

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

September 9, 2008

Held in the Joseph M. Barton Bldg.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Carl Gianino, President of the Board of Education.

Members present:

Neil S. Carlin	Robert Rossi
Carl E. Gianino	Joseph T. Saggese
Theresa Knox	Gladys M. Waldron
Louis Liguori	

Also present:

Edward Ehmann, Superintendent  
Mary Cahill, Asst. Supt.  
Joan Niles, Asst. Supt.  
Karen Ricigliano, Asst. Supt.  
Peter G. Albert, Board Counsel  
Visitors  
Mary Wilson, District Clerk

**OPENING CEREMONY** - conducted by Mr. Gianino. On motion by Mr. Liguori, seconded by Mr. Rossi, the Board voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session to discuss Particular Personnel, Negotiations and Litigation.

At 8:07 p.m. Mrs. Waldron moved, Mrs. Knox seconded, and the Board reconvened the Regular Meeting.

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Rossi that the order of the agenda be changed to have the Audience Participation section follow the Personnel section.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

**MINUTES** – of the Regular Meetings held August 12 and 28, 2008, were presented for approval.

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox that the above minutes be approved as presented.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

**RECEIPT OF CLAIMS AUDITOR'S REPORT** - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the Claims Auditor's Report ending June 30, 2008 in the amount of \$53,215,389.41 be accepted.

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox that the Claims Auditor's Report be accepted.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

**COMMUNICATIONS**

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

1. E-Mail Letter to Members of the Board of Education from Silvia Vigliarolo regarding policy change.
2. E-Mail Letter to Members of the Board of Education from Sean and Bridget Keenan regarding lacrosse program.
3. E-Mail Letter to Members of the Board of Education from Peter and Linda Lambrecht regarding lacrosse incident.
4. Letters to Carl E. Gianino, President, from the Long Island Rail Road regarding SADD trestle mural.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS** – none.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Facilities

Mr. Liguori reported that he and Mr. Gianino participated in a “walk through” of the facilities prior to the opening of school. There were significant improvements in the facilities from the previous year.

Mr. Gianino stated that it his understanding that the NY State Health Department has given synthetic turf fields a clean bill of health and now we are waiting on the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation. Mr. Gianino asked if our district is on the Clarkstown bid. Ms. Niles replied yes, but they have changed the bid and have taken out the installation. Mr. Ehmman stated that as soon as Albany gives the “green light” we will be ready to start the process of getting the synthetic turf fields.

Mr. Rossi invited all in attendance to join the Board at future Facilities Committee Meetings; the next meeting is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Updates – The Superintendent noted the very smooth opening of school this year. He extended thanks to:

- Mary Augugliaro, Director of Transportation, and her staff for their hard work this summer. We have over 1,100 bus runs every day and they did a phenomenal job planning the routes.
- Ingrid Hrvatin, Director of Guidance, and Mary Cahill, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, who along with the scheduling teams did a phenomenal job in scheduling the students through the Parent Portal.
- Joe Piro, Plant Facilities Administrator, and his crew for making great strides in our facilities and enhancing them as well.
- John Nolan, Network & Systems Coordinator, and his technology crew for working with our Facilities people to install seventy-seven SMART Boards this summer alone. We are on schedule to put in another hundred throughout the year.

**Committee on Special Education**

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron that the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education for cases 309348, 309112, 309084, 306698, 308624, 306644, 307982, 301950, 300673, 309456, 308725, 309401, 306283, 174017, 304790, 306790, 306733, 308587 and 000100 be approved.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

**Sub-Committee on Special Education**

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Special Education for cases 306790, 307409, 304025, 304635, 305011, 304840 and 301426 be approved.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

**Calendar for September and October 2008** - The calendars were reviewed and amended by the Board. Mrs. Waldron again asked her fellow Board Members to give her their booklet regarding items to be voted upon at the NYSSBA Convention in October.

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

**INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT****Selection Classification Recommendation**

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that permission is granted at the request of the Athletic Director to the following Middle School athletes to play on High School teams. They have been deemed "exceptional" and have passed the Selection/Classification process:

Jessica Coombs	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Swimming, Varsity	Combined Team
Lara Sarett	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Swimming, Varsity	Combined Team
Emily Astarita	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Volleyball, JV	High School East
Sara Finger	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Tennis, Varsity	High School East

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

**BUSINESS AFFAIRS****Finance**

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

**Discussion** – Mr. Liguori asked if the Portable Irrigation System bid was for an additional water cannon. Ms. Niles explained that the District is purchasing a second water cannon.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

1. **Financial Report** - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following report for the month indicated be accepted:

1 – Report of Claims Auditor  
7/31/08

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

08-41	Dishwasher Detergent
08-42	Portable Irrigation System

3. Contract for Workshops - 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 organization, to provide workshops on Substance Abuse, Bullying and Friendship, to the Smithtown Middle School Health Students, at a cost of \$2,000.00:

Motivational Productions Inc.  
18965 FM 2252  
Garden Ridge, Texas 78266

The funds for this program will come out of the Title IV Safe and Drug Free Grant.

4. Contract for Speech Therapy 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 organization for the 2008-09 school year, at the rate listed, to provide speech therapy services:

The Suffolk Center for Myofunctional & Speech Therapy  
213 Hallock Road  
Suite 4B  
Stony Brook, NY 11790  
Speech (prompt) therapy \$65.00 per 30 minutes

5. Appointment of Central Treasurer - upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that Tracey A. Pennisi be appointed as Central Treasurer for the 2008-09 school year, to oversee the Extraclassroom Activity Accounts for the following elementary schools, replacing the individuals previously approved at the Organizational Meeting on July 8, 2008:

<u>REPLACING</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
Roseanne Rottkamp	Accompsett Elementary School
Rosemary Geronimo	Branch Brook Elementary School
Florence Gray	Dogwood Elementary School
Janice Kennedy	Mt. Pleasant Elementary School
Jane Groneman	St. James Elementary School
Susan Granice	Smithtown Elementary School
Stephanie Rinefierd	Tackan Elementary School

### Operations

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox approving Operations Item 1 on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

1. Addition to List of Organizations Approved to Use School Facilities 2008-09 School Year –upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following organizations, having made formal application, are hereby approved for

applying to use school facilities of the Smithtown Central School District during the 2008-09 school year, subject to all school district policies, rules and regulations, Standard Uniform Practices and contract provisions:

Cub Scout Pack 228  
Nesaquake Middle School PTA  
Prana Pilates & Yoga  
Tackan Elementary PTA

## **PERSONNEL**

**Certified** – The following AMENDED Certified Personnel Items were presented for the Board's approval (Attachment XI.A.1-13):

1. Increase of Assignment/Change of Status
2. Appointment of Potential Presenters and/or Participants
3. Notice of Resignation
4. Approval of Emergency Conditional Fingerprint Clearance
5. Appointment of Substitute Teacher(s)
6. Appointment of Home Instruction Tutor(s)
7. Increase of Assignment/Additional Classes
8. Appointment of Regular Substitute Teacher(s)
9. Appointment of Academic Intervention Tutors
10. Request for FMLA, Without Pay/Leave of Absence, Without Pay
11. Coaching Assignments 2008-2009
12. Appointment of Possible Parade Directors
13. Appointment of Event Chaperones - AMENDED

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving the **AMENDED** Certified Personnel Items 1-13, as detailed in the attached resolutions.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

**Classified** - The following Classified Personnel Items were presented for the Board's approval (Attachment XI.B.1-7):

1. Appointments
2. Change of Status
3. Leave of Absence Unpaid
4. Leave of Absence – Reason(s)
5. Resignation
6. Termination
7. Emergency Conditional Fingerprint Clearance

MOTION by Mr. Rossi, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving the Classified Personnel Items 1-7 as detailed in the attached resolutions.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

In response to a question at a previous Board Meeting, Ms. Niles provided the Board with a memo clarifying the interest rate we receive on a certain account.

**SECTION C - AUDIENCE** – Mr. Gianino welcomed the members of the audience and called speakers to the podium from the sign-in sheet. Mr. Gianino reminded all present that the District's Code of Conduct and Robert's Rules of Order require that Board Meetings be

conducted in a professional, respectful and courteous manner. As role models for the children and the students that are here this evening we must all try to contribute to a civil and thoughtful dialogue. Each speaker has five minutes; so we ask that you be brief and to the point. We certainly appreciate you coming out this evening to give us your input.

1. Dave Hull stated that he did not think it would be a good idea to alter the current Conflict of Interest Policy to prohibit coaches from coaching their own children. He suggested that the problem of favoritism could be expanded to encompass many other situations such as nieces, nephews, children of top fund raisers, etc. Mr. Hull also stated that this proposed change in policy would be a detriment to attracting new young coaches. He suggested that problems be routed through the proper chain of command and that the School Board not micromanage the hiring of coaches.
2. Lou Riley identified himself as a senior at HS West. He commended the job that the Varsity lacrosse coach has done.
3. Jeff Levick discussed a perceived conflict of interest with trainers training outside teams and then having responsibility and opinions on which athletes make teams. He related this problem to the soccer program.
4. Mike Bailey stated that the proposed change would give Smithtown residents fewer rights than people living outside the district. He suggested that the newspaper coverage of this issue is a bit excessive.
5. Paul Sheridan questioned why the District is spending so much time on this issue and suggested that it move on.
6. Jason Lambert identified himself as a District teacher and HS East Varsity lacrosse coach. He and his wife hope to one day move into the community and have their children in this district; stating that he would want the opportunity to coach his son or daughter. Many of Smithtown's staff live here.
7. Ed Carlson identified himself as a 2008 graduate and a member of the HS West lacrosse team. He expressed disappointment in how the team has "fallen apart" since the "ball throwing incident" and have singled out one boy. Ed stated that other members of the team have admitted to him and a few other players that they lied during Mr. Dolan's investigation.
8. Ron Madarasz asked that the coaches be allowed to do their jobs.
9. Bob Pannell stated that he has had two sons go through the Smithtown schools and having coaches coach their own children is nothing new to Smithtown. He added that we should want our coaches to live in the District.
10. Mary Pat Schultz stated that she did not think there is a need to change the policy.
11. Ed Carlson Sr. stated that having a parent coach their child puts unnecessary pressure on the child. He stated that there are other professions that have restrictions on working where you live such as police, priests and guards.
12. Paul Bamonte complimented the records our athletic teams have.
13. Lisa Zawadzki identified herself as a parent and employee of the District. She noted that the District has a long history of success over the years in hiring teachers, coaches and various District employees that are parents or relatives of District students. She does not want the District to make the suggested change to the policy.
14. Bob Urbancik stated that the proposed changes to policy are questionable and we want to have the best coaches we can.
15. Joe Junior stated that if you don't want parents teaching or coaching their children, should parents be allowed to govern in the District?
16. Al Chandler III stated that he had been taught and coached by his parent in this District and he does not want the policy to be changed.
17. Al Chandler Sr. identified himself as a parent, coach and teacher in this district for thirty-four years; explaining that some of his proudest moments were coaching his son. He said there is no need for a policy change.
18. William Davey said he has lived in the District for thirty years and was fortunate to coach his own child in seventh and eighth grade. He said we are wasting our time talking about changing this policy.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Rossi, seconded by Mrs. Waldron that the meeting be adjourned at 9:14 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wilson  
District Clerk