

Regular meeting of the Board of Education of Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen held in the auditorium of the Willow Road School on Tuesday, November 27, 2007.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Trustee Chiachiere
Trustee DiSibio*
Trustee Evans
Trustee Gorham
Trustee Greco Jacobs
Trustee Stris
Trustee Subbiondo

OTHERS PRESENT

Superintendent Lison
Asst. Supt. for Business Brosnan
Asst. Supt. for Curric. & Instr. Roth
Director of Special Services Sells-Asch
School District Attorney Frazer
District Clerk Michels
Building Principal Capozzoli
Building Principal Gruen
Building Principal Huplosky
Building Principal Zerillo
Approximately 100 Visitors

Convening

The meeting was convened at 7: 30 p.m. by President Stris.

CONVENING

Quorum

Six members being present, a quorum was determined

QUORUM

Executive Session

An Executive Session was held immediately to discuss personnel of a particular person on a motion made by Trustee Subbiondo, seconded by Trustee Evans and carried unanimously. The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents and the attorney were invited to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

*7:35 p.m. Trustee DiSibio arrived

Reconvening

The meeting was reconvened at 8:05 p.m. by President Stris.

RECONVENING

Welcome

President Stris welcomed all in attendance and pointed out the locations of the exits.

Pledge of Allegiance

After the Pledge of Allegiance there was a moment of silence in remembrance of Ike Tress, a dedicated community member, who passed away. President Stris mentioned that Ike Tress was a very active member of the Valley Stream community, and that he attended board meetings and community events since 1952. Trustee Chiachiere attended the funeral service and stated that Ike Tress was passionate about educating children as well as his dedication to the community.

Quorum

Seven members being present, a quorum was determined

QUORUM

Correspondence

- Letter from Charles Schumer regarding "We the People Bookshelf Program
- Letter from George Farber, President BOCES Board of Education inviting a Board Member to serve on the BOCES Budget Advisory Committee - a letter was sent indicating William P. Stris was elected the liaison.
- Thank you letter for 2007 membership to New York State School Boards Assn.
- Article written by Jerome Ehrlich of Ehrlich, Frazer & Feldman
- Memo from Ehrlich, Frazer and Feldman regarding Hearsay in Student Disciplinary hearings

CORRESPONDENCE

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Elizabeth Lison

Superintendent Lison spoke about Ike Tress' strong support and voice for both the community and educational program. He will be missed by the Valley Stream community. November 6th was Superintendent's Conference Day where staff members focused on professional development. The Educational Planning meeting was held on November 17th. Dr. Lison reported on the progress made as well as goals for the upcoming budget cycle. A copy of the Educational Plan is available in the office of the District Clerk. Parents visited the classrooms and participated in various workshops during American Education Week. The Valley Stream Thirteen Educational Foundation is working on a spring fundraiser for April, an 80's Dance. Information will be forthcoming. There will be no December Committee meeting. The next Board meeting will be December 18.

Library Aide

To approve an additional one hour per day for Edith Catalano to work in the Library at Howell Road School.

LIBRARY AIDE E. CATALANO
ADDITIONAL ONE HOUR

Moved by Trustee Subbiondo, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

EDUCATION [F. Chiachiere, D. Evans]

Stephanie Capozzoli, Principal, welcomed everyone to Willow Road School. She mentioned that Ike Tress was a dedicated member of the Willow Road community and he will be missed. The presentation was "Focus on the Arts" and Janet Hoffner, District Coordinator of Music and Fine Arts, gave a presentation dedicated to music and art education. Students participated in a presentation entitled "All That Jazz" where they reported on different jazz musicians along with a musical performance. Trustee Chiachiere thanked everyone for the performance and mentioned that the District music program is a very important part of the educational program. President Stris also thanked the staff and students for their participation in the presentation.

GATE Advancements

To approve the recommendation of the Superintendent for the GATE advances according to the Board/VSTA contract as listed:

GATE ADVANCEMENTS

Step 9 to Step 10

Lisa Mulqueen effective 12/16/07
Stacey LoBello effective 1/16/08

Step 14 to Step 15

Karen Martorana effective 12/15/07

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Subbiondo and carried unanimously.

Testing Coordinator Stipend

To approve a stipend for Anna Mihalos as the testing coordinator effective October 12, 2007 at \$850 pro-rated.

A. MIHALOS STIPEND AS TESTING COORDINATOR

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Evans and carried unanimously.

Employment of Replacement Teacher

To employ Sarah Tauber as a Replacement Classroom Teacher at Howell Road School effective December 4, 2007 through June 30, 2008 on Step 1 MA (\$58,294) and unless sooner terminated.

S. TAUBER REPLACEMENT CRT

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously.

Resignation of an ESL Teacher

To accept the resignation of Sharon Lupeke, ESL Replacement Teacher at Howell Road School effective December 2, 2007.

S. LUPEKE RESIGNED

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously.

Resignation of a Teaching Assistant

To accept the resignation of Jillian Karlewicz, Teaching Assistant at James A. Dever School effective October 16, 2007.

J. KARLEWICZ RESIGNED

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously.

Employment of a Teaching Assistant

To employ Chaya Feldstein as a Teaching Assistant at James A. Dever School effective October 22, 2007 through June 30, 2008 at a salary of \$23,5645 pro-rated.

C. FELDSTEIN EMPLOYED AS A TA

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Gorham and carried unanimously.

Employments for ELA Before and After School Program

To approve the following employments for the ELA Before and After School Program effective November 5, 2007 through December 14, 2007 for two hours per week at their hourly rate of pay:

ELA BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL EMPLOYMENTS

James A. Dever

Annemarie Gunn
J. J. Weiner
Kim Spinner
Mary Ellen Kefalogiannis
Louise Marchesi

Wheeler Avenue

Craig Caputo
Peggy Aronowitz
Michelle Dorsi
Erica Sheid
Shannon Kranz

Willow Road

Mairead Dorry
Elena Bagge
Rich Faso
Donna Quartuccio
Melissa Bianculli
Matthew Costantino
Melanie Van Eron
Maria Romeo

Howell Road

Cindy Gervasi
Pat Hopkins
Anna Mihalos
Matthew Stashin
Dianna Chappell
Maria Teh Bradley
Jonathan Berghorn
Jacqueline Schimmenti

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Gorham and carried unanimously.

Employments for the ESL Before and After School Program

To approve the following employments for the ESL Before and After School Program effective November 5, 2007 through May 2, 2008 for two hours per week at their hourly rate of pay:

ESL BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL EMPLOYMENTS

James A. Dever
Josette Noto-Matozzo

Wheeler Avenue
Jennifer Cymbler

Willow Road
Aida Ricci

Howell Road
Terry Sales

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Subbiondo and carried unanimously.

Substitute Teacher List

To approve the Substitute Teacher List for the 2007-2008 school year.

UPDATED SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST

Moved by Trustee Chiachiere, seconded by Trustee Evans and carried unanimously.

BUSINESS [C. Subbiondo, J. DiSibio]

Treasurer's Report

To accept the Treasurer's Report for the month ending October 31, 2007.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Moved by Trustee Evans, seconded by Trustee DiSibio and carried unanimously.

POLICY COMMITTEE [B. Gorham, J. Greco Jacobs]

No report this month.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE [Vice President D. Evans]

Committee on Special Education Reviews

To ratify and adopt the Committee on Special Education Review dated 10/12, 10/19, 10/22BOCES, 10/22H, 10/24, 10/30, 11/5, 11/8 and 11/19/07.

CSE REVIEWS ADOPTED

Moved by Trustee Evans, seconded by Trustee Subbiondo and carried unanimously.

Committee on Pre-School Special Education Reviews

To ratify and adopt the Committee on Pre-School Special Education Review dated 10/23, 10/24, and 11/9/07.

CPSE REVIEWS ADOPTED

Moved by Trustee Evans, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs and carried unanimously.

Amendment to the Superintendent's Contract

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen agrees to amend the employment agreement dated November 22, 2005 between the Board and Dr. Elizabeth Lison, on the terms specified in the agreement dated November 27, 2007; and

AMENDMENT TO SUPT. CONTRACT

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President be authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board.

Moved by Trustee Evans, seconded by Trustee Gorham and carried unanimously.

Approval of Donations

a) To approve a donation to the Howell Road School of a "lighted information sign" from the Howell Road PTA with a value of \$4000.

DONATIONS APPROVED

Moved by Trustee Evans, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs with thanks, and carried unanimously.

b) To approve a donation to the Howell Road School of a Bach Aristocrat TR600 trumpet from Marianne Cali with an approximate value of \$300.

Moved by Trustee Evans, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacob with thanks, and carried unanimously.

c) To approve a donation to the District of 17 computers and 13 monitors from Vinny Pandit, c/o Fidelis Care NY with an approximate value of \$2350.

Moved by Trustee Evans, seconded by Trustee Greco Jacobs with thanks, and carried unanimously.

Report of the Attorney

Florence Frazer

Mrs. Frazer gave the following report on school immunizations: New York Public Health Law requires that every child must be immunized against polio, mumps, measles, diphtheria, rubella, varicella, influenza Type B and hepatitis B. The law prohibits principals and teachers from admitting any child into school for more than 14 days without receipt of a certificate or acceptable evidence of the required immunizations. Public Health Law allows for only two exceptions (1) if a licensed physician certifies that immunization may be detrimental to a child's health and (2) where a parent or guardian holds a "genuine and sincere religious belief which is contrary" to the practice of immunizations that are otherwise required. "The petitioning parents, in an appeal to the commissioner, have the burden of demonstrating a clear legal right to the relief they request, and the burden of establishing the facts upon which the relief is sought. School officials are not required to simply accept a parent's statement of genuine and sincere religious belief without some examination. Consequently, counsel should be prepared to go forward with a substantiated demonstration of the parents' genuine and sincere religious beliefs in opposition to immunization."

Visitors

Marie Nelson requested that Epi Pens be made available in each of the nurses offices. Dr. Lison explained that Epi pens will be made available in each nurses office for use in emergency allergic reactions.

Joan Knoblach stated the dissatisfaction of the District Thirteen community with the new Wellness Policy and requested that the Board consider making some changes. At the request of President Stris, Mrs. Knoblach will meet with Dr. Lison and Mrs. Roth for a discussion.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Trustee Greco Jacobs, seconded by Trustee Subbiondo and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Denise Michels

Denise Michels
District Clerk