

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

MINUTES

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION was duly called and held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 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 Public Library and posted on the district's website. Further, all members of the Board of Education had due notice of said meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Peggy Marengi, President
Ms. Marianne Adrian, Vice President
Mr. Dillon Cain
Ms. Christina Lang
Ms. Jennifer Messina – excused absence
Mr. James Moran – excused absence
Mr. Michael Pappas

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Tonie McDonald – Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Bill Pastore– Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Debbie Rifkin – Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Donald Sturz- Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Todd Winch – Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS

Mr. Bob Cohen – Legal Counsel
Ms. Elizabeth Appelbaum – District Clerk
Ms. Erin Cassano – Student Liaison MacArthur High School
Ms. Sonia Inderjit – Student Liaison Division Avenue High School

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Ms. Marengi, President, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:30 PM. On a motion by Ms. Adrian, seconded by Ms. Lang and approved (5-0) that the Board adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations conducted pursuant to the Taylor Law involving the ALSA and LUT Unions.

B. The Board reconvened to Public Session at 7:30 PM on a motion by Mr. Cain seconded by Ms. Lang and approved (5-0). Ms. Marengi asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by students from Northside School. Ms. Marengi requested a moment of silence for all the men and women serving our country at home and abroad. Additionally, she asked for us to remember Taranjit Parmar, a honor graduate of Division Avenue High School who was lost her life over the weekend.

NOTE: Student Presentations and Recognition were taken out of order and presented before the Audit Committee Meeting.

II. REPORTS

A. Student Presentations

i. Academic Presentation - Northside – Summer Reading

Mr. Winch asked Mr. Mortillaro, Principal of Northside School, and Ms. Slattery, Director of English, to highlight the Summer Reading Extravaganza. Mr. Mortillaro introduced the teachers, Assistant Principal, and students who will be presenting. Ms. Slattery introduced the Librarians from Northside and the Levittown Public Library who supported our reading efforts. She reported that current research shows that the average student will lose approximately one month of instruction during the summer break. To avoid this loss, it is imperative that students read over the summer to maintain comprehension and vocabulary skills, as well as to strengthen their ability to analyze information and think critically. Mr. Mortillaro advised that reading is so important, and it is important that we motivate children to want to read. He remarked that this program helped children get excited about literature. A slide show was presented which showed the programs journey from inception to completion and highlighted what the Summer Reading Extravaganza was all about. Ms. Slattery commented that this was more than a program, it was an extravaganza! She noted that a lot of work goes into making a program such as this but it is a labor of love for everyone. The novel chosen was Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein. The Board and Administration thanked everyone for this wonderful experience for the children.

ii. Presentation – Division Avenue High School – Distracted Driving

Dr. Sturz spoke about LEADD (Levittown Education Against Destructive Decisions) Week. He noted that traditionally the week-long program is focused on alcohol and substance abuse prevention. Dr. Sturz remarked that this year, Division took on an innovative project – distracted driving. He asked all of Division Avenue's Administrators to come up front. He introduced all of the Peer Leader students and Mr. Verdi, an English teacher. Dr. Sturz acknowledged all the wonderful things that Mr. Verde does for the school and community. The students expressed their desire to bring awareness to the issue of destructive driving. They acknowledged that distracted driving has become a huge problem that we are all guilty of. An incredible video was shown of the various ways the students could get their message across. The Board thanked the Peer Leaders and Mr. Verde for an open discussion about this project.

B. Recognition

i. Student Art Presentation - Lee Road School

Ms. Marengi thanked the students from Lee Road for the adorable art work in the Board Room and hallway.

ii. Eagle Scout Recognitions

This recognition was moved to the next Board Meeting.

NOTE: At 8:15 PM, Ms. Marengi adjourned the Regular Meeting on a motion by Mr. Pappas and seconded by Ms. Adrian to begin the Audit Committee Meeting.

III. Audit Committee Meeting

Mr. Pastore introduced Ms. Battaglia and Ms. Bracko from R.S. Abrams, our External Auditors. He thanked them and his staff for all their hard work on preparing this audit. Ms. Battaglia went over some of the highlights of the financials for the fiscal year 2017. She reviewed some of the new additions this year to the financial statements. She noted the District has a healthy balance sheet and that she found nothing out of the ordinary was found. Ms. Battaglia thanked the Business Office and Mr. Pastore for providing the documents necessary to complete the Audit in a timely fashion. Mr. Pappas had questions for the Auditor on workers compensation and unemployment insurance, and revenues over budget. Ms. Battaglia responded to these questions. Dr. McDonald commented that Audits are stressful and require a lot of work. She thanked the Auditors for helping to mediate the process.

NOTE: At 8:25 PM the Audit Committee Meeting was adjourned. Ms. Marengi called the Regular Meeting to order on a motion by Ms. Adrian and seconded by Mr. Cain.

- C. Superintendent
 - 1. Comments and Reports
(none)
 - 2. Follow-up to Prior Public Be Heard Questions
(none)
 - 3. Follow-up to Board Questions
(none)
- D. Board of Education
 - 1. Comments and Reports

Ms. Marengi reported that she had attended a REFIT (Reform Educational Financial an Inequities Today) Meeting with Dr. McDonald. She remarked that reports were gathered from Albany to stay on top of all decisions being made. Dr. McDonald noted that this should be a status quo year and to expect no increase in State Aid.

Additionally, Ms. Marengi mentioned that she attended a NSSBA Executive Committee Meeting, where the topic was drug and alcohol abuse in Nassau and Suffolk County. She stated that a lot a report will be coming out shortly on what is being done on this subject.

Ms. Adrian noted that she and Ms. Rifkin recently had the opportunity to attended a Sexual Assault Training Workshop at Hofstra Law School in partnership with the DA's Office. She commented that it was very interesting and it gave you many issues to think about especially the proper ways to communicate. Ms. Rifkin agreed that we have to be cautious about how we use social media with our students.

2. Correspondence
(none)

3. Student Liaisons

Ms. Cassano, the student representative from MacArthur High School, reported that Breast Cancer Awareness month was extremely successful in regards to fundraising, raising \$15,000 in donations; several LEADD Week presentations were held; to close out October Mac's Got Talent was conducted; November brought our New Entrant Breakfast where 21 brand new students were welcomed; congratulations to all our fall sports teams where most of the Varsity teams made playoffs; a senior was named a Siemens Competition Semifinalist in the science competition; a senior had her nursery book "Chip and Dip" published; and this year's musical "Beauty and the Beast" will kick off tomorrow night.

The Student Liaison for Division, Ms. Inderjit, announced that: an emergency sheltering drill was recently held; a Price is Right Fundraiser was held; two seniors were recognized as Wendy's High School Heisman Winners; LEADD assemblies for Distracted Driving and The Dangers of Vaping were held; a senior was the recipient of the Rensselaer Medal Award; the Competitive Marching Band earned fifth place in the Small School 2 category; the Career Development Program held their annual Halloween Dance; and DAHS Coffee Club is being introduced.

IV. PUBLIC BE HEARD

Comments appear at the end of the minutes.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes - Approval of Minutes

RESOLUTION # 17-18-140

MOTION: "Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of the October 18, 2017 Regular Board Meeting."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

RESOLUTION #17-18-141

2. Warrants

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 2017 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

RESOLUTION # 17-18-142

3. Business Office Reports

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the following reports from the Business Office:

- Appropriation and Revenue reports for the period 7/1/17 through 6/30/17 and 7/1/17 through 9/30/17
- Claims Auditors Report prepared by Nawrocki Smith LLP for the month ending October 2017
- Treasurer's report for the month ending June 2017 and September 2017
- Trial Balance for the period 7/1/17 through 6/30/17 and 7/1/17 through 9/30/17."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

RESOLUTION # 17-18-143

4. Settlement Agreement

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the attached Resolution Agreement and Addendum between the District and the parents of a certain Special Education student is hereby approved and the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the District."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

5. Teachers' Center Policy Board Liaison

MOTION: "BE IT RESOLVED, James Moran be appointed as a representative of the Levittown Board of Education to the Levittown Teachers' Center Policy Board for the 2017-2018 school year."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marenghi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

6. Destruction of Surplus Election Ballots

RESOLUTION # 17-18-145

MOTION: "Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, it is hereby RESOLVED that the District Clerk is authorized to destroy and discard surplus ballots from the May 2017 annual election."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marenghi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

RESOLUTION # 17-18-146

7. Contract with Irvin Simon Photographers

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract with Irvin Simon Photographers to serve as school photographer for Division Avenue High School for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years.

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

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marenghi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

8. Contract with Heartland Payment Systems

RESOLUTION #17-18-147

MOTION: " RESOLVED that the Levittown Board of Education approve the K-12 merchant processing agreement Heartland Payment Systems (formally Nutrikids) to provide credit card, debit card and ACH processing services for the school lunch program;

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

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marenghi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

RESOLUTION # 17-18-148

9. Bid Approval - Cafeteria/Kitchen Equipment Installation, Repairs & Service

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, award the renewal of Bid #LPS 16-001 for Cafeteria/Kitchen Equipment Installation, Repairs & Service from December 15, 2017 through December 14, 2018."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marenghi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

10. GC Tech Tuition Contract

RESOLUTION # 17-18-149

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education, does, hereby, approve the attached tuition contract between the Levittown Public Schools and the following school district for the purpose of Levittown providing specialized educational services at the GC Tech program to children residing in those districts:

- East Meadow Union Free School District

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

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marenghi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

11. Obsolete Equipment

RESOLUTION # 17-18-150

MOTION: “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the equipment on the attached list obsolete and that the item may be discarded and/or sold at the highest possible salvage value.”

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

12. Obsolete Books

RESOLUTION # 17-18-151

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.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

13. Approval of Board of Education Policies

RESOLUTION # 17-18-152

MOTION: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the following revised policy:

Policy #5220 – District Investments

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

14. Schedules

RESOLUTION # 17-18-153

MOTION: “That the Levittown Board of Education approve the following Schedules:

- 1001 Resignations/Terminations, Instructional Personnel
- 1002 Resignations/Terminations, Non-Instructional Personnel
- 1003 Appointments, Certified Personnel
- 1004 Designation, Coaching
- 1005 Designation, Consultants
- 1006 Extra-Curricular
- 1007 Appointments, Instructional Personnel
- 1008 Permanent Status, Non-Instructional
- 1009 Leave of Absence, Certified Personnel
- 1010 Leave of Absence, Non-Instructional Personnel
- 1011 Students w/Disabilities

AMEND AS FOLLOWS: Page 1007, No 7 change the salary to \$44,543 and on Page 1007.1, No 5 change the code to A28151600.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. New Business

RESOLUTION # 17-18-154

1. Gifts to Schools

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

- A check in the amount of 500.00 to MacArthur High School’s Student Activity Fund from Karen Bavaro/Reunion Committee MacArthur Class of 1967, 10950 SE 170th Street Road, Summerfield, FL 34491
- A check in the amount of \$41.75 to Division Avenue High School’s Student Activity Fund from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc., 410 Dinnerbell Road, Ohiopyle, PA 15470
- Office chairs (various sizes and fabrics) to East Broadway School’s staff lounge, main office, and library from Mrs. Rossi, 30 Eve Lane, Levittown, NY 11756.”

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (5-0-0)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian, Vice President
SECONDER:	Christina Lang
AYES:	Adrian, Lang, Marengi, Pappas, Cain
ABSENT:	James Moran and Jennifer Messina

VI. AD HOC

1. Board Policies - First and Second Read

Policy No. 6551 - Family and Medical Leave Act - 2nd Read

Ms. Rifkin noted that this policy was changed for clarification of the practice so that employees are clear on how they qualify.

Policy No. 3272 - Advertising in the Schools - 1st Read

Mr. Cohen explained that he took the District's existing Advertising Policy and added in commercial sponsorship of school activities. He reported that the first paragraph is new and announces the policy of the Board to encourage sponsorship. He noted that this will allow the Board and Administration to seek out and encourage corporate sponsorship of student events, curriculum and vocational programs which allows the sponsor to be recognized while prohibiting the promotion and advertising of a particular product or service which is not legal. The Board had a discussion of this subject and more changes were made to streamline the policy. Mr. Cohen advised that done correctly this policy can bring in financial support to the District.

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

The Board adjourned the public meeting at 8:45 PM.

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'S OFFICE.

The guidelines pertaining to Public Be Heard were read by the Board President.

Brooke Gambino 10 Leaf Lane, Levittown, NY

Ms. Gambino attends GC Tech as a Medical Assistant Student. She noted that several changes have been made within the new school year by individuals who have no involvement with the event or subject that they are changing. She remarked that the clubs uniqueness and student enjoyment of GC Tech have been demolished. Ms. Gambino advised that club meetings are now being held afterschool instead of during the day since it is believed that they interfere with instructional time. She commented that after school there is no transportation to get back to home school, many students work, some have to pick up a younger sibling and some are out of district. Ms. Gambino stated that the negatives outweigh the positives. She spoke about the problems now obtaining Government credit with this change. Ms. Gambino asked that the Board consider all that she commented on.

Jane Finkelstein 848 Mayer Drive, Wantagh, NY

Ms. Finkelstein noted that she was following up on her request from the last meeting about issuing a Connect Ed message regarding the Levittown Coalition Meeting concerning drugs and alcohol. She commended the Board for honoring her request. She reported that because of that message, a lot of people attended the meeting. Ms. Finkelstein thanked the Board for listening and hoped that they would continue with this conversation in regards to what is going on with our community. She was wondering where the Coalition fits in terms of the School District. She mentioned that we need to save lives.