

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Amityville Union Free School District, Amityville, NY 11701
Regular Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Approved: 05/13/15

The Meeting was called to order at t 7:02 p.m. at the Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School Auditorium by President Johnson who read the emergency statement and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisa Johnson, President
Ronald A. Moss, 1st Vice President
Terry Fulton, 2nd Vice President
Dr. Kathleen Corbett, Trustee
Carolyn Dodd, Trustee
Nathan King, Trustee
Jeannette Santos, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Mary T. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. John Hodge
Dr. Harvey Perkins
Dr. Joan Lange, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Mrs. Sydney Freifelder, Interim Ass't Sup't for Finance & Operations
Ms. Bridgette Wilson, Director for Human Resources
Mrs. Eileen Becker, District Clerk

Community: 25

AMITYVILLE U F S D
APPROVED
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
DATE 5-13-15
DISTRICT CLERK SIGNATURE
Eileen Becker

PRESENTATIONS

New Staff Dr. Mary T. Kelly introduced our new administrators who will be joining effective July 1, 2015.

Mrs. Mary O'Meara, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mrs. Diane Castonguay, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Ms. Karenann Volinski, Director for Data and Educational Technology

Autism Awareness Dr. Kelly introduced Mr. Peter Paternostro, Ms. Sandra Parmentier and Ms. Tricia Cammaroto talked about Autism Awareness and the TEACH class in conjunction with the 8th annual world autism awareness day. Mr. Paternostro spoke of two students exhibit outstanding efforts in volunteering their time with fellow students with autism and presented certificates of appreciation to Tatiana Escalero and Briana Desimone. Ms. Parmentier talked about the autism spectrum disorder otherwise known as ASD is a development disability that can cause significant social communication and behavioral challenges. The Special Education Department has been working to identify and recommend services for preschool students in conjunction with Nassau and Suffolk counties through the NYS Education Department Office of Vocational and Educational Services for individual with disabilities otherwise known as VASID. Currently in the district we provide intensive intervention to 12 students requiring substantial support through our TEACH program.

Ms. Cammaroto talked about her program called the TEACH Class which supports students with autism who may have difficulty developing language skills. The TEACH program focuses on strength and interest along with the child's IEP goals. Independence is the ultimate goal. The classroom must be structured which include the physical structure where the child will go, when will it happen as this is the function of

the daily schedules physical structure assists children in distinguishing between curriculum areas the visual schedule tells the students how do I do it.

2015-16 Budget
Presentation #9

Mrs. Freifelder presented the final portion of the Budget for 2015/2016 with a summary.

DISCUSSION REGARDING 2015 SUMMER SCHOOL

The regional summer school is going to be held at Walt Whitman High School and one of the factors in the decision making is the fact that actually could provide transportation because presently our students do not get transportation if they are in district. The district is now in the stages of putting together the plan for the summer school program. The top priority and concern is insuring that the district will be able to effectively and conveniently provide. Our teachers and teaching assistants will have the opportunity to apply for summer positions through Western Suffolk BOCES. The summer school program only effects secondary, the elementary summer school will be in district with the successful enrichment program introduced last year.

COMMUNITY INPUT REGARDING BUDGET PRESENTATION

Trustee Dodd asked for clarification regarding the changes to special education budget, the behavior modification class, perhaps can we get a brief description of what that class is and do our children get into that class. Mr. Paternostro explained that class is actually going to be at the MS and you know we've tried routinely to develop programs in district for students we are sending out to BOCES. We see a need for students we can keep in district if we have a small structure class size and quiet honestly when I go out to a BOCES programs I know that our staff can do a better job than what's being served over there so the intention is to have that class for ms students who might be experiencing difficulty, behavioral or emotional weaknesses in bigger classes and to give them that support here.

COMMUNITY INPUT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Ed McDaniels
111 Bayview Avenue
Amityville, NY

Mr. McDaniels pointed out the Administration regarding summer school regarding Attendance and lateness's and he concern for transportation.

He also complimented Mrs. Freifelder on the budget presentations and his concern was staffing for the nine period school day at the high school.

Colin Castro
176 Jefferson Avenue
Amityville, NY

Mr. Castro is concerned about moving summer school outside the district understanding the rationale behind this but asks why we don't have these resources in the district to take care of it here. It is his opinion that the travel time to and from will impede family time.

ACTION

Motion to approve Agenda Item 2C-1 made by Trustee King; seconded by 1st Vice President Moss.
Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Motion to approve Agenda Item 2C-2 made by Trustee Santos; seconded by Trustee King. Discussion: The Board unanimously approves President Johnson as Chairperson for the 2015 Budget Vote and Trustee Election. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Motion to approve Agenda Items 2C-3 and 2C-4 made by Trustee King; seconded by 2nd Vice President Fulton. Discussion: Dr. Corbett just concerning the attendance of these students, what is the procedure we currently follow when we have Amityville students who attend public private parochial schools and also one

of the BOCES career tech programs. How do we monitor their attendance? Dr. Kelly responded that WSB submits reports to Mr. Paternostro and there is constant communication that occurs between WSB and the school district. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Adoption of 2015/2016 AUFSD Budget
2. Appointment of Chairperson for AUFSD Budget Vote and Trustee Election
3. Approval of Student to attend occupational program
4. Approval of Student to attend occupational program

PERSONNEL

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3B-1 through 3B-7 made by Trustee Dodd; seconded by Trustee Santos. Discussion: President Johnson explained to the public that the Board of Education had the opportunity to review the tenure packets for the following individuals: Sakina Britt, Matt Greiss, Timothy Brower, David Jackson, Tiffany Mendelson, and Mackenzie Sipp. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain. The meeting was paused to take a few minutes to introduce and acknowledge teachers when their receive tenure.

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3B-8 through 3B-81 made by Trustee King; seconded by Trustee Santos. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

BUSINESS

Motion to approve Agenda items 3C-1 through 3C-5 made by Trustee King

3C-1 through 3C-5 A motion was made to approve agenda items #3C-1 through #3C-5 by Mr. King; seconded by Mr. Moss, and the Board unanimously approved agenda items 3C-1 through 3C-5

FINANCE REPORT

3D-1 A motion was made to approve agenda items #3D-1 by Mr. King; seconded by Mrs. Santos, and the Board unanimously approved agenda item #3D-1

CSE/CPSE SERVICES CONTRACTS

3E-1 through 3E-19 Having had these contracts reviewed by our Legal Counsel, a motion was made to approve agenda items #3E-1 through #3E-19 by Mr. King; seconded by Mrs. Santos, and the Board unanimously approved agenda items #3E-1 through #3E-19

CONFERENCES

3F-1 through 3F-8 A question from Mrs. Santos why only Park Avenue teachers going to a conference. Dr. Lange explains that this is for 21st Century Grants Site Coordinators. While both teachers are Park Avenue Teachers, as the Site Coordinators one is for Park avenue and the other is for the Middle School. A motion was made to approve agenda items #3F-1 through #3F-8 by Mr. King; seconded by Mrs. Santos, and the Board unanimously approved agenda items #3F-1 through #3F-8

REPORTS

Legal Counsel Mr. Steffanetta will have a report on negotiations with administrators also with UPSEU and advice on pending litigation and advice from counsel.

Superintendent Dr. Kelly announced our art students will have their artwork showcased at the Long Island Museum in Stony Brook. Our students' photography for the Downtown Revitalization Committee will be on display at the Amityville Historical Society. Deputy Mayor Bernius expressed her amazement of the talent of our students. The World Languages Society Induction was held on March 10th where 48 high school students were recognized. The Amityville High School Marching Band will participate for the first time at the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade. Ms. Tina Smith, Northeast Teacher, was nominated for a National Teaching Award. The APTC is hosting a skating party on March 19th. The High School Drama Club will be performing Little Shop of Horrors on March 20, 21 and 22nd.

Policy Committee Mr. Moss, 1st Vice President gave an overview as to what the Board Members does to review policies regularly as well as on an annual basis. To date with the help of Mrs. Becker, Dr. Kelly, Dr. Corbett, Mrs. Johnson and myself we have met several times reviewing our policies and procedures and in the very near future, the Policy Manual will be in a user friendly mode in BoardDocs. Mr. Moss encouraged the public and staff to visit the website and find out what we're doing, how we govern this organization of Amityville schools and what it's all about.

COMMUNITY INPUT REGARDING NON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Colin Castro, 176 Jefferson Avenue Amityville, NY Regarding Summer School, what are the percentages of failing students right now? Dr. Kelly invited Mr. Castro to make an appointment to come in and discuss all his concerns.

Sydney Martin 45 N. Baldwin Place Massapequa, NY Mr. Martin's question regarding summer school focused on the transportation scenario. If a student only attends one of the two sessions, what do they do for the session they do not participate in? Dr. Kelly's response is that we are still in the stages of finalizing the transportation schedule and routes. Mr. Martin also asked about what time school starts and ends. This is being finalized and communication to parents and guardians will be sent out shortly.

Mr. Martin also addressed the Use of Facilities requests an item #5 the Amityville Lacrosse Club and they are going to be using the HS football field from April 18 to June 30? From 4-6 pm. What happens if there is a track meet or the track team is on the track while lacrosse balls go around? Dr. Kelly assured the audience that the needs of the students supersede any use of the fields from other organizations. We need to use it for our students first and then if the fields are not being used by our students then we allow other people to use them.

Pastor Hayward & Andrea Deloni Made a request of the Board and Dr. Kelly to propose an open forum where the community can ask the questions they have that are prohibited at board meetings. The Bethel Church is more than happy to host the open forum.

Dolores Quintyne 38 Madison Avenue Amityville, NY Ms. Quintyne spoke of issues that returned to the community. Summer school is vital for those who need it really bad. There should be no need to go to summer school in the summertime. They need to have summer off for themselves so they can learn other things and be creative and here they are back in summer school and going out of the district. And why do they have to go someplace else to learn when they can learn right here. So I am just saying please reconsider that of sending them out of the district to go to another place to learn when they can learn right here. The other thing is we have in the NACCP another group called AXSO which deals

Madeline Quintyne
127 Columbus Blvd.
Amityville, NY

academia I never hear our students being Intel to go into any type of academic setting that they can prosper and move up in the world. We need programs so they can move and progress ahead and be productive young people in our community.

Ms. Quintyne supported what her mother just spoke about. I also do not in support of sending out students out of the district where we have very capable teachers that were hired through this board and they should be able to teach our children. I would also like to stress that there needs to be better communication between the board, the administration and the community. Not everybody has access to a computer so there is a need for sending a letter to the community informing them about what's going on. It's hard enough for the parents who try to get here and it looks like if they don't care if they don't come. And it's not true. We look to you to advocate for us the community that is why you were elected to the board. I'm just asking to reach out to the parents and the forum would be a great forum so then we don't get so restricted about what we can and cannot say in this particular forum.

Susan Heenan
2 Matthew Drive
Amityville, NY

Mrs. Heenan thinks the website and information it's wonderful but parents weren't informed. The last time you had done a presentation you talked about the survey and many of our children were being bullied and we only asked them have you been bullied in the past month. And when we did that survey almost close to half of our students in elementary school had said they had been bullied in some form in that period of time. The presentation they talked about the programs they were doing - a program they always have used and was working my opinion if we have one child being bullied in the district there's concern but when you have that many children who state in a survey that they are being bullied, I want to know what you are doing there. Dr. Kelly stated there are a tremendous amount of programs that are being initiated district wide. In terms of the data I think it's really important that we measure the effectiveness of what we are doing. The building administration and faculty and social workers and guidance counselors are also available to provide information and assistance regarding the programs that are specific to each building and certainly your suggestions about communicating updates to the website very well taken. That is something we can do through the building administrators

Beverly Brewster
110 Harrison Avenue
Amityville, NY

Ms. Brewster spoke about the summer school program. I'm still bothered by the fact that they are going out of. Also how soon is the information going to get out to the community regarding this program? One more question if it's a high school student and the parent just says my kid is not going to WW for summer school is there no alternative. Dr. Kelly responded that there are other programs perhaps that are available that parents would have the option to pay for if they wanted to send their children to another program. I don't think that there is that many out there frankly. Ms. Brewster also asked are we going to get updates of whether the program is working or not. Dr. Kelly responded absolutely, that's something that we are constantly evaluating and we will evaluating this program as well.

Cheryl Quintyne Best
4 Delaware Avenue
Amityville

Ms. Best had four questions but it mainly surrounds the Common Core. I'm curious as to know what are the implications or lack of implications as to opt in or opt out. How does it affect my child in terms of promotion? Is there criteria for promotion, are you looking portfolios, are your going to be considering the common core results as well? Are you looking end of year assessment? That's my first question.

Secondly what effect is the common core result going to have the teachers in this district's rating? Are they going to be penalized, how are you going to measure them based on the numbers of students who would have opted out. My third concern is

how are we going to utilize the curriculum that is being used right now, the new common core curriculum, how are we going to use that in terms of future planning if our state results may not really reflect truly what's happening in our district. How is that going to affect instruction in the future? And fourth questions would be how does it effect state funding. Dr. Kelly responded yes, it does not have an effect. In fact if I could just clarify for you the district has a board policy regarding promotion and retention and retention cannot occur in the district unless there is a significantly curricula program in place so what we do here is students are promoted with academic intervention services that are put in place for students who are struggling, who are behind proficiency but even the state has changed the regulations regarding the requirements for students who do not meet the state defined cut score because of the changes that have occurred in the benchmarking of students in the test themselves so there's been a reprieve on that as well. There are a lot of things that are used to evaluate students improving the teacher evaluation benchmarking exams that we have in the district that measure how students are doing in relation to the curriculum other report cards certainly at the elementary level which really rubric based and evaluate a variety of different components of students proficiencies in particular areas for ELA and Math as well as Social Studies, Science, Physical Education and Art.

Bernice Coleman
Lewis
288 Jefferson Avenue
Amityville, NY

Ms. Coleman wants to know what the district's objective to increase diversity of the professional staff to help represent the population of the students.

Dr. Kelly responded we have engaged in a number of initiatives for this purpose. Let me give you a little background first on the diversity of the workforce of our instructional staff approximately 27% of our instructional staff which includes teachers, teaching assistants, and administrators is 27% minority and persons of color and in our non-instructional it's almost 40%. That having been said we definitely are cognizant of the benefits of increasing our diversity in our school district and this year we have become a member of an number organizations. This Saturday for example we are participating in a diverse job fair for the anticipated teaching openings. We are doing this through WSBoces, they was a big advertisement in the New York Times and a number of newspapers locally as well nationally. We are involved with an organization that is diversely recruitment organization and we advertise our jobs and positions. We have reached out to Hispanic colleges and organizations. We send tour job postings as well as to the historical black colleges as well as the local organizations.

Jacqueline Watkins
128 Madison Avenue
Amityville

Ms. Watkins questions that you can't find teachers of minority. We hear about all of the places that you say you go to and you to say there isn't anybody that is ready to teach Mrs. Johnson clarified we did not say we could not find we said that we reached out and that it is something we are going to continue. I think its most important is to have a qualified individuals to be teaching our students and have individuals that can relate to our students and when we have individuals to relate to our students those individuals can be of color but they could also be white as well.

Cheryl Quintyne Best
4 Delaware Avenue
Amityville

Ms. Best stated that she is a certified teacher with a master's in education, lives in Amityville, went to Touro College and the only employment she had in Long Island was an intern as a Teacher's Aide in BOCES. She has applied for jobs several times in this district without the courtesy of a reply. I had two interviews that was it - no reply. Thank you.

Sydney Martin,

Mr. Martin stated that now we heard that 27% of our staff is minority. I have the

45 N. Baldwin Place,
Massapequa

reply to my foil document and I was told that the district does not collect or maintain information on ethnicity. And as Ms. Best stated, my wife who is Hispanic and African American had almost 17 interviews in 2 years, we live in the district. How do you know that a minority applicant has applied when there is nowhere on your application that defines that. Mrs. Johnson replied we don't have on our application the right to ask about the ethnicity of the candidate that's number one. When it comes to saying that we have a certain percentage we have to be careful in terms of self identifying what someone's ethnicity is because I could look at you and say that you are Latino but you may identify yourself as African. We could look at as a board if that is something we want to put on the application and get advice from counsel. Mr. Martin understands that but this 27% heard from Dr. Kelly, how do I trust that 27%? Dr. Kelly shared that every two years we have to report to the civil rights data collection and we have to give an indication to the civil rights data collection organization of what our staff looks like in terms of race and ethnicity and we have to report that our and so the information I am giving to you this evening is based on the most recent report that we submitted to the civil rights data collection. They are required by law.

Mr. Martin referred again to the FOIL report and does not understand the report says the district does not collect or maintain information on ethnicity but you're saying it does.

Andrea Deloney,
52 N. Tunnell Drive,
Amityville

Ms. Deloney state it's refreshing to hear there are new efforts being toward diversity recruitment however I believe a few months back when I attended a board meeting I did request if there was a formal diversity inclusion strategy or policy that the district either already has or is in the process of creating and I just wanted to see if one there is an update to that type of policy sure would answer a lot of the questions that a lot of the people have. Mrs. Johnson thanked Ms. Deloney for the question. To answer your question as a policy committee we are still looking at so to answer your question no we do not have a particular policy related to that yet but it's something we are looking at as a policy committee. Ms. Deloney asked about creating a responsible time frame we can anticipate a formal policy being created because it's one thing to say that you have different strategies and initiatives that are being utilized however come next year when it comes time to hire again or the year after that who's to say that these practices are still going to be implemented when the time comes to hire. And I think that a lot of the community members brought up a great point that first priority is to get qualified candidates and individuals in the seats but then to its important that the taskforce here in the district is reflective of the community we are serving.

Sydney Martin

Mr. Martin asked is it possible for a group of the parents to participate in executive session. Mrs. Johnson explained that unfortunately not tonight because we have a number of items as a board we have to go through and address and cannot accommodate that request tonight. I will ask the board if this is something they would like to do at a future meeting and we can get back to you.

And in addition Mr. Martin spoke of as far as accountability and will you get back to us with answers to the questions we posed this evening. It appears some of the people who spoke tonight still didn't get answers from previous meetings.

Allison Jonas

Ms. Jonas had a suggestion if we have more than one teacher in the classroom that would bring down the failure of the children 27 students for one is too much on that teacher and the children are not getting enough attention.

- Executive Session At 10:04 p.m. a motion to move into Executive Session made by Mr. Moss; seconded by Mrs. Santos, for advice counsel, negotiations and for particular person's employment history and pending litigation. Mr. Moss was appointed Clerk Pro Tem.
- Regular Meeting The Regular meeting of the board resumed at 10:45 p.m.

ADJOURMENT

- Adjournment At 10:46 p.m. there being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned on motion by Mr. Moss; seconded by Mrs. Dodd, and the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Becker, District Clerk