

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

DATE: January 9, 2013

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, was duly called and held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 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

Ms. Peggy Marenghi
Mr. James Moran (left meeting at 7:35 PM)
Mr. Michael Pappas – President
Mr. Peter Porrazzo – Vice President
Mr. Edward Powers
Mr. Kevin Regan – Secretary
Mr. Frank Ward

ADMINISTRATION

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

OTHERS

Mr. Robert H. Cohen– School Attorney
Ms. Elizabeth Appelbaum – District Clerk
Ms. Jennifer Newins – MacArthur High School Student Liaison
Mr. James Reilly - Division Avenue High School Student Liaison

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Mr. Pappas, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:00 PM. On a motion by Mr. Porrazzo, seconded by Mr. Powers and approved (7-0) that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss items on the Executive Session Agenda relating to negotiations.

NOTE: Mr. Moran left the meeting at 7:35 PM.

- C. The Board reconvened in Public Session at 7:40 PM at which time Mr. Pappas asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our troops fighting overseas and for the victims of Sandy Hook.

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II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Pappas wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Porrazzo moved to “Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of December 12, 2012 (Regular Meeting).”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Seconded: Mr. Regan

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

IV. REPORTS

A. Recognition:

1. Division Avenue High School Girls Varsity Soccer Team
(NYSPHSAA SCHOLAR ATHLETE TEAM 2012)
General Douglas MacArthur High School Girls Varsity Soccer Team
(NYSPHSAA SCHOLAR ATHLETE TEAM 2012)

Dr. Grossane introduced Mr. Keith Snyder, Director of Physical Education, Athletics Health and Health Services who was here tonight to honor the Girls Varsity Soccer Teams from both high schools for their accomplishments as scholar athletes. Since the Division Avenue Girls Varsity Soccer Team coach had a prior coaching commitment to a winter sports team, Dr. Ianni presented the team. He commented that the girls combined their skills on the field and off the field which is an impressive accomplishment. The MacArthur Girls Varsity Soccer Team Coach, Ms. Schaefer, introduced her team and noted that it is nice to have public acknowledgement that the girls are doing the right thing on and off the field. Everyone was proud of these girls.

2. Gina Interdonato and Esta Lachow – Adopt-A-Family Program

Dr. Grossane spoke about two very important members of the community, Ms. Interdonato, a former Board of Education member, and Ms. Lachow, a former PTA Council President who spearheaded the Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program. He remarked that even in these tough times, with the help of local volunteers the program was able to top last year and help 227 struggling families. Dr. Grossane noted that it was a tremendous job of organization and reaching out to the public. He noted that people came together to help those in need which is a true testament to the wonderful community spirit here in Levittown. He expressed his appreciation for everything Ms. Interdonato and Ms. Lachow do for the community.

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IV. REPORTS - Continued

3. Art Display – Northside Elementary School

Dr. Grossane thanked the students for the beautiful artwork that graces the Board room and hallways. He noted it is fun to see what the elementary students are doing. He especially liked the snowmen done with crayons and watercolors.

B. Superintendent:

1. Follow-up to Public Be Heard Questions

Dr. Grossane reported that at the last meeting, a parent had specific questions on the elementary report cards. He noted that the parent met with Ms. Rikfin and the issue has been resolved.

2. Follow-up to Board Questions
(none)

3. Reports: Division Avenue Cafeteria – Timeline

Mr. Flower pointed out that bids had been advertised with the spec prepared and documents ready. He reported that 25 vendors came in to pick up bids and had to leave a \$100 security deposit. On Monday, Mr. Flower did a walk through at Division Avenue to tour the building. He commented that numerous questions came up as a result of that walk through. He reported that the architect is creating two addendums to address those questions. Mr. Flower stated that the architect had requested that the bid date be changed to January 24th to allow people time to receive these addendums and to get better pricing. Mr. Flower did not see a problem with this since the bid would not be awarded until the February Board meeting.

Mr. Porrazzo asked if a comparison was done between the two projects to check if anything was left off the list for the bid specs. Mr. Flower responded that the lighting had been left off but was put in.

Mr. Pappas commended Mr. Flower on a good job.

C. Board of Education:

1. Comments & Reports

Mr. Pappas remarked that he hoped this year would be a better one considering the school violence in the tri-state area. He noted that at the next Board meeting there would be a presentation on an additional security plan.

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IV. REPORTS – Continued

2. Correspondence

Dr. Grossane read a letter from Dr. Karen Siris, the principal of Boardman Elementary School in Oceanside. Due to hurricane Sandy, the school library at her school, sustained water damage. Student Council Members from MacArthur and Salk coordinated a collection of books to help rebuild the library. Ms. Siris wanted to thank our school district for this generous donation. She went on to say that the students hard work and contribution is a true example of community service.

3. Student Liaisons to Board of Education

Mr. Reilly reported on the events happening at Division Avenue High School. He noted that Emmy Night was coming up which is a senior awards show and the AP Government and Social Studies classes were preparing to go to Washington DC to attend the Inauguration.

Ms. Newins announced that the winter sports teams at MacArthur were doing well and the AP Government and Social Studies classes would also be attending the Inauguration. She remarked that everyone was gearing up for the mid-terms.

V. **PUBLIC BE HEARD**

(see attached)

VI. **ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS**

1. **MOTION:** Mr. Powers 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 # 12-13-122
Warrants

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

Seconded: Mr. Ward

NOTE: Mr. Porrazzo had a question on the disbursement for Dynavox Systems, which are augmented communication devices. He asked that Mr. Flower meet with the Director of Special Education to determine if we are first requesting that private health insurance companies pay for these devices. He noted it is beneficial to the student since they then own the equipment and can keep it. Mr. Pappas asked if we were using the apps on the IPAD instead of using Dynavox. Dr. Grossane remarked that we are using the apps as much as possible but that some students cannot manipulate the applications.

Additionally, Mr. Porrazzo inquired about an expenditure under the Educational Travel/Conference code for \$4,750. Ms. Rifkin responded it was for a literacy consultant to work with the elementary schools.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS – Continued

2. **MOTION:** Mr. Powers moved, “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached Treasurer’s Report for the month ending October 31, 2012 and November 30, 2012 and place same on file.”
- RESOLUTION # 12-13-123
Treasurer’s Report

Seconded: Mr. Ward

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes. **APPROVED 6-0.**

3. **MOTION:** Mr. Powers moved, “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached Appropriation and Revenue Status Reports for the period ending October 31, 2012.”
- RESOLUTION #12-13-124
Appropriation and Revenue
Status Reports

Seconded: Mr. Ward

NOTE: Mr. Pappas asked for an explanation on the negative balances on several accounts such as supervision clerical salary, teacher salary K-6, teaching health insurance, and special education teaching salary. Mr. Flower noted that the report was from October 2012 after the payroll had been encumbered. He said that at the November Board meeting, budget transfers were approved and we were able to wipe out all of those negative balances. Mr. Pappas requested that in the future the report state that adjustments were made. Mr. Porrazzo suggested that the Board be given a current budget and revenue status report from the business office. Mr. Flower replied that could be done very easily and sent home in the Board’s packets. Mr. Pappas requested the Board see all reports needed to catch up to date.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes. **APPROVED 6-0.**

4. **MOTION:** Mr. Regan moved, “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does hereby, accept with thanks, the following gifts:
- RESOLUTION # 12-13-125
Gifts to School

- a. three \$500 checks and one \$1,000 check for scholarships for the class of 2013 at Division Avenue High School, given by Lifetouch National School Studios, 11000 Viking Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344;
- b. various school supplies to be used district wide, given by James and Catherine Moran, 2 Shield Lane, Levittown, NY 11756;
- c. a check in the amount of \$2,000 for the Video Club at Division Avenue High School, given by MSG Varsity, c/o Cablevision, 1101 Stewart Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714.”

Seconded: Ms. Marengi

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS – Continued

NOTE: Dr. Grossane announced that the donation from MSG Varsity for MacArthur just came in and will be accepted at the next Board meeting. Mr. Pappas thanked Board member Mr. Moran, and everyone for their generous donations.

MOTION CARRIED. Seven members present voting yes.

APPROVED 7-0.

- 5. MOTION:** Mr. Ward moved, “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does hereby, approve the attached contract between the Levittown Public Schools and Hofstra University in the sums of \$8,000 for the license fee for the use of the facility and estimated applicable expenses of \$8,206 for two high school graduations to be held at the David S. Mack Sports Complex of Hofstra University on June 15, 2013.”

RESOLUTION # 12-13-126
Contract for June 2013
Commencement – Hofstra Univ.

Seconded: Mr. Powers

NOTE: Mr. Powers inquired if the cost had gone down. Ms. Rifkin responded it had gone down substantially.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 6. MOTION:** Mr. Regan moved, “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does hereby, accept the following new policy:

RESOLUTION # 12-13-127
Approval of New Policy -
6400 Identification Badges

Policy #6400 – Identification Badges.”

Seconded: Mr. Porrazzo

NOTE: The Board had a lengthy discussion on this policy and asked questions such as pricing for visitors badges that turn colors, scanning badges that give a printout to do a background check, number of school entrances at each school and locked doors. Ms. Rhatigan noted that there will be a presentation on a security plan and many of these questions will be answered at the January 23rd Planning Session meeting. Mr. Porrazzo suggested that the policy be pulled until the Board views the security presentation.

MOTION: Mr. Regan moved, “To table Agenda Item #6.”

MOTION TO TABLE

Seconded: Mr. Porrazzo

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS – Continued

7. **MOTION:** Mr. Regan moved, “WHEREAS, the Levittown School District is continuing its review and update of all existing Levittown Board policies; and

RESOLUTION # 12-13-128
Approval of Policies -
Community Relations Series

WHEREAS, the Levittown Board of Education has completed its review of Community Relations Policies 3110 – 3290 with all appropriate parties and revised same as necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept Community Relations Policies 3110 – 3290.”

Seconded: Mr. Ward

NOTE: Since not all Board members had a chance to review the Facilities Policies (#3280 and #3280.1), these two policies were pulled.

AMEND AS FOLLOWS: Pull Policies #3280 and #3280.1.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED AS AMENDED 6-0.

8. **MOTION:** Mr. Ward moved, “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education, does, hereby, declare the following items obsolete and that they may be discarded, or sold at the highest possible salvage value:

RESOLUTION # 12-13-129
Obsolete Equipment

<u>Building/Department</u>	<u># of Items</u>	<u>Date</u>
Abbey Lane (printers)	2	11/14/12
Salk (oven)	1	11/5/12
Salk (refrigerator/freezer)	1	11/20/12
Salk (refrigerator)	1	11/30/12
Wisdom (printers)	4	12/5/12
Salk (fax, typewriter)	2	12/10/12
LMEC (printers)	2	12/10/12.”

Seconded: Ms. Marengi

NOTE: Mr. Powers requested that more information be given regarding the refrigerator from Salk, specifically what department or room it came from.

Mr. Ward remarked that he has asked several times that the explanation sheet for discarding equipment have more information than just “broken beyond repair.” Dr. Grossane stated he would look into it.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS – Continued

9. **MOTION:** Mr. Regan moved, “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does hereby, declare the library books on the following list obsolete and that they may be discarded and/or donated as possible: RESOLUTION # 12-13-130
Obsolete Library Books

<u>Building/Department</u>	<u># of Books</u>	<u>Date</u>
Salk Middle School	49	12/11/12.”

Seconded: Mr. Powers

NOTE: Mr. Porrazzo shared with the Board a discussion he had with another district regarding accessing of books. He reported that they were moving their library to having both E books and regular books. He noted that the cost of E books are more than paperbacks but less than hard cover. He remarked that students can download the E books on their electronic devices and the district sets the timeframe for availability on the device. Mr. Porrazzo found this concept very interesting especially since you would not have to dispose of books.

Ms. Marengi reported that her district uses E books and commented that the children love them.

Mr. Powers discussed the growing fear in the publishing industry regarding downloading from the public libraries which have huge funding for books as opposed to actually buying books. He recommended speaking to the Tech Department and our library staff to see if we could integrate more on a redirect basis.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

10. **MOTION:** Mr. Ward moved, “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does hereby, approve the Modification to the Employment Agreement between the Levittown Union Free School District and Dr. James J. Grossane, as per the terms of the attached Modification of Employment Agreement.” RESOLUTION # 12-13-131
Modification of Employment Agreement - Superintendent of Schools

Seconded: Mr. Regan

NOTE: Mr. Pappas explained that this resolution is to modify Dr. Grossane’s contract to adjust the evaluation period to a midyear interim evaluation. In this way, there can be a discussion on where the district and the Superintendent are heading. In July, there will be a final evaluation. Mr. Pappas stated this way is more productive.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS – Continued

11. MOTION: Mr. Porrazzo moved, “RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 315.4 of the regulations of the NYCRR (New York Codes, Rules and Regulations), the Levittown Public Schools hereby establishes the following as Standard Work Days for appointed officials and will report the days worked to the New York State and Local Employees’ Retirement System based on the daily records of time worked as maintained by the Levittown Public Schools:

RESOLUTION # 12-13-132
Reporting of Appointed
Officials for 2012-2013

Appointed Officials:

Title	Name	SS# Last 4 Digits	Registration Number	Standard Work Day hours/day	Term Begins/ Ends	Participates in Employers Time Keeping	Days/Months (based on Record of Activities)
District Clerk	Elizabeth Appelbaum	XXXX	XXXXXXX	6	07/01/12 6/30/13	Yes	N/A

Seconded: Mr. Powers

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

12. MOTION: Mr. Powers moved, “RESOLVED, pursuant to Article 156.5 of the New York State Education Law, the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached transportation contract with Nassau BOCES for the 2012-2013 school year outdoor trips at a cost of \$28,690.86; and

RESOLUTION # 12-13-133
2012-2013 Outdoor Education
Transportation Contract

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is, hereby, authorized to execute the attached contract.”

Seconded: Mr. Porrazzo

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

13. MOTION: Mr. Powers moved, “RESOLVED, pursuant to Article 156.5 of the New York State Education Law, the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached winter transportation contract with Eastern Suffolk BOCES for the 2012-2013 school year field trip transportation program at an actual cost of \$1,181,000; and

RESOLUTION # 12-13-134
2012-2013 Winter
Transportation Contract

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is, hereby, authorized to execute the attached contract.”

Seconded: Mr. Porrazzo

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS – Continued

- 14. MOTION:** Mr. Porrazzo moved, “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does hereby, authorize the submission of the attached Corrective Action Plans pursuant to the District’s Internal Audits dated November 19, 2012 and November 20, 2012 as prepared by Cullen Danowski LLP.”
- RESOLUTION # 12-13-135
Corrective Action Plans-
Internal Audits

Seconded: Mr. Ward

NOTE: Mr. Flower explained that two different audit reports, the Initial Risk Assessment and the Agreed-Upon Procedures for Payroll and Benefits, were done.

Mr. Porrazzo asked if the risk assessment was changed as was suggested. Mr. Flower responded he would follow up on that since he had not heard back from the auditors.

Mr. Pappas commented that several items in the report remained open and were still in process. Mr. Flower replied that substantial headway had been made with 24 items closed. Mr. Pappas asked if on item #9, regarding Board approval on Schedules, a procedure could be put in place in Finance Manager for this. Mr. Flower noted that Finance Manager shows the hire date and a notation could be put in to post Board approval and Schedule page number. Ms. Rhatigan mentioned that the auditors comments were a result of stipends that were not Board approved. She noted these items are not on the Schedules for Board approval.

Mr. Pappas felt that item #12 was contractual and should not have been included.

On item #16, Employee Benefits, Mr. Pappas asked for an explanation. Mr. Flower responded that there was a major change within the benefits department by the retirement of one employee. He remarked that since that retirement, we learned a significant amount about several issues. Mr. Flower reported that the department would have an intern to help out with benefits.

Mr. Pappas asked for an explanation on item #34, regarding time clocks. Mr. Flower noted that this item was previously discussed but never moved forward with implementation because there were still questions on who would utilize the time clocks. Mr. Ward asked if time clock implementation would be easier now with the new identification badges. Mr. Flower reported that the time clocks would use biometric technology which aids in reducing errors from processing inaccuracies and abuse related to “buddy punching” concerns. This item would be discussed further at a Board Planning Session.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 15. MOTION:** Ms. Marengi moved, “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does hereby, accept the response to the Single Federal Audit Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012; and
- RESOLUTION # 12-13
Response to Federal
Single Audit Report

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance is, hereby, authorized to submit the Corrective Action Plan to the New York State Comptroller’s Office and the New York State Education Department pursuant to the Five Point Fiscal Accountability Plan.”

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS – Continued

Seconded: Mr. Powers

NOTE: Mr. Pappas remarked that the auditors had no findings which means no corrective action is required. He thanked Mr. Flower for a job well done.

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 16. MOTION:** Mr. Porrazzo moved, "To approve the following Schedules:

RESOLUTION# 12-13
Schedules

Schedule 12-G-8 (Resignation/Termination – Certified Personnel)."	1001
Schedule 12-GG-8 (Resignation/Termination – Non-Instructional Personnel)."	1002
Schedule 12-H-10 (Appointments – Certified Personnel)."	1003
Schedule 12-H-10c (Designation - Consultants)."	1004
Schedule 12-H-10g (Designation – Coaches)."	1005
Schedule 12-HH-10 (Appointments – Non-Instructional Personnel)."	1006
Schedule 12-JJ-3 (Leave of Absence – Non-Instructional Personnel)."	1007
Schedule 12-K-7 (Leave of Absence – Certified Personnel)."	1008
Schedule 12-O-6 (Students with Disabilities)."	1009

Seconded: Ms. Marenghi

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

- 17. MOTION:** Mr. Regan moved, "WHEREAS, the Levittown School District had previously contracted with Cost Management Services for Medicaid billing services; and

RESOLUTION # 12-13
Medicaid Billing Services Contract
Sivic Solutions Group, LLC.

WHEREAS, Cost Management Services no longer provides this service;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, enter into an agreement with Sivic Solutions Group, LLC, to provide Medicaid billing services; and

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS – Continued

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Levittown Board of Education is, hereby, authorized to sign the attached agreement with Sivic Solutions Group, LLC.”

Seconded: Mr. Porrazzo

NOTE: Mr. Flower explained that several months ago, the Board had approved a resolution with Cost Management Services to provide a consultant to come in and assist the district with improving our claiming of Medicaid. He commented that this company no longer provides this service, but that their consultant, Ms. Joseph, who has moved to Sivic Solutions Group, is interested in providing those services to us. Mr. Flower reported that our district only billed about \$16,000 worth of Medicaid claims. Ms. Joseph’s analysis pointed out that we should be billing between \$300,000 – \$600,00 worth of claims.

Mr. Porrazzo inquired if Mr. Flower had done a comparison of services for this task. He noted that Ms. Joseph is seeking 25% of the recovered claims which could amount to a lot of money. He commented that the Medicaid claim process is very slow for reimbursement. Mr. Porrazzo questioned why we would pay a consultant a contingency fee for recovery and not just have an expert show us how to do this work ourselves. Mr. Flower remarked the plan is to have the consultant train us to do this work as part of being able to increase our revenue stream. After the first year, we do not have to renew the contract if we learn the process. Mr. Porrazzo commented that the contract does not state this and the fee for the consultant is high. He noted that previously, we had done this work in-house. Mr. Flower stated that the value Ms. Joseph brings to the table is that we are missing the boat. We need someone to hold our hand through the initial process to bring us up to speed. He reported that the requirements for Medicaid claiming has changed significantly and a lot of work needs to be done to make sure that the process is done correctly in order for us to get those monies. Mr. Flower discussed some of the tasks involved in the process. Dr. Grossane remarked that we are only farming the job out for one year and it is an important revenue stream. He asked if the Board is suggesting that we look at other ways to do this and report back. Mr. Pappas inquired if anyone knew what other school districts do to collect from Medicaid. Mr. Flower reported that a consultant service is used at Port Jefferson, Sayville and Massapequa. Mr. Regan asked if there were any districts that use an in-house employee. Ms. Marengi and Mr. Porrazzo commented that Plainedge and New Hyde Park school districts use in-house employees through their special education departments. Additionally, Ms. Marengi noted that we have to look at this for the long term. She commented that we should hire someone to train one or two full time district employees instead of hiring a consultant. Dr. Grossane stated that he would look into other options. The Board decided to table this motion.

MOTION: Mr. Regan moved, “To table Agenda Item #17.”

MOTION TO TABLE

Seconded: Mr. Porrazzo

MOTION CARRIED. Six members present voting yes.

APPROVED 6-0.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS – Continued

18. **Ad Hoc – For Discussion Only, No Action Taken**

a. Building Access

The Board decided to discuss this topic at the next meeting.

b. 2013/2014 School Calendar

Dr. Grossane reported that he has put forth two proposals for the school calendar. He remarked that next year is unique in that Labor Day is September 2nd and Rosh Hashanah is September 5th and 6th, which means the week has only the opportunity for two instruction days. Dr. Grossane explained that option A, proposes to have Superintendent's Conference Day on August 28th with school starting on September 3rd. This alternative would pick up a recess day on Friday, May 23 which is the day before Memorial Day weekend. He noted that this is a departure from what has been done in the past but that most districts are moving towards this. Option B, is more traditional where Superintendent's Conference Day would be on September 3rd, with students in on the 4th. Dr. Grossane mentioned that both options would require input from the LUT and that both include a full February break.

Mr. Powers stated that when this year's calendar was adopted, there was a discussion on the possibility of the Regents being accelerated which would make the February break at risk. He asked what was happening with the Regents dates. Dr. Grossane shared that the State Education Department has opted not to move forward with changing the test times. Therefore, the traditional Regents testing dates will remain.

Mr. Pappas asked Dr. Grossane which proposal he preferred. He responded option A.

c. Weather Alert Procedures

Dr. Grossane pointed out that there was a question from the Board regarding closing the high school campuses and not permit students to leave during days of inclement weather.

Mr. Pappas requested a report showing if there is an increase in car accidents during these bad weather days.

Mr. Porrazzo suggested reaching out to other schools to see what they are doing regarding this topic.

Dr. Grossane stated he would look into this.

d. Policy Series 3310-3510 (Community Relations) 2nd Read

Ms. Rhatigan reviewed the two policies that needed minor changes.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS – Continued

e. Contract Signing

Mr. Pappas acknowledged that he had major issues with signing contracts that do not include all necessary information such as beginning/ending dates, names, addresses and enclosures. He felt that he should not have to examine contracts for mistakes, only sign them. He stressed that he was frustrated and would not sign any contracts that contained errors. He asked Mr. Cohen, legal counsel, to review the format that should be used for our contracts. Mr. Cohen stated that any contract that is unusual should be sent to him for review.

Mr. Powers remarked that we are the buyer of services and should be able to have our own contract. He questioned Mr. Cohen if we could have a standard contract for our school district. Mr. Cohen pointed out that when you are providing the service, you can use your own contract but where services are provided by others, the tradition is to use their contract. He noted that most of the special education contracts are standard but there is always the exception.

Mr. Porrazzo spoke about a contract that was reviewed and noted it was not written for a school district and should have been reviewed and items negotiated.

Dr. Grossane suggested that moving forward, he would confer with Mr. Cohen for his guidance to develop a procedure check list to making sure all pertinent items are including in the routine contracts. In this way, we can hope to eliminate any errors.

MOTION: Mr. Ward moved, "That the Board go into Executive Session at 9:15 to discuss personnel issues.

Executive Session

Second Mr. Powers

MOTION CARRIED. Six members voting yes.

Approved 6-0.

VIII. ADJOURN

MOTION: Mr. Powers moved, seconded by Ms. Marengi to adjourn the public meeting 11:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth Appelbaum
District Clerk

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

ATTACHMENTS TO BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

OF MEETING OF January 9, 2013

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V. PUBLIC BE HEARD

PLEASE NOTE: COPIES OF ATTACHMENTS SUBMITTED ARE GIVEN TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THEN KEPT WITH THE OFFICIAL MINUTES IN THE DISTRICT CLERK OFFICE.

The guidelines pertaining to Public Be Heard were read. Dr. Grossane and/or Board members will respond to questions, after the last speaker is heard.

Esta Lachow 79 Periwinkle Road, Levittown, NY

Ms. Lachow wanted to personally thank all those who helped with the Adopt-A-Family program. She remarked that she spoke and met with amazing members and friends of the Levittown community who heard the stories about some of the “adoptees” and opened up their hearts and wallets to provide so much. She learned so much from this program, especially that Levittown is an amazing community of people that care and appreciate where we are and what we have. Ms. Lachow asked that she and Ms. Interdonato be given the opportunity to run the program again in 2013.

RESPONSE:

In response to Ms. Lachow request:

Mr. Pappas commended Ms. Lachow for a fantastic job and stressed how proud we all are of her and the Levittown community.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Appelbaum,
District Clerk