

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Amityville Union Free School District, Amityville, NY 11701
Special Meeting – Approved Minutes – September 23, 2014
Park North Administration Building – Board Room – 7:00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisa Johnson, President
Terry Fulton, 2nd Vice President
Nathan King, Trustee
Jeannette Santos, Trustee

PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE: Dr. Kathleen Corbett, Trustee

ABSENT: Ron Moss, 1st Vice President

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Mary T. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Joan Lange, Interim Ass't Sup't for Curriculum & Instruction
Mrs. Sydney Freifelder, Interim Ass't Sup't for Finance & Operations
Ms. Bridgette Wilson, Director for Human Resources

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Eileen Becker, Deputy District Clerk

AUDIENCE: 8 Community/Staff Present

1. Meeting Called to Order by President Johnson at 7:02 PM.

A. Emergency Exit, No Smoking Statement

**In the unlikely event of an emergency, you need to note that exits are clearly marked. Take a moment to note the exit nearest to where are you are seated. *Smoking is not allowed on school grounds. *As a courtesy, please turn off cell phones and pagers during the meeting.*

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Community Input Regarding Board Agenda Items Only

Trustee Dr. Kathleen Corbett joined the meeting via video conference at the Indian River College of Florida, Martin County Library in Stuart, Florida at 7:05 PM. This facility is open to the public.

2. Board Action Recommended by the Board of Education

A. Approval of Board Minutes – None

B. Board Action Recommended by Board Policy Committee – None

C. Board Action Recommended by Board of Education – None

D. Audit Committee – No Report

At 7:05 PM, President Lisa Johnson turned the meeting over to Dr. Mary T. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools to outline the process of curriculum options for the district. In turn, Dr. Kelly turned the meeting over to Dr. Lange who presented to the Board the findings of the Curriculum Advisory Council's recommendation for curriculum materials. The presentation concluded at 7:35.

Trustee Carolyn Dodd arrived at 7:23 PM.

AMITYVILLE U.F.S.D. APPROVED BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES DATE <u>10-08-14</u> DISTRICT CLERK SIGNATURE <u>Eileen Becker</u>

The floor was opened to the audience at 8:15 for discussion. ATA President Robert Claps spoke on behalf of the ATA and supported the immediate purchase and implementation of these programs.

ATA Vice President Carol Seehof spoke also representing the ATA reiterating the necessity of purchasing the materials as soon as possible. Discussions and meetings have been going on since March, 2014 and should have been purchased and in place at the beginning of school.

Melissa Asbell, NW Teacher who resides at 82 Maple Drive, Amityville, NY spoke as a teacher and parent of her concern that we are at the end of September and there are no materials to use in the classes. Mrs. Asbell stated that she and other teachers at Northwest Elementary School are without the appropriate materials to teach their classes. The other concern of Mrs. Asbell is when is the training for the teaching staff for this or any new program. This complaint was made last year as well.

APTC President Maresa Dealy, who resides at 50 Broadway, Amityville, NY spoke supporting the urgent need for curriculum materials and training as a priority. She too is a parent and was concerned how late the district is in obtaining the necessary curriculum for the opening of school.

Trustee Carolyn Dodd spoke of support for the proposed materials to be purchased and urged the Board to vote in favor of purchasing the programs immediately. Trustee Jeannette Santos was in agreement with Trustee Dodd. Trustee Dr. Kathleen Corbett via video conference, expressed concern that the Board the presentation did not address details of the curriculum other than an overview. Trustee Corbett also concurred the delay in purchasing these programs is of great concern.

2nd Vice President Terry Fulton and Trustee Nathan King asked what these new programs will cost and do we have the funds available. Sydney Freifelder confirmed the funds have been allocated for new curriculum programs.

2nd Vice President Terry Fulton and Trustee Nathan King asked for specific costs of and specific accounts where the money comes from. For the GO MATH Program, \$66,234.43 will come from the Textbook Replacement Account and \$18,595.71 from the Common Core Textbook Account for a total of \$84,830.14. The cost of the FOUNDATIONS Program is \$51,587.02 which will come from a Federal Grant Code. The total for both programs is \$136,417.16. The orders were faxed on September 24th and receipt should be 7-10 business days. The GO MATH Program will receive high priority processing. The FOUNDATIONS Program should be received quicker than the standard shipping because they are local.

President Lisa Johnson expressed concern that the Board did not receive these proposals in advance to review what the materials include. The presentation itself does not describe what the children and teachers will be receiving for the lessons and what the benefit will be versus the current programs in place. Dr. Lange felt

the program was detailed in the presentation however President Johnson; 2nd Vice President Fulton and Trustee King would have liked to see a sample lesson or a more detailed description of any new curriculum the Board is being asked for approve and fund. There was also concern what happened to ENGAGE NY and other programs we have been using. Why are they no longer sufficient? Why don't such programs have more longevity? What is the longevity of using these new programs? It was agreed in the future, the Administration will provide materials in advance of what lesson plans will entail, the grades targeted to receive the new materials, what the costs are and where the funds will come from.

The GO MATH Program will cover Grades Kindergarten through 6th Grade. This program will address early and equitable math intervention, articulation across grades. The curriculum will infuse modules, vocabulary/language of instruction and problem solving strategies

The FOUNDATIONS Program is a phonics program and will cover Grades Kindergarten through 2nd Grade. It is based upon Wilson Ready System principles and serves as a prevention program to help reduce reading and spelling failures. The lessons focus on carefully sequences skills that include print knowledge, alphabet awareness, phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, decoding, vocabulary, fluency and spelling.

3. Board Action Recommended by the Superintendent

- A. Superintendent – None
- B. Personnel – None
- C. Business and Finance – None
- D. Monthly Finance Report – None
- E. CSE & CPSE Action/Meetings – None
- F. Curriculum and Instruction
 - 1. Approval to Purchase Curriculum Materials

At 8:45 PM, Trustee Dr. Kathleen Corbett exited the video conference feed.

MOTION TO APPROVE Agenda Item #3F1 made by Trustee Carolyn Dodd, seconded by Trustee Jeannette Santos. **DISCUSSION:** Floor opened for discussion. **MOTION CARRIED:** 5 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

4. Reports

- A. Legal Counsel for the District – No Report
- B. Superintendent of Schools – No Report
- C. Board of Education – No Report

MOTION TO ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING at 8:55 PM made 2nd Vice President Terry Fulton; seconded by Trustee Jeannette Santos. **MOTION CARRIED:** 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Becker, Deputy District Clerk
Approved: 10/08/14