

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Amityville Union Free School District, Amityville, NY 11701
Special Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2017

The Meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Mr. Fulton at Park North Administration Building, Board Room.

A motion made by Mrs. Santos; seconded by Ms. Johnson to go into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing ATA and tenure packets. Mrs. Castonguay was appointed Clerk Pro Tem.

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Fulton, President
Jeannette Santos, 1st Vice President
Carolyn Dodd, 2nd Vice President – via video conference
Susan Benard-Handler, Trustee
Lisa Johnson, 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
Gary Steffanetta, Esq., Guercio & Guercio, LLP

Motion to resume Open Meeting 7:35 p.m. in the Park Avenue School Auditorium.

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Fulton, President
Jeannette Santos, 1st Vice President
Carolyn Dodd, 2nd Vice President – via video conference
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
Peter Paternostro, Administrator for PPS and Special Education
Eileen Becker, District Clerk

COMMUNITY: 11 Present

PRESENTATIONS

1. Budget Workshop #5 Program Component

Jeannette Santos brought up the need of full time Social Workers.
Jeannette Santos asked about the salary \$20,000 for Adult Education Program. Dr. Kelly explained it's a starting point and it will be paid by stipend, it should be a self funding program.

Terry Fulton stated he feels we need a Human Resources Administrator. While it was discussed previously, Mr. Fulton feels the need to revisit this year to year. It is felt that there is too much additional responsibility on each existing Assistant Superintendents. Also asked, where did the budgeted salary for the Director of Technology and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources go. The answer is it was allocated increases in contractual raises and increased health benefits.

COMMUNITY INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Nate King

- Regarding the HR Director position is there a plan to evaluate the Assistant Superintendents and the effectiveness of adding the personnel responsibilities? Could the position be a Director instead of Assistant Superintendent? The personnel responsibilities spread out to the cabinet staff and these responsibilities are complex and there should be a designated person to handle these tasks.

Pastor Hayward

- The Black College Tour will that be impacted because we have money from Bethel Church, \$1,000, in the event we are cut.
- Concern about the HR and Social Worker. Just because it's in other districts doesn't mean it's good for our district.
- Dr. Kelly stated she gives her recommendations to the board and they board has the ability to make decisions.
- Pastor Hayward asked if the board has the right to change that and Mr. Fulton responded yes.

Maresa Dealy

- The previous administration was top heavy. It's fiscally responsible to reduce administrators to bring in more teachers and programs. We don't need all those people at the top, we need more at the bottom.
- Does the school board sign off on contracts? Since the answer is yes, the board should not be surprised by the contractual increases for the unions. Terry Fulton corrected her that they are discussing the administrators' increases that are not covered by a contract.
- Last year my son attended summer school in Huntington not the most convenient but thank you Dr. Kelly for providing them with buses with air conditioning. Summer school in Huntington is not the worst thing in the world. We can't do it here. We can't offer what WSBOCES does. Jeannette stated the former summer school was not our doing, it's just using our buildings, the BOCES would still run it.

Toni Bean

- What meeting did the board to vote on the increases for the administrative salaries?
- How was the budgeted money that was on the Human Resources line that was specifically redistributed, what administrators received those monies?
- Talking about funding and we know we will have less funding than in the past because of various cuts from the government, we need to look at such things as the increases in the administrative salary .
- Asked for an explanation of undesignated funding and specifically where does that money go to?
- Asked if the Building Principals have a say in the various codes for their buildings. It is not typically information shared but they Building Principals communicate to Central what their needs are and it is built into the budget.
- Wants to know how many computers and laptops may be needed.

Mercedes Daniels Reed

- Presented a token of appreciation to Melissa Asbell for her dedication to the students.

Pastor Hayward

- Asked if the Drama Club could do a performance at the Bethel Church. Pastor Hayward offered another \$1,000 to the Drama Club.

Carolyn Chikazunga

- Just because a program works in other districts, doesn't mean it will work for our district.
- There is a need for an HR administrator, a consistent person to recruit more people of color in positions of authority and teaching. There are not enough role models.
- When you say that half a social worker is good enough for a building and half a social worker is good enough for another building when you have children and families with high needs that is disheartening.

Melissa Asbell

- Spoke of her disappointment where she felt the Administration did not congratulate or support the Drama Club's performance of the "Addams Family."

Toni Bean

- Asked if the increases for the Assistant Superintendents was due to the added responsibilities of personnel.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Motion to approve Agenda Items 2A-1 through 2A-3 made by Ms. Johnson; seconded by Mrs. Santos. Ms. Johnson asks the members to review the changes in these policies prior to voting next week: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. 1st Reading of Policy #0115 Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy and Regulation
2. 1st Reading of Policy #4531 Field Trips Policy, Regulation and Exhibit
3. 1st Reading of Policy #6700-E.1 Purchasing Exhibit

ACTION

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

1. Review of Draft Agenda – Regular Meeting – April 19, 2017

BUSINESS

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

1. Fund Raising
2. Use of Facilities
3. Donation

REPORTS

Legal No Report

Superintendent No Report

Board Report No Report

COMMUNITY INPUT ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

Carolyn Chikazunga

- Asked what is the non-resident request on the April 19th agenda. Dr. Kelly responded this is a student who has moved out of the district but wishes to complete their senior year at the high school.

Beverly Brewster

- Heard that a gun was brought to the HS and was reported by the teachers to the Dean of Students and would like to know the outcome and protocol going forward. Dr. Kelly was unaware of this and will look into it immediately.

Toni Bean

- Asks the Board to reconsider the need for the HR position
- What are the actual functions of the psychologists and social workers?
- Ms. Bean did not feel the Drama Club Production of the “Addams Family” was inappropriate and enjoyed it very much. She also commented that to kneel and pray before the performance is a freedom of speech and it was not done in public.

Mercedes Daniels-Reed

- Asks if the board meetings can be made earlier. This is what has been established by the Board to accommodate the availability of the Board.
- Can we get a crossing guard at Northeast? This has been an on-going request with the 1st Precinct.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn Open Session at 9:40 p.m. made by Mrs. Santos; seconded by Ms. Johnson.
Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain