

East Islip School District
Craig B. Gariepy Avenue
Islip Terrace, New York 11752
September 10, 2009 – APPROVED
BUSINESS MEETING

Board Members in Attendance:

Kim G. Phillips, President
Ken Cronin, Vice President
Louis F. Raffone, Trustee
Glenn Reed, Trustee
Joseph Sargent, Trustee

Staff Members in Attendance:

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

Marie Rogers - District Clerk

Approximate Attendance: 130 Meeting held in the Early Childhood Center Boardroom
(Meeting chaired by Mrs. Phillips, Board President)

MTG. CALLED TO ORDER: I.) Public session of meeting called to order by Mrs. Phillips,
Board President, at p.m.

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 email address: eiboard@eischools.org, which can be accessed through the district's website.

Mrs. Phillips announced that the Board would discuss one item beginning with New Business this evening before resuming to the regular Board agenda practice. She reported that the Board received a petition signed by over 400 voters requesting a special election for a revision to our current transportation policy. This proposition was voted on previously by the public during our annual school budget vote on May 19, 2009 and was defeated. Mrs. Phillips reported that a review of the transportation propositions put forth before the voters, back to 1978, showed that the voters defeated a change to our transportation policy four times. She stressed that if the proposition was to be put up for public vote again, that it is extremely important that all residents are aware of the proposition and that all come out and vote, whether it be a yes or no vote.

TRANSPORTATION PROPOSITION: Motion by Mr. Cronin to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS a petition signed by over 400 voters was filed with the district requesting the district to call a special election for the presentment to the residents of a transportation proposition to expand mileage limitations for the transportation of students, which transportation proposition was previously defeated at the May 19, 2009 vote; and

WHEREAS upon reviewing the petition the Board agrees to exercise its discretion to call a special election for the purpose of resubmitting the previously defeated transportation proposition to the voters with modifications to the effective for the implementation of the transportation and the associated costs, should the proposition be approved by the voters.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip Union Free School District calls for a special election to be held on November 24, 2009 for the resubmission of the previously defeated transportation proposition and directs the Superintendent of Schools to determine the effective date for the commencement of the transportation and the estimated increase in the 2009/2010 budget, which information shall be included in the proposition and included in the legal notice to be published.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Clerk shall be authorized to take all necessary steps to notice and conduct the special election in accordance with legal requirements;

Motion seconded by Mr. Reed and a vote taken: Mr. Cronin – yes; Mr. Raffone – no; Mr. Reed – yes; Mr. Sargent – no; Mrs. Phillips – yes. Motion carried.

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

- District staff has been, throughout the summer and last year as well, evaluating the information we are getting regarding H1N1 and the measure we would take if there was an outbreak from this virus. Meetings have been held and continue to be held for district personnel with the Suffolk County Health Department We will be sharing information throughout the year with parents to help in preventative measures. The County Department of Health recommends frequent hand washing with regular soap and water for a duration equal to singing the Happy Birthday song twice. Another simple preventative measure is the rule of coughing and sneezing into one’s sleeve in order to prevent the spread of germs. All administrative and teaching staff will be reviewing personal hygiene with our students and he stressed that if children have flu-like symptoms they are asked to stay home until their fever is gone for a twenty-four hour period. Lastly, Mr. Chu reported that information will be posted on our website in the near future as well as information being sent home to parents and in addition, parents could find information on the government website www.flu.gov
- Mr. Chu was pleased to announce that our Connetquot Elementary School chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Egbert has been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall this year. It is the only elementary school chorus to perform there and they will be opening for the Gatlin Brothers sometime in June. This is a tremendous accomplishment and credit must be given to Mrs. Egbert and her chorus students.
- Mr. Chu announced that on September 17th the Islip Town Chief School Administrators is holding a symposium on heroin, the substance that is appearing throughout schools, including our own districts here in Islip. A child can purchase enough heroin for a three-hour “high” for \$5.00. There is an informational flyer regarding this symposium on our district’s website.
- Mr. Chu reported that one of our first sporting events, varsity tennis, played against Bay Shore today and all of our activities have begun to get into full swing.
- Mr. Chu stated that a number of parents have personally read quotes from him about President Obama’s speech to our nation’s children and he reported that we have sent out to all of our principals the link to the website where all teachers and administrators can view the speech with students in grades 2 through 12.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: IV.) Motion by Mr. Reed to approve the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2009, pp. 15-18; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

Mrs. Phillips asked if anyone had any questions regarding the agenda items before putting them before the Board. Mrs. Ferrara asked for clarification of Agenda Items a., b., d., e., f., g., i., j., k., and l. Mr. Fraser, Mr. Chu and Mrs. Phillips clarified the items in question.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: a) Motion by Mr. Reed to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2009; Seconded by Mr. Cronin; Opposed by Mr. Raffone and Abstained by Mr. Sargent. Mrs. Phillips voted to approve. Motion carried to approve.

EXTRA CLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS REPORT: b) Motion by Mr. Sargent to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District accept the Extra Classroom Activity Funds Report for the month of July 2009; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: c) 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 instructional and educational services contracts with The Center for Developmental Disabilities for educational services to our special education students for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 and Accessible Learning Technology Alternatives for the 2009-10 school year; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

BOCES SUMMER TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT: d) Motion by Mr. Raffone 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 2009 Summer Program; Seconded by Mr. Cronin and unanimously approved.

OMNI FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.: e) Motion by Mr. Raffone to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District rescind the Renewal Services Agreement with Omni Financial Group, Inc. that was approved at the July 14, 2009 board meeting; Seconded by Mr. Cronin and unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. Cronin to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District approve the revised Renewal Services Agreement with Omni Financial Group, Inc. which reflects changes primary to the indemnification and termination clauses that was recommended by Ingerman Smith; Seconded by Mr. Raffone. Mr. Reed – no; Mr. Sargent abstained. Mrs. Phillips voted to approve. Motion carried.

SCHOOL PHYSICIAN: f) Motion by Mr. Sargent to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District rescind the contract with Dr. Torelli that was approved at the July 2, 2009 Reorganization meeting at the rate of \$10 per physical; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. Sargent to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District approve the revised contract with Dr. Torelli at a \$3 increase for student physicals for the 2009-10 school year; the new rate for physicals is therefore \$13 ; Seconded by Mr. Cronin and unanimously approved.

REQUEST TO DISPOSE OF FURNITURE: g) Motion by Mr. Cronin to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District approve the disposal of the disposal of 150 student desks, five old teacher desks, and a file cabinet at Connetquot Elementary School. These items are no longer in satisfactory condition and the disposal of eight tables and six chairs from the District Office Boardroom; Seconded by Mr. Reed and unanimously approved.

PERSONNEL: h) Motion by Mr. Reed to approve Item #1 in the Certified Personnel Report as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. Raffone to approve Items 1-9 in the Non-certified Personnel Report as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools; Seconded by Mr. Cronin and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL ED. (CSE): i) Motion by Mr. Reed to approve the following CSE Cases as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE):

Case # 1 – 20070082S through Case # 22 -20070712S in the Continuing Student Category;

Case # 21-20070799S through Case #22-20070797S in the Ineligible Student Category;

Seconded by Mr. Cronin and unanimously approved.

(Copies of all CSE Cases Appended to Minutes)

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

Case # 2 – 20070330P in the New Student Category;

Case # 1 – 20070334P through Case # 2-20070254P in the Continuing Student Category;

Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

Field Trip: k) Motion by Mr. Raffone to approve the Boys' varsity basketball team to tournament in Orlando, Florida - December 16-20, 2009; and, the Girls' Kickline to competition, Orlando, Florida, March 5-8, 2010; Seconded by Mr. Cronin and unanimously approved.

BOARD POLICY: l) Motion by Mr. Reed to approve the revisions to Board Policies - 6650 Internal Auditor and 6645 Capital Assets Accounting; Seconded by Mr. Cronin and unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VI. a. FOIL update – Per a request for clarification to a Freedom of Information Request by resident Mrs. Ferrara, the following was reported by Mr. Chu:

- The coaching appointments listed on the FOIL included Ciampi Jr. only, as the information requested was for the 08/09 school year. Mr. Ciampi Sr.'s appointment was approved for the 09/10 school year.

- The middle school has four seasons – fall, early winter, late winter and early spring. These seasons do no overlap.

- Talking of specific personnel issues pertaining to an identified staff member is

prohibited due to the confidential nature of personnel matters. However, in this particular case relating to a specific coach, the information pertaining to him at the Board meeting was erroneous.

- School employees painted the lines for the fall soccer tournament run by the East Islip Soccer Club. This has been a long standing practice. The East Islip soccer team gives the district thousands of dollars to our students each year so we assist them in this manner. This is similar to providing meeting space for community organizations in our buildings because our custodial staff must clean up meeting areas and bathrooms, etc., after the groups use them. But all of this is positive community gestures. School employees are covered under our insurance during their work hours.

NEW BUSINESS: VII.

- a. Transportation Revote (done at beginning of meeting).
- b. Mr. Chu announced that the Suffolk Association of School Business Officials recently awarded the district a \$500 student scholarship in honor of Mr. Fraser and his work on behalf of children in the East Islip School District.

MOTION by Mr. Sargent to accept the donation of \$500.00 to be utilized for a student scholarship; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved. Mr. Chu added that Mr. Fraser is a leader within the Suffolk County Business Officials Association and just finished his presidency for the State Business Officials Association.

- c. Mr. Gary Gianna thanked the board for putting the transportation proposition up for a revote and stressed that our children must come first. He stated that one bus eliminates thirty-six cars and that everyone should have the chance to ride the bus.

- d. Ms. Joya Perrone reported that her son sustained an injury on his second day of school and on top of that is concerned about the bus situation. She stressed that we have to keep our children safe; from the moment our children leave the house it is the parents' obligation to hand them over to the school district. She reported that she sees buses that are half empty and wanted to know why the district cannot hold the vote earlier.

- e. Mrs. Donna Helmsorig stated that she has a daughter in fifth grade who lost a temporary bus pass and claims the bus that passes her has only six students on it. Mr. Chu explained how buses and eligibility are calculated and by law we must offer transportation to students who are eligible; however, we cannot make them ride.

- f. Mrs. Denis Levy requested that the district hold a lottery instead of waiting two months for the proposition vote. Mr. Chu responded that it is a violation of education law to offer the lottery – every child should be treated equally and this opportunity is afforded through the public vote.

- g. Mr. David Tryon stressed that it's all about safety and it is no longer safe, claiming that a sex offender resides on the block his daughter must walk to get to school.

- h. Mrs. Anne Tryon stated that parents tough it out everyday going to work to help support their families and that we need to make all parents aware that this is going up for a vote and what the ramifications may be for their children. Mrs. Phillips responded that a work session will be held in October and transportation will be the first topic for discussion.

- i. Ms. Kerry Neiss reported that her son had bus privileges last year and not this year. She stated that the bus stop is one house from her. She also was concerned with the traffic outside of Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School.

- j. Mr. George Deabold stated that he agreed with the Board to give the vote to the community. He stated that he believes the Board has been operating incorrectly the last few years – that the superintendent and assistant superintendents are not members of the board and

do not belong in executive session unless called upon by the Board. He also claims that the school attorney does not belong at school board meetings; it is an additional cost. He claims that East Islip's legal fees are high. Mrs. Phillips responded that the district will be sending out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for special education legal services for our district. We are, however, working with attorneys who were approved at the annual reorganization meeting.

k. Mrs. Amy Hughes has a fifth and first grader in the district; the first grader rides, the fifth grader is ineligible. She feels this attributes to buses being empty because she has to drive one child, so she drives both to school.

l. Mr. Ed Paradiso asked for clarification on a Moment of Silence for 9/11; he heard the elementary school students will not be participating in the Moment of Silence. Mr. Chu stated that he was very concerned that our children, pre-kindergarten through grade 6, are not old enough to understand what the Moment of Silence is. What he does want is that every parent has the opportunity to talk with his/her own children. He further stated that he feels it is appropriate at the secondary level to acknowledge 9/11 and that was the basis of his directive to elementary principals. He said we cannot determine what the emotional state would be for our elementary children and that it is important to leave this up to parents. He asks parents to sit down with their children who know how to best speak with them. This is a sensitive issue to Mr. Chu as well; not because we do not care but because this is something that is so sensitive.

m. Mr. Tom Bucci stated that his driveway is one-half mile from John F. Kennedy Elementary School and he has a first and second grader. He was asking how the map is made and stated that the tip of his property appears to be within eligibility to ride. Mr. Fraser said he would look into the matter.

n. Mrs. Ferrara asked what is the cost of the election to be held on November 24th. Mr. Fraser responded that it is approximately \$16,000 and stated that we have to find money from different codes, fund balance. For response to the cost of additional buses, Mr. Fraser said that we would have to request that the board appropriate fund balance to offset the increase in expense so there is no cost to the taxpayer; this year only. Mrs. Ferrara stated that the district cannot increase the budget that was voted on by the community in May.

o. Mr. Flamio requested that at the next Board meeting, we get the amount of money the graduation class of 2009 received in scholarships.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING: VIII. Mrs. Phillips announced the next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting would be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, at 8:00 p.m. This is a change from the regularly scheduled Thursday meetings due a conflict in two board members' schedules. She also announced that a Board workshop would also be scheduled and that date will be announced at the October 6th meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN PUBLIC SESSION: IX. Motion by Mr. Cronin to adjourn the public meeting; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Carol Feudi, Contingent District Clerk