

**SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING**

January 26, 2010

Held in Joseph M. Barton Bldg.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Robert Rossi, President of the Board of Education. On motion by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Liguori, the Board voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining, employment and/or appointment of particular persons, and pending litigation.

At 8:05 p.m. Mrs. Knox moved, Mr. Martella seconded, and the Board reconvened the Regular Meeting.

Members present:

Neil S. Carlin	Robert Rossi
Theresa Knox	Joseph T. Saggese
Louis Liguori	Gladys M. Waldron
Scott Martella	

Also present:

Edward Ehmann, Superintendent  
Mary Cahill, Asst. Supt.  
Joan Niles, Asst. Supt.  
Karen Ricigliano, Asst. Supt.  
Sharon Berlin, Board Counsel  
Visitors  
Mary Wilson, District Clerk

**OPENING CEREMONY** - conducted by Mr. Rossi.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Section A - Correspondence** - The following correspondence was presented for the Board's review.

1. Letter to Board of Education from the family of Josephine Taibi regarding appreciation for expression of sympathy.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox that the correspondence in Section A, as listed above, be received and that the recommendations of the administration (where indicated) be accepted.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

**Section B - General Communications** – There were no general communications presented for the Board's review.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Bid Recommendation**

**MOTION** by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it **RESOLVED**, that the following bid recommendation be approved as submitted herein:

08-04      Ext.              Installation and Maintenance of Athletic Fields

Discussion – Mr. Ehmann noted that the District has received a letter indicating that the District's yearly maintenance fee would be reduced due to the changeover to turf field at West.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

### Attorney Fees

Mr. Saggese asked for an update on this item. Mr. Ehmann reported that the District has contacted previous counsel and had received definitive word as to what cases he is passing over to Lamb & Barnosky and which cases he is going to continue to work on. We agreed with his assessment of the status of the cases. We are still waiting for a bill for services rendered. Mr. Rossi and I will be sending him notification this week with a specific deadline at the end of next week to respond to us with the fees.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Business Affairs

Mr. Saggese announced that a Business Affairs Committee Meeting had been held on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Three issues regarding transportation were discussed. One was a centralized pickup for parochial school students; changing of the pickup point for students to coincide with New York state regulations. The second item was changing of the pickup point for elementary and secondary students. The centralized pickup does not require a referendum; whereas changing the pickup point will require a referendum. The third item was the in-house bus structure. A committee of Mr. Saggese, Mr. Liguori, Mr. Rossi and the Superintendent have visited a number of schools that own their own bus fleets. We would like to visit one more, Huntington. Our district has presented its own cost savings analysis to the Business Affairs Committee. We have identified a cost savings of at a minimum \$1 million to a maximum of approximately \$3.8 million. The fueling and location to store the buses and a contractual situation are items that are being addressed. The Superintendent has provided four locations to house the buses. The District owns property which would be conducive to storing the buses and housing the whole facility. The four locations are: Browns Road in Nesconset, Fifty Acre Road, Nesconset Elementary, and the present facility behind Nesaquake. This would give us the opportunity to rebuild the present facilities which are in total disrepair. We could save money with in-house busing and also rebuild this structure going forward for the next thirty years. We also looked at property outside the District on Old Northport Road. Mrs. Waldron asked if the District has the square footage of the property behind the present transportation facility. Mr. Carlin stated that there was an aerial map which the District developed to scale and then superimposed the proposed layout on that. It was the opinion of people who have done this that that property is large enough to house the buses. It was scaled to determine that buses could adequately be stored on that property. Mrs. Knox asked if there would be good access for the buses to be coming and going. Mr. Saggese stated that the District has received tremendous support from people who are experienced in this and Town officials have contacted us and tried to help. This could be a great source of jobs for the community in part-time bus drivers and other things. The Town is looking into doing some fueling with Kings Park. We have also had a conversation with the president of the transportation company on perhaps a swap of property or maybe they would park their busses there. We are looking at all different options to get the transportation cost down. Part of the analysis showed that the transportation costs went from \$5 million four or five years ago to this year's contract which is up to \$7.2 million. Mr. Saggese added that the analysis showed that a lot of this increase is not just contractual but the splitting of the District added transportation costs, such as the number of teams and after-school activities. These three items put together could probably bring us down from our \$15 million costs to around \$10 million if we do it all.

Mr. Liguori asked if the \$15 million was the large and small bus contract combined. Mr. Saggese responded, yes; if we bring this all in-house you save approximately \$20-25 thousand per driver.

Mr. Carlin reported that due to a combination of the Governor's proposed reductions in State Aid, a drop in the District's assessed value, and an increase in payments to the TRS (Teachers' Retirement System) there has been some discussion amongst the Board regarding putting a

bussing referendum out to the public. It has been discussed in Business Affairs and we asked the Transportation Department to look at what kind of transportation we currently provide for our students. We will be looking at what we are legally required to provide and what would be judicious for the transportation of our students and what dollar amount we could potentially save if we extended the distance that some children are required to walk. This would have to be on a referendum and voters would get to decide whether they want to save that money or not. Discussion ensued as to the merits of having such a referendum placed on the May 18<sup>th</sup> ballot or holding a separate earlier vote. Mrs. Waldron asked that at the next Business Affairs meeting the administration address safety concerns for walkers. Ms. Niles stated that you may be looking for information such as if we go to a quarter of a mile how many children will be affected crossing a main road or other dangerous situation. Mr. Saggese asked if the District has that information. Ms. Niles responded that Ms. Augugliaro will have to work on that. Mrs. Waldron stated that in order to make an informed decision on this, we need to have that kind of information. The Board requested that at the next Business Affairs meeting Ms. Niles supply the list of criteria that need to be met to designate a Child Safety Zone. Mrs. Waldron said she is not looking for the criteria; she wants to know about the safety issue. Mr. Martella questioned how many students would be affected by changing the elementary rules of universal bussing. He would like to know what is the percentage of the population that A) drives their kids to school already, or B) walks – is there anyway to quantify that? Mr. Ehmann responded that the law states you have to provide a seat for every student within the demographic route of the bus in case they ever want to get on it. The reality is that a number of people are driven to school. We will be surveying bus use every day for a few weeks to assess the percentage of eligible students who utilize the bus. Mr. Saggese noted that the only caveat to that is that if the buses are running at 80%, you cannot tell if that 20% are within that half a mile or maybe they are in the 2 mile area. Mr. Ehmann stated that we will have significant data by the 2/10 meeting. Right now we have a lot of activities before school, STEM program, musical exercises and intramurals at the elementary level. A lot of those students are driven by their parents. If we are forced to make cutbacks in this particular climate, and we lose some of those things, the ridership may increase because fewer folks are driving. These are all types of conversations that we will have so that you can make your informed decision. Mr. Saggese noted that there are so many unintended consequences, we have people who rely on the buses to take their children to school because they are working; now if no one is taking them, they are walking. Mr. Ehmann noted that the number one goal is that we have done as much as we can the last few years to cut all expenses out of our operational side to save program; we will continue to do that. Every dollar we save on the operational side we apply to the program side.

### Facilities

Mr. Liguori reported that a meeting was held January 14<sup>th</sup> where our architect, H2M, updated the District on the ongoing projects. We are still waiting on some approvals from the State with regard to: HSE building upgrades – science lab, window replacement & synthetic turf; Tackan Elementary – site improvements. Projects under construction: Mills Pond - windows and unit ventilators; HSW – student toilet renovation, fuel tank, kitchen hood and chiller replacement. Some items have been awarded and some are being re-bid. Completed are: HSE gym (small gym is currently being worked on); SHW turf installation. The Board received a listing of all capital improvement projects to be considered. When this list is more fine-tuned, this will be collaborated on with the Business Affairs Committee. The next meeting will be held February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Waldron stated that during the last blizzard there was a big truck at Great Hollow clearing the snow which we rented at \$600 an hour. Are we going to repair one of our large older dump trucks or buy something new? Mr. Ehmann stated that the Facilities Department has given the administration a vehicle maintenance list – the vehicles we own, the mileage, years they have been in service, the condition, so that we can analyze what our next move should be. Over the last few years a truck and plow have been on and off our budget list and ultimately the Facilities Department decided to purchase a pickup truck with a lift that the truck and plow didn't have. They opted for that vehicle which served a good purpose in the last couple of years. But when we got this storm of the decade we didn't have equipment large enough to handle the volume of snow, so they rented this big plow. Now the question is, is it to our advantage to purchase one in case of a similar circumstance, or to go ahead and rent when we need. We are going to take a look at that whole situation.

Mrs. Waldron stated that discussion has also been ongoing about encroachment on our school property. We need maps and clear distinction of what is happening. We also need information about the cemetery by Mt. Pleasant. Mr. Ehmann responded that we have aerial photos with superimposed property lines. We will have somebody take actual pictures so that you can see exactly what the encroachment is; whether it is just somebody that put a fence up on our property or whether somebody put up a permanent structure. This will aid you in assessing how to handle each and every encroachment situation.

### **Housing**

Mr. Rossi stated that he wanted the community to know that this Board does not act hastily. Between the loss of revenue and the increase in costs going forward, plans need to be put in place for the future of the District. Ultimately, the goal of the District is to educate children. One thing that needs to be discussed is the housing situation. This hasn't been discussed in a few years – about the capacities that we have. Mr. Rossi asked if the Superintendent might have any ideas on that and might be looking for the Housing Committee to put together a meeting for that discussion. Mr. Ehmann replied that there was a Housing Report submitted last year and when it was submitted the ultimate recommendation, at this point, was not to move in any direction of redistricting. The last year and a half or so things have gotten so draconian that if the Board wishes to have another look at the enrollment patterns and the actual enrollment of some of our schools to see if there is any room to consolidate, then we should put that into place. The Western Suffolk BOCES Deputy Superintendent made an announcement that they are expanding and looking for some opportunities to maybe move into some districts. I have called him to see what type of programs they are looking to house. Mrs. Waldron stated that it was the intent to have a Housing Committee Meeting after kindergarten registration was over. Dr. Ain was to look at the buffer zones.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Updates** – The Superintendent brought the Board up-to-date on the following items of interest:

- Three Smithtown students have been selected as Semifinalists in the prestigious Intel Science Talent Search. John Dodaro and Alexander Spangher are seniors at Smithtown High School East and Reena Glaser is a senior at Smithtown High School West. The research teachers are Maria Trinkle from High School East and Joanne Figueiredo from High School West. Students' projects were judged on their individual research ability, scientific originality and creative thinking by top scientists.
- The District is continuing the tradition of developing our 2010-2011 budget in an open and cooperative manner. Anyone who is interested in working on the development of the 2010-2011 budget is invited to join Central Administration on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the New York Avenue auditorium.
- Central registration for the 2010-2011 kindergarten class is being held this month at the Joseph M. Barton Administration Building. Check the School District website [www.smithtown.k12.ny.us](http://www.smithtown.k12.ny.us) for further information.
- Great Hollow Middle School literary magazine "Dreamer's Notebook" won first place with special merit from American Scholastic Press Association.
- The Mills Pond Civics Club raised funds and gathered supplies for Save-A-Pet, a no kill animal shelter in Port Jefferson, during their annual bake sale. The club also collected coats, hats, gloves and scarves to donate to Our Daily Bread, a local soup kitchen, in preparation for scheduled visits over the next few months.
- The Smithtown Teachers' Association made a donation to the Industry Advisory Board to support the Smithtown students and participated as judges in the Business Olympics.
- Great Hollow Middle School raised \$5,252.40 for the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital through a Math-a-Thon.
- The third and fourth grade students at Accomsett Elementary took part in the Child Abuse Prevention Services "CAPS" *Steer Clear of Bullies* program. This program is designed to help students acquire the skills that would be helpful if they are ever in a "bullying" situation. In addition, empathy, respect and helping one another become better friends were discussed.
- Director of Guidance Ingrid Hrvatin and the high school counseling staff recently hosted their *Annual Financial Aid Night* at Smithtown High School West. Information was presented to

parents of junior and senior students on the different types of college scholarships, aid, grants and work study that are available. A large part of the presentation focused on the FAFSA worksheet.

- Students in many of the schools participated in raising funds for the earthquake victims of Haiti.
- The District will be hosting more programs for students regarding drug related problems. The District has also reached out to legislators regarding providing drug testing kits to parents.

At 9:00 p.m. Mrs. Knox left the meeting.

### **Committee on Special Education**

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Liguori that the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education for cases 306733, 310463, 310841, 192399, 310864, 306647, 310785, 310820, 310629, 308022, 308387, 304622, 305605, 161420, 300646, 310190, 306924, 004429 and 306097 be approved.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

### **Sub-Committee on Special Education**

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Liguori that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Special Education for cases 302418, 173338, 302407, 200287, 195299, 308205, 310917, 305918, 188569, 200085, 310549, 306939, 305830, 304840, 302035, 308430, 302995, 300849, 310623, 307339, 307338, 200650, 307346, 300325, 186069, 300275, 308618, 308282, 310795, 301488, 306429, 304636, 152360 and 304312 be approved.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

### **Committee on Preschool Special Education**

MOTION by Mr. Liguori, seconded by Mrs. Waldron that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education for Initial Placement – Program/Services for cases P310829 and P309643 be approved.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

MOTION by Mr. Liguori, seconded by Mrs. Waldron that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education for Annual IEP Review/Amended IEP for cases P310570, P309266, P310836, P309181, P309379, P308562, P308512, P309887, P308136, P310813, P309280 P309689, P308833, P309833 and P310653 be approved.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

**Calendar for January and February 2010** - The calendars were reviewed and amended by the Board.

**Litigation** - was discussed during the earlier Executive Session.

**INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT** – none.

**SECTION C - AUDIENCE** – Mr. Rossi welcomed the members of the audience and called speakers to the podium from the sign-in sheet.

1. Allen Lamberg expressed his concern over the possibility of the District erecting a bus garage behind Nesaquake. He requested that the Board visit his home before making any decision.

2. Rick Schlomann thanked Joan Niles for responding to questions he posed at the previous meeting. Mr. Schlomann suggested cash flow of all of the budgets be presented. He also suggested that the District show ways that it is making inroads in benefits and salaries.

**BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

**Finance**

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Liguori approving Finance Items 1-5 on a consent motion

Discussion

Item # 3 – Mr. Liguori asked if the dirt issue in the LandTek Change Order had been resolved. The Superintendent responded, yes. The District received a commitment from LandTek to deliver 600 yards of fill to Tackan.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

1. Budgetary Transfers - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfers of funds be approved for the 2009-10 school year:

FROM:	See Attached	\$8,100.00	
TO:	See Attached		\$8,100.00

FROM:	2110-201-51-0000	Equip. Instr.	\$6,028.27	
TO:	2110-501-51-0501	Insurable Supplies>\$500		\$6,028.27

2. Bid Recommendations - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following bid recommendations are approved as submitted herein:

09-52	Project Adventure
09-53	Matting – Walk Off

3. Change Order - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the attached change order listed below:

**Bid Recommendation #09-43 Awarded on September 22, 2009  
Capital Project #58-08-01-06-0-038-021  
High School West – Athletic Field Upgrade**

CHANGE ORDER #G1 – Amount: \$21,556.00  
Contractor: The LandTek Group

4. LI Cooperative Bid Awards – Child Nutrition Program - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached awards are approved.
5. Contract for Neuropsychological Evaluation Services - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to execute a contract with the following individual, to provide two neuropsychological evaluations, for the 2009-2010 school year, at the rate of \$250.00/hr., not to exceed \$1,750.00 per evaluation (7 hours each, including a written report supplied to the School District):

Dr. Thomas Preston, Ph. D.

Department of Neurology (T12-020 HSC)  
SUNY at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, NY 11794-8121

**Operations**

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Martella approving Operations Items 1-2 on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

1. Acceptance of Gifts – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of the following gifts:

	<u>Donated By</u>
\$137.66 balance from Kevin Rooney’s Eagle Scout Project to restore the Arthur House	Boy Scouts of America c/o Matthew Mascia Jr. 17 Moonlit Court Smithtown, NY 11787
\$6,054.85 to fund field trips for the 2009-2010 school year	Branch Brook Elementary parents
\$25.71 to fund field trips for the 2009-2010 school year	Mills Pond Elementary parents
\$150.00 to the 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Civics Club at Mills Pond Elementary for the community service planting event at the St. James Healthcare Facility	Newsday’s Future Corp. 235 Pinelawn Road Melville, NY 11747
\$893.00 to fund field trips for the 2009-2010 school year	Smithtown Elementary parents
Multipurpose Outdoor Area, Landscaping & Beautification Project at Nesaquake Middle School	Jason Trutner 5 Inwood Road St. James, NY 11780
\$1,000.00 for the Nicholas Zauner Scholarship Fund	Mrs. Katherine A. Zauner 490 Lake of the Woods Drive Venice, FL 34293-7219

2. Declaration of Obsolete Items – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following items, due to poor condition and/or obsolescence, are no longer useful to the District, and are hereby declared to be obsolete, and are to be disposed of in a manner that is in the best interest of the Smithtown Central School District:

- Delta Table Saw, ID# 003214 at Great Hollow Middle School
- Sears Craftsman Drill Press, ID# 7004572 at Great Hollow Middle School
- Delta 6” Belt Sander, ID# 003209 at Great Hollow Middle School
- Pectoral Deck Machine, Seated Leg Extension Machine, and Seven Volleyball Standards at High School East
- Risograph Model C1700 Serial #88461304 at High School West

**PERSONNEL**

**Certified** – The following AMENDED Certified Personnel Items were presented for the Board’s approval (Attachment IX.A.1-6):

1. Approval of Coordinator of Student Volunteers for NYSSMA 2009-2010
2. Decrease of Assignment
3. Appointment of a Part-Time Teacher
4. Appointment of Part-time Financial Data & Operations Coordinator
5. Coaching Assignment
6. Extension of Regular Substitute Teacher

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Saggese approving the AMENDED Certified Personnel Items 1-6, as detailed in the attached resolutions.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

**Classified** - The following Classified Personnel Items were presented for the Board's approval (Attachment IX.B.1-6):

1. Appointments
2. Appointment – Reason(s)
3. Change of Status
4. Change of Status - Reason(s)
5. Leave of Absence Unpaid
6. Leave of Absence – Reason(s)

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Rossi approving the Classified Personnel Items 1-6 as detailed in the attached resolutions.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

**NEW BUSINESS** – none.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Liguori that the meeting be adjourned at 9:25 p.m. Motion carried.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wilson  
District Clerk