

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Amityville Union Free School District, Amityville, NY 11701 Work Session Minutes
March 6, 2024 Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School | Auditorium

To view/listen to the audio of this meeting, please click [here](#)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by President Lisa Johnson at Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School in Art Room 107.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Lisa Johnson, President
(Trustees) Mrs. Jeannette Santos, 1st Vice President
Ms. Carol Seehof, 2nd Vice President
Mrs. Leslie Kretz, Trustee (Arrived at 5:50pm)
Mr. Juan Leon, Trustee (Arrived at 5:52pm)
Mr. David Heller

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Gina Talbert, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Joan Lange, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Bridgette Waite, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Ms. Olivia Buatsi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations/Deputy District Clerk
Mr. John Sheahan, Esq., Guercio & Guercio (arrived at 5:53)
Mrs. Melissa Durnin, District Clerk

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter to Executive Session at 5:33 p.m. made President Lisa Johnson for a particular person's employment history as well as advice from Counsel regarding ATA negotiations.

Motion to Approve 1st	Motion to Approve 2nd
Carol Seehof	Jeannette Santos

Motion **CARRIED YES: 4 | NO: 0**

RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was a consensus of the Board of Education to enter the open meeting at 7:35 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Lisa Johnson, President
(Trustees) Mrs. Jeannette Santos, 1st Vice President
Ms. Carol Seehof, 2nd Vice President
Mrs. Leslie Kretz, Trustee
Mr. Juan Leon, Trustee
Mr. David Heller, Trustee

ABSENT: N/A

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Gina Talbert, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Joan Lange, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Bridgette Waite, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Ms. Olivia Buatsi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance &
Operations/Deputy
District Clerk
Mr. Carl Fraser, Consultant
Mrs. Melissa Durnin, District Clerk

1. Meeting Called to Order

A. Emergency Exit, No Smoking Statement

**In the unlikely event of an emergency, you need to note that exits are clearly marked. Take a moment to note the exit nearest to where you are seated. *Smoking is not allowed on school grounds. *As a courtesy, please turn off cell phones during the meeting. **

B. Pledge of Allegiance

President Johnson asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

President Johnson made a recommendation to the Board to change the order of the Agenda so that they address agenda items 2A through 2E and then 3A through 3F before the Budget Presentation. Therefore, more time will be devoted to the budget presentation.

Motion to revise the order of the agenda

Motion to Approve 1st	Motion to Approve 2nd
Jeannette Santos	Carol Seehof

Motion **CARRIED YES: 6 | NO: 0**

Motion to amend the agenda to add agenda item 2C-3. This Resolution is upon recommendation of the Superintendent schools. The Board of Education hereby appoints Elena Cacavas Esquire of Cacavas ADR and LLC as a special investigator Council to conduct an investigation and render a report to the Board of Education in connection with a matter discussed in executive session at a rate not to exceed \$300 per hour, plus reimbursement for reasonable expenses.

C. Community Input Regarding Board Agenda Items Only

- Wendy Canestro
- Margaret Shuff
- Megan Messman

(Please note, Trustee David Heller excused himself from the meeting due to illness)

D. Presentations

1. Budget Presentation #2 (Presentation will begin after 3F – 1on the Agenda)

E. Community Input Regarding Board Agenda Items Only

2. Board Action Recommended by the Board of Education

A. Approval of Board Minutes

1. Regular Monthly Meeting - January 10, 2024
2. Special Meeting - January 30, 2024

Motion to Approve 1st	Motion to Approve 2nd
Leslie Kretz	Jeannette Santos

Motion **CARRIED YES: 5 | NO: 0**

B. Board Action Recommended by Board Policy Committee

C. Board Action Recommended by Board of Education

1. Nomination of Western Suffolk BOCES Board Members for Reelection

Motion to Approve 1st	Motion to Approve 2nd
Carol Seehof	Leslie Kretz

Motion **CARRIED YES: 5 | NO: 0**

2. Review of Draft Agenda- Monthly Regular Meeting- March 13, 2024

Motion to amend the agenda to add agenda item 2C-3. This Resolution is upon recommendation of the Superintendent schools. The Board of Education hereby appoints Elena Cacavas Esquire of Cacavas ADR and LLC as a special investigator Council to conduct an investigation and render a report to the Board of Education in connection with a matter discussed in executive session at a rate not to exceed \$300 per hour, plus reimbursement for reasonable expenses.

Motion to Approve 1st	Motion to Approve 2nd
Carol Seehof	Jeannette Santos

Motion **CARRIED YES: 5 | NO: 0**

3. Appointment of Special Investigator

Motion to Approve 1st	Motion to Approve 2nd
Leslie Kretz	Carol Seehof

Motion **CARRIED YES: 5 | NO: 0**

D. Audit Committee

E. Abolishment

1. Various Positions (25 teachers, 6 TA's, 1 Custodian, 2 Security, 6 PPS, 2 Administrators, 5 Monitors)

Position	Number of Employees
Teacher	25
Teaching Assistant	6
Custodial Staff	1
Security	2
PPS	6
Administrators	2
Monitors	5
TOTAL	47

Motion to Approve 1st	Motion to Approve 2nd
Jeannette Santos	Leslie Kretz

Motion **CARRIED YES: 4 | NO: 1**

YES	NO
Lisa Johnson	Juan Leon
Carol Seehof	
Jeannette Santos	
Leslie Kretz	

3. Board Action Recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

A. General

B. Personnel

1. Personnel Action Report

Motion to Approve 1st	Motion to Approve 2nd
Carol Seehof	Jeannette Santos

Motion **CARRIED YES: 5 | NO: 0**

C. Business

D. Finance

E. Contracts for Special Education Services

1. Impartial Hearing Officer

Motion to Approve 1st	Motion to Approve 2nd
Leslie Kretz	Carol Seehof

Motion **CARRIED YES: 5 | NO: 0**

F. Curriculum and Instruction

1. Approval of Conferences

Motion to Approve 1st	Motion to Approve 2nd
Carol Seehof	Jeannette Santos

Motion **CARRIED YES: 5 | NO: 0**

Dr. Talbert makes a statement. (See video for full speech)

1. Budget Presentation #2

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, Olivia Buatsi gave the Budget Presentation (See video for full presentation)

4. Community Input Regarding Non-Board Agenda Items Only

- Donelle Cronin
- Wendy Canestro
- Jim Koller
- Richard Hobson
- Margaret Schuff
- Stephanie Dross
- Nokia Wolfe
- Dan Holmes

5. Reports

B. Legal Counsel for the District

C. Superintendent of Schools

D. Board of Education

6. Adjournment

Lisa Johnson makes a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:02pm

Motion to Approve 1st	Motion to Approve 2nd
Carol Seehof	Leslie Kretz

Motion **CARRIED YES: 5 | NO: 0**

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes recorded & transcribed by:



Melissa Durnin
District Clerk