

Board of Education
Amityville Union Free School District
Amityville, NY 11701

Special Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2012
Park Avenue Elementary School – Auditorium – 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School - Auditorium

IN ATTENDANCE: President Juliet Jordon-Thompson Vice President Lisa Johnson
2nd Vice President Ron Moss Trustee Michele Sikhrangkur
Trustee Jeannette Santos Trustee Nathan King

BOE MEMBER ABSENT: Trustee Mark Epps

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. John R. Williams, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Kathleen Gulbin – Asst. Supt. Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. William Fanning-Interim Asst. Supt. Finance & Operations
Dr. Mary Kelly-Asst Supt. Technology
Dr. Stephen Neidell-Interim Asst. Supt. Human Resources
Mr. Gary Steffanetta, Esq. – Guercio & Guercio

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Judith O’Neill, District Clerk

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** by President Jordon-Thompson at 7:05 PM.

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 are you are seated. *Smoking is not allowed on school grounds. *As a courtesy, please turn off cell phones and pagers during the meeting.*

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Community Input Regarding Board Agenda Items Only

Robert Claps spoke about make-up days for the calendar and why the two August days cannot count as instructional days. He asked the Board to regard the six (6) days as “On Call” days not vacation days. Also asked should the District add days back, can the affected staff be consulted.

Dr. Williams responded that August Superintendent Conference days can count but the two instructional days cannot.

Mr. Gary Steffanetta noted that the most recent SED guidance affirms Dr. Williams’ interpretation. The required 180 days may not include any instructional days in July or August.

Alissa Guttard, Massapequa – Mrs. Guttard has a 5 year old daughter attending St. Rose of Lima Kingdergarten. She lives in temporary housing four miles from the school. She asked the Board to provide transportation.

Trustee Santos asked if the children displaced by Storm Sandy had transportation.

Dr. Williams said that children who attend Amityville School District are provided with transportation.

Trustee Sikhrangkur spoke about the timely filing of transportation requests for non public school students.

Mr. Gary Steffanetta noted that the Board is authorized to spend money for transportation of non public school students if the Board determines that the explanation for filing late is considered reasonable by the Board. Under the federal statute, the displaced students must be provided with transportation to public school, not private school.

President Jordon-Thompson appointed Trustee Sikhrangkur as District Clerk Pro Tem

2. BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Approval of Board Minutes – None

B. Board Policy Committee

C. Board Action

1. Approval for Membership – NYS Caucus of Black School Board Members

MOTION to APPROVE Agenda Item 2C-1 made by 2nd Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Discussion:** Floor opened for discussion. **Motion CARRIED:** 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

2. Approval of Hurricane Sandy Make Up-Days

The Board discussed Agenda Item 2C-2 - Make up days begin with 187 days and of these, two are in August. That leaves from September forward 179 days – Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of President’s Week. Dr. Williams suggested that we add three back bringing the total to 182 which would leave room for possible snow days. Trustee Santos suggested only one day to bring total to 180. We can add more if we lose more days. Trustee King asked Dr. Williams to clarify why he is at 182 days and Trustee Santos is at 180 days. Dr. Williams believes that the school community expects the district to make up some of the lost days – counting the August days, we get 184 instructional days. Trustee Sikhrangkur said that 180 days is the minimum but wants more instructional days. She does not like the piecemeal – one day here, one day there approach – it means more disruption to peoples’ lives. Vice President Johnson commented on the common experience of the districts that have been hurt by the natural disaster. She added that making up the days is another hit on the same districts. She asked why winter break and not spring break. Dr. Williams responded that BOCES is doing it in the winter break. He then cited the SED requirement that the District convert some vacation time if we want to seek a waiver. Mr. Steffanetta commented on the calendar and the excusing of certain absences for booked travel. Dr. Williams commented that some neighboring districts are at a few days and others are at one or two days. They are considering use of vacation and/or sick days to cover absences. Trustee Sikhrangkur said that she was approached by staff with information not yet verified.

MOTION to RECESS to EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:53 PM for Negotiations and Legal Matters made by 2nd Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Motion CARRIED:** 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Sikhrangkur, District Clerk Pro Tem

EXECUTIVE SESSION called to order at 7:55 PM.

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Special Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2012

Dr. Stephen Neidell-Interim Asst. Supt. Human Resources
Mr. Gary Steffanetta, Esq. – Guercio & Guercio

ACTION TAKEN: None

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Sikhrangkur, District Clerk Pro Tem

MOTION to RESUME Open Session at 9:40 PM made by 2nd Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Motion CARRIED:** 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

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2C-2 – Approval of Hurricane Sandy Make-Up Days

President Jordon-Thompson read the resolution for Agenda Item 2C-2 with the addition of: three instructional days in the February winter break. Trustee Santos and Vice President Johnson both suggested one or two days, not three and wait on the balance.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the original school calendar be amended to reflect three days, February 20, 21 & 22, 2013 to become Instructional Days.

MOTION to APPROVE Agenda Item 2C-2 made by 2nd Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Motion CARRIED:** 4 Yes, 2 No (Trustee Santos and Vice President Johnson voted no.), 0 Abstain.

An MOA will be needed if the hardship days are to be considered. Trustee Santos suggested sending letters regarding homework to families who will be away. It is important that they do not fall behind.

3. Review Draft of Regular Agenda for December 12, 2012
The Board reviewed the draft of the agenda for December 12, 2012.

D. Audit Committee – None

3. BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent – None

B. Personnel - None

C. Business and Finance

1. Fund Raising – Item 1

2. Budget Transfer – Item 1 through 2

MOTION to APPROVE Agenda Items 3C-1 and 3C-2 made by 2nd Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Discussion:** Floor opened for discussion. **Motion CARRIED:** 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

D. Monthly Finance Report – None

E. CSE & CPSE Action/Meetings/Educational Service Contracts – None

F. Curriculum and Instruction

1. Approval of Conferences – Items 1 through 10

MOTION to APPROVE Agenda Item 3F-1 made by 2nd Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Discussion:** Floor opened for discussion. **Motion CARRIED:** 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

4. REPORTS

A. Legal Counsel for the District – None

B. Superintendent of Schools – None

C. Board of Education – None

MOTION to RECESS to EXECUTIVE SESSION at 10:53 PM for Employment History of Particular Person made by 2nd Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Motion CARRIED:** 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Sikhrangkur, District Clerk Pro Tem

EXECUTIVE SESSION called to order at 10:53 PM by President Jordon-Thompson

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ACTION TAKEN: None

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Sikhrangkur, District Clerk Pro Tem

MOTION to RESUME Open Session at 11:45 PM made by 2nd Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Motion CARRIED:** 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

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MOTION to ADJOURN Special Meeting at 11:45 PM made by 2nd Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Motion CARRIED:** 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Sikhrangkur, District Clerk Pro Tem