

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Amityville Union Free School District, Amityville, NY 11701  
Regular Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2017

---

The Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Fulton at Park Avenue Elementary School, Art Room

A motion made by Mrs. Dodd; seconded by Mrs. Pawlewicz to go into Executive Session at 6:06 p.m. for the purpose of legal advice from counsel. Mrs. Castonguay was appointed Clerk Pro Tem.

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Fulton, President  
Jeannette Santos, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Carolyn Dodd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Susan Benard-Handler, Trustee  
Lisa Johnson, Trustee  
Juan Leon, Trustee  
Laura Pawlewicz, Trustee  
Dr. Mary T. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Lois Etzel, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Diane Castonguay, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Carole Polney, Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Administrative Services  
Anthony Fasano, Esq., Guercio & Guercio, LLP

Motion to resume Open Meeting 7:43 p.m. in the Park Avenue School Auditorium.

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Fulton, President  
Jeannette Santos, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Carolyn Dodd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Susan Benard-Handler, Trustee  
Lisa Johnson, Trustee  
Juan Leon, Trustee  
Laura Pawlewicz, Trustee  
Dr. Mary T. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Lois Etzel, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Diane Castonguay, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Carole Polney, Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Administrative Services  
Gary Steffanetta, Esq., Guercio & Guercio LLP  
Anthony Fasano, Esq., Guercio & Guercio, LLP  
Eileen Becker, District Clerk  
Dr. Pauline Collins, Principal, Northeast Elementary School  
Kathleen Hyland, Assistant Principal, Northwest Elementary School  
Robyn Santiago, Principal, Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School  
Dennis Ricci, Assistant Principal, Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School  
Ed Plaia, Principal, Edmund W. Miles Middle School  
Earl Mitchell, Dean of Students, Edmund W. Miles Middle School  
Donna DeFreitas, Assistant Principal, Amityville Memorial High School  
John Cardone, Dean of Students, Amityville Memorial High School

Peter Paternostro, Administrator, Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education

Sandra Parmentier, Assistant Administrator, Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education

Rose Hutcherson, Assistant Principal, Virtual Academy

ABSENT: Kristy Pagliari, Assistant Principal, Edmund W. Miles Middle School

COMMUNITY: 75 Present

### PRESENTATIONS

1. EWMMS – Mr. Plaia and Mr. Mitchell – Raising Expectations
2. DECA – Mr. Tomasi – Career and Employment Skills Development
3. Mr. Paternostro and Ms. Gross – Transitions Program
4. Capital Projects update by BBS Architects
5. Budget Presentation #2 – Revenues and Reserves

### COMMUNITY INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Nate King – comments included: Too many presentations, took much time. Feels there needs to be more information available to the public regarding the agenda, what the board is specifically voting on. Also if there is no agenda item for a category, list it as NONE. Screen not located in a convenient place for the audience. Asked the amount of the bond and when the work will be completed. Asked about the ongoing budget maintenance; the bond work and will the black college tours continue.

David Jackson – Spoke about Agenda Item 3B-63 Leave of Absence for himself and he explained the reason for it and the importance it can have for the students.

Toni Bean – Asked the Board sees the budget line by line.

### MINUTES

Motion to approve Agenda Items 2A-1 through 2A-3 made by Ms. Johnson; seconded by Mrs. Santos. Discussion: Minutes for January 11, 2017 do not reflect the changes to Policies. The changes in Policy are reflected in the Board Report. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Draft – Regular Meeting – January 11, 2017
2. Draft – Special Meeting – January 12, 2017
3. Draft – Special Meeting – January 19, 2017

### ACTION

Motion to amend the Agenda to add Agenda Item 2C-1 – nominating Juan Leon for the Champion for Change Award made by Mrs. Santos; seconded by Ms. Johnson. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Motion to approve Agenda Item 2C-1 made by Mrs. Santos; seconded by Ms. Johnson. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Approve Juan Leon for nomination of the NYSSBA Champion for Change Award

### GENERAL

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3A-1 and 3A-2 made by Ms. Johnson; seconded by Mrs. Dodd. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain

1. Approval of Donation Sick Days

## 2. Approval of Settlement

**PERSONNEL**

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3B-1 through 3B-62 made by Ms. Johnson; seconded by Mrs. Santos. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3B-63 made by Ms. Johnson; seconded by Mrs. Santos. Discussion: None. Motion Fails: 0 yes; 7 No; 0 Abstain

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3B-64 made by Ms. Johnson; seconded by Mrs. Dodd. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 Abstain; 0 No.

1. Resignation for Retirement: Teaching Assistant/MS – Polaski, B.
2. Resignation: Food Service Worker/ PA – Webb, D.
3. Resignation: Permanent Substitute Teacher/NE – Calcano, P.
4. Resignation: Security Guard – Bryant, A.
5. Resignation: Security Guard –Nugent, D.
6. FMLA: Mathematics Teacher/ MS – McLaughlin-DiPietrantonio, D.
7. Leave of Absence w/o Pay: Teaching Assistant/MS – Durant, L.
8. Leave Replacement Appointment: Literacy Teacher/ NW – Bipat, D.
9. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Meetings/ Advisor – Adams, F.
10. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Meetings/ Advisor – Alexander, G.
11. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Meetings/ Advisor – Claps, R.
12. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Meetings/ Advisor – Engler, M.
13. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Meetings/ Advisor – Seehof, C.
14. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Meetings/ Advisor – Starkey, K.
15. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Meetings/ Member – Arrington, S.
16. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Meetings/ Member – Asbell, M.
17. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Meetings/ Member – Cammaroto, T.
18. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Meetings/ Member – Cesiro, L.
19. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Meetings/ Member – O'Brien, F.
20. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Meetings/ Member – Thompson, K.
21. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Meetings/ Member – Trotman, J.
22. Appointment: Curriculum Advisory Council Meetings/ Member – Whitney, S.
23. Appointment: Regents Review/ HS – Wilsher, J.
24. Appointment: Black Student Union Advisor/ HS – Hawkins, R.
25. Appointment: Cap & Gown Coordinator/ HS – Prastil, K.
26. Appointment: Co-Graduation Coordinator/ HS – Morenus, K.
27. Appointment: Co-Graduation Coordinator/HS – Howard, M.
28. Appointment: Athletic Supervisor – Howard, M.
29. Appointment: Chaperone – Howard, M.
30. Appointment: Increase in Hours, Special Education 1:1 Aide/PA – Gallo, D.
31. Appointment: Substitute Teacher – Calcano, P.
32. Appointment: Substitute Teacher – Versaggi, J.
33. Appointment: Substitute Food Service Worker – Webb, D.
34. Appointment: Food Service Worker/ PA – Delva-Guerrier, M.
35. Appointment: AP History Review – Zider, J.
36. Appointment: AP History Review – O'Hagan, J.
37. Appointment: AP History Review – Greiss, M.
38. Appointment: AP History Review – Howard, M.
39. Appointment: AP History Review – Mizrachi, D.

40. Appointment: AP History Review – Morenus, K.
41. Appointment: AP History Review – Seubert, J.
42. Appointment: AP Mathematics Review – Zuar, C.
43. Appointment: AP Science Review – Loiacono, M.
44. Appointment: AP Seminar Review – Governale, M.
45. Appointment: AP Language & Composition Review – Wilsher, J.
46. Appointment: AP ELA Review – Rochester, S.
47. Appointment: AP Spanish Review – Castro, E.
48. Appointment: AP Art Review – Keaveny, N.
49. Appointment: Intramural Coach/HS Football – Kretz, W.
50. Appointment: Intramural Coach/HS Girls Volleyball – Ellis, J.
51. Appointment: Intramural Coach/HS Cheerleading – Kretz, A.
52. Appointment: Intramural Coach/HS Girls Soccer – Brooks, N.
53. Appointment: Intramural Coach/MS Baseball – Duguay, P.
54. Appointment: Intramural Coach/MS Football – Kretz, W.
55. Appointment: Intramural Coach/MS Girls Soccer – Jorgenson, J.
56. Appointment: Intramural Coach/MS Cheerleading – Kretz, A.
57. Appointment: Intramural Coach/Dance – Litras, V.
58. Appointment: Intramural Coach/Golf – Allar, A.
59. Appointment: Intramural Coach/MS Softball – Whitney, S.
60. Appointment: Intramural Coach Fitness for Life – Hamilton, I.
61. Appointment: Permanent Substitute Teacher/NW – Miller, P.
62. Appointment: Substitute Monitor – Sparks, C.
63. Leave of Absence w/o Pay: Special Education Teacher/MS – Jackson, D.
64. Resignation: Special Education Teacher/NW – Hoffman, C.

#### **BUSINESS**

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3C-1 through 3C-8 made by Ms. Johnson; seconded by Mrs. Santos. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Stationery, Form & Envelope Printing Bid: #2017-025
2. Fund Raising
3. Use of Facilities
4. Health Service Contracts – Other Schools
5. Motion to Dispose of Fixed Assets
6. Health Service Contracts – St. Martin of Tours
7. Budget Transfer
8. Sale of Surplus Vehicles

#### **FINANCE**

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3D-1 made by Ms. Johnson; seconded by Mrs. Dodd. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Treasurer's Report for December, 2016

#### **CURRICULUM**

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3F-1 made by Ms. Johnson; seconded by Mrs. Dodd. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain

1. Approval of Conferences

#### **REPORTS**

Legal                      Matters discussed in Executive Session included negotiations.

### Superintendent of Schools

- 6th graders, Shamir Rose, will compete for the title of Long Island's top speller at Hofstra University.
- The Sayville MS has reached out to Mr. Plaia and are going to be conducting a visitation this month as a result of information that has been shared with the Sayville school district regarding the progress that our school district has made in the Teachers' College Reading and Writing Workshops to observe our classes to talk about how we are implementing the Teachers' College Program here in Amityville.
- Boys' Varsity Track won the Suffolk County Championship and the team will be off to the states for state qualifiers.
- Emanuel Aguntoy broke the Amityville school record for the triple jump and he now owns long jump and triple jump record and is currently ranked #5 in the country for the triple jump and #1 in NYS.
- India Hunter on the Girls' Varsity Track is competing in the NYS qualifiers for the 55 meter dash on Monday.
- Deonte Wilson won the lead Wrestling Championship in the 225 lb weight class and is the #1 ranked wrestler in his weight class and heading into the Suffolk County Championship. Deonte has broken the Amityville record for most career wins with 129.
- The boys' varsity basketball will be playing their last game of the season prior to the playoffs. They will be securing a 2nd place finish in their division and they have clinched a playoff spot.
- Allot of the accolades for our athletes have been in many of local newspapers including Newsday. Josh Serrano is a junior on the basketball team and he broke the Amityville school record for points in a game. He scored 45 against Miller Place and is currently the 2nd leading scorer in all of Suffolk County. He is 14 points away from his 1,000 career point.
- Students participated the 15th Annual Long Island Smart Growth Summit and 25 of Amityville's advanced placement government and public policy classes went to participate in this event which draws over 1,000 civic chambers, developers, environmentalists, design professionals and business leaders and over 70 federal state county, town, and village elected officials. This is an opportunity for our students in our advanced placement class to engage in activism in a political way. Our students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of different sessions. Christian Bethea expressed his concerns about the future for young people who graduate have jobs and places to live
- Mrs. Gross talked about some of the partnerships we are developing here in Amityville for our students and one that is emerging that we are working on right now with Northwell health and some of our students have had the opportunity to participate in South Oaks learning about career possibilities in the medical field and that was also a tremendous opportunity again for our students to make connections with professionals in a variety of different careers.
- Please consult the district's website and calendar for upcoming events.
- We have parent workshops and Black History Month Celebrations.
- Dr. Kelly also responded to the Board regarding the questions from the community from the February 1, 2017 board meeting

### Board of Education

- Report from the Policy Committee
- Mr. Leon reported he will be going up to Albany representing our school district, and the board talking to other board members from district all across New York at the NYSSBA Capital Conference. Mr. Leon will be having a breakfast with the Black Caucus for School Board Members that we have hosted here in the past. I will also be sitting down with our

elected officials and when I meet with them my message is very clear, do not short change our district, do not short change our children, making sure that our children and our teachers have the tools that they need to succeed.

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

Andrea DeLoney

- hopes the board is not satisfied or pleased with the percentage of students of color within the district
- Concerned the Human Resources function has been vacant for quite some time now and it's other administrators to fulfilling that void in addition to their regular assignments. And in the case of the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum also filling the role Acting Principal of the high school. What tools are used to measure the effectiveness of these individuals fulfilling their responsibilities.

Vernon Shelton

- Appreciated highlighting the accomplishments of our athletes but would also highlight the academics
- Concern where staff is concerned about being investigated using personal time or sick time

Madeline Quintyne

- Regarding personnel matters it seems teachers are disheartened, what type relationship does the Superintendent have with the personnel because it seems like so many people are leaving the district.
- Many of the districts on Long Island and districts throughout NY State have personnel committees with community representation and what are the board's thoughts on implementing a tool like this to improve transparency and accountability.

Katrina Conway

- Was very impressed with Ms. Gross' presentation and was concerned that potential employers are screened before our students go there to work.

Diane Myers

- Was saddened the LOA Request 3B-63 was denied. Last week it had a vote of 2-5 and tonight it was 0-7. It was explained it was another version of the original request.

Mercedes Daniels Reed

- When will the Valedictorian and Salutatorian be announced.

Dina Shingleton Rosenberg

- Thanked the board for the Teachers' College Program. My son is a special education student who is also autistic and went from a "D" level reader to an "L" level reader. And is thankful for the amount resources that go into our school district and the thought for our children.
- I also wanted to say to Karen I have worked with her prior to me being on the president of the Amityville chamber of commerce and that's the Amityville the entire Amityville chamber of commerce not just the village that this past summer I did have the pleasure of supervising one of the Amityville students that was the intern at village hall and she was a wonderful student, I know she is going to go very far she was just lovely and smart.

Bob Claps

- I speak for the teachers of Amityville and I can tell you that while there might be a few that are unhappy working in the district, but many teachers are happy to work their careers in the town of Amityville. I can appreciate that some people are concerned with how we are disciplined but we understand we work under a contract and it's important not to break the contract so while comments were not pleasant to be called in for certain such as attendance which nobody was formally disciplined by the way we can appreciate that the district would want to make sure we are in front of students doing our job so we understand that.
- I would also like to take this time to thank the Board for continuing for continuing the Curriculum Advisory Council which is a very valuable tool for us to bring curriculum into the district and has to be approved by teachers and administrators.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn Open Session at 10:49 p.m. made by Ms. Johnson; seconded by Mr. Leon. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain

AMITYVILLE U F S D  
APPROVED  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
DATE 4-19-17  
DISTRICT CLERK SIGNATURE  
