

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

DATE: FEBRUARY 7, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, was duly called and held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 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.

Board of Education

Ms. Jennifer Messina, President
Ms. Peggy Marengi, 1st Vice President
Ms. Christina Lang, 2nd Vice President
Ms. Marianne Adrian, Trustee
Ms. Phyllis Dalton, Trustee
Mr. James Moran, Trustee
Mr. Michael Pappas, Trustee (excused absence)

Central Administration

Mr. Todd Winch, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael Fabiano, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance
Ms. Debbie Rifkin, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Dr. Beth Ziogiannis, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Others:

Mr. Robert H. Cohen, Counsel
Vanessa Esposito, District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Messina called the Board Meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	James Moran
SECONDER:	Phyllis Dalton
AYES:	Peggy Marengi, Marianne Adrian, Jennifer Messina, Christine Lang, James Moran, Phyllis Dalton
ABSENT:	Michael Pappas

Michael Pappas has been excused from the meeting.

Recommended Motion: "BE IT RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, move to Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations."

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Marianne Adrian
SECONDER:	Phyllis Dalton
AYES:	Peggy Marengi, Jennifer Messina, Christine Lang , James Moran, Marianne Adrian, Phyllis Dalton
ABSENT:	Michael Pappas

The meeting began at 7:30 PM.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	James Moran
SECONDER:	Marianne Adrian
AYES:	Peggy Marengi, Jennifer Messina, Christine Lang , Phyllis Dalton, Marianne Adrian, James Moran
ABSENT:	Michael Pappas

I. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Messina introduced students from Summit Lane to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Moment of Silence

Ms. Messina requested a moment of silence in honor of all fighting for our country, at home and overseas.

II. REPORTS

A. Student Presentations

i. Student Academic Presentation - Summit Lane School

Mr. Winch introduced students and Principals from both Summit Lane and Division Avenue to share a presentation about their joint partnerships, the Big Dragons Program, Junior Achievement and Bilingual Buddies; all in which are ventured partnerships between the high schoolers and middle schoolers to work together and help each other in different areas and subjects. Mr. Winch applauded the collaborations.

<https://www.levittownschools.com/boe/>

B. Recognition

i. Student Art Recognition - Abbey Lane School

Ms. Messina highlighted the new artwork surrounding the board room done by Abbey Lane students.

C. Superintendent

1. Comments and Reports

A. Late Buses

Mr. Winch re-introduced the topic of the late bus situation. He stated that the District has a policy indicating that if the district has an approved budget, it will then provide late buses, which has been a struggle since Covid and now with the driver shortage. We have added 4 drivers in the past year, but still not as much as is needed. As of November, we did restore one route at 4 pm and that was all we can do at this time. Ridership has been running around 5-6 students on the late bus. The minimum required in the policy is 5. During the last meeting, it was questioned whether or not the late bus should continue service due to low ridership. The cost of each late bus is about \$5,000.00 per month. At this time there is no late service to the High Schools(private or public). The only late bus service provided here are to the middle schools at this time. Mr. Winch asked the Board to discuss whether or not they feel a need to change the policy and left it open for discussion.

Mr. Moran asked if this is the time to discuss changes at this point in the school year.

Ms. Marengi brought up the cost of \$5,000.00 a month and if buses are also opened up to high schools that the cost would be a significant amount of money for such low ridership. She does not think we should add routes at this time due to the driver shortages as well from previous points stated.

Ms. Messina asked Ms. Marengi if she is okay with keeping the current route alone and just trying to raise ridership.

Ms. Marengi is not sure of her opinion as the current status is unknown. She would like to come up with a solution that is more conducive to the taxpayers.

Ms. Adrian likes the idea of late buses for middle schools as it is important to be able to participate in clubs and afterschool activities. She also thinks it necessary to spread the word to the parents as some may be unaware of this service.

Ms. Dalton agreed and thought we should advertise the service more and see of that will increase ridership and then the Board can reassess.

Ms. Lang asked how the parents find out about the buses currently.

Mr. Winch said we can try and get more communication out to the parents, but that ridership has always been low on the late buses. He stated that the time of the routes may also be a factor.

Mr. Moran opted to keep the 4 pm routes and not open service up to the high schools.

Mr. Winch stated that it may not be possible to open up more routes at this time being the way the driver shortage is.

Ms. Messina thinks the late buses are a value to parents who work and need their children to get home safe while being able to enjoy after school activities. Ms. Messina asked the High School Student Liaisons in attendance for their opinions on providing late buses to high schools, in which Ms. Demarco and Mr. Gray in agreement stated that the late buses for middle schools are a necessity, whereas high schoolers can be responsible for their own transportation and would most likely not utilize the service.

Ms. Messina thanked the students.

Mr. Moran stated that most high schoolers do not use buses at all.

Ms. Marengi felt that we should not change anything now as to not disrupt anything during the school year but that it should be revised for the upcoming

school year.

Mr. Winch asked if he should poll surrounding districts to see what their late bus situations are.

Ms. Messina suggested to finish out the year status quo and also to reassess for the next calendar year.

Mr. Winch said we will revisit in the summer and make decisions at that time.

2. Follow-up to Prior Public Be Heard Questions

There are no follow up questions to Public Be Heard.

3. Follow-up to Board Questions

All Board Questions have been responded to at this time.

D. Board of Education

1. Comments and Reports

Ms. Messina addressed the upcoming Special Election on February 13th, which will be held in 7 Levittown schools while school is in session for the day. She brought up the issue of the public having access and what the concerns may be. She asked Mr. Cohen how the schools are chosen to be polling locations.

Mr. Cohen said that under the State Election Law, schools are designated as polling places and can be chosen by the local Board of Elections. Legally they have the right to make this decision.

Ms. Marengi said that our number one priority must be the safety of our students and she felt that this is a deterrent in providing that security when doors are opened up to the public during school hours. She said that there are 2 schools in the district, Abbey Lane and Northside, in which she felt should be reevaluated to be designated election hosts, she stated that she was able to navigate through this same obstacle at her previous district and had a favorable outcome.

She suggested that we start moving in the direction that she utilized in the past to be able to make these changes.

Mr. Cohen said that while it is too late for any changes to be made for this Special Election, that he will certainly look into it for the future elections.

Ms. Dalton stated that she voted in the lobby at Wisdom Lane in the past and asked if this would be an option as there is no contact with the children.

Ms. Marengi stated that this is a different world and we have made substantial changes to security so the students are safe, yet this Election Day will go against all safety measures that were put into place.

Ms. Dalton said maybe we can relocate the stations for voting if unable to change locations.

Mr. Winch said that in Levittown 2018, Dr. McDonald worked with the Board of Elections and tried to move locations to schools that were limited in interfering with school operations, the best response would be to have none of the schools as voting stations, however, we did move to locations where they are more segregated from the school areas that are accessible to students. We will have additional security in place that

day, however it still is a safety concern and The Board can revisit the subject. In 2018, it was a no from the Board of Elections in regard to changing locations.

Ms. Messina said she thinks it worthwhile to look into working with the Election Board to make some changes.

Ms. Dalton specified that this only about special elections and primary days.

Mr. Moran asked why not shut down the schools on those days in which Mr. Winch stated that the District implemented more holidays and this will not be possible as we follow the Districts plan to be open for 180 days.

Ms. Dalton suggested that we do a remote day if that is legal.

Ms. Messina said it shouldn't fall on the district to have the burden of remote days.

Ms. Marengi asked if we can petition for 179 days instead of 180 school year days.

Mr. Winch said yes you can legally have a remote day.

The Board would rather not go this route as it is a burden on staff and families.

Ms. Marengi asked if the city has elections in schools.

Mr. Cohen said yes they do.

Mr. Winch said they will reach out to the Board of Elections and come back to the issue.

Mr. Moran said he was approached by parents regarding a kindergarten moving up day and asked what buildings have this event.

Mr. Winch said not all schools participate and that Dr. Ziropiannis makes sure that there are compatible experiences in all schools. Dr. Ziropiannis will get a list from principals to see what each does and provide in the weekly report.

2. Correspondence

A. Town of Hempstead Correspondence: Proposed Community Residence

Mr. Winch said that The Board has received correspondence from the Town of Hempstead regarding a community group home being built. The Town stated that it is required by law to notify school districts in the surrounding area. The proposed site is 44 Flamingo Road, Levittown.

3. Student Liaisons

Olivia Demarco from MacArthur High School was introduced and read the following report:

Since our last meeting, there have been a lot of happenings in General Nation:

On January 28, we conducted our second winter concert, where our symphonic band under the direction of Mr. Romano dazzled us all with a magnificent performance.

Special Thanks to all band members and of course Mr. Romano for their great entertainment for the evening.

We successfully conducted our block-time midterm exams from January 23rd through the 26th. All students were well prepared for the exams and remain confident that all did well.

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We would like to thank our school development committee as well as the Salk/ MacArthur PTSA for the motivational assistance during midterm week.

In case you didn't see our fabulous MacArthur Instagram account, our PTSA provided a beautiful balloon archway that said "Good Luck Generals" for all students entering the testing area.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that our science Olympiad team, under the guidance of Dr. Friedman and Mr. Zausin not only competed in the Nassau East qualifying tournament on Friday, February 3rd, but that they also finished the tournament as one of the top 60 teams in the entire state and qualified to compete in the NY Science Olympiad finals at Lemoyne College in Syracuse. If they win, they will have a chance to represent the State of NY in a national tournament.

Please join me in wishing our varsity and junior varsity competitive cheer team, as well as our game day cheer team the best of luck as they are leaving for Disney to compete in a national cheerleading competition.

Upcoming Events include:

February 13: Third and final winter concert and Tri-Music Honor Society induction ceremony.

February 15: Annual 9th grade peer survey breakfast, Levittown public library will showcase art work from MacArthur students.

February 28: Senior Superlatives Event.

March 8 and 9: "Mean Girls: High School Edition" musical.

Special Congratulations to the Girls Varsity Basketball Team who were featured in a Newsday article illustrating their 36 straight winning streak, Congratulations to Coach Radtke and all team members, wishing all the best of luck, way to go Generals.

Ronald Gray Jr. was introduced and read the following report.

Students recently completed midterm exams and the new semester is underway. Everyone is looking forward to the field trips, school events and extracurricular and academic opportunities coming up this semester.

The new student lanyards were distributed this week and it has been a very successful launch of this new safety initiative. The students have been cooperative and responsible and everyone seems to understand the value of this procedure.

Mr Sellars and the TRI-M club hosted a karaoke night on 1/31. Students had a great time while raising money for the Farmingdale marching band.

AP Capstone presentations were completed in Ms. Stritzls class last week. Presentations were outstanding as usual with students looking into a wide array of topics,

The Science Olympiad team competed in the regional competition on February 3rd, where they earned their 16th straight trip to the state tournament.

It has been a successful winter season for DAHS athletics with several teams positioning themselves for a playoff run. Boys basketball is currently 11-7 and is well positioned for a playoff berth. The cheer team is currently ranked number 1 in Nassau County in Class B and is leaving for UCA high school national competition on February 8th.

The Blue Dragon wrestlers competed at the section qualifying tournament. The grapplers ended the day with 3rd qualifier Shane Moore and Santiago Pelaez both winning the qualifier and Santiago also won the most pins in the least amount of time. Vinny DeCicco and Michael Devaney placed third, with Kennan Mathura, Gio DiDia, Aki Georatos and Luca Rini.

On Sunday, Sam Bultron competed in the girls long island wrestling championship and took home the bronze!

JV coach, Tommy DiGennaro, an aspiring MMA fighter, competed at Lou Neglia's Ring of Combat to improve his 3-0 record and earned a victory.

In winter track, the boys 400 meter team broke the school record and achieved the number 2 time in all of Nassau, the 4x400 team won the conference championship and Eleni Georgatis won the 600 m conference. The division boys 4x200 won county champs, the girls 4x200 and boys 4x800 both placed 4th, Thomas Bonsignore placed 2nd in 55 hurdles and Eleni Georgatis placed 4th in 600m. The girls basketball team is 13-5 overall and 8-4 in the conference. They have secured playoff spots and Emma Robbins is in the top 10 scoring 17.5 PPG, 8th grader Alice Beckett is averaging 13 PPG, 12 rebounds and 5 blocked shots. Junior Ashley Anderson is averaging 11 points per game. On January 30th, the Division Ave girls basketball team dedicated the court to former girls coach, Steve Kissane who's career spanned over 30 years, winning 352 games, made 24 playoffs, won a LI championship and built a program that continues to thrive.

The boys bowling team will be competing in a county tournament this Saturday, defending their 2023 county championship.

The boys swim team, placed 4th in the championship meet, Junior Nick Castano finished 2nd place in the 100 fly, 100 back and the 400 freestyle relay, and qualified for the NYS meet. Noah Stern finished 3rd place in the 200 freestyle, 500 freestyle and 4000 freestyle.

Upcoming events include:

February 25: Spirit Week

February 25th: Senior Emmy Night

March 1st: Spirit Night Event

III. PUBLIC BE HEARD

The guidelines pertaining to Public Be Heard were read..

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes - Approval of Minutes

RESOLUTION # 020724-001

Recommended Motion: "Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of the January 10 regular meeting and the January 24 budget planning session and special meeting."

2. Warrants

RESOLUTION # 20724-002

Recommended 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 JANUARY 2024 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

3. Business Office Reports

RESOLUTION # 20724-003

Recommended 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 7/1/23 to 12/31/23
- Trial Balance Report for the period 7/1/23 - 12/31/23
- Treasurers Report for the month ending December 2023
- Claims Audit Report for December 2023 ”

4. Bid Awardee_Belfor Long Island

RESOLUTION # 20724-004

Recommended Motion: "Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, it is RESOLVED that, based upon the public bidding process conducted by the Locust Valley Central School District, in which Belfor Long Island, LLC was the successful bidder, the Board of Education hereby awards its bid on behalf of the Levittown School District with Belfor Long Island, LLC, for general building maintenance demolition involving new construction, reconstruction and demolition."

5. Wages for Election Workers

RESOLUTION # 20724-005

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, due to the fact that minimum wage in New York State has been increased to \$16.00 effective January 1, 2024, the Board of Education approves the following hourly rates for individuals working the Annual Election of Budget Vote:

Registrars: \$16 per hour

Election Inspectors: \$17 per hour

6. Budget Transfers

RESOLUTION # 20724-006

Recommended Motion: "WHEREAS, in compliance with New York State Government Accounting practices, the attached budget transfers have been prepared and recommended by the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance,

<u>Code</u>	<u>Code Description</u>	<u>Amount From</u>	<u>Amount To</u>
9060.8000.00.0000	Emp Benefits Health Ins	\$65,000.00	
1620.4650.00.1630	Operations – Repairs		\$65,000.00

Reason: To offset costs for the Salk Library project.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Code Description</u>	<u>Amount From</u>	<u>Amount To</u>
9060.8000.00.0000	Emp Benefits Health Ins	\$1,000,000.00	
5540.4000.00.0000	Contracted Buses		\$1,000,000.00
9060.8000.00.0000	Emp Benefits Health Ins	\$50,000.00	

Reason: Need additional funds to cover contracted transportation services.

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

7. Extra Classroom Activity Fund Treasurer's Reports RESOLUTION # 20724-007
Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached Extra Classroom Activity Fund Reports for the period 10/1/23 to 12/31/23."

8. Agreement with CSEA RESOLUTION # 20724-008
Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby ratifies the Agreement between the District and the CSEA dated January 26, 2024.”

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

9. Memorandum of Understanding - Jaclyn Guidice RESOLUTION # 20724-009
Recommended Motion: “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Levittown Union Free School District and Jaclyn Guidice, as per the terms of the attached Memorandum of Understanding;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding.”

10. Memorandum of Understanding - Purchasing Agent RESOLUTION # 20724-010
Recommended Motion: “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Levittown Union Free School District and Deirdre Ciminera as per the terms of the attached Memorandums of Understanding dated 1/24/24;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding.”

11. Employee Agreement RESOLUTION # 20724-011
Recommended Motion: “BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby ratifies an agreement with Employee No. 382 regarding employment.”

12. Contract with Heritage Club RESOLUTION # 20724-012
Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract with Heritage Club for the Salk Middle School 8th Grade Dance on June 12, 2024.

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

13. Contract for June 2024 Commencement - Hofstra University RESOLUTION # 20724-013
Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract between the Levittown Public Schools and Hofstra University for two high school graduation rehearsals and ceremonies for Division Avenue HS and MacArthur HS to be held at the Hofstra University on May 29 and June 22, 2024;

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

14. Agreement with Board of Elections RESOLUTION # 20724-014
Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the attached Polling Place Agreement and authorizes the Board President to sign."

15. Authorization for Foreign Field Trip RESOLUTION # 20724-015
Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, authorize students from Division Avenue and General Douglas MacArthur High Schools to participate in a foreign field trip to Spain and Italy from April 8 through April 17, 2025."

16. Establish Scholarship RESOLUTION # 20724-016
Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, establish the Michael Martinez Scholarship for two graduating seniors from MacArthur High School in the amount of \$500 each according to the attached criteria."

17. Board Meeting Calendar - 2024-2025 School Year RESOLUTION # 20724-017
Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, adopt the attached updated calendar of Board of Education meeting dates for the Levittown Public Schools for the 2024-2025 school year."

18. Out of District Contracts for Health and Welfare Services RESOLUTION # 20724-018
Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract between the Levittown Public Schools and the following school districts to provide health and welfare services to students attending schools in these districts for the 2023-2024 school year:

- West Islip UFSD
- Floral Park-Bellerose UFSD
- Mineola UFSD

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

19. Special Education Contracts

RESOLUTION # 20724-019

Recommended Motion: “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contracts between the Levittown Public Schools and the following vendors to provide special education services as indicated:

- South Huntington UFSD
- Oyster Bay - East Norwich Central School District
- Clinical Staffing Resources Addendum A
- Positive Behavior Support
- Seaford UFSD

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

20. Obsolete Books

RESOLUTION # 20724-020

Recommended Motion: “RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the books on the attached list obsolete and that the items may be discarded and/or donated as possible or sold at the highest salvage value.

21. Obsolete Equipment

RESOLUTION # 20724-021

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

22. Schedules

RESOLUTION # 20724-022

“RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the following schedules:

1001 “Resignations/Terminations, Certified Personnel”

1002 “Resignations/Terminations, Non-Instructional Personnel”

- 1003 “Appointments, Certified Personnel”
- 1003.1 “Appointments, Administrators”
- 1004 “Coaching”
- 1005 “Appointments, Non-Instructional”
- 1006 “LOA, Non-Instructional Personnel”
- 1007 “Salary Change:
- 1008 “Permanent Status”
- 1009 “Students with Disabilities”

Ms Messina asked for a Motion to accept items 1-22 in the consent agenda.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	James Moran
SECONDER:	Peggy Marengi
AYES:	Phyllis Dalton, Marianne Adrian, Jennifer Messina, Christine Lang
ABSENT:	Michael Pappas

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. New Business

1. Gifts to Schools

RESOLUTION #

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

- A check in the amount of \$500 to be used for materials for the new elective graphic novel course from the Long Island Language Arts Council, 19 Lilac Drive, Syosset, NY 11791.”

Ms Messina asked for a Motion to accept.

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Phyllis Dalton
SECONDER:	James Moran
AYES:	Peggy Marengi, Marianne Adrian, Jennifer Messina, Christine Lang
ABSENT:	Michael Pappas

VI. AD HOC

1. Board Policy - Second Read

Policy No. 5230 Acceptance of Gifts, Grants and Bequests to the School District

Policy No. 6121 Policy Against Workplace Sexual Harassment

VII. UPCOMING DATES

March 6 - Budget Planning Session #3; Regular Meeting

March 20 - Budget Planning Session #4; Special Meeting - Board Adopts Budget

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ms. Messina called for a motion to adjourn at 9:30 PM

RESULT:	MOTION CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Phyllis Dalton
SECONDER:	James Moran
AYES:	Peggy Marengi, Marianne Adrian, Jennifer Messina, Christine Lang
ABSENT:	Michael Pappas