

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Amityville Union Free School District, Amityville, NY 11701
Special Meeting Minutes – February 1, 2017

The Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by President Fulton at Park North Administration Building, Board Room.

A motion made by Mrs. Dodd; seconded by Mrs. Pawlewicz to go into Executive Session at 6:33 p.m. for the purpose of discussing student suspension. Mrs. Castonguay was appointed Clerk Pro Tem.

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Fulton, President
Jeannette Santos, 1st Vice President
Carolyn Dodd, 2nd Vice President
Susan Benard-Handler, Trustee
Lisa Johnson, Trustee
Laura Pawlewicz, Trustee
Dr. Mary T. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Lois Etzel, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Diane Castonguay, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Carole Polney, Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Administrative Services
Gary Steffanetta, Esq., Guercio & Guercio, LLP
Anthony Fasano, Esq., Guercio & Guercio, LLP

Mr. Leon arrived at 6:36 p.m.

Motion to resume Open Meeting 7:43 p.m. in the Park Avenue School Auditorium.

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Fulton, President
Jeannette Santos, 1st Vice President
Carolyn Dodd, 2nd Vice President
Susan Benard-Handler, Trustee
Lisa Johnson, Trustee
Juan Leon, Trustee
Laura Pawlewicz, Trustee
Dr. Mary T. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Lois Etzel, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Diane Castonguay, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Carole Polney, Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Administrative Services
Gary Steffanetta, Esq., Guercio & Guercio LLP
Anthony Fasano, Esq., Guercio & Guercio, LLP
Eileen Becker, District Clerk

COMMUNITY: 60 Present

PRESENTATIONS

1. Budget Workshop #1 – Tax Cap
2. Fiscal Stress Monitoring

COMMUNITY INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Nate King – Questions regarding the budget presentation and the CPI reference which Dr. Kelly explained it is the tool the State uses to calculate the tax cap. Mr. King also asked that the budget segment presented is also available in print for the audience. Dr. Kelly agreed and this is also on the website. Mr. King also asked what the projection is of State Aid. Dr. Kelly responded \$27 million is a preliminary number and may change going forward as the State has not finalized the amounts for the schools.

Pastor Hayward – The community he represents felt after the Bond Vote, there was no further involvement from the District and MANA.

John McSwain – Also wanted to be sure to have access to view the budget as presented. He asked for clarification of the Budgetary Line for Maintenance and what the Bond money was for. Dr. Kelly explained that the Budgetary Line for Maintenance is for the on-going and daily maintenance of the buildings such as cleaning, painting, plumbing, minor repairs to keep the buildings safe and operational. The Bond is for the construction and major work such as building additions to accommodate the growing enrollment, roofing, driveways, upgrade electric, etc.

Katrina Conway – Asked what the dollar amount was for the retirement incentive.

Carolyn Chikazunga – Expressed interest in adding Adult Education particularly an ESL program for the parents. Also expressed an interest in Driver's Education.

ACTION

Motion to accept Agenda Item 2C-1 made by Mrs. Trustee; seconded by Mr. Fulton. Discussion: Ms. Johnson stated the changes to the policies need to be recorded in the minutes. It is part of the Board Report. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Review of Draft Agenda – Regular Meeting – February 8, 2017

Motion to amend the agenda to add Agenda Item 2C-2 Appeal of Superintendent's Suspension made by 2nd Vice President Carolyn Dodd; seconded by President Terry Fulton.

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|---------------------------------------|-----|
| President Fulton | Yes |
| 1 st Vice President Santos | Yes |
| 2 nd Vice President Dodd | Yes |
| Trustee Benard Handler | Yes |
| Trustee Johnson | Yes |
| Trustee Leon | Yes |
| Trustee Pawlewicz | Yes |

Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Motion to approve Agenda Item 2C-2 Appeal of Superintendent's Suspension made by President Terry Fulton; seconded by 2nd Vice President Carolyn Dodd.

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|---------------------------------------|-----|
| President Fulton | Yes |
| 1 st Vice President Santos | Yes |
| 2 nd Vice President Dodd | Yes |
| Trustee Benard Handler | Yes |
| Trustee Johnson | Yes |
| Trustee Leon | Yes |

Trustee Pawlewicz

Yes

Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

PERSONNEL

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3B-1 through 3B-5 made by Mrs. Santos; seconded by Mrs. Dodd.
Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3B-6 made by Mrs. Dodd; seconded by Mrs. Santos. Discussion:
None. Motion Fails: 2 Yes (Mrs. Benard-Handler/Mr. Leon); 5 No; 0 Abstain.

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3B-7 through 3B-13 made by Mrs. Santos; seconded by Mrs. Dodd.
Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Resignation: Special Education 1:1 Aide/ NW – Policaro, S.
2. Resignation: Special Education 1:1 Aide/NW – Murphy, K.
3. Extend FMLA & Leave of Absence: Elementary Teacher/NW – Dady,J.
4. Extended FMLA: Science Teacher/ HS – Aversano, C.
5. Leave of Absence w/o Pay: Family & Consumer Science Teacher/ MS – Sarris, K.
6. Leave of Absence w/o Pay: Special Education Teacher/MS – Jackson, D.
7. Leave of Absence w/o Pay: Monitor/ PA – Wexler, J.
8. Appointment: Food Service Worker/MS – Agbe-Davies, P.
9. Revised Probationary Appointment: Business Teacher/ HS – Schweigert, J.
10. Leave Replacement Appointment: Elementary Teacher/ NW – Casey, A.
11. Appointment: Substitute Monitor – Lee, G.
12. Appointment: Substitute Monitor – Ridley, S.
13. Appointment: Security Guard – Miladinovic, G.

REPORTS

Legal No Report

Superintendent No Report

Board No Report

COMMUNITY INPUT ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

Carolyn Chikazunga – Spoke about a drug program in Nassau County that she would like to see something similar for the district. Also expressed concerned about the new testing that went on in PAMES and also spoke about Columbia Teachers College.

David Jackson – Asked how does one a decision made by the board. There is currently no appeals process.

Andrea DeLoney – Spoke regarding the hiring practices and retention of minorities. Ms. DeLoney expressed concern not having a Human Resources Manager.

Toni Bean – Spoke of the growing epidemic on Long island regarding heroin and supports a drug program. Ms. Bean also spoke about the assessment tests at PAMES. And when will there be a Principal at the High School so Dr. Etzel can concentrate on her duties as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum.

Arnold Jackson – Also supports a drug program in the schools. He also spoke about an appeals process for items in personnel that were denied. He expressed that employees would be retaliated against.

Sydney Martin – Can he FOIL why something was denied? The answer is no. Mr. Martin asked if we were interviewing for HS Principal. The answer is yes but the posting closed 1/31 Mr. Martin is still concern about diversity in the district.

Kevin Davis – Mr. Davis' question was like Nassau County, can Suffolk County are monies available for a drug program. Mr. Davis' next concern is about the reading program that was rolled unknowingly. Mercedes Daniels Reed – Can we find a way to communicate better to the Spanish speaking families. Trustee Santos mentioned we have translation machines. Dr. Kelly said we will have them available going forward. Also a connect-ed message will go out to remind all community members of the board meetings in English and Spanish.

Andrea DeLoney – Ms. DeLoney followed up on her previous comments regarding minority hiring. What are the steps follows. Dr. Kelly responded committees are made up of employees they reflect various positions within the district. There is a 1st level followed by the 2nd level which is the Cabinet before recommendations go to the Superintendent. The committee is varied based on what position is being filled i.e. custodian, teacher, or administrator. Different positions have different criteria.

Vernon Shelton – Who is the Superintendent accountable to? The answer is the Superintendent, Legal Counsel and District Clerk report directly to the Board of Education. What is the chain of command? For anyone to speak to the Board in Executive Session, we would need four members to approve that and what is discussed in Executive Session stays in Executive Session.

Keith Hayward – Returned to the podium to repeat the community is not happy with what is going on; that after the Bond Vote, there seemed to be no communication between MANA and the Superintendent. The drug problem is a great concern. Also the hiring process and retention of good employees hasn't changed. Mr. Hayward suggested posting local papers and not the New York Times. Pastor Hayward suggests adding to the application the opportunity to add the candidate's ethnic background.

Nate King – Expressed his concern for lack of African Americans; the denial of a Leave of Absence request with no reason, that there is no appeal process. Mr. King intimated there will be legal issues, if we haven't gotten them already. He stated that we need to start thinking about the community and not a segment of the community.

Sidney Martin – Mr. Martin wanted specific numbers of minorities that have been hired.

Katrina Conway – Ms. Conway is interested in getting the audio from this meeting from beginning to end.

Maresa Dealy – Ms. Dealy spoke of the disappointment in the behaviors and statements of some of our elected school board members. The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to insure that the tax payer's money is spent to insure the best education for all students. Ms. Dealy complimented the HS attendance office for alerting her that her son has been skipping school. Ms. Dealy referenced the Spanish speaking community that all APTC flyers are translated in both English and Spanish.

Stephanie Howard – Ms. Howard asked if all are the meetings audio recorded and can it be foiled. The response is yes. Ms. Howard asked if there is a sub-committee on the board. The answer is no. While we have a process of a 1st and 2nd level committee interview process, no board member is part of that.

Diane Myers – Ms. Myers was very upset and felt threatened by comments made from another speaker. We make time to come and make meetings and request meetings with administrators and the schools and believe the school administrators and the school board has the obligation to accept those meetings and communicate back to the community. The Amityville community has more than 50% people of color the staff should reflect that ratio.

Carolyn Chikazunga – The question stems from a Newsday article about the disparities of between different programs of education and universities in terms of student teaching. Ms. Chikazunga believes we should encourage student teaching to help the new teachers be acclimated and better prepared for an actual classroom experience. She is hearing that there is no support for new teachers. Toni Bean – The question was when was the implementation of the Columbia Teachers College program? She commented that it is a very effective program

Mercedes Daniels Reed – Ms. Reed wanted to add to she would be interested to see the results of a flyer and connect-ed message in English and Spanish and see how many Spanish speaking families show up.

Mr. Fulton asked if any Board members had anything to add. Mrs. Santos spoke regarding the drug education where The Suffolk County Police Department presented DARE. Dr. Kelly is looking into any new programs available.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn Open Session at 10:49 p.m. made by Ms. Johnson; seconded by Mr. Leon. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain

AMITYVILLE U F S D
APPROVED
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
DATE 4-19-17
DISTRICT CLERK SIGNATURE
Jillie Becker