

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

**DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2013**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**, was duly called and held on Wednesday, November 13, 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.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ed Powers: Excused, Frank Ward: Present, James Moran: Present, Mike Pappas: Present, Peter Porrazzo: Present, Kevin J Regan: Present, Peggy Marenghi: Late.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. James Grossane - Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Darlene Rhatigan - Assistant Superintendent  
Ms. Debbie Rifkin - Assistant Superintendent

**OTHERS**

Mr. Robert H. Cohen - School Attorney  
Ms. Elizabeth Appelbaum - District Clerk  
Ms. Christina Reilly - Alternate Division Avenue High School Student Liaison  
Mr. Benjamin Mordechai-Strongin - Alternate MacArthur High School Student Liaison

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Mr. Regan, President, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:15 PM. On a motion by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Moran and approved (5-0) that the Board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss items on the Executive Session Agenda relating to schedules.
- C. The Board reconvened in Public Session at 7:35 PM at which time Mr. Regan asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our troops serving overseas and for our veterans. Additionally, for those victims of the storm in the Philippines.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Board congratulated Nicholas Fuchs, the Division Avenue High School Student Liaison, on being named homecoming King.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes

Recommended Motion: "Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of October 9, 2013 (Regular Meeting) and October 16, 2013 (Special Meeting)."

**NOTE: The Board requested corrections which were reflected in the approved minutes.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mike Pappas, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Moran, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers

IV. REPORTS

A. Recognition

1. Art Display - Lee Road Elementary School

Dr. Grossane thanked the students and teachers for the beautiful display of art work in the Board Room and hallways.

2. Ryan Clifford - Eagle Scout Award

Ms. Rifkin called up Ryan Clifford, a student who obtained the rank of Eagle Scout. Ryan reported on his project. He explained that he remodeled and renovated a classroom in his church which the Sunday School uses.

3. Susan Graham - performance of Heimlich maneuver

Ms. Rifkin introduced Dr. Maurer, Principal of Abbey Lane School, who thanked the Board for honoring his request to acknowledge Ms. Graham, an elementary teacher, for her heroic efforts in performing the Heimlich maneuver to save a choking student. The Board publicly thanked Ms. Graham and pictures were taken.

B. Superintendent

1. Follow-Up to Public be Heard Questions

Dr. Grossane responded to a question that was asked at the last Board meeting concerning ranking. He reported on the district's actual ranking for each grade level in the county for this year and last year. Dr. Grossane went on to discuss the reasons for some of the movement. He stated that we improved our ranking in eight of the assessments; in one we stayed the

same and in three the ranking declined. He noted the major reason for this decline was the change in the assessment system. Dr. Grossane advised that he would be discussing our areas of deficiency later in his presentation.

Another questions asked was in regard to the Algebra I modules. Dr. Grossane remarked that we are still waiting for these modules from New York State. He noted that there is no textbook and the curriculum is being written as the course is going on. Unfortunately, we have no control over this, but we are working with the staff so they are best prepared to teach the course.

## 2. Follow-up to Board Questions

Mr. Pappas asked for an update on the Division Avenue Cafeteria. Dr. Grossane reported that the gates and rails have gone in but that he was still working with the contractor to resolve the flooring issue. There was a discussion among the Board members as to the problem being the expansion joint. Dr. Grossane pointed out that the architects would be at the Planning Session to discuss the modifications that need to be addressed to the kitchen serving areas. Mr. Pappas wanted to know if the cash register had been moved. Dr. Grossane responded that it had not but that the school store is operational. Mr. Porrazzo asked about the windows and railing. Dr. Grossane stated that the roofer was currently fixing these. Mr. Pappas inquired as to the wall denting which needed heavy duty sheetrock. Mr. Ward noted that it had been repaired since the spackle is visible but it needs to be upgraded to something better than sheetrock. Mr. Pappas asked if we owe the architects any money. Dr. Grossane reported that there is a lot of money still held in reserve. Mr. Porrazzo requested that he provide the Board with a project status report which includes a total budget. Dr. Grossane remarked that he would try to have the information in the Friday report. He assured the Board that when the architects present their report next week he will draw their attention to these issues.

Mr. Pappas asked Ms. Rhatigan about the WiFi rollout for teachers in the high schools. She mentioned that there would be a first read of a policy regarding this at the Planning Session.

Mr. Pappas wanted to know if we had the final audited numbers regarding the Revenue Report. Mr. Pastore responded that these reports will be available for the next Board Meeting. Additionally, Mr. Pappas inquired about the medical billing numbers. Dr. Grossane noted that the amounts came in significantly less than expected.

## 3. Report: Academic Action Plan

Dr. Grossane gave a brief presentation on Levittown's Education Plan for 2013-2014. He noted that we have been discussing extensively; our performance on the State Assessment Tests, revamping, what we are doing regarding curriculum, and what we are doing to address those issues. He reviewed our current rankings in Nassau County in 2012 vs. 2013. He stressed that we should be concentrating on our own performance, in our own district, relative to ourselves and start striving for continuous improvement. He went on to discuss how in Math 3 the scores took a huge jump. This is because these students had two years of instruction with the new enVision program which is based on the Common Core which is based on higher expectations and higher demands. Dr. Grossane predicted these math students will perform even better next year and as will each class as they have more and more instruction in this Common Core type of curriculum, and we will support them with the appropriate instruction. He went on to discuss the other areas that he would be focusing on in the elementary, middle and high schools. Dr. Grossane explained the process and strategies that

would be used to help overcome our deficiencies. He shared that his goal is to improve the district's students passing rates on NYS ELA and Math Assessments and Regents Exams by 5%.

Mr. Pappas addressed Dr. Grossane's comments on comparing our district to other schools. He remarked that our children and homes are our most valuable assets and that bad scores affect our children, and community in terms of property values. He felt we need a comparison to other districts. Dr. Grossane pointed out that while we are always going to be compared to other districts, our main focus is to start concentrating on improving our instruction. Mr. Porrazzo stated that we need to have a benchmark.

Mr. Pappas asked about the areas of focus for improvement, specifically how the science issues seem to be different than for English and Math. Dr. Grossane explained that the science issues speak to the instruction of the students. In order for the students to learn the concepts they have to be actively engaged in the lesson enough to retain the material.

In reviewing the Data Analysis Sample for Elementary Students, Mr. Pappas inquired about what was different from last year. Dr. Grossane responded that this year, the teachers were asked to do a far more in-depth analysis of their students; to see where they are performing, what their specific deficit areas were, what their specific areas of strengths were, what strategies were they going to employ within their classroom and to identify their specific resources. He stated that from this plan the teachers' wrote their daily lesson plan. The Curriculum Associates and Principals specifically went over that data with each teacher, then went through that analysis and from that, the principal was able to identify the areas that their building needed to work on. The goals and instruction became far more specific. Dr. Grossane noted that this year the data was far more in-depth and a lot of brainstorming went on between Administration, Curriculum Associates and teachers. Mr. Porrazzo remarked that in years past, the data analysis was done by Central Office and is now given to each building which forces them to become more familiar with it. Dr. Grossane agreed and stated that the process was changed in that we asked the teachers to further analyze the data instead of just presenting it.

Mr. Pappas asked Dr. Grossane to clarify the Goals section from his presentation which he felt was not clear. Dr. Grossane explained that he expected the passing rates of each individual exam to increase by 5%.

Ms. Marengi commented that she was glad to see that this year the district pulled the GAP Reports which she finds invaluable. She noted that they can be used as an indicator of how a teacher will grow because it shows the areas that they were not efficient in the year before.

## C. Board of Education

### 1. Comments and Reports

Mr. Pappas thanked the Lee Road and East Broadway PTAs' for their hospitality and informative meetings. He asked Dr. Grossane to speak about the MacArthur football game during homecoming. Dr. Grossane extended his and the Board's gratitude and congratulations to the football team for their warm greeting to Grand Marshal Brendan Gallagher and for winning the football game.

2. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

3. Student Liaisons to the Board of Education

Mr. Fuchs spoke about a junior at Division Avenue, Bailey Gribben, who is suffering from a disease know as Neurofibromatosis. November 1<sup>st</sup> was designated as Bailey Gribben Day, to honor his strength and courage in fighting this battle. Mr. Fuchs reported that the students organized fundraisers and all proceeds will be donated to the Children’s Tumor Foundation. Additionally, the students are preparing for the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Mr. Zilli thanked the parents, students and staff at MacArthur for their generous donations for the Holiday Food Drive.

V. PUBLIC BE HEARD

Comments appear at the end of the minutes.

VI. ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS

1. Warrants

RESOLUTION # 13-14-94

**MOTION:** "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,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the October 2013 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Moran, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers

2. Treasurer's Report

RESOLUTION # 13-14-95

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached reports and placed same on file:

Summary of Treasurer's Reports for the months ending June 30, 2013, July 31, 2013, August 31, 2013 and September 30, 2013."

**NOTE:** It was determined that the Board did not receive all of the documents necessary for this item to be voted on, therefore it will be presented at a Special Meeting of the Board on November 20, 2013.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>TABLED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Moran, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers

3.Claims Auditor Reports

RESOLUTION # 13-14-96

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached Claims Auditor Reports prepared by Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck and Company, P.C. for the months ending September 30, 2013 and October 31, 2013"

**NOTE:** Mr. Pappas thanked AVZ for getting the report to the Board on time. He was concerned about the number of confirming purchase orders. He remarked that most of them are focused on one or two employees. He asked how we should address this. Mr. Porrazzo reported that allowances were made in the beginning of the fiscal year for transitions but we are well past that point now. He questioned whether we should be getting write ups on the habitual offenders. Mr. Pastore commented that he will deal with this by working with those individuals that continue to have confirming purchase orders with training and to see what issues are causing the problems. He noted that most of the time there is a learning curve. Mr. Porrazzo stated that he was alarmed to see the number of purchase orders over ninety days. Mr. Pappas requested that this problem be taken care of.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mike Pappas, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Moran, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers

4.Gifts to Schools

RESOLUTION # 13-14-97

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept with thanks the following gifts:

a. checks for the following schools in the indicated amounts, given by Target Take Charge of Education/Give with Target, P.O. Box 59214, Minneapolis, MN 55459-0214 to be deposited in their respective student activity funds:

Abbey Lane	\$46.00	East Broadway	\$171.00
Gardiners	\$130.00	Gardiners	\$868.70
Lee Road	\$25.00	Northside	\$65.00
Summit	\$34.00		

b. a check in the amount of \$1,000 for the establishment of a scholarship fund for Division Avenue and MacArthur high school students, donated by Levittown Ford, 3195 Hempstead Turnpike, Levittown, New York 11756, attention: Eric Rivera, General Manager“

**NOTE: Mr. Regan thanked everyone for their generous donations to the district.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Moran, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers

5. Bid - Approval of Bids

RESOLUTION # 13-14-98

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the following bids:

<u>Bid #</u>	<u>Description</u>
13E No. 18	Locksmith Supplies-Long Island Locksmith & Alarm Co, US Lock Co, Accredited Lock Supply Co"

**NOTE: Mr. Pappas remarked that the format of the bid was very confusing. He asked for an interpretation. Mr. Howard, Business Manager, explained the bid. He noted that this was the way the bidder responded. The Board had questions for Mr. Howard. Mr. Cohen, legal counsel, commented that the problem is that there is no actual price on the sheet, just a percentage off of a list price. Mr. Ward asked if we have locksmiths in the district. Mr. Howard responded yes, but that the majority of the bid was for parts.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [4 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peter Porrazzo, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Moran, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	Ward, Pappas
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers

6. Obsolete Equipment

RESOLUTION # 13-14-99

**MOTION:** “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the equipment on the following lists obsolete and that the items may be discarded and/or sold at the highest possible salvage value:

<u>School / Building</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>	<u>Date of List</u>
GC Tech (Shop Car)	1	September 29, 2013
Salk MS (Stoves)	2	October 7, 2013"

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	James Moran, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Moran, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marenghi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers

7.Obsolete Computer Equipment

RESOLUTION #13-14-100

**MOTION:** “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the computer equipment on the following lists obsolete and that the items may be discarded and/or sold at the highest possible salvage value:

<u>School / Building</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>	<u>Date of List</u>
LMEC (Printers)	11	October 2, 2013
LMEC (Printers/PCs)	11	October 7, 2013
LMEC (Printers/Projectors)	3	October 25, 2013
Gardiners Ave (Scanner)	2	October 11, 2013
Northside (Printers/Monitor)	3	October 17, 2013"

**NOTE: Mr. Moran was out of the room for this vote.**

Mr. Porrazzo reported that some students in the district are without access to computers at home. He noted that it this is causing difficulty for students to complete homework assignments. He would like to see the obsolete computers and monitors go to students who need them rather than have them salvaged. He asked if this was feasible. Ms. Marenghi explained that this was looked into before and we were told by our attorneys that it is illegal and public funds. Mr. Cohen remarked that there is always a risk that personal and confidential information that has not been properly erased from the computers. He commented that his office would write an opinion letter on this issue. Ms. Rhatigan stated that we are hooked up to the public library for any student that does not have access to a computer. She mentioned that she would look into a loaner program where computers would be accessible to all students. Mr. Ward questioned why the Lexmark Printers always seem to be on the salvage list. Mr. Vanderberg, IT Specialist, reported that these printers are very old and we can no longer get parts for them.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [5 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Peggy Marenghi, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marenghi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers
<b>AWAY:</b>	Moran



8.Obsolete Books

## RESOLUTION # 13-14-101

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the books on the attached lists obsolete and that the items may be discarded and/or donated as possible or sold at the highest salvage value:

<u>School</u>	<u>Quantity/type of book</u>	<u>Date of List</u>
Salk MS	65 Library Books	October 21, 2013"

**NOTE: Mr. Moran was out of the room for this vote.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [5 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers
<b>AWAY:</b>	Moran

9.2013-14 Outdoor Education Transportation Contract

## RESOLUTION # 13-14-102

**MOTION:** "Resolved that 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 2013-14 school year outdoor education trips at a cost of \$23,400.

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

**NOTE: Mr. Moran was out of the room for this vote.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [5 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers
<b>AWAY:</b>	Moran

10.Transportation Contracts

## RESOLUTION # 13-14-103

**MOTION:** "Resolved that pursuant to Article 156.5 of the New York State Education Law, the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the following 2013-14 transportation contracts/extensions:

<u>Contractor's Name</u>	<u>Date of Contract</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Educational Bus	September 9, 2013	\$1,600
First Student Inc.	September 9, 2013	\$1,509
Acme / Baumann Bus	October 2, 2013	\$0
Educational Bus	October 10, 2013	\$1,600
First Student Inc.	October 10, 2013	\$1,509
Educational Bus	October 18, 2013	\$12,784
First Student Inc.	October 18, 2013	\$31,288

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is, hereby, authorized to execute the contract(s)."

**NOTE: Mr. Moran was out of the room for this vote.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [5 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Pappas, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers
<b>AWAY:</b>	Moran

11.Appointment of Additional Members of the Food Service Committee RESOLUTION # 13-14-104

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, appoint Donna Bolton and Kelly Glenn as additional members of the Food Service Committee for the 2013-2014 school year."

**NOTE: Mr. Moran was out of the room for this vote.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [5 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mike Pappas, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Peter Porrazzo, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers
<b>AWAY:</b>	Moran

12.Appointment of Additional Members of Committee on Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education RESOLUTION # 13-14-105

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education appoint Karen Buttner, Juliana Calta

and Sonia Romero as additional members to serve on the District Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education for the 2013-14 school year."

**NOTE: Mr. Moran was out of the room for this vote.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [5 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers
<b>AWAY:</b>	Moran

13.Appointment of Impartial Hearing Officer

RESOLUTION # 13-14-106

**MOTION:** "RESOLVED, that the Levittown School District does, hereby, appoint Nancy Lederman as Impartial Hearing Officer in a matter regarding a student with identification #1123011"

**NOTE: Mr. Moran was out of room for this vote.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [5 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers
<b>AWAY:</b>	Moran

14.Resolution on Standardized Testing

RESOLUTION # 13-14-107

**MOTION:** "WHEREAS, every student deserves a quality public education dedicated to preparing engaged citizens, creative and critical thinkers, and lifelong learners ready for college and careers; and

WHEREAS, the decline in state support for public schools has forced our district to reduce programs and limited our ability to implement the new programs mandated by the state such as the common core standards creating an uneven rollout of the standards among school districts around the state; and

WHEREAS, while the implementation of the common core will ultimately help students, teachers and teaching and learning, the growing reliance on and misalignment of standardized testing is eroding student learning time, and narrowing the curriculum and jeopardizing the rich, meaningful education our students need and deserve; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that research recommends the use of multiple measures to gauge student performance and teacher effectiveness, the state's growing reliance on standardized testing is adversely

affecting students across all spectrums, the morale of our educators and further draining already scarce resources; and

WHEREAS, the federal elementary and secondary education act’s testing policies fail to appropriately accommodate the unique needs of students with disabilities and English language learners in assessing their learning, resulting in test scores that do not accurately represent a true measure of the contributions of teachers and schools; and

WHEREAS, it is time for policymakers to recalibrate the number, duration and appropriate use of standardized tests so that we can refocus our efforts on student learning; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Levittown Public Schools calls upon the Commissioner of Education, the New York State Board of Regents and other policymakers to reduce the use of and overreliance on standardized testing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Levittown Public Schools calls upon the United States Congress and the Administration to reduce federal testing mandates and support the role of and focus on multiple measures of student learning and school quality in accountability systems."

**AMEND AS FOLLOWS:** The seventh paragraph should read:

RESOLVED, that the Levittown Public Schools calls upon the Commissioner of Education, the New York State Board of Regents and other policymakers to reduce the use of and overreliance on standardized testing; and institute additional safeguards on the collection and use of student data, be it further

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Moran, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers

**MOTION:** “That the board go into Executive Session at 9:30 PM.”      **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	James Moran, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Moran, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers

**NOTE: The Board Reconvened to Public Session at 10:05 PM.**

15. Schedules

RESOLUTION # 13-14-108

**MOTION:** "That the Levittown Board of Education approve the following schedules:"

1001	2013-G-No. 6	Resignations/Terminations, Certified Personnel
1002	2013-GG-No. 6	Resignations/Terminations, Non-Instructional Personnel
1003	2013-H-No. 7	Appointments, Certified Personnel
1003.1	2013-H-No. 7a1	Appointments, Salary Change, Certified Personnel
1004	2013-H-No. 7c	Designation, Consultants
1005	2013-H-No. 7g	Designation, Coaching
1006	2013-H-No. 7h	Appointments, Extra-Curricular
1007	2013-HH-No. 7	Appointments, Non-Instructional Personnel
1008	2013-HH-No. 7a-1	Salary Change, Non-Instructional Personnel
1009	2013-J-No. 3	Tenure, Certified Personnel
1010	2013-K-No. 5	Leave of Absence, Certified Personnel
1011	2013-KK-No. 5	Leave of Absence, Non-Instructional Personnel
1012	2013-O-No. 5	Students with Disabilities

**SEPARATE VOTE** on Schedule 2013-H-No. 7g ( 1005)

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED 5-1-0</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	James Moran, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Moran, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>NAYS:</b>	Ward
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers

**VOTE ON ALL OTHER SCHEDULES:**

**AMEND AS FOLLOWS: TABLE Schedule 2013-HH-No. 7a-1 (1008)**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	James Moran, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Moran, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers

16. Ad Hoc

Discussion Only; No Action Taken

1. Policy Review

- a. Policy #3413 Smoking on School Premises - second read  
No changes were made.
- b. Policy #6130 Evaluation of Personnel - second read  
No changes were made
- c. Policy # 7222 Diploma and/or Credential Options for Students with Disabilities - second read

Mr. Porrazzo requested that Ms. Carelli-Lang, the Director of Special Education, give a presentation to the Board on this policy. Dr. Grossane stated that he would have her give it to the Board at the next Planning Session. Mr. Pappas felt that the word diploma should be used as opposed to credentials. Ms. Rhatigan mentioned that she was still meeting with staff and a trainer because there was confusion on how to identify the students on the different levels of the diploma.

2. Elementary, Extra Help – mathematics

Dr. Grossane reported that a question was raised by Mr. Ward regarding having extra help sessions in mathematics in the mornings. He shared that the District's formal ELA Academies are used for the preparation of the assessments in the spring but can be set up for mathematics also. If the Board is in favor of this approach, criteria would be created for this. Mr. Porrazzo asked how many sessions of the ELA extra help were given. Ms. Rifkin responded it was twice a week, hourly sessions for eight weeks. Mr. Porrazzo stated he would like to measure what impact the extra help sessions had on the students. Dr. Grossane mentioned that we are being more individualized within the classroom, more structured and focused on individual student deficiencies. However, some children still need more help than others. He felt the extra help did have benefits.

Ms. Marengi reported that her school uses clinics that look at the student's skill development to find the areas of weakness. She noted that a specific teacher is selected that is strong in that particular area. Ms. Marengi commented that growth is shown when we are skill specific. She mentioned that there is a big difference between remediation and extra help. Mr. Pappas asked questions about CSR teachers. Ms. Rhatigan explained that these teachers provide remedial services for our students, mostly in math and reading. They are hourly employees, paid through a grant and supplemented by the district.

3. State Education Department Data Repository

Dr. Grossane noted that this was discussed earlier in the meeting.

VII. DATES

Dates

Planning Session	Wednesday, November 20, 2013	7:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting	Wednesday, December 11, 2013	7:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** "That the Board go into Executive Session at 9:30 PM."      **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	James Moran, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Moran, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Peggy Marengi, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Frank Ward, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Ward, Moran, Pappas, Porrazzo, Regan, Marengi
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Powers

The Board adjourned the meeting at 10:17 PM.

Elizabeth Appelbaum

District Clerk

**NOTE: Tapes of the meeting are available for review at the Levittown Library.**

**PUBLIC BE HEARD**

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.

**Vikki Sanchez                    70 Anchor Lane, Levittown, NY**

Ms. Sanchez shared that she grew up on Long Island and is a product of their wonderful public educational system. She commented that although she has a job with financial responsibilities, she is unable to help her children with their math homework. She stated that she was really excited about that Board is voting on the Resolution on Standardized Testing but feels that the curriculum for the Common Core is challenging and not helping our students, especially the special education students. Ms. Sanchez objects to the sharing of data on students.

**Christina Lang                    35 Valley Road, Levittown, NY**

Ms. Lang had concerns about too much testing especially for the younger children. She reported that she had attended the rally outside and publically spoke up about her concerns. Ms. Lang urged the Board to publicly speak up for our children against excessive testing.

**Frances Villao 47 Saddle Lane, Levittown, NY**

Ms. Villao wanted to bring to the Board's attention the way that school administration is using intimidation tactics. She was told that her children will face disciplinary action if they do not adhere to taking teacher tied assessments. Ms. Villao feels that she has every right in being her children's advocate in refusing these assessments. She is upset by the way the district is handling this issue in such a non-respective manner. She stressed that our children are more than test scores.

**Jane Finkelstein                    848 Mayer Drive, Wantagh, NY**

Ms. Finkelstein shared that she has attended many rallies and forums where the same story is told, that Common Core is hurting our children tremendously. She remarked that the information presented on students for grade level is developmentally inappropriate. She reported on a group called "Lace to the Top" where teachers, parents and students are sending out a message that our students are more than test scores. Ms. Finkelstein mentioned that she asked the union and Administration to wear green as a symbol of a unified force sending a message, but was told it was problematic.

**Tom Kohlman                    806 Brent Drive, Wantagh, NY**

Mr. Kohlman asked that if every teacher in Levittown except for one, was rated highly effective or effective, why do we need to spend money on chemistry mentors at \$400.00 per day.



**Marianne Adrian      17 Woodcock Lane, Levittown, NY**

Ms. Adrian spoke about her concerns with data mining and wanted to report on where we are sending our children's data. She explained that we give the data to BOCES, who gives it to the state, who in turn gives to In-Bloom where it is stored on a cloud system. Ms. Adrian noted that In-Bloom is a not-for-profit organization whose privacy and security policy states that they do not guarantee the security of the data. Additionally, they can share this information with third party contractors and people they feel can handle this information for support related issues. Ms. Adrian finds this very upsetting. She is concerned about the Common Core and how it affects our children, teachers and Administration, but she is more concerned about the future of our children in regards to their private data. Ms. Adrian stated that our data should stay in within the district.

**RESPONSES**

Dr. Grossane addressed the concerns regarding the Common Core. He stated that he had mentioned that the Superintendent's Group has been working on this issue for a couple of years and were rebuffed. He then recommended that parents start a grass roots movement, which has now taken place. Dr. Grossane talked about how the Nassau County Superintendent's Organization has been asking the state to declare a moratorium on any new legislation that impacts education. He commented that administrators and educators were not consulted in terms of adoption of the Common Core and they should be included in the process. Dr. Grossane said he believes that the goal and principles behind the initiative are worthwhile. He pointed out that we should look carefully at developmental issues, especially at the earlier grade levels, to be certain that our children are ready to handle all of the demands that are being asked of them, from a maturational standpoint. He commented that Superintendents work as a group and have strong opinions on these issues but they must operate under the constraints of the current system. They are moving forward and try to achieve both goals of keeping the level of learning alive and still be able to challenge students to higher level thinking. Dr. Grossane acknowledged that being a former Special Education Teacher, he has great concerns for the over emphasis for students with special needs. He stated that we hear what you are saying and take it very seriously.

**In response to Mr. Kohlman's question:**

Dr. Grossane commented that we are no longer engaged in the process of using a Science mentor. He remarked that we reevaluated it and it is not beneficial in the long run.

**In response to Ms. Villao comments:**

Dr. Grossane spoke about her e-mails concerning a clause in a contract regarding the ability of the district to opt-out of data going into In-Bloom. He reported that this was analyzed by our attorney and by the attorney for the district office in Nassau County. It was determined that the this clause refers to, if a district itself signed up for In-Bloom. He noted that we, as a compliance issue, in terms of federal and state requirements, send our student data to the New York State. He stated that In-Bloom's contract is with New York State not with individual schools. Mr. Porrazzo asked if all fields in the data sent up were required. Dr. Grossane reported we send up what is required by us from New York State and nothing more.

Ms. Marengi commented that she attended the Commissionaires Session on the Common Core and was asked to speak on In-Bloom. She stated that she did a great deal of research on In-Bloom to be able to report informatively on this subject. She shared that she asked why we are not using the Race to the Top money to build our own repositories within the State Education Department to house this data. She was told that it came down to a matter of the expense. She felt that with so many variables from rolling out the Common Core, the focus is taken off learning. Ms. Marengi stated she personally is a big supporter of the Common Core Standards but is not a fan of tying the teacher score to the testing or the privatizing of In-Bloom. She shared that the problem is not with the Common Core Standards which are not a curriculum but teaching to a standard and then having the correct instructional strategies and methodologies, in order to be able to teach our children in the developmentally, sequentially appropriate manner. Ms. Marengi suggested that we need to look at one area so that we can start to get common ground to move forward.

Mr. Porrazzo complimented the parents in the audience by stating that they had a big impact on this issue. He felt progress has been made in a short amount of time and they should feel proud of their efforts. He pointed out that most educators he has spoken to support the Common Core but not the way it is being implemented and the way it is being tied to the teachers' APPR.