dr. Lewis for meeting with him and other parents last week. He thought it made sense to wait for guidance from the State in regards to opting out. He still believes Facebook is a good idea.

Ms. Stephanie Horn asked about the online resources available to the 8th grade in algebra.

Ms. Gierasch stated that the teachers would better know which program would be best for each student.

Ms. Lori Bookspan voiced her concerns in regards to losing February break.

Routine Business

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Rothman, seconded by Mrs. Schulman 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 – Changes of Status

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRESENT POSITION</u>	<u>PROPOSED POSITION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	<u>NEW SALARY</u>
Ellen Feldman	.2 ESL Teacher/ Parkway	.37 ESL Teacher/ Parkway-OB	2/25/14	\$24,180.61 (to be prorated)

Non-Teaching Personnel - Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>
Dominick Giglio	Security Aide – 8 hours POB JFK HS	Personal reasons	2/27/14 Close of business

Non-Teaching Personnel – Permanent Recommendations

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Carlos Ares	Security Aide – POB JFK High School	3/1/2014
Paige Iorio	Special Ed. Teacher Aide – Stratford Road	3/4/2014
Christine Ricca	Registered Nurse – Old Bethpage	3/2/2014
Nicholas Tomasulo	Teacher Aide – POB Middle School	3/4/2014
Joseph Weinstein	Teacher Aide – POB Middle School	3/5/2014
Michael Wood	Security Aide – POB JFK High School	3/1/2014
Andrew Ward	Director of School Facilities & Operations II	3/14/2014

Non-Teaching Personnel – Leave of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>
Mirella Gilhooly	Special Ed. Teacher Aide 6.5 hrs. Mattlin M.S	1/2/14 – 3/23/14 (up to 12 weeks under FMLA)

NOTE: Please rescind the January 13, 2014 Board of Education sheet for Mirella Gilhooly.

Non-Teaching Personnel – Probationary Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Lisa Colella	Senior Typist Clerk POBJFK High School 12 months position	2/05/2014	\$43,913. Step 3 (prorated)

(Replacing C. Amato who transferred
to another position)

NOTE: Please rescind the January 27, 2014 Board of Education sheet for Lisa Colella
Lisa Colella is taking leave of absence from the Computer Teacher Aide position while serving
in the probationary appointment

Non-Teaching Personnel – Return from Leave of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Leeann Pallotta	Special Ed. Teacher Aide 6 hours Stratford Road School	March 4, 2014	\$23,218.68 (prorated)

Non-Teaching Personnel – Change of Status

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRESENT POSITION</u>	<u>PROPOSED POSITION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	<u>NEW SALARY</u>
Ellen Eilberg	School Monitor PT 2hrs. Stratford Road \$6,998.40	Special Ed. Teacher Aide 6.25hrs. Stratford Road	2/25/14	\$24,186.13 (prorated)

Personnel Recommendation – Math Review Classes- 2013-14 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Hours</u>
<u>JFKHS</u>				
Kevin Smith	HS	2013-14 School year	1.333 (own hr. rate)	10.5
<u>Mattlin MS</u>				
Jacqueline Impennato	gr. 7-10	2013-14 School year	1.333 (own hr. rate)	10.5
Christine Selletti	gr. 6	2013-14 School year	1.333 (own hr. rate)	3.5
<u>POBMS</u>				
Marjorie Alford	gr. 6	2013-14 School Year	1.333 (own hr. rate)	3.5
Lorraine Charletta	gr. 6	2013-14 School Year	1.333 (own hr. rate)	3.5
Jodi Goldstein	gr. 8	2013-14 School Year	1.333 (own hr. rate)	10.5
Lisa Markowicz Abel	gr. 8	2013-14 School Year	1.333 (own hr. rate)	10.5

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Workshop</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Linda Ferrante	Registration	Parent University	2013-14	Hr. rate	3hrs.
Bonnie McGowan	Registration	Parent University	2013-14	1.5 hr. rate	3hrs.

Personnel Recommendation- AP Proctors 2013-14 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Brent, Margaret	Proctor	2013-14 School Year	\$162.63
Cavadias, Denise	"	"	\$149.25
Cohen, Sheila	"	"	\$162.63
Feldman, Ellen	"	"	\$162.63
Goldberg, Marcia	"	"	\$162.63
Gould, Arlene	"	"	\$162.63
Himmelstein, Virginia	"	"	\$162.63
Lee, Susan	"	"	\$155.99
Metzler, Ronald	"	"	\$162.63
Rozof-Guber, Linda	"	"	\$162.63
Sena, Thomas	"	"	\$142.73
Scarr, Eleanor	"	"	\$162.63
Schenck, William	"	"	\$155.99
Shevitz, Linda	"	"	\$149.25
Struhl, Marsha	"	"	\$162.63
Vargo, Laura	"	"	\$162.63
Weber, Gail	"	"	\$162.63

Coaching Rescissions 2013-14 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>
James Horan	Head Coach, MS Softball	Immediately

NOTE: Please rescind the January 13, 2014 Board of Education sheet for James Horan

Coaching Recommendations 2013-14 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Cat/Lev</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Troy Casamassina	Asst Coach, MS Mens Lacrosse	3-14	10 1	\$2787
Lisa Swierkowski	Head Coach, MS Softball	3-14	9 2	\$3854

Personnel Recommendation Chaperones

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Patricia Lozada	Chaperone Fun Time	2013-14 School Year	\$92.17

3. FinanceContract – Health & Welfare Services

That the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board to sign a contract for the 2012/2013 school year with East Meadow U.F.S.D. for a Student who attended the Special Education Program.

b. Donation – Framed Map of USA

That the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of a framed map of the United States of America from 1963.

c. Budget Reports

That the Board of Education approve the following Budget Reports:

- Informational Transfers as of February 1, 2014
- Approval Transfer as of February, 2014
- Budget Status Report as of November 30, 2014
- Revenue Status Report as of November 30, 2014

d. Treasurer Reports

That the Board of Education approve the following Treasurer Reports:

- Treasurer’s Report for November, 2013
- Trial Balance as of November 30, 2013
- Cash Flow Projection as of November 30, 2013

g. Payment of Bills - January 8, 2014

General Fund A	\$2,989,130.16
Trust & Agency	\$2,876,935.40
Federal	\$ 26,530.34
School Lunch	\$ 86,725.65
Capital	\$ 22,156.93
Child Care	\$ 2,601.02
Net Payroll	\$4,059,499.94

4. Miscellaneous

Approval of Minutes

That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting of February 10, 2014.

New Business

1. School Calendar 2015-14

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Rothman, seconded by Mr. Bettan that the Board of Education approve the following school calendar for the 2015/2016 school year:

Discussion:

Dr. Lewis stated that it was an unusual year, Labor Day is late, the Religious holidays are on school days, and Passover and Easter are a month apart. For those reasons there will not be a February break.

2. Amendment to School Calendar 2014-15

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Bernstein, seconded by Mrs. Schulman that the Board of Education approve the following school calendar for the 2014/2015 school year:

3. Field Trips

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Schulman, seconded by Mr. Greenberg that the Board of Education approve the Field Trips noted on the memo dated February 3, 2014.

Discussion:

Mrs. Bernstein asked if during budget time we will be discussing reversing the hiatus on overnights.

4. Circulation of:

Policy # 2210, Committees of the Board

Policy # 2320, Attendance at Conferences, Conventions and Workshops.

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Mrs. Bernstein that the Board of Education approve the following polices for review and comments:

Policy # 2210, Committees of the Board

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mr. Bettan, seconded by Mrs. Schulman that the Board of Education approve the following polices for review and comments:

Policy # 2320, Attendance at Conferences, Conventions and Workshops.

5. Tax Levy Calculation

Tax Levy Limit Calculation – 2014/2015

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Rothman, seconded by Mrs. Schulman that the Board of Education approve the Tax Levy Limit Calculation for 2014/2015 in the amount of \$300,000 or a 1.69% increase.

Discussion:

Mr. Bettan asked if we can look at the Tax Levy.

Mr. Ruf stated that he would look into it.

6. Veteran's Exemption

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Bernstein, seconded by Mrs. Rothman that the Board of Education pass the resolution of Real Property Taxation under Section 458-a:

Resolution

WHEREAS, paragraph (b) of subdivision 7 of section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York allows the District to provide tax exemptions to "Gold Star Parents," as defined by section 458-a, who are owners of qualified real property in the District and such property is the prime residence of such Gold Star Parent, and

WHEREAS, it in the best interest of the community to provide such relief to the Gold Star Parents residing in our District, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education elects to participate in the exemptions afforded to "Gold Star Parents" of Real Tax Law section 458-a, subdivision 7, paragraph (b),

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District adopts the statutory basic maximums as defined by Real Property Tax Law section 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraphs (a) and (b) for its maximums for exemptions of Real Property Tax Law section 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraphs (a) and (b).

Veteran's Exemption (continued)

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mr. Bettan, seconded by Mrs. Pierno that the Board of Education pass the resolution of Real Property Taxation under Section 458-a:

Resolution

WHEREAS, Chapter 518 section 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraph (d), subparagraph (i), of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York, allows the District to provide tax exemptions to certain qualified owners of qualified real property who are veterans, as defined by section 458-a, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the community to provide such relief to the veterans of our District, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education elects to participate in the exemptions of Real Property Tax Law section 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraphs (a), (b), and (c),

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District adopts the statutory basic maximums as defined by Real Property Tax Law section 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) for its maximums for exemptions of Real Property Tax Law section 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraphs (a), (b) and

Executive Session

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

The meeting was recessed at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Tyler
District Clerk

Approved: _____
Ginger Lieberman, President