

# REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 11, 2008 – Paul J. Bellew Elementary School  
Vice President Steven Gellar, Presiding

PRESENT: MRS. BIESELIN, MR. BLOOM (arrived at 8:27 p.m.), MR. GELLAR,  
MRS. LAROSA, MR. W. SMITH, MR. ULRICH

ABSENT: MR. G. SMITH

Administrators: Dr. Blau, Mrs. Duffy, Mr. Stern, Mr. Zocchia

Attorney: Mr. Volz

The Chamber Orchestra played holiday music.

Meeting was called to order at 8:11 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

No one wished to speak during an "Invitation to the Public."

Motion was made by Mrs. LaRosa, seconded by Mrs. Biesel, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 13, 2008 and the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 25, 2008.

STUDENT RECOGNITION: Vincent Melia – Long Island String Festival; Marianne A. – Gemini Youth Orchestra; Emily B. – Metropolitan Youth Orchestra; Rob D., Melissa G. and Michael S. – Nassau/Suffolk Performing Arts Concert Band; Douglas B. – All-County Band, All State Wind Ensemble and the Nassau/Suffolk Performing Arts Wind Symphony; Victoria A. – All County Band, All State Band and the Nassau/Suffolk Performing Arts Wind Symphony; Matthew S. – All County Band and the Nassau/Suffolk Performing Arts Wind Symphony; Amanda C., Amanda H. and Cortland M. – All County and All State Chorus; Rebecca O’C. – All County Chorus; Brittany W. – All County Band, Nassau/Suffolk Performing Arts Concert Band; Caitlin C. – Nassau/Suffolk Performing Arts Wind Symphony, the Gemini Youth Orchestra and the Gemini Youth Symphony; Miranda C. – Long Island String Festival and the Gemini Youth Symphony; Bevin F. – Nassau/Suffolk Performing Arts Wind Symphony; Andrew W. – Long Island String Festival and the Gemini Youth Orchestra; Matthew C. – All County Band, All State Band, All County Chorus, All State Chorus, Juilliard Pre-College Orchestra and the Long Island Youth Orchestra.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RESIGNATIONS: John Sparacio, Teacher-Dean; effective December 15, 2008 (High School).

Motion was made by Mr. Ulrich, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RESIGNATIONS: Sierra Mott, Special Education Teacher; effective January 26, 2009 (Captree).

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PART-TIME DEAN APPOINTMENT (Stipend \$6,068 prorated for 2008-2009 school year): James Dooley, Teacher-Dean; effective December 15, 2008.

Motion was made by Mr. W. Smith, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: LEAD TEACHER HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE APPOINTMENT: Wendy Loddigs, Counselor; effective December 12, 2008.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-BEARING LEAVES OF ABSENCE (paid): Lynette Gottesman, English Teacher; effective November 17, 2008 (Udall).

Motion was made by Mr. W. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Biesel, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-BEARING LEAVES OF ABSENCE (paid): Danielle Griffin, Mathematics Teacher; effective December 15, 2008 (High School).

Motion was made by Mr. Ulrich, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-BEARING LEAVES OF ABSENCE (paid): Michele Holt, Reading Teacher; effective December 1, 2008 (Udall).

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVES OF ABSENCE (unpaid) (Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993): Amy DeJoseph, Elementary Teacher; effective November 17, 2008 to February 27, 2009 (Captree).

Motion was made by Mr. Ulrich, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVES OF ABSENCE (unpaid) (Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993): Beth Sherwood, Physical Education; effective December 8, 2008 to March 6, 2009 (Manetuck).

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid): Elyse Patti-McDonald, Foreign Language Teacher; effective December 15, 2008 – June 30, 2009 (Udall).

Motion was made by Mr. Ulrich, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS: Kristen Borelli, Elementary Teacher; effective September 2, 2008 to June 30, 2009 (Manetuck; Step 1<sup>2</sup>; replacing R. Caputo FMLA/Child-Rearing).

Motion was made by Mr. W. Smith, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS: Debra Mock-Dorfman, Physical Education Teacher; effective December 15, 2008 – June 30, 2009 (High School; Step 14; replacing J. Dooley).

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS: Jacqueline Mulligan, Foreign Language Teacher; effective September 2, 2008 to June 30, 2009 (Udall; Step 14; replacing E. Patti Child-Bearing/FMLA/Child-Rearing).

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: RESIGNATION: Kimberly Hirt, Cafeteria Aide; effective December 5, 2008 (Manetuck).

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENTS: Diane Greene, Teacher Aide; effective December 22, 2008 (Step 1; Beach Street; replacing P. Miller who resigned).

Motion was made by Mr. Ulrich, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENTS: Renee Pollock, Part-Time Food Service Worker; effective December 1, 2008 (Step 1; High School; replacing M. Valenti who resigned).

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE CLERK TYPISTS (\$11.00/HR): \*Lauralee Bennett, effective December 12, 2008; \*Cherise Gilberto, effective December 12, 2008; \*Martha Himbele, effective December 12, 2008; \*Jeanine Ilario, effective December 12, 2008; Donna Loos, effective December 12, 2008; \*Donna Minieri, effective December 12, 2008; \*Donna Moran, effective December 12, 2008; \*Diane Napolitano, effective December 12, 2008; \*Camille Scala, effective December 12, 2008.

Motion was made by Mr. Ulrich, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE FOOD SERVICE WORKER (\$9.75/HR): \*Stephanie Berger, effective December 12, 2008.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE NURSES (\$100/per diem): \*Jacqueline Patwell, effective December 12, 2008; \*Jennifer Smith, effective December 12, 2008.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER AIDES (\$9.75/HR): \*Lauralee Bennett, effective December 12, 2008; \*Cherise Gilberto, effective December 12, 2008; \*Martha Himbele, effective December 12, 2008; Kimberly Hirt, effective December 12, 2008; \*Jeanine Ilario, effective December 12, 2008; Donna Loos, effective December 12, 2008; \*Donna Minieri, effective December 12, 2008; \*Donna Moran, effective December 12, 2008; \*Diane Napolitano, effective December 12, 2008; \*Camille Scala, effective December 12, 2008.

Motion was made by Mr. Ulrich, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS (\$100 per diem): Gayle Boring, effective December 12, 2008; Melanie Calefato, effective December 12, 2008; Justin Conners, effective December 12, 2008; Lucinda Cutrone, effective December 12, 2008; Adam Miller, effective December 12, 2008; Gary Muskin, effective December 12, 2008; Ashley Petraglia, effective December 12, 2008; \*Jennifer Smith, effective December 12, 2008; Joseph Takacs, effective December 12, 2008; Joseph Torre, effective December 12, 2008.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: ADVISORS/CLUBS 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR: HIGH SCHOOL: James Kraus, Sets Director (all productions); David Gershfeld, Director, Senior Play (co-advisor); Christine Mulroy, Forensics Competition; Victoria Newell, Forensics Competition; Linda Tong, Science Olympiad. MUSIC: Salvatore Fiore, Combined Chorus; Judith Hayes, Combined Orchestra; James Kraus, Combined Band.

Motion was made by Mr. W. Smith, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: 2008-2009 WINTER HIGH SCHOOL COACHES, revised: WRESTLING: Nicholas LaGiglia, Varsity Coach; Thomas Longobardi, JV/Asst Varsity Coach; Thomas Powers, JV2 Coach. GIRLS WINTER TRACK: Tara Lee, Assistant Varsity Coach.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: 2008-2009 MIDDLE SCHOOL LATE WINTER COACHES: GIRLS BASKETBALL: Brian Dieumegard, 7-8 Udall Coach; Timothy Bauernfeind, 7-8 Beach Coach. WRESTLING: Thomas McLoughlin, 7-8 Udall Coach; Michael Ferrugiari, 7-8 Udall Assistant Coach; James Beuther, 7-8 Beach Coach; Ronald Ardito, 7-8 Beach Assistant Coach.

REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEES: Mr. W. Smith reported on the Finance Committee meeting of 12/9/08 and the Audit Committee meeting of 12/9/08. The Policy Committee did not meet; however, a Second Reading was held for the following policies: Board Member Code of Conduct – File 1338; Table of Organization – File 4212; Class Ranking/Weighting of Grades – File 7218; School Year – File 8411; Procedures for Contracts – File 5422. Copies of all policies were made available to the public. Motion was made by Mr. W. Smith, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to adopt the policies.

The Public Relations Committee did not meet; however, Mrs. LaRosa stated that the next newsletter will include a community page for local announcements. Interested parties should contact District Publicist Sarah Anker.

Mr. Ulrich reported on the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting of 12/9/08. Mrs. LaRosa reported on the Committee on Special Education/Preschool Special Education meeting of 12/9/08 and recommendations re: classification/placement/I.E.P. modifications of students as delineated. Mrs. Bieselin reported on the Health and Wellness Committee meeting of 11/18/08.

The following committees did not meet: Policy Committee, School Board/Student Liaison Committee, Public Relations Committee, Education Committee, Legislative Action Committee, and Compass Committee.

The Treasurer's Report for October 2008 was presented. Beginning balance as of September 30, 2008 – \$8,033,024.26; ending balance as of October 31, 2008 – \$12,366,270.53.

Motion was made by Mr. W. Smith, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve budget transfers, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Motion was made by Mrs. Bieselin, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve RESOLUTION: WHEREAS, the Board of Education has previously adopted and entered into a Services Agreement with OMNI Financial Group ("OMNI") as a third-party administrator (TPA) to implement and administer the District's 403(b) plan; and WHEREAS, as a result of continued negotiations between OMNI and Guercio & Guercio, LLP regarding the Service Agreement, a revised Services Agreement has been proposed which more closely conforms to the District's Request for Proposal; and WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the District to adopt the revised Services Agreement; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the revised Services Agreement and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said Services Agreement.

Motion was made by Mrs. Bieselin, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to adopt the 403 (b) Retirement Plan.

Motion was made by Mr. W. Smith, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve RESOLUTION: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the West Islip School District acknowledges receipt of the Independent Auditors Report for the year ended June 30, 2008 from R. S. Abrams & Co., LLP.

Motion was made by Mrs. Bieselin, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve the following donation, with thanks: Class of 2008 – Property Beautification for \$5,834.13.

Motion was made by Mrs. LaRosa, seconded by Mr. Ulrich, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve 2008-2009 Special Education Contracts as follows: Copiague School District; Tender Age PT, Inc.; Suffolk Learning Center; Lindenhurst UFSD.

Mr. W. Smith commented on the Tax Anticipation Notes and noted that Mrs. Duffy's "willingness to hustle" saved the District money. Mr. W. Smith praised Mrs. Duffy for doing "a great job."

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Mr. Gellar announced that Governor Paterson withdrew his proposal for cuts to education. The residents of West Islip were thanked for their participation in the letter writing campaign. A new letter writing campaign will begin soon, and the information will be made available on the District website. The West Islip Summit Coalition has been formed. The Board wishes everyone in the community a safe, happy, and healthy holiday.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Blau reported that she was impressed with the response of the staff and the students of Beach Street Middle School during an evacuation due to a bomb threat last month. Two students were arrested that same day in connection with the bomb threat, and the District will be pressing charges. In an effort to be "green," Course Offering Booklets for the High School will not be distributed to the students but will be available on the District website beginning on December 22, 2008. Those who do not have Internet access may contact the District to make other arrangements.

Two residents wished to speak during an "Invitation to the Public." Subjects of concern have been recorded in the public participation log.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:10 p.m. on motion by Mr. Ulrich, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, and carried when all board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Mrs. Biesel, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor to approve **RESOLUTION: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the West Islip Union Free School District ("District") hereby authorizes the commencement of an action against a parent of a student with a disability and the student with a disability (named in Executive Session) to seek a Honig injunction if an impartial hearing demand is filed on behalf of the family seeking pendency placement and directs its attorneys, Guercio & Guercio, to take the necessary steps to commence and proceed with such litigation.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m. on motion by Mr. Ulrich, seconded by Mrs. LaRosa, and carried when all board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by

Nicole M. Schiano  
District Clerk

All correspondence, reports, or related materials referred to in these minutes are on file in the District Office.