

Minutes of School Board Meeting – March 2, 2015

Board Room - Administration Building – Mattlin Middle School

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

Also Present: Dr. Lewis, Ms. Gierasch, Dr. Mulieri, Ms. Maddi, Ms. Aloe,
Mr. Mestecky, Mrs. Tyler.

Absent: Mr. Guercio

Mr. Bettan called the meeting to order.

Executive Session

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Rothman, seconded by Mrs. Lieberman that the Board of Education recess to Executive Session to discuss matters regarding personnel.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Tyler
District Clerk

Approved: _____
Gary Bettan, President

There were approximately 110 district residents and staff members present.

Mr. Bettan called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Reports

2015-2016 School Start Times

Dr. Lewis felt that more of an explanation was needed after last week's meeting. She gave an overview on Proposal #11 and of Proposal #1, which was put into place this year, though not as a long term solution. Dr. Lewis noted that the report is on the website.

Discussion:

Mrs. Bernstein thanked Dr. Lewis for reaching out to Ms. Dender in regard to the Waking up With K-Steam Program. She asked if there will be an additional charge and if parents will be notified ahead of time.

Dr. Lewis stated that they are still working out the cost structure. She said that the vendors were ready to move forward. It would be started as a pilot program and parents would be notified ahead of time.

Mrs. Lieberman asked how many students we have in the Farmingdale area and if we could use mini buses.

Dr. Lewis said she would have transportation look into it, but costs would be increased.

Mrs. Rothman asked about the dismissal process.

Dr. Lewis stated that they would dismiss from the K-Center and Stratford, dismissing two buses at a time from each area, cutting the dismissal time in half.

Mr. Bettan thanked all of the SRC stakeholders. He stated that it was no easy task coming up with 11 proposals. He complemented them on a job well done.

Mrs. Schulman stated that many parents are concerned regarding the late start time for the Kindergarteners. She noted, however, that she did a little research on the topic and found that young children actually do better with a late start time.

Mr. Greenberg stated how happy he is that this conversation is being continued from last week. He stated that he is in full support of the middle schools' equity, and the Kindergarteners transitioning to their home schools. He feels that there has been a lot of feedback. Mr. Greenberg stated that missing from the conversation was the fact of actually doing both the Kindergarten transition and the middle school equity at the same time.

He supports the recommendation as a whole and stated that the Board asked for a committee to review this. He pointed out that two years ago, one of the Board's goals was to look into the structure of grades K-8. He stated that the SRC is comprised of many different groups and they spent a lot of time researching the many options. Space has also been identified in the elementary buildings to house the Kindergarteners. It was not something the SRC jumped into lightly. Mr. Greenberg spoke of the enrollment numbers and the demographic survey and how the trend seems to be heading downward. He did note that he has some concerns on the actual transitioning from the K-Center to the home schools and he is looking forward to seeing that actual plan.

Mr. Greenberg noted that tonight, under Unfinished Business, he plans to set forth a motion to adopt Proposal #11, as a three part plan; one, middle schools with the same start time, two, to have the Board approve the K-Center transition part of the plan, and to have the plan created this year, and three, to expand the charge of the SRC, not just to look into a ninth period, but to take a look at the whole K-12 structure. He feels that they need to give the SRC a clear direction for moving forward.

Mrs. Lieberman expressed her concerns and stated that parents and teachers have a right to ask questions. She asked if there was any chance of offering services (OT, PT etc.) to children who receive them in the mornings.

Mr. Bettan stated that they should make a decision and move forward to a solution.

Budget Presentations

Dr. Lewis and Ms. Maddi gave an overview on the Superintendent's Proposed Budget.

Dr. Lewis stated that all of the budget presentations are on the web-site.

Technology

Dr. Lodico spoke about Technology's Points of Pride. He stated that the budget is being increased by 67.8%.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pierno asked if with all of the new laptops, tablets and equipment, do we have enough infrastructure to support them now? She asked about Smart School Bonds.

Dr. Lodico stated that they were addressing the cabling now and with the bond they will have the funds to address all the infrastructures. He stated as of the 2015-16 school year they will be able to handle the upgrades for the 5th & 6th grades. He said that Smart School Bonds are in the works, and there is no time limit on spending it.

Mrs. Lieberman asked when we will be at 100% on the interactive white boards. She asked for more information on the middle school music labs.

Dr. Lodico said that they will be at 100% sometime next year.

Mr. Golbert gave an overview of the music labs.

Mrs. Rothman spoke of the 1:1 initiative with tablets, and the benefit of getting those tablets to the teachers months before and to offer teacher training and staff development. She asked if we are planning for computer based testing.

Dr. Lodico said they were planning on getting the 5th & 6th teachers their tablets in the summer and then perhaps doing a summer institute. He said there will be a natural progression with the computer based testing.

Mr. Bettan asked if perhaps they could get the devices to the teachers six months before the start of the school year so that when September comes along they can hit the ground running.

Ms. Gierasch stated that they will get the devices to the teachers as soon as they can and they will offer staff development.

Athletics

Mr. Braico spoke about the Athletics' Points of Pride. He stated that the budget is being increased by 0.7%.

Discussion:

Mrs. Lieberman asked about the helmet replacement and if the coaches were trained to properly fit the athletes.

Mr. Braico said that the coaches are taught how to properly fit the helmets and have all participated in the Heads up Concussion Program. Each year they send the equipment out to be reconditioned.

Mrs. Lieberman expressed her feelings concerning the Pride Survey, stating that she was not in favor of it. She asked if there was something else they could use.

Mr. Braico said that he would look into it.

Mrs. Bernstein asked how they determine uniform replacement.

Mr. Braico said that they typically turn over the varsity uniforms every three years and turn them over to JV. In the middle school it's every five years since they don't have as many games.

Mrs. Schulman asked about baseline concussion testing.

Mr. Braico stated that there was nothing mandated for baseline testing.

Mrs. Pierno asked if they budgeted for cheerleading now that it is recognized as a sport. She also asked about the numbers for Friday Night Rec. now that they are charging a \$5.00 fee.

Mr. Braico said that they have always budgeted for cheerleading. He said that the numbers for Friday Night Rec. in Mattlin have gone down and have increased at POBMS. They are looking for ways to bring in more students.

Mrs. Schulman left the room at 8:29, she returned at 8:30.

Art

Dr. Chen spoke about the Art Department's Points of Pride. She stated that the budget is being increased by 3.5%.

Private and Parochial Textbooks

Ms. Maddi stated that the budget for Private and Parochial textbooks is decreasing by 1.1%.

4th R

Ms. Maddi stated that the 4th R's budget is decreasing by 14.4%.

Discussion:

Mr. Bettan asked if that number included the model for the a.m. K-Center enrichment program.

Ms. Maddi stated not at this time, but it can always be added.

Adult Education

Ms. Maddi stated that the Adult Education's budget is decreasing 1.8%.

Senior Citizens

Ms. Maddi stated that the budget was being increased by 9.8%.

Library

Ms. Tellone spoke about the Libraries' Points of Pride. She stated that the budget is being increased by 24.6%.

Discussion:

Mrs. Schulman asked about data bases, and how the plan was moving forward.

Ms. Tellone stated that the district will be making those purchases. Originally they thought they would be able to access them through the public library, but the students would not be able to have remote access.

Mrs. Pierno asked about the tablets in the library. She questioned whether they would be on a cart so that they could be used when either the library was closed or the class in there wasn't using them.

Ms. Tellone said that it has not been discussed, but it sounds like a good idea.

Mrs. Rothman asked about nooks.

Ms. Tellone said that they will not be purchasing anymore nooks. They will be able to use the tablets as e-readers. She thanked the Board for their on-going support.

Music

Mr. Golbert spoke about the Music Points of Pride. He stated that the budget is being increased by 13.1%.

Discussion:

Mr. Bettan noted that it was a great idea to purchase more instruments. He would even like to see the Board increase that number.

Mr. Golbert stated that it would be a great investment especially for the instruments which are harder to rent.

Mrs. Rothman asked how much the instruments cost.

Mr. Golbert stated that it varies tremendously.

Pupil Personnel Services

Mrs. Becker gave an overview on the Pupil Personnel budget. She stated that the budget is decreasing by 5.3%.

Discussion:

Mrs. Schulman noted how wonderful it is too see the list of the IEP graduates going to college. She stated this does not even include all of the students that have been declassified over the years. She added what a great accomplishment it is. Mrs. Schulman questioned summer school for in-districts students only.

Mrs. Becker stated that this is not new. They have not been taking any new, out of district students, as the students in the program age out. They do so many wonderful activities with the students and the costs are not being covered by the State Aide.

Mrs. Bernstein questioned the addition of the middle school psychologist.

Mrs. Becker stated that there has been an increased need in the middle schools.

Transportation/Field Trips

Ms. Eiring gave an overview on the Transportation and field trip budget. She stated that the budget is increasing by 2.3%.

Discussion:

Mr. Greenberg commented on the need for improved customer service regarding transportation issues. He said that many times it's the parent's first experience with the district. He said that he fully understands that the first few weeks of school are difficult, but the office needs to be mindful and patient.

Mr. Bettan stated that maybe they need extra training or additional staff in those first few weeks of school. It's all about customer service. He asked about CPI and why the budget for it is so high.

Dr. Lewis said that the CPI number will be revisited.

Mrs. Pierno asked if the field trips were for all grades. She questioned security concerns.

Ms. Eiring responded that yes the field trips are for all grades and that security issues will be covered under the bond.

Mrs. Bernstein asked if there was money in the budget for overnight field trips.

Dr. Lewis stated, yes there is.

Building & Grounds/ Transfer Capital

Mr. Ward spoke of the Building and Grounds Points of Pride.

Discussion:

Dr. Lewis mentioned that they will be honoring the B&G crews for all of their hard work this winter on May 21st.

Mrs. Schulman asked about the generator. She is very happy that the POBMS generator is up and running, especially since this school serves as the Red Cross shelter.

Mrs. Rothman questioned the fuel code. She feels that the costs should have decreased.

Mr. Ward stated that they have two more vehicles.

Mrs. Rothman asked about recycling.

Mr. Ward stated that they do some recycling, but not very much with “kitchen garbage”.

Mr. McNamara stated that they were working with a vendor, but have now stopped using them. He is looking to find another vendor.

Mrs. Lieberman asked if we had enough salt and sand, and money for patching holes.

Mr. Ward responded “yes”.

Mrs. Pierno asked about the air quality issue at POBMS’s main office.

Mr. Ward said that it will be addressed this summer.

Mr. Bettan asked if the Board could get a full report on all the ongoing Bond/Capital Reserve projects, before they adopt the budget.

Public Participation

Ms. Judy Nelson expressed her concerns about the K-Center dismissal procedure.

Ms. Isaacson-Klein asked if the parents are aware of the redistricting. She also stated that it is very common that parents have children in different schools.

Mr. Bettan stated that there will be no redistricting; it’s not even part of the discussion.

Ms. Debbie Goldmeier spoke of the benefits of teaching out of a classroom as opposed to teaching from a cart. She stated how excited the students are to come to her classroom.

Dr. Lewis stated that she will still be teaching in a classroom. She will be going to the students’ classrooms instead of the students going to her.

Ms. Michele D'Esposito spoke of her concerns in regard to the time change at the K-Center. She asked if the 4R program will be opened to all of the Kindergarten students. She stated that the computer lab only has 23 computers, which could be an issue depending on how many students are attending the program. She spoke of her concerns regarding dismissal and students receiving the same support they are receiving now.

Mr. Rosenfeld commented.

Mr. Bettan stated that the goal is to provide the same, if not better, services for all of the students.

Mrs. Lieberman said that she would like to hold a public forum so that all questions can be answered.

Ms. Shari Corn stated that at last week's meeting there were concerns that the information was not reaching the parents. She stated that the parents are well aware of the proposals, and that all of the concerns have been brought to the table and addressed by the SRC committee.

Ms. Lori Bricker asked about the Elementary extra help. She would love to see each teacher offering it to their own classes. She would be happy to see it offered in the 3 & 4th grades.

Ms. Sharon Levine thanked the Board for last week's meeting. She spoke about the Chinese program. She hopes that they will do away with it and add another program, possibly coding. She stated that she, her children and many other families are dissatisfied with the program.

Ms. Susan Stewart expressed her thanks to the Board and the SRC for Proposal #11. She feels that finally they are being heard.

Ms. Laura Campbell thanked the SRC for listening and addressing the issues.

Mr. Craig Kirchenberg feels that they are relieving one burden for students, only to place it onto another group of students.

Ms. Linda Kagen spoke of the rigor of the Common Core. She stated while testing can be of value, these tests do not serve the students' needs. She stated that we should save the students from the pressure of all of these exams.

Ms. Nancy Klein shared a story of one of her students. She feels that the curriculum needs to be well-balanced and stimulating to inspire lifelong learners.

Ms. Stefanie Nelkens believes that nothing will be perfect, but it's important that there be the least amount of differences between the middle schools. She feels that this is an easy fix. She would like to see more outreach to the public.

Ms. Donna Lupia feels that some of the issues will be fixed with Proposal #11, but there are still inequities. She feels that the students at Mattlin will be spending more time in the building than those at POBMS. She stated that there are many rumors being spread.

Ms. Paula Barsky thanked all of the Mattlin parents who came tonight. She feels that POB offers a great education and many other opportunities that other districts do not provide. She's happy that the middle schools will be on the same schedule.

Ms. Kathy Rea noted that the SRC worked very hard to resolve the inequities so that every student may have the same opportunity. She spoke of all of the e-mail blasts that went out to the POB community. She stated that she did an informal poll of the surrounding preschools, and most start in the area of 9:00. She stated that March was PTA lobby month, and the PTA will be sending out a blast to get people to contact their legislators.

Mr. Rosenfeld talked about the original committee and how the focus was only on the middle school inequities. He feels that the Superintendent had another agenda and that was closing the K-Center. He feels that by justifying this they can save money and add a 9th period class. He feels that the process was dishonest.

Mr. Bettan stated that everyone has worked very hard. Mr. Rosenfeld had a fit when the PCT didn't like what was happening, so they just up and left the committee. He stated that there is no "secret" agenda. He suggested that they should have a constructive discussion to move the district forward.

Mr. Rosenfeld stated that he will not be part of something rigged.

Ms. Diane Collins said that the SRC committee had no hidden agendas. She said that most of the information that was brought to them was then brought to the table. She stated that there was full transparency during the process.

Ms. Susan Stewart feels that the students are stressed having to make choices; most want to do it all. She feels that we are stifling them by not having a 9th period day. She applauds the decision.

Routine Business

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Bernstein 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

Administrative Personnel Recommendation-Probationary Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Jennifer Segui	Business Administrator 12 month work year	4/15/15	\$118,000 (salary to be prorated as per terms & conditions)

Replacing S. Maddi who accepted Assistant Superintendent for Business position

Eligible for Tenure: April 15, 2018

Professional Staff-Probationary Position

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Laura Ok	Guidance Counselor POBMS	3/3/15	\$62,396+\$428 Step 1MA + GUID (to be prorated)

(Replacing D. Orgonik who resigned)

Eligible for Tenure: September 1, 2017

Mr. Bettan welcomed Ms. Ok.

Professional Staff-Returning from Leave of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Jennifer Strangio-Lott	Psychologist Stratford Road	3/2/15	\$97,244 Step 5MA45 (to be prorated)

Assignment: ABA Consultant

Professional Staff- Leave of Absence Without Pay

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Lanya D'Ambrosia	Special Education Teacher Stratford Road	3/12/15 thru 4/22/15

(up to 12 weeks to be covered under the FMLA)

Non-Teaching Personnel – Leave of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Robert Dunne	Custodian POBMS	3/4/15 thru 5/28/15

(up to 12 weeks to be covered under the FMLA)

Personnel Recommendation-In-District Facilitators- 2014-2015 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Nancy Klein*	Facilitator	2014-15 School Year	\$55.94/hr.	1

*previously approved workshop

Coaching Recommendations –2014-15 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>CAT/LEV.</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Amanda Natelie	Asst Coach, JV Softball	3-15	8 1	\$4120
Jeff Noreman*	Asst Coach, JV Baseball	3-15	8 1	\$4120

*pending receipt of paperwork

Coaching Recommendations – Rescission- School Year 2014-15

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Eff.</u>
Michael Horun	Head Coach, MS Baseball	Immediately

Please rescind appointment approved in the minutes of 2/11/15 BOE.

Lindsay Voegler	Asst Coach, MS Girls Lacrosse	Immediately
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Please rescind appointment approved in the minutes of 1/12/15 BOE.

Appointment- Alternate Teacher in Charge

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Craig Slote	Alternate Teacher in Charge Mattlin MS	2014-15 school year	\$188.02/session

Coaching Recommendations –Change of StatusFrom:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>CAT/LEV.</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Domenick DiDomenico	Asst Coach, JV Baseball	3/15	8 2	\$4410

To:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>CAT/LEV.</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Domenick DiDomenico	Head Coach, JV Baseball	3/15	7 2	\$4901

Appointment-TAG Program- 2014-15 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Jennifer Young	Substitute TAG Nurse	2014-15 school year	\$36.26/hr
Nicole Jonas	Substitute TAG Teacher	"	\$65/hr

Non-Teaching Personnel – Child Care Program Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Deanne Whitmore	Child Care Assistant	3/3/15	\$13.00/ph

Non-Teaching Personnel- Substitutes

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Rita Patel	School Monitor PT Substitute	3/3/15	\$8.75/ph
Lisa Sperry	"	"	"
Howard Q. Rice	Security Aide PT Substitute	"	\$25.15/ph

3. Finance

9.1 Contract-4th R

That the Board of Education approves the service agreement between the Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD and Lil Chefs, Jump Bunch, Challenge Island, RL Entertainment-Bricks 4 Kidz and Zoda, LLC- Mad Science of Long Island for the Spring session of the 2014-2015 school year.

9.2 Rescission/Recommendation of Project Challenge Mentor-Green Earth Craft

That the Board of Education approve Green Earth Craft-Reuse It Workshop as a Project Challenge Mentor for the 2014-2015 school year in the amount of \$175.00.

Please rescind the approved minutes of the BOE meeting of January 12, 2015.

9.3 Donation- Old Bethpage

That the Board of Education authorize the acceptance of a check in the amount of \$371.07 as a result of participation in Target's Take Charge of Education Program.

9.4 Donation- Parkway

That the Board of Education authorize the acceptance of a check in the amount of \$228.04 as a result of participation in Target's Take Charge of Education Program.

9.5 Donation- Pasadena

That the Board of Education authorize the acceptance of a check in the amount of \$96.42 as a result of participation in Target's Take Charge of Education Program.

9.6 Donation- Stratford Road

That the Board of Education authorize the acceptance of a check in the amount of \$196.73 as a result of participation in Target's Take Charge of Education Program.

4. Miscellaneous

Unfinished Business

Upon motion by Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Mrs. Rothman, that the Board adopts all three parts of the Superintendent's and SRC's recommendation, with the caveat that the plan of transitioning the Kindergarten classes back into their home elementary buildings, beginning for the 2016-2017 school year, be presented to the Board this year and that plan also be subject to Board approval.

On the Motion

Yea: Mr. Bettan, Mrs. Schulman, Mr. Greenberg, Mrs. Rothman, Mrs. Pierno.

Nays: Mrs. Lieberman, Mrs. Bernstein.

Discussion:

Mrs. Schulman stated that as with developing a plan there are still issues to work out.

Mrs. Rothman stated how passionate Mr. Greenberg has been about this issue, but also feels that there are still a lot of questions that need to be answered. Mrs. Rothman spoke about the K-Center and how she was part of the opening. She said that in 1996 K-Centers were a very popular model in the educational structure of a school district. She spoke about what has changed now in 2015. She feels that with more working families in POB, having children attending the same school is an important accommodation. She spoke about the demographic report and how the trend for enrollment is declining. Mrs. Rothman stated that the decision to move the K children to their home schools is in the best interest of the children.

Mrs. Bernstein stated that she is not ready to support Mr. Greenberg's motion.

Mr. Greenberg stated that of course he supports this motion. He understands the hesitation, but he feels that with careful planning it can be done. By authorizing this, it gets the plan moving.

Mrs. Lieberman stated that change is inevitable, but she feels that you must be certain in your own mind and tonight she said that she is not comfortable. She feels that this does not need to be done tonight.

Mrs. Pierno stated that we have been dancing around the issue for years, it's good to be taking action and getting the ball moving.

Mr. Bettan stressed that by approving the plan they are putting a plan in motion. He stated that this does not give carte blanche approval. He stated that if the community wants it they can set up a forum.

New Business

12.1 POBJFKHS-Coding Club

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Schulman, seconded by Mrs. Lieberman that the Board of Education approve the proposal to create a Coding Club.

12.2 Mattlin MS Clubs

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Bernstein, seconded by Mrs. Rothman that the Board of Education approve the following club proposals:

- Art Club
- Book Club
- Computer Club
- Drama Club (Director)
- Drama Club Choreographer
- Drama Musical Director
- Drama Club Rehearsal Pianist
- Drama Club Assistant Director
- Drama Club Set Director
- *Fantasy Stock Market Club
- First Lego/Robotics Club
- Food & Nutrition Club
- French Club
- Grand Pals Club
- Health Club (Girls Talk, Boys Talk)
- Jazz Ensemble-7th & 8th Grades
- Math Olympiads Club (2 co-advisors)
- Odyssey of the Mind

- School Climate
- School Store
- School Newspaper
- *Science Olympiads Club
- Service Club
- Student Council (Grades 5/6)
- Student Council (7/8)
- Talent Show
- Yearbook

Executive Session

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

The meeting was recessed at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Tyler
District Clerk

Approved: _____
Gary Bettan, President