

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEVITTOWN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEVITTOWN, NY**

DATE: May 8, 2012

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, was duly called and held on Wednesday, May 8, 2012 in the Board Meeting Room of the Levittown Memorial Education Center.

CERTIFICATION:

The District Clerk certified that pursuant to Section 104, Open Meetings Law, notice of meeting was sent to the local newspapers, the Public Library and posted on the district's website. Further, all members of the Board of Education had due notice of said meeting.

PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. James Moran
Ms. Peggy Marengi
Mr. Michael Pappas – President
Mr. Peter Porrazzo – Vice President (left meeting at 8:20 PM)
Mr. Edward Powers (arrived at 7:50 PM)
Mr. Kevin Regan – Secretary
Mr. Frank Ward (arrived at 5:45 PM)

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. James Grossane – Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Darlene Rhatigan – Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Debbie Rifkin – Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Mark Flower – Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance

OTHERS

Mr. Robert H. Cohen– School Attorney
Ms. Elizabeth Appelbaum – District Clerk
Ms. Colleen Bradley – MacArthur High School Student Liaison

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Mr. Pappas, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:00 PM. On a motion by Mr. Porrazzo, seconded by Mr. Regan and approved (5-0) that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss items on the Executive Session Agenda relating to negotiations.
- C. The Board reconvened to Public Session at 7:35 PM at which time Mr. Pappas asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment silence for our troops fighting overseas.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Pappas announced that Esta Lachow, Division Avenue High School PTA President, informed him that the PTA is in support of the budget. Additionally, the PTA Executive Council is in support.

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III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Porrazzo moved to “Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of April 17, 2012 (Regular Meeting).”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Seconded: Mr. Regan

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

IV. REPORTS

A. Recognition:

Dr. Grossane noted that tonight the “Peru Crew” students from MacArthur High School would be presenting a slide show of their trip to Peru taken over the spring break. He remarked that they went on a fantastic adventure , got to see an exotic part of our world and were able to give back by performing community service.

1. Students:

- a. Academic Presentation: MacArthur High School
(Peru Crew)

Ms. Valentino was called up to speak about the trip and present the chaperons and students. She commented that whenever her students are not in school, she worries about them. She has concerns for their safety and goodwill. She acknowledged that when the students are in the capable hands of good people like the three staff members who took them on the trip, a great deal of worry is erased. The students presented a slideshow highlighting some of the wonderful parts of their trip. They shared their thoughts and reflections on this amazing adventure. Three of the “Peru Crew” spoke and remarked that this trip was a life changing experience that exposed the students to Peru’s unique culture, impressive history and allowed them to help a school community in need. The best part of the trip was establishing a special bond with the school and meeting all the children, principals and staff.

Ms. Marengi commented that seeing the students in Peru, was very meaningful as a Board member. She noted, the students brought the best of our community to another part of the world. Ms. Marengi stated that what she saw in the presentation is the highest honor you could pay the Levittown Community. The Board members had questions on the elevation and what the students were building for the school.

Dr. Grossane remarked it seems like a phenomenal and worthwhile trip from the photos. The students should thank their advisors for advocating for the trip.

Mr. Pappas remarked that the Board was very proud of the students.

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IV. REPORTS (continued)

NOTE: Mr. Powers arrived for the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Dr. Grossane announced that the GC Tech students who participated in State and Regional Competition, made our program proud. We have numerous winners and an outstanding program. The Board was asked to step up front to congratulate the students and their advisors on their awards. A brief overview of Skills USA was given. The Board, Central Office, faculty and parents were thanked for their continued support. Group photos were taken.

b. State & Regional SkillsUSA Winners

2012 Area VI Regional Competition (Long Island)

Ryan Conway (MacArthur) – 1st Place – Health Knowledge Bowl/Team
Megan Dockweiler (MacArthur) – 1st Place – Commercial Baking
Rebecca Gula (MacArthur) – 1st Place – Health Knowledge Bowl/Team
Christian Hickey (Division) – 1st Place – Health Knowledge Bowl/Team
Michelle Licciardo (East Meadow) – 1st Place – Job Interview
Anthony Vanella (Division) – 1st Place – Health Knowledge Bowl/Team
Waisuddin Azizi (Division) – 2nd Place – Architectural Drafting
Justin F. James (Massapequa) – 2nd Place – Carpenter’s Assistant
Josef Seier (MacArthur) – 2nd Place – Automotive Services
Ryan L. Wasserman (Plainedge) – 2nd Place – Action Skills
Dylan Crosby (Division) – 3rd Place – Architectural Drafting
Stephanie Hsu (East Meadow) – 3rd Place – Culinary
John Morales (Division) – 3rd Place – Automotive Services
Vincent K. Murphy (Bethpage) – 3rd Place – Action Skills

2012 New York State Competition

Richard Brown (Massapequa) – 1st Place – 3D Visualization & Animation – Team
Megan Dockweiler (MacArthur) – 1st Place – Commercial Baking
Michelle Licciardo (East Meadow) – 1st Place – Job Interview
Shaelyn Nimal (MacArthur) – 1st Place – 3D Visualization & Animation – Team
Christopher DiPierno (Plainedge) – 2nd Place – First Aid/CPR
Ryan Wasserman (Plainedge) – 2nd Place – Action Skills
Krysta Cicio (MacArthur) – 3rd Place – Medical Assisting
Stephanie Hsu (East Meadow) – 3rd Place – Culinary Arts

Dr. Grossane mentioned that the district had wonderful news to report. Ms. Rifkin announced that each year, US News and World Report publishes a list of the top ranking high schools in the nation. She was happy to report that both of our high schools are on the list and in the top five percent of high schools in the nation. She went on to explain the criteria they use to obtain their results. Dr. Grossane remarked how proud he was of both schools.

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IV. REPORTS (continued)

2. Art Display: Abbey Lane Elementary School

Dr. Grossane thanked the students and faculty of Abbey Lane for the art work in the building. He noted it is very interesting and creative, especially the three dimensional pieces.

NOTE: Mr. Porrazzo left the meeting for a family emergency.

B. Superintendent:

1. Follow-up to Public Be Heard Questions

Dr. Grossane reported that there was a concern raised at the last meeting regarding the formation of a cheerleading squad. We weren't sure if there was funding to create a team. After meeting with the principals at both middle schools and the varsity cheerleading coaches, it was clarified that we are not funded to create a team. There will be two cheerleading clubs that can form at Salk and Wisdom Middle Schools next year. Dr. Grossane explained that this is for school cheering purposes only and not for competition.

2. Follow-up to Board Questions

Dr. Grossane noted that at the last Board meeting, there was a question about a donation from the Slattery Family. It was determined that it is an ongoing scholarship that will be given annually.

C. Board of Education:

1. Comments & Reports

(none)

a. Student Liaisons

(none)

2. Correspondence

(none)

V. **2nd BUDGET HEARING/PUBLIC BE HEARD**

(Attached)

NOTE: Dr. Grossane gave a brief budget presentation going over the highlights of the proposed budget. He mentioned that this year's budget is decreased by 4% over last year's. This was achieved by a reduction in staff over the last few years, savings through cooperative purchases and moving forward with conservative fiscal policies. He noted that the maximum Tax Cap Levy we could have asked for was 2.5%. The Board and Administration worked together to put forward a same service budget with only a 1.85% increase. Dr. Grossane reported that we have a very fiscally responsible budget where we are decreasing our dependence on our fund balance and not tapping into our reserves. He pointed out that the district has consolidated polling sites and has new polling hours. He noted that even though two Board members are running uncontested, we are very pleased to have them back on the Board, as we all work together very well. Mr. Pappas thanked the Board and Administration for all their hard work.

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VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

1. **MOTION:** Mr. Moran moved, "WHEREAS, all claims, warrants and charges against the School District have been reviewed by the Claims Auditor and have been certified by the Claims Auditor for payment, RESOLUTION # 11-12-197
Warrants

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the APRIL 2012 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

Seconded: Mr. Powers

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

2. **MOTION:** Mr. Moran moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached Treasurer's Report for the month ending March 31, 2012 and place same on file." RESOLUTION # 11-12-198
Treasurer's Report

Seconded: Mr. Powers

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

3. **MOTION:** Mr. Moran moved, "WHEREAS, in compliance with New York State Government Accounting practices, the following budget transfers have been prepared and are recommended by the Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance, RESOLUTION #11-12-199
Budget Transfers

a.	<u>Code (from)</u>	<u>Code (to)</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	A22504490	A22504700	\$ 50,000
	(for Nassau County Residential Maintenance Reimbursement);		

b.	A2250.4490-A-0	A2815.4250.A-0	\$ 12,000
	(for home instruction services through June 22, 2012);		

c.	2816.1220-A-6	2815.4140-A-0	\$ 32,100
	(for health services for other districts);		

d.	A2250.4900-A-0	A1310.4900-A-0	\$ 37,200
	(to cover cost of programs added during the 2011/12 school year: NWEA, School Dude, BOLD Registration);		

e.	A5581.4900-A-1	A2630.4900-A-0	\$ 200,000
	A2280.4900-R-0	A2630.4900-A-0	\$ 85,500

(for SMART Boards purchased through BOCES, funds originally earmarked for SMART Boards to be used to improve security at high schools);

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VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

3. Budget Transfers (Continued)

f. A2270.1250-J-0 A2270.1300-N-0 \$ 60,000
(realignment of salary code to properly reflect grade where work is performed);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached budget transfers.”

Seconded: Mr. Powers

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 4. MOTION:** Mr. Moran moved, “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached Appropriation and Revenue Status reports for the period ending March 31, 2012.”

RESOLUTION # 11-12-200
Appropriation and Revenue
Status Reports.

Seconded: Mr. Powers

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 5. MOTION:** Mr. Ward moved, “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, adopt the attached calendar of meeting dates for the Levittown Public Schools for the 2012-2013 school year.”

RESOLUTION # 11-12-201
2012-2013 Board Meeting
Dates

Seconded: Ms. Marengi

AMEND AS FOLLOWS: Eliminate the March 6th Budget Planning Session #2, change the March 20th Budget Planning Session from #3 to #2, change the April 3rd Budget Planning Session from #4 to #3 and change the April 16th Budget Planning Session from #5 to #4.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED AS AMENDED 6-0.

- 6. MOTION:** Mr. Powers moved, “RESOLVED, that pursuant to Article 156.5 of the New York State Education Law, the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached 2012 Summer Transportation Contract Extension:

RESOLUTION # 11-12-202
2012 Summer Transportation
Contract Extension.

<u>Contractor’s Name</u>	<u>Date of Contract</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Suburban Bus Transportation	April 17, 2008 (extension)	\$ 10,178.”

Seconded: Mr. Regan

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VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

NOTE: Mr. Flower reported that in consulting with Mr. Sabo, the Supervisor for the Garage, it was determined that the safest way to transport two out of district students, would be to contract out for the buses. This is because New York City has strict regulations for tow trucks allowed on the highways. Mr. Flower commented that if one of our buses had a mechanical problem on the way to school, we would not have access to that bus.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 7. MOTION:** Mr. Ward moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the items on the following lists obsolete and that they may be discarded and/or donated as possible:

RESOLUTION # 11-12-203
Obsolete Equipment

School/Building	Number of Items	Date
Division (photo enlargers)	2	4/2/12
Wisdom (computer equipment)	3	3/30/12
MacArthur (fax)	1	1/4/12
Gardiners (printer)	1	3/23/12."

Seconded: Mr. Moran

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 8. MOTION:** Ms. Marengi moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does hereby, accept with thanks, the following gifts:

RESOLUTION # 11-12-204
Gifts to School

- a. evergreens and flowers for Summit Lane Elementary School, given by Girl Scout Junior Troop 3610, Summit Lane School, 4 Summit Lane, Levittown, NY 11756;
- b. picnic benches and flower beds for East Broadway Elementary School, given by James Pustorino, 823 Harriad Dr. W., Seaford, NY 11783;
- c. a check in the amount of \$268.60 for the music program at Abbey Lane Elementary School, given by Box Tops for Education, P.O. Box 200, Young America, MN 55553;
- d. a new food processor for the home economics classes at Division Avenue High School, given by the Division Avenue PTSA, 120 Division Avenue, Levittown, NY 11756;
- e. a check in the amount of \$25.10 for the Summit Lane school library, given by Box Tops for Education, P.O. Box 200, Young America, NM 55553-0200;
- f. a ground level storage container to store track equipment at MacArthur, given by the Mercury Club, 50 Club Lane, Levittown, NY 11756."

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VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

8. Gifts to Schools (Continued)

- g. four checks in the amount of \$1,000 each; two for Division Avenue High School and two for MacArthur High School to be used at the discretion of the District and the Board of Education, given by MSG Varsity c/o Cablevision, 101 Stewart Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714."

Seconded: Mr. Moran

NOTE: Mr. Moran questioned where exactly the container was going in letter f. Dr. Grossane noted he will be in touch with Mr. Hahn to find out.

Mr. Pappas clarified that letter g was for scholarship money given by MSG for our students. He remarked that the principals sent over essays of several individuals and the Board will review these and select those students who will receive the scholarships. Mr. Pappas thanked all the donors for their generous gifts to the school district.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 9. MOTION:** Mr. Powers moved, "WHEREAS, the Levittown UFSD ("Employer") maintains the Levittown UFSD 403(b) Retirement Plan Document ("Plan"); and

RESOLUTION # 11-12-205
Amendment to Levittown
UFSD 403(b) Retirement Plan.

WHEREAS, the Plan was duly adopted on the tenth day of December, 2008, by the Employer; and

WHEREAS, the Employer desires to conform the Plan to the requirements of the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Act of 2009 ("HEART") and the Worker, Retiree and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 ("WRERA");

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that sections 1.16 Includible Compensation, 1.24 Severance from Employment, 4.1 Loans, and 5.3 Minimum Distributions, of the Plan are hereby amended as per the attached Amendment to Levittown UFSD 403(b) Retirement Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Plan shall include the following new sections 5.7 Qualified Military Service Distributions and 9.12 Qualified Military Service Benefits as per the attached Amendment to Levittown UFSD 403(b) Retirement Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this amendment is effective as required under HEART and WRERA."

Seconded: Ms. Marengi

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

- 10. MOTION:** Mr. Powers moved, "WHEREAS, the Levittown School District and the Association of Levittown School Administrators (ALSA) have met and the District has received the approval of ALSA to offer a voluntary retirement incentive program to unit members; and

RESOLUTION # 11-12-205
Agreement – ALSA Voluntary
Retirement Incentive Program

WHEREAS, the District and ALSA have negotiated in good faith regarding the terms and conditions of the Incentive, and have reached agreement on the terms and conditions of the Incentive as set forth in the attached;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in consideration of the mutual covenants contained therein, the parties stipulate and agree with the attached Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Levittown Board of Education is, hereby, authorized to sign the attached Agreement."

Seconded: Mr. Regan

NOTE: Dr. Grossane requested that this item be Tabled since the agreement needs to be reviewed by the ALSA attorney and therefore we do not have a signed copy.

MOTION: Mr. Powers moved, "To Table Item #10 until the next meeting.

MOTION TO TABLE

Seconded: Mr. Regan

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 11. MOTION:** Mr. Regan moved, "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve a 5% increase in the student hourly adult education tuition rate from \$6.68/hr., effective July 1, 2012."

RESOLUTION # 11-12-206
Adult Ed Tuition Rates

Seconded: Mr. Powers

NOTE: Mr. Powers asked how the rates were calculated. Ms. Rifkin reported that the Adult Education Program is self sustaining. When the numbers for this year were reviewed, they were very close. Therefore, 5% was added to the hourly rate to insure the program continue to remain self-sustaining. Ms. Rifkin noted that out-of-district students pay an additional amount.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

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| 12. MOTION: Mr. Ward moved, "To approve the following Schedules: | RESOLUTION# 11-12
<u>Schedules</u> |
| Schedule 11-G-12
(Resignation/Termination – Instructional Personnel)." | 1001 |
| Schedule 11-GG-12
(Resignation/Termination – Non-Instructional Personnel)." | 1002 |
| Schedule 11-H-16
(Appointments – Instructional Personnel)." | 1003 |
| Schedule 11-H-16c
(Designation – Consultants)." | 1004 |
| Schedule 11-H-16c
(Designation - Coaches)." | 1005 |
| Schedule 11-H-16h
(Appointments – Extra-Curricular Activities)." | 1006 |
| Schedule 11-J-6
(Tenure – Certified Personnel)." | 1007 |
| Schedule 11-K-11
(Leave of Absence – Instructional Personnel)." | 1008 |
| Schedule 11-KK-11
(Leave of Absence – Non- Instructional Personnel)." | 1009 |
| Schedule 11K-N-5
(Health Services)." | 1010 |

Seconded: Mr. Moran

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

17. Ad Hoc -

a. Policy # 1520

Dr. Grossane noted that this policy was being reviewed in order to be in compliance with Robert's Rules of Order. He commented that when the changes are made it will be brought back for adoption.

Mr. Pappas reported that this policy has to do with the Board calling for an emergency meeting and waving the 24 hour rule. Our policy stated we need the vote to be unanimous and Robert's Rules maintains only a two-thirds majority is necessary.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

17. Ad Hoc – (Continued)

b. LAP Tuition

Ms. Rifkin reviewed the different payment structures for the early morning LAMP and afternoon LAP programs. She noted that the LAMP program is working more efficiently. She reported looking into restructuring the tuition for the LAP program since next year there should be an automated payment system. Ms. Rifkin pointed out that it would be much easier and more profitable, if we were able to charge one fee for all of our students. She remarked on a problem the program has encountered is that we staff the program for five days since we never know which parents are sending their children three or five days. Ms. Rifkin remarked we need a decision quickly because we start printing our applications for the next school year soon.

Mr. Pappas complemented Ms. Rifkin on getting the LAMP program up and running. He commented that she simplified the process and it runs very efficiently. He suggested changes to the fee schedule for parents of three children. He wanted to see more of a savings for this group.

Ms. Marengi asked for clarification of the program. Ms. Rifkin explained that currently at LAP you have the option of signing up for the program for three or five days. Next year, the suggestion is to have parents sign up for the program and send their child as many days as they want for the one price. Ms. Rifkin commented that since we don't know which days the parents are sending their children, we have to staff the same for everyday. Ms. Marengi questioned why there was not a schedule in place. In this way, we have accountability for which children are attending each day. She did not agree that parents should be charged for five days when they only need the service for one. Ms. Marengi questioned how the teachers know on a daily basis which children are going to the after school, who is going on the bus and who is being released out the door. Ms. Rifkin commented she would find out what procedures are in place and report back.

Mr. Pappas concurred that there needs to be changing of the pricing and more accountability. Dr. Grossane noted they would take the Board's ideas and bring back another fee schedule.

c. Policy Series Review - #5000 to #5570 (Business)

The Board reviewed these policies for a first reading.

VIII. ADJOURN

MOTION: Mr. Ward moved, seconded by Mr. Powers to adjourn the public meeting at 9:20PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth Appelbaum
District Clerk

NOTE: TAPES OF THE MEETING ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE LEVITTOWN LIBRARY.

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