

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
AMITYVILLE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date of Meeting: May 13, 2015  
Location: Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School  
Time: 5:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Lisa Johnson, President  
Ron Moss, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Terry Fulton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Nathan King, Trustee  
Jeannette Santos, Trustee  
Carolyn Dodd, Trustee

Members Absent:

Dr. Kathleen Corbett, Trustee

Also Present:

Dr. Mary T. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Joan Lange, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Sydney Freifelder, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Bridgette Wilson, Director for Human Resources  
Peter Paternostro, Administrator for PPS and Special Education  
Sandra Parmentier, Assistant Administrator for PPS and Special Education  
Dr. Mary DeRose, Interim Principal, AMHS  
Rod Wilkins, Associate Principal, AMHS  
Ed Plaia, Principal, EWMMS  
Kristy Middleton, Assistant Principal, EWMMS  
Scott Bullis, Principal, PAMES  
Rose Hutcherson, Assistant Principal, PAMES  
Vincent Todisco, Principal, NW  
Dr. Fran Fernandez, Director for Fine Arts Department  
Susanne Pena, Coordinator for ESL and Bilingual Programs  
Eileen Becker, District Clerk  
Gary Steffanetta, Esq., Guercio and Guercio, LLP  
Victoria Cantrella, Esq., Guercio and Guercio, LLP  
Oroma Reynolds, Esq., Guercio and Guercio, LLP

Special Meeting      The Special Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Ms. Johnson. Ms. Johnson read the emergency exit statement and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Session      At 5:03 p.m. a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss of the RFP for legal counsel was made by Mr. Moss; seconded by Mrs. Santos. At 6:55 p.m. the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn to Executive Session and move to the Regular meeting on motion made by Mr. Moss; seconded by Mrs. Santos.

Regular Meeting      The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Ms. Johnson. Ms. Johnson read the emergency exit statement and led in the Pledge of

Allegiance.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. The students of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Drama Club under the direction of Gerald Asbell performed an excerpt of their upcoming play “Unbeweaveble” the untold story of Cinderella written by Kiara Kearse and KIana Kearse, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students. Performances will be May 26<sup>th</sup> for the students and May 27<sup>th</sup> for the public.
2. Ms. Deborah Charles introduced Dr. Veronica Henry and Ms. Risa Stein of Farmingdale State College presented awards to our Edmund W. Miles Middle School students who participated in the Stem Diversity Summit. The title of the project is “Who Am I?.” This project plots the ethnic migration of the modern human out of Africa. They used mitochondrial DNA to determine haplogroups, extracted DNA samples, then amplified the same using PCR. Tested samples were compared via DNA Subway for haplogrouping and ethnic percentages. The students who achieved this honor are: Irach’e Teague, Jacob Marrero, Mario Iorio, Christina Davis, Christy Farrier and Laurie Herard.
3. Kevin Walsh of BBS Architects presented to the Board the findings of their study regarding Northeast Elementary School and the concern for the increase student enrollment. There were several options presented such as relocating classes to the empty building once occupied by Brower Elementary School in Copiague or to Park Avenue. Both suggestions were not favored by the Board. The ideal solution is to house the students in their school and this involves realigning rooms and the possibility of adding portables. The process would include the approval of SED which is a 7 month process. More discussion is required with Dr. Collins and Dr. Kelly.

**COMMUNITY INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Colin Castro  
176 Jefferson Avenue  
Amityville, NY 11701

Mr. Castro’s questions referenced the presentation from BBS Architects. 1) What type of sewage system for the portables? Mr. Walsh explained each portable would have its own septic system. 2) Asked for further clarification of the delay of ordering portables. Ms. Johnson explained the process with the state and how inventory of portables are accounted for. 3) Before pursuing this project, will the community be informed of the process? Mrs. Johnson answered definitely yes.

**ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Action**

Minutes

On the motion of Mr. Moss and seconded by Mrs. Santos, and the Board unanimously agreed to approve agenda items #2A-1 through #2A-11 as follows:

1. Draft #1 – February 25, 2015
2. Draft #1 – March 4, 2015
3. Draft #1 – March 11, 2015
4. Draft #1 – March 25, 2015
5. Draft #1 – April 1, 2015
6. Draft #1 – April 14, 2015
7. Draft #1 – April 22, 2015
8. Draft #1 – April 28, 2015



35. Appointment: Summer 2015 CSE/CPSE Meetings – Karounos, O.
36. Appointment: Summer 2015 CSE/CPSE Meetings – Krepil, M.
37. Appointment: Summer 2015 CSE/CPSE Meetings – Kretz, C.
38. Appointment: Summer 2015 CSE/CPSE Meetings – Milan, L.
39. Appointment: Summer 2015 CSE/CPSE Meetings – Murphy, S.
40. Appointment: Summer 2015 CSE/CPSE Meetings – Pepe, J.
41. Appointment: Summer 2015 CSE/CPSE Meetings – Peshler, J.
42. Appointment: Summer 2015 CSE/CPSE Meetings – Rubin, J.
43. Appointment: Summer 2015 CSE/CPSE Meetings – Seehof, C.
44. Appointment: Summer 2015 CSE/CPSE Meetings – Starkey, K.
45. Appointment: Summer 2015 CSE/CPSE Meetings – Tremblay, L.
46. Appointment: Summer 2015 CSE/CPSE Meetings – Trotman, J.
47. Appointment: Guidance Counselor Summer 2015 – Akapnitis, A.
48. Appointment: 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Director – Peterson, D.
49. Appointment: 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Administrative Assistant – Ladson, K.
50. Leave Replacement Appointment: Teaching Assistant/NW – Cohill, R.
51. Revised Extended Leave of Absence W/O Pay: Teaching Assistant/PA – Allen, B.
52. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council C-Chair – Claps, R.
53. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Seehof, C.
54. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Alexander, G.
55. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Engler, M.
56. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Trotman, J.
57. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Co-Chair– Pfaffe, L.
58. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Gonser, P.
59. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Naso, K.
60. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Reddin, M.
61. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Hyland, K.
62. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Ross, D.
63. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Spatola, C.
64. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Co-Chair – O’Brien, F.
65. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Asbell, M.
66. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Cesiro, L.
67. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Penick, S.
68. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Thompson, K.
69. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Trotman, J.
70. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Whitney, S.
71. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Co-Chair – Buckley, J.
72. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Graham, D.
73. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Duguay, P.
74. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Greiss, M.
75. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Co-Chair – Mussen, L.
76. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Varas, L.
77. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Postiglione, J.
78. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Powers, L.
79. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Carlucci, S.
80. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Castro, E.
81. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – McCaffrey, J.
82. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Wasilausky, B.
83. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Co-Chair – Gambella, C.
84. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Beckles, N.
85. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Carman, Y.
86. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Smith, T.
87. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Lee, D.
88. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Naso, K.

89. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Hyland, K.
90. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Co-Chair – Katsigiorgis, J.
91. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Keenan, K.
92. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Thomas, L.
93. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Graham, D.
94. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Varas, L.
95. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Dodd, K.
96. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Mussen, L.
97. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Brooks, M.
98. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Katt, S.
99. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Davi-Ortiz, N.
100. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Member – Persaud, A.

**Business**                    On the motion of Mr. Moss and seconded by Mrs. Santos, and the Board unanimously agreed to approve agenda items #3C-1 through #3C-5 per the attached.

On the motion of Mrs. Dodd and seconded by Mr. Moss, and the Board unanimously agreed to approve agenda item #3C-5 by roll call per the attached.

On the motion of Mrs. Santos and seconded by Mr. Fulton, and the Board unanimously agreed to approve agenda items #3C-7 through #3C-10 per the attached.

**Finance**                    On the motion of Mr. Moss and seconded by Mr. Fulton, and the Board unanimously agreed to approve agenda item #3D-1 per the attached.

**CSE/CPSE**                On the motion of Mrs. Santos and seconded by Mrs. Dodd, and the Board unanimously agreed to approve agenda items #3E-1 through #3E-10 as follows:

1. New York Therapy Placement Services, Inc.
2. Education, Inc.
3. The Long Island home
4. Helping Hands
5. Bilinguals
6. St. James Tutoring
7. MKSA, LLC
8. United Cerebral Palsy of Nassau
9. The Center for Developmental Disabilities, Inc.
10. The Hagedorn Little Village School

**Reports**                    At the conclusion of the business of the Board of Education, Ms. Johnson turned the meeting over to Dr. Kelly for her report which is attached.

Before Ms. Johnson opened the meeting to the community, Mrs. Johnson wanted to follow up with a question from last week's meeting on the following:

1. **QUESTION:** Is it possible to request a copy of the audio of board meetings.  
**ANSWER:** Yes, one may submit a FOIL request with the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations where a fee may be required.

2. QUESTION: Why are there no minutes posted on the website?

ANSWER: We were lack in posting the minutes. The new District Clerk is now responsible to get the minutes completed and posted. The minutes are now posted on the website.

3. QUESTION: What was the cost of the superintendent search?

ANSWER: Mrs. Johnson apologized but did not have a chance to review but will have the answer shortly.

### **COMMUNITY INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Sydney Martin  
45 N. Baldwin Avenue  
Massapequa, NY 11758

Mr. Martin stated he is a candidate for a trustee seat on the Board of Education.

Mr. Martin's questions were regarding:

- Agenda Item #3C-4 Health Service Contracts – how are the schools determined? Mrs. Freifelder explained that we are required by law to provide health services for all of our non public you are just seeing one segment on every board agenda when the contracts come in they are presented to the Board for approval.
- Agenda Item #3C-3 Use of Facilities – at what cost do groups pay to use our fields. Ms. Johnson explained there is no fee. The requirements are that the organization must provide a roster and 85% of the participants must be a resident of the district and provide a copy of their insurance certificate. The use of our facilities are superseded by the schools' needs prior to any approval of outside organizations.
- Mr. Martin returned to his statement that he is running for a seat on the Board of Education and felt he was misquoted regarding checking boxes of ethnicity and that this cost him support of the ATA for his candidacy. He wants to FOIL the audio to prove his was misquoted.
- Mr. Martin asked how the High School Associate Principal doing on the special assignment. Ms. Johnson stated the Board is not permitted to comment on a personnel issue.
- To follow up with Mr. Martin's question what is this special assignment? Ms. Johnson restated the Board is not permitted to comment on a personnel issue.
- Mr. Castro stated he is a taxpayer and the board had him fill out a card with a reason for his question and the reason is he is a taxpayer. Ms. Johnson explained we are doing that to be sure we have the proper contact information if we need to respond to a specific question.
- As a taxpayer, Mr. Castro wants to know how is his money being spent and is looking for graduation rates. Can anyone tell him how we compare to other districts' graduation rates. Dr. Kelly explained we do not have those numbers yet as there are many contributing factors to establishing the graduation rates. For example, summer school will count in that rate. Also the programs that have been added or dropped affect the graduation rates. Many new programs have been added from

Colin Castro

Kindergarten through Grade 12 that will enhance the graduation rates to increase over time. It's is on-going concern and constant effort to address what can be and will be done for the students improvement in their education.

Susan Heenan

Mrs. Heenan asked from the last meeting, what has been done to improve informing parents of new initiatives to address the bullying problem in our schools. Mr. Paternostro an upcoming meeting for the DASA Committee will address this. Mrs. Heenan asked for a form for parents to complete similar if an employee wanted to file a complaint. Dr. Lange responded as the Title 9 Officers she will look into it.

Mrs. Heenan pleaded with the Board to be passionate in addressing the issue of bullying. Ms. Johnson stated the Board as a whole and as individuals do take the bullying problem very seriously.

Colin Castro

Mrs. Heenan wants someone accountable for getting her the information and results she has been asking for. As the taxpayer, you work for us. Ms. Johnson stated you elect the board but the board is not paid. Mr. Castro wants to know who will be accountable for our graduation failure rates. Ms. Johnson said everyone on the board, the administrators, faculty and parents are. Mr. Castro would like to see the exact – not guesses – of the graduation rates.

Crystal Rodriguez  
44 Camp Road  
Massapequa, NY 11758

Ms. Rodriguez's question was about bullying. She knows there are committee meetings, what is discussed and what is the outcome of these committee meetings. Dr. Kelly responded last year we formed the DASA task force that has evolved in a much broader focus committee that is made up of parents, teachers, PPS, students and also administrators and called Student Equity Advisory Council and that council is charged with looking at putting in a variety of programs in the school like character education issues bullying to address cultural climate so that we are creating an environment that is minimizing and eliminating incidents of bullying in the school. There have been alot of programs that have been put in place this year. A program at the middle school where students united for safe schools and is a student run group. We are participating in the Town of Babylon Youth Court which is an alternative to discipline and suspension and focuses on restored justice. We are working with cultural climate expert Dr. Hodge. We already began a survey of the district we are just beginning training the leadership team and will be working with our faculty on that beginning in the fall. Ms. Rodriguez said she has been to the programs at the middle school and they are well done.

Executive Session

At 8:40 p.m. a motion to move into Executive Session for advice of counsel and review of contract was made by Mr. Moss; seconded by Mrs. Santos and the Board unanimously agreed.

At 10:00 p.m. the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn to Executive Session and move to the Regular meeting on motion made by Mr. Moss; seconded by Mrs. Santos.

**ADJOURMENT**

Adjournment

At 10:02 p.m. there being no further business items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned on motion by Mr. Moss and seconded by Mrs. Santos, and the Board unanimously agreed.

Eileen Becker  
District Clerk

Approved: 06/10/15