

East Islip School District
Craig B. Gariepy Avenue
Islip Terrace, New York 11752
October 6, 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: 100 Meeting held in the Early Childhood Center Boardroom
(Meeting chaired by Mrs. Phillips, Board President)

MTG. CALLED TO ORDER: I.) Meeting called to order by Mrs. Phillips at 6:03 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: II.) Motion by Mr. Sargent to adjourn public session in order to convene to executive session; seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC SESSION: III.) Motion by Mr. Sargent to adjourn executive session in order to reconvene in open public session; seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

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.

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

- Mr. Chu announced that this week is Board Recognition Week and that he was happy to have on display messages of appreciation from all of the schools in the district. Mr. Chu stated that on behalf of the entire district, we appreciate the work that the Board does for our schools and for their service to our students each and every day.
- Mr. Chu announced that our football team's homecoming game versus West Babylon will be held on October 17th with the start of a homecoming parade beginning at 12:30 p.m.
- Mr. Chu said he was pleased to announce that we have a number of students who have been chosen to participate in the 2009 NYSCAME/Suffolk All-County music festival. The performance will be on November 20th, 2009 at 8:00PM at Hauppauge HS. The students selected are as follows: Band: Frances Flancbaum, Brenden Meier, James Montaque, Carly Schnitzer; Orchestra: Leah Arden, Marisa Caliguri, Brian Engeldrum, Joseph Fischer, Brendon Fusco, Anthony Giaquinto, Allison O'Brien, Michael Orlando, Annette Tekverk; Chorus: Kerri Becvar, Nicole Fragala, Caitlyn Fusco, Robert Holliday,

Clayton Howe, Michael Janover, Ryan Kelly, Monica Lobo, Eric McMahon, Mary Vetter. The East Islip All-State Musicians are Robert Holliday, Mixed Chorus, Marisa Caliguri, Symphonic Band and Nicole Fragala, Mixed Chorus, with the following students selected as alternates: Marisa Caliguri (piccolo) and Anthony Giaquinto (Oboe). Mrs. Phillips congratulated all students on behalf of the Board.

- Mr. Chu announced that speaker Rick Lavoie, who is presenting to staff on November 3rd, will also be presenting to interested parents in the near future. He will present on a variety of different issues relating to student learning and said details will be posted on the district's webpage as soon as the arrangements are final.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: IV.) Motion by Mr. Reed to approve the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2009, pp. 19-24, with the typographical correction on page 21; 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. Rosa Ferrara asked for clarification on the following agenda items: b., e., f., g., h., i., and j.

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 August 2009; Seconded by Mr. Cronin; Opposed by Mr. Raffone; Abstained by Mr. Sargent. Motion carried.

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 August 2009; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved. Mr. Reed requested that this report be distributed at each meeting with the treasurer's report; Mr. Fraser agreed.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: c) 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 contract with Sachem Central School District at Holbrook for our students who attended Special Education Summer School classes in their district during the summer of 2009; the contract with L & M Educational Consultants for services provided to our special education students for the 2009-10 school year; the contract with West Islip UFSD for services provided to our parentally placed students who attend St. John the Baptist located in their district for the 2008-09 school year; the contract with St. James Tutoring, Inc. for services provided to our regular and special education students for the 2009-10 school year; the contracts with Daytop Preparatory School for two of our students who will be attending their school for the 2009-10 school year; and the agreement with Kids In Action (Item j. on the agenda); Seconded by Mr. Cronin and unanimously approved.

EASTERN SUFFOLK BOCES SHARED SERVICES CONTRACT FOR 2009-10: d) 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 Shared Services Contract with Eastern Suffolk BOCES for the 2009-10 school year; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF TAX LEVY FOR 2009-10: e) 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 tax levy for 2009-10 at \$58,604,060; Seconded by Mr. Reed; Abstained by Mr. Raffone and Mr. Sargent. Motion carried. Mr. Fraser reported that this is the same figure as stated in the proposed 2009/2010 budget back in May 2009. Mr. Raffone stated that he was abstaining since he did not participate in the 2009/2010 school budget.

MTA MOBILITY TAX: f) Motion by Mr. Raffone to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District approve the increase to the 2009-10 budget in the amount of \$175,406 for the MTA Mobility Tax. The State Education Department will reimburse the East Islip School District for this tax liability. There is therefore no property tax rate impact to the community; Seconded by Mr. Reed and unanimously approved.

REQUEST TO DISPOSE OF OLD TEXTBOOKS: 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 479 old textbooks from the Science Department that are obsolete and no longer being used; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved. Mr. Sargent reported that these books date back to 1998 & 2000 and are obviously outdated.

PERSONNEL: h) Motion by Mr. Reed to approve Items #1-14 in the Certified Personnel Report as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools; Seconded by Mr. Cronin and unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. Reed to approve Items 1-42 in the Non-certified Personnel Report as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

Motion by Cronin to table Items 43 & 44 in the Non-certified Personnel Report as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. Reed to approve Items 45-54 in the Non-certified Personnel Report as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. Reed to table Items 55 & 56 in the Non-certified Personnel Report as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. Raffone to approve Items 57-138 in the Non-certified Personnel Report as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools; Seconded by Mr. Reed and unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. Reed to table Item #139 in the Non-certified Personnel Report as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. Raffone to approve Items 140-153 in the Non-certified Personnel Report as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools; Seconded by Mr. Reed and unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. Raffone to table Items 154 & 155 in the Non-certified Personnel Report as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools; Seconded by Mr. Reed and unanimously approved.

PRESENTERS FOR SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAY: i) Motion by Mr. Raffone to approve the following presenters for both Superintendent's Conference Day on November 3, 2009 and for the fall of 2009: Dr. Joan Daly-Lewis will be presenting "Enhancing Supervisory Practice" to our administrators for a fee of \$7,000 for the fall 2009 semester, which includes all need assessments, planning meetings with district administration, preparation of units of study, workshop activities, direct instruction, coaching and analysis of project effectiveness. Jay Rifenbary will be presenting "No Excuse – An Action Plan for Success" for a fee of \$2,500. In addition, Susan Kossler is finalizing the arrangements for presenter Dr. Richard Lavoie, who was obtained by Kathleen Borzello. He will be presenting "Motivation Breakthrough: 6 Secrets to Tuning on the Tuned Out Child" for a fee of \$5,328; Seconded by Mr. Sargent and unanimously approved.

KIDS IN ACTION: j) This item was approved under agenda item c.

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

Case # 1 – 20070658S through Case # 6 -20070360S in the Continuing Student Category;

Case # 7-20070752S through Case #9-20070747S in the New Student Category;

Case # 10-20070798S through Case # 11 – 20070088X in the Ineligible Student Category;

Seconded by Mr. Reed and unanimously approved.

(Copies of all CSE Cases Appended to Minutes)

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

Case # 1 – 20070329P through Case # 6-20070337P in the New Student Category;

Case # 3 – 20070290P through Case # 5-20070253P in the Continuing Student Category;

Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

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 addition of members for the Committee on Special Education & Preschool Special Education as follows: Jason Stewart, school psychologist; parent members Gypsy Bowdren and Laura Tohill; Seconded by Mr. Cronin and unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VI. a. Class of 2009 Scholarships – In response to a resident's request at the September 10, 2009 Board Meeting, Mr. Chu responded that students in the Class of 2009 were offered \$5,328,444 in scholarships.

b. Mr. Fraser stated that at last month's meeting a question arose on how funding will take place if the transportation proposition vote is passed in November. He stated that after consultation with the district's attorney, the State Education Department and the district's auditors it has been determined that the Board would approve the increase in the expenditure and use fund balance to offset this expense with no impact on the tax rate for this school year. The district also has the option to wait to see where our contingency items in the current budget will be in the year and if there is enough money for this proposition, the district can have this expense

absorbed in this year's budget. Mr. Fraser said that he would provide the Board with updated information in the near future for that decision to be made.

NEW BUSINESS: VII. a. Mrs. Becker-Santa reported on the 9/11 committee that met at the request of the Board. Mrs. Becker-Santa chaired the committee meeting which was held on September 30 and consisted of our elementary teachers, psychologist, elementary principals, Director of Humanities and members of our PTA. She first thanked the members of the committee for open and rich discussion on a sensitive issue. She also thanked community members who shared their thoughts and feelings on the matter. She reported that after much discussion, the committee would like to make the following recommendations:

- Name the day Patriot Day; if the day falls on the weekend, honor the day on the Friday before.
- Hold a Moment of Silence throughout the district; although times may vary according to school start times, student schedules.
- All students and staff members will be asked to wear red, white & blue on this day.
- Focus discussion on Symbols of Citizenship, a common theme in the NYS elementary social studies curriculum. For example: flag symbol; symbol of red, white, blue; *The Pledge of Allegiance* and its meaning; patriotic songs, democracy and freedom, monuments, memorials, heroes, service and citizenship.
- Teachers from each grade level will recommend specific grade levels at which various symbols of citizenship will be discussed.
- Communication with our parents and community be made in the summer so parents can prepare students for 9/11

MOTION: Motion was made by Mr. Sargent to approve the recommendation of the 9/11 Committee; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved. Mr. Sargent added that he felt the song "God Bless America" would be the appropriate song for this day as more people know the words to this song. Mr. Reed also added that the flag will be flown at half-staff, as directed by the President.

b. Mr. Reed proposed the establishment of a communications committee. The purpose of this committee would be to evaluate, and as appropriate, provide recommendations to the Board on methods to improve the timing, frequency and effectiveness of communications between the district and the community. He envisions this group to be a working committee comprised of 4-6 members of the community who will be given appropriate access to district personnel and resources for purposes of understanding and analyzing current practices. Consideration of the use of technology, such as automated email or other systems should be evaluated, and also a review and optimization of current communication methods and techniques (i.e., web site, Beacon newsletter, and other mailings). A final report would be presented to the Board for consideration and follow-up no later than March 31, 2010.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Raffone to approve the establishment of a Communications Committee; Seconded by Mr. Sargent and unanimously approved. Mr. Raffone asked if a section of the Beacon could be used for this committee to report on what the committee met about and discussed.

c. Mr. Davis, President of the East Islip Soccer Club, first apologized that the club has not come before the Board and district before today to thank them for the use of the schools, gyms, etc, and their support of the club. He reported that in the last eighteen years the club has

given a ¼ million dollars in donations/scholarships to East Islip and Islip Schools, the majority given to East Islip. He also took the opportunity to personally thank Mr. Pete Blieberg for his support and added that if the support he shows the club is an indication of the support he shows the students in school that they have the best athletic director in the world.

d. Mr. Carino thanked Mrs. Becker-Santa and members of the 9/11 committee. He stated that this past month has been difficult for him and his family and that he did not want any one to think he acted out of anger; rather he did it for our students. He appreciates the fact that letters will go out to parents prior to events for the day and he is happy that a Moment of Silence will be held by the entire district on 9/11. He thanked Mr. Chu for his apology and for inviting him in to meet with him during the first week after 9/11; but added that he was not ready to meet with Mr. Chu at that time.

e. Mrs. Ferrara stated that she wrote a letter to the Board regarding her FOILs and was waiting for a reply and the information. Mrs. Phillips responded that she would review the FOILS once again and if there is information that we have that Mrs. Ferrara requested, it would be provided. However, she did inform Mrs. Ferrara that if the information requested does not exist, the district is not obligated to generate reports. Mrs. Ferrara also asked for clarification on the In-District Suspension program appointments, which Mr. Chu explained.

f. Mrs. Morris asked for the cost of the buses if the transportation proposition passed, to which Mr. Fraser responded \$125,000, which is a prorated rate for the remainder of the 09/10 school year. She also asked for the cost of putting the proposition up for a vote, which he responded was approximately \$15,000.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Raffone left his seat on the Board and spoke as a member of the audience.

Mr. Raffone stated that he has lived in the community his entire life and is currently a member of the Board of Education. He stressed his concern with having to FOIL information as a Board member; information he needs to assist him in his decisions as a member of the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING: VIII. Mrs. Phillips announced that there would be a special Board of Education Meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., followed by a Board work session on transportation. She also announced that the next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting would be held on Thursday, November 12, 2009, at 8:00 p.m.

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 9:30 p.m.

Carol Feudi, Contingent District Clerk