

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

February 23, 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 Mr. Martella, 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.
Eugene Barnosky, Lindsay Croker, 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 School Board President and Members from Peter M. Rivera, Chair, regarding Mental Health Guide for NYS Schools.
2. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi from Joanne Figueiredo regarding National Honor Society Induction Ceremony.

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron 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

Dissection Protocol

The Superintendent updated the Board on the District's decisions regarding dissection protocol. This item had been brought up at a previous BOE meeting by a concerned student. After meetings with the Science Department it has been recommended that the District add a student contract, which combined with the opt-out option, should raise the level of behavior during dissections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Affairs

Mr. Saggese reported that the committee will meet February 24th to discuss budget development and continue the discussion on bussing. The District is looking at ways of streamlining and increasing efficiency with the contract that is coming up. Items to be discussed will be increasing the mileage to the state limits for pick-up and the referendum to accomplish that. This would reduce the cost by 14%. The second item would be centralized pick-up and drop-off of the private and parochial students with a savings of about 14%. The third item would be to increase the efficiency of our student load factor, with an estimated savings of 6%. The fourth item is looking at the possibility of in-house busses. Currently we operate eight buses; we are looking at another 10-11% reduction in that cost. Overall we are looking at a 30-35% decrease in transportation costs.

Mr. Carlin reported that the administration will be presenting their first go-round at budget building during tomorrow night's meeting. Mrs. Cahill added that Ms. Niles will be presenting the introduction to the budget process and then there will be a brief over-view of what we know to date. Following that there will be a very brief, condensed presentation on the instructional program since we lost a meeting due to snow.

Mrs. Waldron asked if Ms. Niles or her ASBO organization has heard anything from the state regarding state aid. Ms. Niles responded that BOCES had a presentation this morning about state aid which did not give any new information. The presentation did show that the Extended School Year Program which we run will not provide us the normal 80% funding. The new formula will have us paying 79%. This situation is similar to last year's MTA payroll tax. Mrs. Waldron stated that she had heard that it has been recommended that school boards start using examples of how many employees would be lost due to lower state aid. Mr. Saggese stated that it is his belief that at the budget meeting the administration will be showing a very substantial gap between budget revenue and expenditures for next year. Mrs. Waldron also asked that the BOE be provided with an updated listing of current unfunded mandates. Mr. Martella discussed a legislative breakfast he had attended at Longwood where legislators had asked for a listing of unfunded mandates that are placed upon school districts. Ms. Niles stated that a list of unfunded mandates was given to our legislators last year. Mr. Ehmann noted that if the funding formula is changed with regard to the Special Education Extended School-Year program, that would be another \$600,000 that we did not have to budget for last year.

Mr. Rossi added that it is important for the Superintendent to keep in touch with the local politicians to let them know on a daily or weekly basis what our concerns are and how these items are going to affect our school district.

Facilities

Mr. Liguori asked that a prioritized, complete listing of all projects which need to be done, with dollar amounts, be prepared for the BOE for the March 11th Facilities meeting.

Mrs. Waldron suggested that the District request that our local legislators work on our behalf to move some of the projects that are awaiting approval from Albany.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

- School will be in session for all students on Friday, May 28th as a snow make-up day.
- Members of the community are invited to attend upcoming budget development meetings. There will be a Business Affairs Committee/Budget Development Meeting on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the New York Avenue auditorium. Future meetings will be held on March 3, March 10, March 16, March 24, and April 7. All will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the New York Avenue auditorium.
- Congratulations to Smithtown High School East's Academic Challenge Team --Zachary Greenberg, Patrick Kelly, Sanjay Palat, Nicole Tchorowski and Alternate Stephanie Chocko -- on

their recent victory over Copiague High School on Cablevision/News 12's *The Challenge!* Their advisors are Mike Zartler and Kim Craig.

- The following students have qualified for New York State Competitions: HS West's Jake Smith for Wrestling, HS West's James Snak for Boys' Winter Track, and High School East's Cara Hallahan for Girls' Winter Track.
- Smithtown High School West Thespian Troupe 2035 has invited Senior Connections Gold Card Members to a Dress Rehearsal Show of *Godspell* on Wednesday, March 3rd at 3:00 pm. The Senior Connections Gold Card Program seeks to build bridges between our students and the community's senior citizens.
- With the recent tragedy in Haiti, Dogwood Elementary students raised \$707 for the Red Cross. The money will be used to support the children and their families in Haiti who were affected by the earthquake.
- First graders at Smithtown Elementary School created vertical elongated self-portraits of themselves as part of a "Side by Side" project developed by iEarn.org. "Side by Side" celebrates the unique individuality of each student as these projects, completed at home, include symbols about their past, present and future.

B. Committee on Special Education

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox approving Committee on Special Education Items 1-2 on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

1. Committee on Special Education - RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education for cases 307470, 302689, 300931, 308143, 310842, 310859, 192399, 303673, 310884, 310846, 309383, 304735, 172146, 301807, 310850, 306913, 308778, 190749, 310660, 301995, 302205, 307685, 308583, 308524 and 193169 be approved.
2. Sub-Committee on Special Education - RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Special Education for cases 310602, 310861, 308134, 182398, 305953, 307571, 194889, 155260, 175166, 176747, 302779, 154280, 189459, 307292, 301963, 307601, 305487, 301531, 305031, 306789, 309084, 309591, 200114, 301110, 302434, 303998, 301999, 200137, 200041, 150820, 300833, 302662, 305268, 306560, 305650, 305950, 310943, 307040, 305683, 304499, 304271, 180837, 306384, 305478, 300257, 304075, 307589, 305727, 304117, 304581, 308604, 306137, 307120, 307141, 304271, 301287, 159860, 200926, 200132, 301987, 300909, 304455, 183348, 184959, 309616, 301741, 308908, 306771, 306787, 304982, 306361 and 302689 be approved.

C. Committee on Preschool Special Education

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving Preschool Special Education Items 1-2 on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

1. Initial Placement for Preschool Special Education Program/Services – RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education for Initial Placement – Program/Services for cases P310909, p310899, P310858, P310383 and P310382 be approved.
2. Special Education Preschool Annual IEP Review/Amended IEP – RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education for Annual IEP Review/Amended IEP for cases P309251A, P309251, P309280, P308524A, P308524, P308583A, P308583, P308550, P310467, P308966, P308833, P309658 and P309124 be approved.

D. Calendar for February and March 2010 - The calendars were reviewed and amended by the Board.

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

SECTION C - AUDIENCE

1. Lisa Katter cautioned the District about limiting bussing for private and parochial students. She noted that it would cost the District more money if the students left the private schools and attended District schools.
2. Susan Schlomann suggested that the District look into also changing the bussing mileage for after school participants, and perhaps getting contributions from participants.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS**Finance**Discussion

Item #'s 5, 6 and & 7 – Mr. Carlin asked for the decision making behind the use of the ARRA funds for these three contracts. Mrs. Cahill responded that the existing ARRA funds are being applied to a number of different projects. Under Response to Intervention regulations there is a mandate to the school district to provide research-based instruction as part of our remedial program. We looked at providing in-service for our staff by providing some services provided by BOCES; we evaluated what it would cost if we kept them after work and had to pay them to be there. The way we are delivering this model, with the help of our building principals, is release time from their position for the dates noted and the delivery of six hours of in-service workshop. This was the most cost efficient and effective way to do this. Mr. Carlin asked if the administration had calculated the precise number of people who needed to be trained, and is that the precise number of people you are training. Mrs. Cahill responded that we are training the individuals who would be responsible to provide instruction; this is much fewer than the number of people we could potentially train. Mr. Carlin asked if it would be necessary to hire subs for these people. Mrs. Cahill responded that it depends on the group; for the tutors and reading teachers we did not bring in substitutes. For some of our Special Education teachers we did have to bring in some substitutes. The substitutes are also being paid for out of the grant. Mrs. Cahill added that these workshops were approved by New York State.

Item # 2 – Mr. Martella questioned Bid 09-54. After back-and-forth discussion it was decided to table this bid.

MOTION by Mr. Martella, seconded by Mrs. Waldron **TABLING Finance Item 2, Bid # 09-54.**

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

MOTION by Mr. Rossi, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving Finance Items 1 – 7 (with the exception of Item 2, Bid # 09-54) on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

1. Budget 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 list \$361,435.20

TO: See attached list \$361,435.20

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

09-46R

Fuel Tank, Kitchen Hood, Chiller Replacement
at H.S. West SED# 58-08-01-06-0-038-021

(TABLED) 09-54

Student Toilet Renovation at H.S. West
SED# 58-08-01-06-0-038-020

- 3. Contract for Piano Accompanist - 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, as a Piano Accompanist, for the 2009-10 school year, at a rate of \$150.00 for two rehearsals and one performance:

Philippa Green
 10 Fleetwood Avenue
 Melville, NY 11747

- 4. Internal Auditor’s Engagement Letter – Risk Assessment - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to sign the Engagement Letter issued by the District’s Internal Auditor, Coughlin, Foundotos, Cullen & Danowski, dated January 19, 2010, for the risk assessment of the District’s business operations for the year ending June 30, 2010, for a fee of \$15,500.

- 5. Contract for Beginner Multisensory Language Instruction Workshop - 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 present a Beginner Multisensory Language Workshop on February 24, March 3, 11 and 23, 2010 at the rates indicated below:

Workshop:	\$12,000.00 for up to 30 participants
Additional Participants:	\$ 250.00/participant
Materials:	\$ 60.00/participant

L & M Educational Consulting
 905 Main Street
 Pt. Jefferson, NY 11777

The funds for this workshop will be paid for through the ARRA 611 funds.

- 6. Contract for Multisensory Comprehension and Writing Workshop - 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 present a Multisensory Comprehension and Writing Workshop on March 2, 4, 10, 12, 2010 at the rates indicated below:

Workshop:	\$ 8,000.00
Materials:	\$12.00/participant

L & M Educational Consulting
 905 Main Street
 Pt. Jefferson, NY 11777

The funds for this workshop will be paid for through the ARRA 611 funds.

- 7. Contract for Intermediate Level Multisensory Language Workshop - 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 present an Intermediate Level Multisensory Language Workshop on March 16, 24, 2010 at the rates indicated below:

Workshop:	\$ 5,000.00 for up to 30 participants
Materials:	\$12.00/participant

L & M Educational Consulting
 905 Main Street

Pt. Jefferson, NY 11777

The funds for this workshop will be paid for through the ARRA 611 funds.

Operations

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving Operations Items 1-3 on a consent motion

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

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:

Donated By

\$151.00 to fund field trips for the 2009-2010 school year

Nesconset Elementary parents

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:

Bell-Howell Microfilm ABR 2000 Machine, District ID# 001335 in Payroll Dept.
“Old” Houghton-Mifflin Anthologies at Mills Pond Elementary:

- Dinosauring; 30 + 1 teacher’s guide
- Come One, Come All; 19 + 1 teacher’s guide
- Bookworm; 21 + 1 teacher’s guide
- With a Crash & a Bang; 19
- Silly Things Happen; 40 + 1 teacher’s guide
- Too Big; 16
- Dream a Story; 17
- Bears Don’t Go to School; 22

3. Additions to List of Organizations Approved to Use School Facilities, 2009-10 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 2009-10 school year, subject to all school district policies, rules and regulations, Standard Uniform Practices and contract provisions.

Smithtown Fire Department

PERSONNEL

Certified– The following Certified Personnel Items were presented for the Board’s approval (Attachment IX.A.1-9):

- 1. Notice of Retirements
- 2. Appointment of Adult Continuing Education Teacher
- 3. Coaching Assignments
- 4. Appointment of Interim Administrator
- 5. Appointment of Regular Substitute Teacher
- 6. Appointment of Academic Intervention Tutor
- 7. Request for FMLA, Without Pay/Leave of Absence, Without Pay
- 8. Request for Leave of Absence, Without Pay

9. Appointment of Substitute Teachers

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving the Certified Personnel Items 1-9, as detailed in the attached resolutions.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

Mrs. Ricigliano congratulated the teachers on their retirement.

Mr. Rossi, on behalf of the Board of Education, also congratulated the teachers.

Classified - The following Classified Personnel Items were presented for the Board's approval (Attachment IX.B.1-5):

1. Appointments
2. Appointments – Reason(s)
3. Change of Status
4. Change of Status – Reason(s)
5. Terminations

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox approving the Classified Personnel Items 1-5, as detailed in the attached resolutions.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Recycling

Mr. Saggese requested that the District look at the costs, benefits, policy and the overall recycling program. Mr. Rossi reported that he had been approached by the Hauppauge School Board on this topic. Mr. Rossi agreed to reach out to other local districts and perhaps the Town of Smithtown concerning recycling.

Natural Gas

Mr. Carlin reported that Superintendent Vecchio had contracted with an outside vendor for natural gas and is saving money through this purchase. He suggested the administration reach out to the Town to find out why and how they did this and what savings were made. Mr. Ehmann agreed to get that information to the Board.

Mrs. Waldron made a motion seconded by Mr. Martella that the meeting go into Executive Session at 9:02 p.m. to discuss Particular Personnel. Motion carried.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:15 p.m. and indicated that no motions had been made in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Liguori, seconded by Mrs. Knox that the meeting be adjourned at 10:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wilson
District Clerk