

East Islip School District
Craig B. Gariepy Avenue
Islip Terrace, New York 11752
September 9, 2008 – APPROVED
BUSINESS MEETING

Board Members in Attendance:

Gary J. Lamm, President
Kim G. Phillips, Vice President

Terri Lyons, Trustee
Glenn Reed, Trustee

Staff Members in Attendance:

Wendell Chu, Superintendent of Schools
Carl Fraser, Asst. Superintendent for Business
Alise Becker-Santa, Asst. Supt. For Instruction/Personnel
Robert M. Tartaglia, Plant & Facilities Administrator
Marie Rogers - District Clerk

Approximate Attendance: Meeting held in the Early Childhood Center Boardroom
(Meeting chaired by Gary Lamm, Board President)

MTG. CALLED TO ORDER: I.) Public session of meeting called to order by Mr. Lamm, Board President, 8:00 p.m.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Mr. Lamm asked those in attendance to join him in a Salute to the Flag. He reported that Mr. Cronin would not be present with us this evening and on behalf of the Board of Education and community, sends his condolences to the Cronin family on the recent passing of his mother.

PUBLIC ADVISED: II.) The Chairman advised the public that the Board would accept questions from the public and employees of the district, concerning agenda items, under New Business. Members of the audience wishing to avail themselves of the opportunity to ask a question are required to sign in at the door prior to the start of the meeting. The District Clerk will then call upon each member, allowing each three minutes, to address the Board. Questions by the public will be addressed immediately and addressed at the next regularly scheduled Board of Education Meeting. Members of the Board will also be available after the meeting to speak to anyone wishing to do so. Questions may be sent by email to the Board at its newly created email address: eiboard@eischools.org, which can be accessed through the district's website.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD: III)
(Wendell Chu)

Mr. Chu stated that he was delighted to see so many people in the audience this evening. He reported that we had a pretty smooth school opening, which began with two wonderful days of staff development and a wonderful first day with students. He reported that this year the district has a transportation hotline, which although was not in service the first day of school, is now up and running. Mr. Chu reported that a high school bus was involved in a slight fender-bender; however, no one was hurt and the only damage to the bus was a scrape. He gave an update on the construction of the high school art rooms and library with an anticipated completion by the end of this month. He announced that the district will be planning a grand opening for the Board of Education and school community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: IV.) Motion by Mrs. Lyons to approve the Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2008, pp. 12-15; Seconded by Mrs. Phillips and unanimously approved.

Mr. Lamm asked if anyone had any questions regarding the agenda items before putting them before the Board. Mrs. Ferrara requested clarification on Items b., j., i., k., and n. to which Mr. Lamm, Mr. Chu and Mr. Fraser responded.

ACTION ITEMS: V.) Action Items Recommended by the Supt. of Schools
(Wendell Chu)

TREASURER'S REPORT: a) Motion by Mrs. Lyons to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2008 as recommended by the Assistant Superintendent for Business and the Superintendent of Schools; Seconded by Mr. Reed and unanimously approved.
(Copy of Treasurer's Report Appended to Minutes)

APPROVAL OF TAX LEVY FOR 2008-09: b) Motion by Mr. Reed to approve the following resolution:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District approve the 2008-09 tax levy for the East Islip UFSD at \$57,502,807; Seconded by Mrs. Lyons and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: c) Motion by Mrs. Lyons to approve the following resolution:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District approve the Special Education contract with ACLD (Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities, Inc.) for an after school therapeutic program for our special education students for the 2008-09 school year and Sachem Central School District at Holbrook for special education services provided to a student attending St. Joseph School in their district for the 2007-08 school year; Seconded by Mrs. Phillips and unanimously approved.

THE OMNI GROUP: d) Motion by Mrs. Phillips to approve the following resolution:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District approve the Model 403(b) Retirement Plan Adoption Agreement with The Omni Group, Inc. This agreement is required in order to comply with the new IRS regulations for 403(b) plans that become effective January 1, 2009; Seconded by Mr. Reed and unanimously approved.

BOCES SUMMER TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT: e) Motion by Mrs. Phillips to approve the following resolution:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District approve the Summer Transportation Contract with BOCES for the 2008 Summer Program; Seconded by Mrs. Lyons and unanimously approved.

RESCIND DONATION: f) Motion by Mrs. Phillips to approve the following resolution:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District rescind the August 12, 2008 approval of the donation of shop tools and machinery as listed: lathe machine, table saw, band saw, drill press, table, belt sander, handmade tools and exotic woods and machine skill saw. These items are no longer available for use in the district; Seconded by Mrs. Lyons and unanimously approved.

DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE TESTING MATERIALS: g) Motion by Mrs. Phillips to approve the following resolution:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District approve the disposal of obsolete testing materials from the Special Education Department; Seconded by Mrs. Lyons and unanimously approved.

APPROPRIATION CHANGES: h) Motion by Mrs. Lyons to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District approve the appropriation changes outlined below:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>
District Office	2110-490-00-0000	2630-200-00-0000	\$20,000.00	For calculators
	BOCES Services	Calculators		

Seconded by Mrs. Phillips and unanimously approved.

PERSONNEL: i) Motion by Mrs. Lyons to approve Items #1-32 in the Certified Personnel Report as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools; Seconded by Mr. Reed and unanimously approved.

Mr. Chu reported that included in the Certified Personnel Report is the appointment of our Art & Music Director Mr. John Spiezio, who asked to stand and be recognized. He also announced and congratulated guidance counselor Nicole Vincenti on her appointment to tenure this evening.

Motion by Mrs. Phillips to approve Items #1- 31 in the in the Non-Certified Personnel Report, with a correction to heading on the per diem substitute category, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools; Seconded by Mr. Reed and unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION to Approve Superintendent's Conference Request: J) Motion by Mrs. Phillips to approve the Superintendent's requests as listed below:

<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>DATE/S</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
NYS Council of School Superintendents (NYCOSS) Fall Conference	10/4-10/7/08	Saratoga NY
NYCOSS Mid Winter Conference	1/22-1/13/09	Albany
AASA National Educational Conference	2/17-2/22/09	San Francisco, CA
ASCD Annual Conference	3/14-3/16/09	Orlando, FL

Seconded by Mrs. Lyons and unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION to Appoint Special Compliance Officer: k) Motion by Mrs. Lyons to approve the appointment of Dr. Kathy Weiss as Special Compliance Officer, at the rate of \$165/hour, to investigate a certain matter; and, the school district agrees to defend and indemnify Dr. Weiss in the event of adverse litigation against her arising out of the performance of her duties as compliance officer; Seconded by Mr. Reed and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL ED. (CSE): l) Motion by Mrs. Phillips to approve the following CSE Cases as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE):

- Case # 1-20070047S through Case #8-200700815 in the Continuing Student Category;
- Case # 9-200700285 in the Ineligible Student Category;
- Case # 10-20070680S through Case # 12-20070634S in the New Student Category;

Seconded by Mrs. Lyons and unanimously approved.

(Copies of all CSE Cases Appended to Minutes)

COMMITTEE ON PRE-SCHOOL SPECIAL ED. (CPSE): m) Motion by Mrs. Phillips to approve the following CPSE Cases as recommended by the Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE):

- Case # 20070223P-2 through Case # 20070229P-17 in the New Student Category;
- Case # 20070113P-1 through Case #20070128P-16 in the Continuing Student Category;
- Case # 20070218P-14 in the Ineligible Student Category;

Seconded by Mr. Reed and unanimously approved.

(Copies of all CPSE Cases Appended to Minutes)

FIELD TRIPS: n) Motion by Mrs. Phillips to approve the following field trips:

- Denise Naccarato & Kickline to National Dance Championship, Orlando, Florida, 3/6/09-3/9/09
- NYSSMA All-State Conference – S. Guarino & C. Neske & 13 students, 12/4/08-12/7/08, Rochester, NY;
Seconded by Mrs. Lyons and unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VI. There was no unfinished business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: VII. a. Mr. Chu requested that the Board adopt Public Officers Law, §18, which provides supplemental defense and indemnification for those people who work in the district and participate in activities for the school district, acting within the scope of their duties. Motion was made by Mrs. Lyons and seconded by Mr. Reed to adopt Public Officers Law, §18 (appended to minutes).

b. Mr. Reed stated that he is aware of concern among the Budget Finance Committee members regarding the term of office. He reported that the Board has taken feedback from its members and will be looking for a three-year term for members; inviting back previous members as well as, inviting new members to the committee. He stated that the Board feels this committee is very important to the district and community.

c. Jacqueline Ammirata, Sheryl Pepe, and Mr. Pepe, expressed their concern to the Board that East Islip School District does not provide transportation for their children who attend the Long Island School for the Gifted, which is located in Huntington. Discussion was held regarding St. Anthony's School, which is located near their children's private school, in which students are provided transportation. Unfortunately, the Long Island Gifted School is not within the 1-15 mile eligibility for district transportation and Mr. Chu advised that the district must adhere to State regulations in this matter. Mr. Fraser also advised that in order to change the mileage eligibility, the voters of the community would have to pass a referendum, which would be done in May with the budget vote.

d. Mrs. Bonnie Buckley read a letter she prepared to the Board regarding special education students and inclusion classes within the district. She spoke on behalf of her daughter, who is a special education student, stressing that she would like to see inclusion classes on every grade level in every school so that special education children do not have to be taken out of their home school. She feels it does a disservice to these children – it does not help their social skills and it segregates them. She also expressed that a social worker and psychologist should be in every building and that parents should not be able to opt out of inclusion classes.

e. Mr. Gary Gianni expressed his concern on the "lack of transportation in this district." He felt that all children should be provided transportation to and from school, regardless of their mileage from the schools. Mr. Lamm responded that he does share some of Mr. Gianni's concerns and would like to see transportation on a proposition during school budget vote time. He said, however, that the cost to run one bus is approximately \$75,000-\$100,000.

f. Mr. George Deabold thanked Mr. Chu for reading documents he provided to him regarding his children and thanked the Board for meeting with him. He requested that the district no longer utilize the services of two law firms, Goldstein, Ackerhalt & Pletcher and Guercio & Guercio, claiming that they misrepresented the district in, one, a retaliatory action against a child in the district and, two, in regard to himself. He reported that he sent documents to the media regarding this matter. He also requested that a Board member serve as liaison on his committee, School Watch.

g. Mrs. Lara Barra requested that the Board consider full-time librarians for each elementary school in the district, including some type of library system for the Early childhood Center. She also reported that there is an abandoned house of the north side of Merrick Street,

which she feels presents a safety hazard for our children going to and from Connetquot Elementary School. Mr. Chu responded that he would call the Town on this matter.

h. Mrs. Rosa Ferrara requested that she be informed of change in any policy pertaining to the Budget Advisory Committee, for which she is a member. She must be contacted by mail or telephone, not email. Mr. Fraser complied.

i. Mrs. Phillips reported that the Board would be conducting a work session on September 23, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss business issues. Topics for that work session will be announced at a later date.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING: VIII. Mr. Lamm announced that a Board work session would take place on September 23, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. and the next regularly scheduled Board of Education Meeting would take place on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, at 8:00 p.m. in the district office boardroom.

MOTION TO ADJOURN PUBLIC SESSION: IX. Motion by Mrs. Lyons to adjourn the public meeting; Seconded by Mrs. Phillips and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Carol Feudi, Contingent District Clerk

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