

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Amityville Union Free School District, Amityville, NY 11701**  
**Regular Session Minutes – October 11, 2023**  
**Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School | Auditorium**

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*To view/listen to the audio of this meeting, please click [here](#)*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by President Lisa Johnson at Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School in Art Room 107.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Lisa Johnson, President  
*(Trustees)* Mrs. Jeannette Santos, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Ms. Carol Seehof, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Mr. David Heller, Trustee  
Mrs. Leslie Kretz, Trustee  
Mr. Juan Leon, Trustee

**ABSENT:** Dr. Terry Fulton, Trustee  
*(Trustees)*

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Gina Talbert, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Joan Lange, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Bridgette Waite, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Ms. Olivia Buatsi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations  
Mr. Christian D. Code, District Clerk  
Mr. John Sheahan, Esq.- Guercio & Guercio

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion to enter** to Executive Session at 5:37 p.m. made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Seehof and seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Santos for the purpose of matters pertaining to particular person's employment history, receive advice from legal counsel regarding an update on negotiations on the Amityville Teachers Association (ATA).

Motion **CARRIED YES: 6 | NO: 0**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Lisa Johnson, President  
*(Trustees)* Mrs. Jeannette Santos, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Ms. Carol Seehof, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Mr. David Heller, Trustee  
Mrs. Leslie Kretz, Trustee  
Mr. Juan Leon, Trustee

**ABSENT:** Dr. Terry Fulton, Trustee  
*(Trustees)*

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Gina Talbert, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Joan Lange, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
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Mr. John Sheahan, Esq.- Guercio & Guercio

**RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was a consensus of the Board of Education to enter the open meeting at 7:40 p.m.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Lisa Johnson, President  
(Trustees) Mrs. Jeannette Santos, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Ms. Carol Seehof, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Mr. David Heller, Trustee  
Mrs. Leslie Kretz, Trustee  
Mr. Juan Leon, Trustee

**ABSENT:** Dr. Terry Fulton, Trustee  
(Trustees)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Gina Talbert, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Joan Lange, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Bridgette Waite, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Ms. Olivia Buatsi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations  
Mr. Christian D. Code, District Clerk  
Mr. John Sheahan, Esq.- Guercio & Guercio  
Dr. Virginia Figueroa, Asst. Administrator for Pupil Personnel Services  
Evan Farkas, Director of Athletics, Physical Education & Health  
Angela Garcia, Director of English as a New Language and World Languages  
Dr. Frances Fernandez, Director of Fine Arts  
Dr. Pauline Collins, Principal- Northeast Elementary School  
Kathleen Hyland, Principal- Northwest Elementary School  
Sonia Rodrigo, Asst. Principal- Northwest Elementary School  
Edward Plaia, Principal- Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School  
Denise Graham, Asst. Principal- Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School  
Lurdez Burrios, Asst. Principal- Edmund W. Miles Middle School  
Paul Duguay, Asst. Principal- Edmund W. Miles Middle School  
David Mevs, Dean of Students- Edmund W. Miles Middle School  
Mary Stephens, Principal- Amityville Memorial High School  
Dr. John Cardone, Asst. Principal- Amityville Memorial High School  
Natasha Lim, Dean of Students- Amityville Memorial High School  
Kenneth Coard, Acting Asst. Principal- Amityville Memorial High School  
Dr. Tonya Bates, Math Supervisor  
Nicole Gigante, ELA Supervisor

**COMMUNITY:** 15

**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 you are seated. Smoking is not allowed on school grounds. As a courtesy, please turn off cell phones during the meeting\**

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Johnson asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. PRESENTATIONS (Summarized)**

**D. COMMUNITY INPUT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

**2. BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**A. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

1. September 6, 2023- Work Session
2. September 13, 2023- Regular Session

Motion to approve 2A| 1| #1-2 by Trustee Kretz, seconded by Trustee Heller

Motion **CARRIED YES: 6 | NO: 0**

**B. BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE**

**C. BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

1. Resignation-District Clerk

Motion to approve 2C| 1 by Trustee 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Seehof, seconded by Trustee Kretz

Discussion: President Johnson and Mr. Code provided comments

Motion **CARRIED YES: 5 | NO: 1** (Santos)

2. Board Retreat
3. NYSSBA Resolution Amendment
4. Stipulation of Settlement and General Release

Motion to approve 2C| 2-4 by Trustee Heller, seconded by Trustee Kretz

Motion **CARRIED YES: 6 | NO: 0**

**AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA (2C-5 | Mascot Litigation)**

Motion to **AMEND** the agenda to add 2C-5 to authorize litigation concerning the mascot regulation by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Santos, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Seehof.

Discussion: Mr. Sheahan read the resolution below:

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Education authorizes the law firm of Sokoloff Stern, LLP, 179 Westbury Avenue, Carle Place, New York 11514 (“Sokoloff Stern”), to commence litigation against the New York State Commissioner of Education and appropriate parties with respect to the application of the prohibition of the use of Indigenous names, mascots, and logos by public schools to the Amityville Union Free School District’s use of name “Amityville Warriors” and for other such causes of action and relief related to such prohibition; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the hourly rate of \$250.00 for Sokoloff Stern plus reasonable expenses for legal services.

Motion **CARRIED YES: 5 | NO: 1** (Heller)

Motion to approve 2C| 5 by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Santos, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Seehof.

Motion **CARRIED YES: 5 | NO: 1** (Heller)

**D. AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**3. BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**A. GENERAL**

**1. Donation of Sick Days**

Motion to approve 3A| 1 by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Seehof, seconded by Trustee Kretz

Motion **CARRIED YES: 6 | NO: 0**

**B. PERSONNEL**

**1. Personnel Action Report**

Motion to approve 3B| 1- A. #1-3, B.#1-5, B.7-256 and the remainder as is made by Trustee Heller, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Seehof

Motion **CARRIED YES: 4 | NO: 2** (Johnson, Santos)

**C. BUSINESS**

**1. Use of Facilities**

Motion to approve 3C| 1 by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Santos, seconded by Trustee Kretz

Motion **CARRIED YES: 6 | NO: 0**

**D. FINANCE**

**1. Treasurer's Report**

Motion to approve 3D| 1 by Trustee Kretz, seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Santos

Motion **CARRIED YES: 6 | NO: 0**

**E. CONTRACTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

- 1. ACLD- Federal Part B Flow Through Allocations Sedcar Contract 2023/2024**
- 2. Brookville Center for Children's Services- Special Education Services Contract 2023/2024**
- 3. Tiegerman School- Federal Part B Flow Through Allocations Sedcar Contract 2023/2024**
- 4. Kidz Educational Services- Addendum CPI Training Rate Sheet 2023/2024**

Motion to approve 3E| 1-4 by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Seehof, seconded by Trustee Heller

Motion **CARRIED YES: 6 | NO: 0**

**F. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

**1. Conferences & Travel**

Motion to approve 3F| 1 | #1-15 by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Santos, seconded by Trustee Kretz

Motion **CARRIED YES: 6 | NO: 0**

**4. REPORTS**

**A. Legal Counsel for the District**

**B. Superintendent of Schools (Summarized)**

**1. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction**

2. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
3. Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

**5. COMMUNITY INPUT REGARDING NON BOARD AGENDA ITEMS (Summarized)**

The following person(s) offered community input regarding non-board agenda related items:

- Nakia Wolfe
- Shamika Dawson

**6. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS (SUMMARIZED)**

The following trustees gave comments:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Santos
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Seehof

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.** by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Santos, seconded by Trustee Heller

Motion **CARRIED YES: 6 | NO: 0**

Respectfully submitted,

*Minutes recorded & transcribed by:*

Christian D. Code  
District Clerk