

BETHPAGE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Bethpage, New York
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special /Agenda Meeting

September 21, 2004 – 7:30 p.m. – Administration Building - Boardroom

A Special Meeting of the Bethpage Board of Education was held in the Boardroom at the Administration Building on September 21, 2004. Mr. Frost called the meeting to order at approximately 7:32 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Messrs. Thomas Frost, Joel Dauman, Michael Kelly, Louis Orfan, Kurt Spears, and Mrs. Sandra Watson

Absent: Mr. Donald Tichy

Also Present: Dr. Richard Marsh, Superintendent; Ms. Caroline Lavelle, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mr. Terrence Clark, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Technology; Mrs. Kim Parahus, Director of Facilities; Mr. Lawrence Portuese, Secondary Summer School Principal; Ms. Wendy Way, Elementary Summer School Principal; Laura Granelli, Esq. of Jaspian Schlesinger Hoffman LLP; and Mr. Paul Adamo of School Construction Consultants

Approximately four citizens were present.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Leave of Absence

MOTION by Mr. Spears, seconded by Mr. Orfan, that the Board of Education ratify a Leave of Absence for Robert Verdi for the 2004-2005 school year, effective September 10, 2004. If Mr. Verdi's tour of duty ends before the conclusion of the 2004-2005 school year, he will return to his teaching position at that time. Mr. Verdi is a member of the United States Army Reserves whose unit has been activated, and Dr. Marsh wished him well and a safe return.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

Appointment

MOTION by Mr. Spears, seconded by Mr. Orfan, that the Board of Education approve the Regular Substitute (Leave Replacement) appointment of Jared Duchin for the 2004-2005 school year or to terminate earlier at the discretion of the District, concurrent with Mr. Verdi's end of tour and return to the District, effective September 22, 2004. Salary will be \$52,195, based on Step 1 of the MA 2004-2005 salary schedule, to be prorated from date of commencement. Mr. Duchin's certification is conditional initial pending to teach Social Studies in the State of New York. This is an emergency conditional appointment and is conditioned upon and subject to criminal clearance from the Commissioner pursuant to the requirements of Project SAVE. If the District receives notice of denial of clearance by the Commissioner, this appointment shall immediately terminate.

BUILDING PROJECT REPORT

Mrs. Parahus and Mr. Adamo reported on the progress of the building project. At this point in time, the project is proceeding smoothly at the High School. The Charles Campagne Library is operational. A leak in the roof at JFK Middle School had been detected, and Mr. Adamo contacted the bonding company.

Mr. Marchesiello distributed a Status Report on the Capital Projects and also a summary of Construction Expenditures (by Contract). Every project has been awarded, except the bus garage. He then led a discussion about unencumbered funds and possible uses of these funds. It was agreed that Mr. Geiger, Bond Counsel, would be contacted about use of the unencumbered funds. Mr. Frost requested that Mr. Geiger be queried whether work can be done on the High School and Middle School bleachers to bring them into compliance.

SUMMER SCHOOL REPORT

As background, Dr. Marsh reported that the enrichment portion of the summer elementary program, which had not been included in the budget for the past two years, had been reinstated at the request of residents.

Mr. Portuese reported that, as in the past, Secondary Summer School is a consortium between Hicksville, Plainedge, and Bethpage. Special Education has become a big component of the summer school program, which operates on a four-day week. In order to compensate for the four-day week, periods are longer. Mr. Portuese reported that there were no major issues and handed out a summary of the results.

Ms. Way stated that the enrichment program, which also operated on a four-day week, went very well. There were two sessions of 108 minutes each, with 575 students. Most students were enrolled in two sessions.

A common focus continues to be the AIS remedial piece. Ms. Way distributed a Student Profile Form, which helps to identify students at risk. The completed form identifies what was covered over the summer and is given to the new classroom teacher. There are no more than 15 students in the AIS classes, and 25-28 students in the enrichment classes. In addition, "Spanish is Fun," "Italian is Fun," and ESL were added to the course offerings. Ms. Way will provide the Board with a breakdown of attendance in both the AIS and the enrichment groups.

BOARD ENTERS EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Dauman, seconded by Mr. Kelly, that the Board enter Executive Session for a pupil matter.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

The Board entered executive session at 8:30 p.m.

BOARD EXITS EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Dauman, seconded by Mrs. Watson, that the Board exit Executive Session.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

The Board exited Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. and resumed the Special/Agenda Meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Marsh reminded residents that the Public Hearing pertaining to the proposed sale of Borella Field will be held on October 5th at 8:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. A representative from the Town of Oyster Bay will be present to answer questions. A newsletter concerning the proposed sale was recently mailed to residents and will be followed up shortly by a letter from Dr. Marsh.

On that evening Mr. Bill Lilly, the District's Auditor, will present his Annual Audit Report. In addition, Mr. Marchesiello and Mrs. Jessica Woerner, District Internal Auditor, will give a report on the operations of the Business Office and describe controls that are in place to ensure credibility ("checks and balances").

Discussion followed about a Bell Times/Bus Route Study and the feasibility of adjusting the bell schedules and switching to all-contractor transportation. Mr. Marchesiello will contact K-Corr about the feasibility of converting from a bell system to a synchronized system.

Dr. Marsh reviewed the following committees that were recently formed by the Board:

Buildings and Grounds – Messrs. Frost, Kelly, Tichy, Mrs. Watson, and Dr. Marsh are members of this committee, which will explore current and future capital improvements and develop a five-year plan. An ad will be placed in the Bethpage Tribune to solicit residents for this committee.

School Lunch Committee – Mr. Frost and Mrs. Watson will represent the Board of Education. Generally, 2-3 meetings are held per year. The first meeting, which is tentatively scheduled to be held in mid-October, will include building administrators, PTA, teachers, and students.

Safety and Security - Mrs. Parahus will chair this committee. Mr. Frost, Mr. Dauman, and Dr. Marsh are involved in setting it up. There will be at least one district-wide meeting and some building-level meetings.

Community/Public Relations – Messrs. Dauman, Orfan, Spears, and Mrs. Watson will be members of this committee.

Policies and Procedures Committee – Messrs. Kelly, Orfan, and Spears volunteered for this committee. The purpose, focus, and rationale need to be decided. It was suggested that some items to be covered could be: (1) Ongoing surveillance and review of policies; (1) Procedures in the way the Board conducts public meetings; (3) Board procedures, and (4) The dress code at the High School. When Erie BOCES sends regulations for consideration, Ms. Lavelle will forward them to this committee.

Mr. Frost would like to plan a Board retreat on a Saturday to discuss each member's concerns and goals for the future.

As the meeting proceeded, Dr. Marsh reported on the following gratifying statistics for the Class of 2004: \$7.7 million was awarded in scholarships and grants, 94% chose college after graduation, and 87% obtained Regents diplomas.

Dr. Marsh also noted that a new fourth grade class will be added at Kramer Lane, based upon the current enrollment.

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Dauman, seconded by Mr. Spears, that the Board of Education enter Executive Session for the discussion of specific personnel matters.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:51 p.m.

MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Dauman, seconded by Mr. Kelly, that the Board exit Executive Session.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

The Board exited Executive Session at 10:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Dauman, seconded by Mr. Kelly, that the Board adjourn the Special/Agenda Meeting.

The Special/Agenda Meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marléne Jannotta