

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Amityville Union Free School District, Amityville, NY 11701  
Regular Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2015

Approved: 01/13/16

**OPEN MEETING**

The Meeting was called to order at 5:46 p.m. by President Moss who read the emergency statement and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ronald A. Moss, President  
Terry Fulton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Jeannette Santos, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Dr. Kathleen Corbett, Trustee  
Carolyn Dodd, Trustee  
Lisa Johnson, Trustee

**ABSENT:**

Juan Leon, Trustee

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Dr. Mary T. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools  
Mary O'Meara, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Diane Castonguay, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Carlos Perez, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Karenann Volinski, Director for Data and Instructional Technology

**AMITYVILLE U F S D**  
**APPROVED**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
DATE 1-13-16  
**DISTRICT CLERK SIGNATURE**  
*Clara Becker*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion to move into Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. by President Moss; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos for the purpose of particular person(s) employment history. President Moss appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos as Clerk Pro Tem. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Mr. Steffanetta and Ms. Reynolds arrived at 6:10

Trustee Leon arrived at 6:20

Motion to adjourn Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. by President Moss; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Motion to call to order Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. by President Moss.

The District Clerk did a roll call of the Board of Education, all were present.

President Moss read Agenda Item 3C-5 Expansion of the Low Income Disability Exemption in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, NY. Mrs. Castonguay shared a power point presentation (Attachment #1) with an overview of the impact on residents. The floor was open to the Public for questions and/or comments, there none.

Motion to adjourn Public Hearing at 7:14 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Motion to call to order Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m. by President Moss.

President Moss read Agenda Item 3C-6 The Sandy Tax Relief Law Exemption in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, NY. Mrs. Castonguay shared a power point presentation (Attachment #2) with an overview of the impact on residents. The floor was open to the Public for questions/and or comments. Mr. DeMaia of Massapequa had a question regarding tax impact with the Bond Referendum and Mrs. Castonguay responded. No other questions and/or comments.

Motion to adjourn Public Hearing at 7:23 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

Motion to call to order Open Session at 7:25 p.m. by President Moss; seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Fulton.  
 Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Dr. Clinton Grant, Principal AMHS  
 Donna DeFreitas, Assistant Principal AMHS  
 John Cardone, Dean of Students AMHS  
 Ed Plaia, Principal EWMMS  
 Earl Mitchell, Dean of Students EWMMS  
 Scott Bullis, Principal PAMES  
 Rose Hutcherson, Assistant Principal PAMES  
 Frank Garcia, Interim Principal NW  
 Tim Hellmuth, Assistant Principal NW  
 Dr. Fran Fernandez, Director of Fine Arts  
 Susanne Pena, District Coordinator of ESL/World Languages  
 Eileen Becker, District Clerk  
 Robert Claps, ATA  
 Carole Seehof, ATA

**COMMUNITY:** 35 members present

President Moss turned the meeting over to Dr. Kelly who acknowledged Frank Garcia as Interim Principal at Northwest Elementary School. His experience in education and Amityville is a great asset while the district searches for a permanent principal.

Dr. Kelly introduced Dr. Fernandez who informed the audience of the upcoming Holiday Concert/Art Showcases (Attachment #3). Dr. Fernandez introduced Mrs. Debra Koraus where her students in Chorus and other classes performed Winter Wonderland and a folk dance to Jingle Bells.

Dr. Kelly introduced Mrs. O'Meara who gave an overview of Course Changes that will be reflected in the 2016/2017 Course Catalog before the Board this evening. Mrs. O'Meara introduced Jaclyn O'Hagan, Social Studies Chairperson/MS; Dawn Mizrachi, Social Studies Chairperson/HS and Jodi Wilsher, English Chairperson/HS. They further explained the courses, the needs and the results. The floor was open to comments and/or questions. Mrs. Santos asked what grade are these courses offered to. Ms. Mizrachi replied 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Corbett spoke of budgetary concerns. The reply was that this does not impact the budget, these courses and the teaching staff have factored in. Mr. Juan was complimentary of the presentation and asked if any particular course do we see students gravitating to. Ms. Mizrachi replied definitely has seen an increase of interest in World and U.S. History.

**COMMUNITY INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no Community input on agenda items. President Moss proceeded with the agenda.

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve Agenda Items 2A-1 through 2A-7 made by Trustee Corbett; seconded by Trustee Dodd.  
 Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3A-1 made by Trustee Dodd; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**PERSONNEL**

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3B-1 through 3B-10 made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos; seconded by Trustee Corbett. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3B-11 through 3B-13 made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos; seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Fulton. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3B-14 made by Trustee Dodd; seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Fulton. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3B-15 made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos; seconded by Trustee Corbett. Discussion: None. Motion Fails: 0 Yes; 7 No; 0 Abstain.

1. FMLA: Spanish Teacher/MS – Geiger, D.
2. Probationary Appointment: Special Education Teacher/NW – Hoffman, C.
3. Probationary Appointment: Special Education Teacher/NW – Harris, A.
4. Appointment: ENL Academy Site Coordinator/NE – Smith, T.
5. Appointment: ENL Academy Site Coordinator/NW – Meisser, P.
6. Appointment: Chaperone – Klimek, C.
7. Contingent Appointment: Spanish Speaking Clerk/Typist/HS – Taveras, S.
8. Appointment: Substitute Teacher/Spanish Grades 7-12 – Stahl, T.
9. Appointment: Intramural Coach – Abbondandolo, M.
10. Revised FMLA & Leave of Absence w/o Pay: Nurse/NE – Dell'Isola, L.
11. Probationary Appointment: Art Teacher/HS/MS – Scoca, N.
12. Resignation: Part-Time Art Teacher/HS – Scoca, N.
13. Resignation: Permanent Substitute Teacher/HS – Scoca, N.
14. Leave of Absence w/o Pay: Food Service Worker/NW – Echeverry, G.
15. Leave of Absence w/o Pay: ESL Teacher/MS – Gomez, N.

#### **BUSINESS**

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3C-1 through 3C-8 made by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Fulton; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Budget Transfer
2. Fund Raising
3. Use of Facilities
4. Health Service Contracts – St. Martin of Tours
5. Expansion of Low Income Disability Exemption
6. The Sandy Tax Relief Law Exemption
7. 2015-16 Food Service Equipment Bid
8. Donation

#### **FINANCE**

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3D-1 made by Trustee Dodd; seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Fulton. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Finance Report – October, 2015

#### **CSE/CPSE SERVICE CONTRACTS**

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3E-1 through 3E-5 made by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Fulton; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Bellmore UFSD
2. Seaford UFSD
3. South Huntington UFSD
4. Life's WORC
5. Just Kids Early Learning Center

#### **CURRICULUM**

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3F-1 made by Trustee Dodd; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3F-2 made by Trustee Dodd; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Approval of Conferences
2. Approval of the 2016-2017 Course Catalog

**COMMUNITY INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no input from the Community regarding non- agenda items.

**REPORTS**

Legal Counsel            No Report

Superintendent            Section 11 Awards for the Girls B Level Soccer Team and Girls Junior Varsity Tennis Team for outstanding sportsmanship.

Two of our orchestra members have been selected by the long island string festival association Kayla Marrero who plays violin and she is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Nia Scott a cellist and she is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. This selection a highly competitive ensemble and rehearsals and performances will take place in January and is based on NYS Music Association evaluation scores from the spring NYSSMA Festival as well as their teachers' recommendations.

We have some art honors to note as well. Art work created by Jeoprey Delos Santos, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade and Kenyi Zelaya, 11<sup>th</sup> grade will be displayed at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Suffolk County Community College High School Art Competition. Participants from Suffolk County were invited to submit art work from their strongest art student for consideration. This was held on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Gallery West in Captree Commons Bldg., Brentwood Campus.

We were hoping the Boys Varsity soccer coach; Michael Abbondandolo could join us tonight to recognize him as he was named All Long Island Boys Soccer Coach of the year. There was a great article in newspaper and he led the team to new heights, resilience, discipline and fitness prepared for the season that truly paid off.

We thank the Village of Amityville for honoring the Soccer Team at the village tree lighting ceremony where the team was recognized for their outstanding win and let the countdown as their Captain flipped the switch for the tree light ceremony. We thank the Village of Amityville for their continued interest in our students and our school district.

We also thank the members of the AMHS band and their band director, Brian Wishin. The band performed at the tree lighting ceremony with holiday music, the Star Spangle Banner and God Bless America. It was truly again wonderful event

In other sports news Tasheen Griffin won at the INAS games in Ecuador where he broke a major record in track and Amityville high school long standing record in the 60 meter dash, he ran in 7.22 seconds.

This weekend, the Claude Byer basketball tournament will be held. Last weekend the Fred Williams' basketball and Lonni Kittle wrestling tournaments were held the and the teams were outstanding, performing very well.

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, the APTC will host their annual holiday sing along event and giving tree at the Middle School.

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, the National Honor Society will host Breakfast with Santa at the Middle School.

An update of where we are for the board referendum, the findings that were presented on 11/12 where we had great deal of discussion, a lot of research and work went into developing those finding to inform the board of the possibility of a bond referendum. At this time we are waiting for an environment study to come back from the state and were hoping to have that in advance, it should be here any day. We expect the Board to take action of a possible bond referendum at the January meeting. We can't move any further until we receive that environmental impact study back.

Please consult the school website calendar for a variety of upcoming events during December. And on behalf of the Administration, we wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday and enjoy the holiday break.

Board

The Policy Committee reported on the progress of finishing the Policy Manual and the last few policies will be before the Board either in January or February. Then the Policy Committee will maintain the policy manual, reviewing required policies annually.

#### COMMUNITY INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ed McDaniels of 111 Bayview Avenue referred to two visits to the District Office where he left messages with Mrs. Becker for Dr. Kelly regarding a statement made at a June meeting about teachers not allowed to teach the same students in summer school that failed their class in the regular school year. He did not receive a reply. Mr. McDaniels also stated teachers not having the opportunity to teach during the summer because the district utilized the WSBOCES summer school program.

Carol Seehof of 67 S. Ireland Place and ATA Vice President addressed Mr. McDaniels comment that teachers had the opportunity to apply to teach during the summer through the WSBOCES summer school just as they would apply to teach in the district. There were no complaints from the teachers about the summer school program.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. made by Trustee Johnson; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Respectfully submitted,



Eileen Becker, District Clerk