

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Amityville Union Free School District, Amityville, NY 11701**  
**Regular Session Minutes – November 8, 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 5:34 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

**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/Deputy District Clerk  
Mr. Christian D. Code, District Clerk Consultant  
Ms. Lisa Hutchinson, Esq.- Guercio & Guercio

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion to enter** to Executive Session at 5:35 p.m. made by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Santos and seconded by Trustee Heller for the purpose of matters pertaining to particular person's employment history and receive an update and discussion of negotiations for the Amityville Teachers' Association (ATA). At 6:30p.m., the Board will pause and enter into the audit committee to receive a report from the District's external auditor. 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

**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/Deputy District Clerk  
Ms. Lisa Hutchinson, Esq.- Guercio & Guercio

**RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was a consensus of the Board of Education to enter the open meeting at 7:35 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

**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/Deputy District Clerk  
Mr. Christian D. Code, District Clerk Consultant  
Ms. Lisa Hutchinson, Esq.- Guercio & Guercio  
Peter Paternostro, Administrator for Pupil Personnel Services  
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  
Nicole Gigante, ELA Supervisor

**COMMUNITY:** 30

**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)**

Trustee Heller acknowledged our Veterans in recognition of the upcoming Veterans Day holiday.

Mr. Alan Yu of Cullen & Danowski gave a presentation regarding the June 20, 2023 Audit Report.

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

The following person(s) gave community input:

- Wendy Canestro

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

**A. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

1. Work Session – October 4, 2023
2. Regular Session – October 11, 2023
3. Special Session – October 18, 2023

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

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

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

1. #6240-R: Investments (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)
2. #6830-R: Expense Reimbursement (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)

Motion to approve 2B| 1-2 made by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Santos, seconded by Trustee Kretz.

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

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

1. Districtwide Safety & Emergency Management Plan

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

Discussion: President Johnson noted that the resolution should read 2023-2024 not 2022-2023.

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

2. Stipulation of Agreement
3. District Clerk Consultant Agreement

Motion to approve 2C| 2-3 made by Trustee Leon seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Santos.

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

Motion to **AMEND** the agenda to include 2C-4 (acceptance of the District’s External Audit Report, as presented) made by Trustee Kretz, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Seehof.

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

Motion to **APPROVE** 2C-4, the acceptance of the District’s External Audit Report made by 1st Vice President Santos, seconded by Trustee Heller.

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

**D. AUDIT COMMITTEE**

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

**A. GENERAL**

**B. PERSONNEL**

**1. Personnel Action Report**

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

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

**C. BUSINESS**

1. Donations
2. Budget Transfer #1
3. Budget Transfer #2
4. Disposal of Fixed Assets
5. Use of Facilities
6. SEQRA

Motion to approve 3C| 1-6 made by Trustee Kretz, seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Santos.

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

**D. FINANCE**

**1. Treasurer’s Report- September 2023**

Motion to approve 3D| 1 made by Trustee Heller, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Seehof.

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

**E. CONTRACTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

1. Blue Sea Educational- Amendment 2023/2024
2. LearnWell Educational- Amendment to Consultant Services Contract 2023/2024
3. SCO Family of Services/Madonna Heights- Federal Part B Flow Through Allocations Sedcar Contract 2023/2024

Motion to approve 3E| 1-3 by Trustee Kretz, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Seehof, 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 persons gave community input:

- Wendy Canestro
- Margaret Shuff
- Nakia Wolfe
- Donnelle Cronin

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

President Johnson shared with the community that Dr. Terry Fulton resigned from the Board of Education on November 7 to address ongoing medical issues. She acknowledged and thanked him for his 13 years of service to the Board. She also outlined the options that the Board has in an effort to fill his seat.

The following Trustee(s) offered comments:

- Trustee Heller

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion to enter** to Executive Session at 8:29 p.m. made by Trustee Kretz and seconded by Trustee Heller for the purpose of receiving an update and advice from legal counsel regarding the Amityville Teachers Association (ATA) negotiations.

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

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

**ABSENT:** Ms. Carol Seehof, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
*(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/Deputy District Clerk  
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 8:58 p.m.

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

**ABSENT:** Ms. Carol Seehof, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
*(Trustees)*

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Gina Talbert, Superintendent of Schools

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Dr. Joan Lange, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Bridgette Waite, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Ms. Olivia Buatsi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations/Deputy  
District Clerk  
Mr. Christian D. Code, District Clerk Consultant  
Mr. John Sheahan, Esq.- Guercio & Guercio

Community: 0

### 7. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion to adjourn at 8:59 p.m.** by Trustee Leon, seconded by Trustee Heller  
Motion **CARRIED YES: 5 | NO: 0**

Respectfully submitted,

*Minutes recorded & transcribed by:*

Olivia T. Buatsi  
Deputy District Clerk