

**East Islip School District  
Craig B. Gariepy Avenue  
Islip Terrace, New York 11752  
October 13, 2011 - APPROVED  
BUSINESS MEETING**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

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

**Staff Members in Attendance:**

John J. Finello, Supt. of Schools  
Alise Becker-Santa, Asst. Supt. for Instruction/Personnel  
Carl Fraser, Asst. Supt. for Business  
Susan Kossler, Asst. to the Supt. for Student Services  
Robert M. Tartaglia, Plant & Facilities Administrator

Marie Rogers, District Clerk

Approximate Attendance: 110 Meeting held in the Early Childhood Center Boardroom  
(Meeting chaired by Mr. Reed, Board President)

MTG. CALLED TO ORDER: I.) Meeting called to order by Mr. Reed at 6:00 p.m.

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

PUBLIC SESSION: III.) Motion by Mr. Sargent to adjourn executive session in order to reconvene in open public session; seconded by Mrs. Phillips and unanimously approved. Public session called to order at 8:30 p.m.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG IV): Mr. Reed led those in attendance to a salute to the flag followed by Courtney Kenyon, eleventh grade student, singing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

PUBLIC ADVISED: V.) 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](mailto:eiboard@eischools.org), which can be accessed through the district's website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: VI.) Motion by Mr. Cronin to approve the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2011; pp. 19-23; Seconded by Mrs. Phillips. Mr. Raffone abstained. Motion carried.

Mr. Reed asked if anyone had any questions regarding the agenda items before putting them before the Board.

Presentations: VII).

Mr. Finello announced that on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, there were three assemblies held in commemoration of 9/11. He stated that a lot of work went into planning, which was done by a committee, over several months, headed by Mrs. Becker-Santa. Mr. Finello introduced Mr.

Stephen Guarino, Director of Art/Music, to recognize those who helped to make the event a success. Mr. Guarino thanked student members of the Roisin Dubh Pipe Band, East Islip's Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 7, who played during the assemblies. He introduced 12th grader Joseph Pagillo; 11th-graders Matthew Brown, James Burke, Michael Danz, Jack McGibney; and, 7<sup>th</sup> grader Delanie Fitzgerald. He thanked Courtney Kenyon who sang the National Anthem for the ceremony and this evening. He also recognized the event's honored guests and speakers: Islip Town Supervisor Phil Nolan; Suffolk County Legislator Tom Cilmi; US Marine Corps Captain Matthew Peterson; veterans from the War of the Local Marine Detachment League of Bay Shore and the East Islip and Islip Terrace Fire Departments.

Mr. Finello announced that this is the time of year that we take the time to recognize our school board members for their dedication and service to our school community. He pointed out posters around the room created by students in each of the four elementary schools and middle school and spoke briefly about each. He then introduced Mr. Bill Brennen, principal of the high school, who presented the Board members with East Islip jackets on behalf of the students of the high school. Mr. Finello read aloud the *Roles and Responsibilities* of school board members. Following that reading, he read a few statements from elementary students, which gave their perception of what school board members do. Mr. Finello then presented each Board member with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the district.

Superintendent's Report to the Board: VIII)

- a. Mr. Finello spoke about the new State common core standards and reported that Mrs. Becker-Santa is leading department meetings with directors and staff regarding the new standards.
- b. Mr. Finello spoke about his recent meeting with district administration regarding the district's mission, and reported that principals and directors are in turn meeting with their staff to brainstorm and discuss goals - where we are and where we want to be. Administrators will meet again in November and discuss vision, goals, and beliefs that will help guide our district in years to come, and which will be brought back to the Board.
- c. Mr. Finello spoke on the security camera project and reported that the district has been awarded \$53,000 from our insurance company due to damages from Hurricane Irene, which should help us improve our current system. He said the district has also applied for restitution through FEMA and thanked Bob Tartaglia for all of his work on this project.
- d. Mr. Finello recognized a wonderful program that we have here in East Islip - the East Islip/Dowling College School Business Partnership. He explained what the program is, what the partnership has done and what events are planned for the upcoming school year.
- e. Mr. Finello spoke about the Southern State Parkway walk bridge and the most recent incident of graffiti. He reported that Senator Lee Zeldin has pledged to continue to work with our district to help maintain and keep the walk bridge safe.
- f. Mr. Finello reported that the high school recently held Ranking Day for the seniors and was proud to announce and recognize the Top Ten Students of the Class of 2012: Nicholas Pandolfo, Angela Pizzuto, Raymond O'Connor, Kendall Grant, Athena Shea, Ethan Schaber, Christopher Rost, Kathleen Moskowitz, Kayleigh Cook and Gianna Pico.

Mr. Frank Fritz, President of S.E.P.T.A., along with Mrs. Bonnie Buckley, past president, and Sue Kavanagh presented the district with a check for \$2500 toward the Connetquot Elementary School barrier free playground. Mr. Fritz reported that SEPTA, through their fund raising efforts,

had also been able to raise funds to award five student scholarships and will hopefully be able to do that again this year. He thanked the community and other PTA units for their assistance in their efforts.

Alan Yu, of the accounting firm of Cullen and Danowski, LLP, presented the Board with the district's external audit report for the period ending June 30, 2011. Mr. Yu reported that based on the audit, the firm is able to present an unqualified opinion, or a clean opinion. This means the district's accounting practices are free of mistakes, there are no material weaknesses, and are in compliance with accounting standards. He did report that the district has \$3 million less on the revenue side from 2009/10 and the expenditure side increased due to increases in employee benefit costs and special education services. Mr. Fraser thanked Mr. Yu for the report, and added comments regarding the district's future financial outlook.

ACTION ITEMS: IX.) Action Items Recommended by the Supt. of Schools  
(John J. Finello)

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION - Mrs. Becker-Santa

2010/2011 State Assessments - Mrs. Becker-Santa, along with Mrs. Sarah Anderson (Humanities Director), Mrs. Kristen Cummings (Math/Science Director), and Mr. Daniel Friedman (CIO) presented a review of East Islip's student data for grades 3-8 from the 2011 state assessment tests. Statewide assessment changes were outlined and a PowerPoint program was used to present East Islip scores using both last year's cut scores and the new cut scores, and how East Islip scored among local school districts as well as in the State. Mrs. Phillips asked if the cause of the dip in middle school scores could be researched and presented back to the Board.

PERSONNEL - Mrs. Becker-Santa

Motion by Mr. Cronin to approve Items #1-20 in the Certified Personnel Report as recommended by the administration of the East Islip School District; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved. Mrs. Becker-Santa recognized Mrs. Baumbusch and Mrs. Malach, teaching assistants, who were approved for tenure this evening.

Motion by Mr. Phillips to approve Items 1-142 in the per diem substitute and non-certified personnel report as recommended by the administration of the East Islip School District; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

BUSINESS - Mr. Fraser

a. TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion by Mr. Raffone 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 2011; Seconded by Mr. Cronin and unanimously approved.

b. EXTRA CLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS REPORT: Motion by Mr. Raffone 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 2011; Seconded by Mr. Cronin and unanimously approved.

c. SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACTS: 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 contract with Daytop Preparatory School for one of our students who is attending their school for the 2011-12 school year at a tuition rate of \$98 per pupil per day of attendance; the contract with Bay Shore Union Free School District for special education

services provided to four of our students parentally placed in non-public schools within their district for the 2011-12 school year; and, the contract with Cleary School for the Deaf for one of our students who is attending their school for the 2011-12 school year; Seconded by Mr. Sargent and unanimously approved.

d. BOCES TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT: 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 transportation contract with Eastern Suffolk BOCES for transportation services provided to one of our special education students for the 2011-12 school year. The total estimated cost is \$14,760; Seconded by Mrs. Phillips and unanimously approved.

e. ZILKHA RADIOLOGY: 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 contract with Zilkha Radiology to conduct pre-employment x-rays services for the 2011-12 school year at a cost of \$50 per x-ray; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved. Mrs. Phillips would like to take a look at this in the future to see if it is legally required to obtain pre-employment physicals on employees.

f. EXCESS WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE: 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 renewal of the Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance with Star Insurance Company effective October 1, 2011 through October 1, 2012. The cost is \$31,612; Seconded by Mr. Cronin and unanimously approved. Mr. Sargent asked about the purpose of excess insurance, to which Mr. Fraser and Mr. Reed responded that the district is self-insured for workers' compensation, and if there is a claim over and above a certain amount, the excess insurance will cover the cost.

g. PROPOSED ADVANCE REFUNDING BOND RESOLUTION: 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 Advance Refunding Bond Resolution for the 2004 Refunding Bonds. The current net present value savings is approximately 1.98% or \$308,168 over the remaining 10 year life of this bond. The comptroller's office however, recommends savings of at least 2.0% before proceeding with this bond refunding. The approval of the resolution will position us to take advantage of more favorable interest rates in the near future to complete this refunding ; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved. Mrs. Phillips asked when we anticipate refunding and if there is a window of opportunity, to which Mr. Fraser responded that we would refund if the rates drop; and, if there is no rate change, we will wait.

h. AUDIT REPORT: Motion by Mrs. Phillips to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District accept the audit report for year ending June 30, 2011 as presented to the Board of Education by Cullen & Danowski, LLP; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved. Mr. Fraser thanked the business office staff and gave a special thanks to Mrs. Brabender, district treasurer, for their help with this report.

i. DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED PIANO: 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 a Lester Philadelphia piano at Timber Point Elementary School. It has been determined to be old and beyond repair; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

j. DONATION : Motion by Mr. Cronin to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION of the East Islip School District accept the donation of \$2,500 from East Islip SEPTA to be allocated toward the purchase and construction of a barrier free playground at the Connetquot Elementary School; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved.

k. APPROPRIATION CHANGES : 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 following appropriation changes

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>
Timber Point	2110-480-06-0000	2610-533-06-0000	\$527.98	Funds needed to cover cost of
	Textbooks	Library Supplies		Library supplies, books, etc.
Timber Point	2110-485-06-0000	2610-533-06-0000	\$500.00	Funds needed to cover cost of
	Workbooks	Library Supplies		Library supplies, books, etc.
Middle School	2810-500-08-0000	2110-533-08-5820	\$181.52	To purchase testing supplies necessary
	General Supplies	Testing Supplies		for student assessment.

Seconded by Mrs. Phillips and unanimously approved.

#### CSE/CPSE - Mrs. Kosser

a. COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION: Motion by Mr. Cronin to approve the following CSE Cases as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE):  
 Case #1-20070704S through Case #44-20070181P in the Continuing Student Category;  
 Case #44-20110023S in the Initial Eligibility Determination Student Category;  
 Case #45-20070076S through Case #49-109809 in the New Student Category;  
 Seconded by Mrs. Phillips and unanimously approved.  
 (Copies of all CSE Cases Appended to Minutes)

b. COMMITTEE ON PRE-SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION: Motion by Mr. Raffone to approve the following CPSE Cases as recommended by the Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE):  
 Case #1-109746 in the New Student Category;  
 Case #2-20070414P in the Continuing Student Category;  
 Seconded by Mr. Cronin. Mr. Sargent abstained. Motion carried.  
 (Copies of all CSE Cases Appended to Minutes)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: X.

Mr. Sargent reported that the Town of Islip recently pointed out that they were increasing the amount of senior tax exemptions and he wanted the community to be aware that, over the past year, the Board of Education has also been looking into this senior exemption.

NEW BUSINESS: XI.

Board Policy Revision - Mr. Reed announced that the Board would be considering adopting revisions to Board Policy 4435 Doubling Up on Courses at the High School Level.

Mrs. Sullivan thanked the Board for the written acknowledgement to her recent letter. She questioned the information on certain teachers in the district and whether or not they are certified and also asked for a copy of her son's records under FERPA. Mr. Finello responded that our teachers are certified and that access regarding this information can be obtained through the New York State Education Department Office of Teaching website. Mr. Finello also responded that district records pertaining to her son have been sent to Mrs. Sullivan.

Mrs. Sue Pierinini, on behalf of the East Islip Athletic Booster Club, donated \$25,000 to be used toward the East Islip Middle School Sports' program. She also announced upcoming events being sponsored by the club such as the Red/White Dinner at Timber Point Country Club on November 11 and an upcoming raffle where only 1000 tickets will be sold.

Mrs. Mary Moore expressed her concern with the parent portal stating that she would like to see it working fully, as full access to the program is not yet available to parents.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING: XII. Mr. Reed announced that the next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting would take place on Thursday, November 17, 2011 beginning at 8:00 p.m., in the district office boardroom.

MOTION TO ADJOURN PUBLIC SESSION: XIII. Motion by Mr. Cronin to adjourn the public meeting; Seconded by Mr. Raffone and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Carol Feudi