

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Amityville Union Free School District, Amityville, NY 11701
Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School - Auditorium
Regular Session Meeting – June 12, 2024

Draft 08/23/24

To view/listen to the audio of this meeting, please click [here](#)

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by President Lisa Johnson at Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School in Art Room 107.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Lisa Johnson, President
Mrs. Jeannette Santos, 1st Vice President
Ms. Carol Seehof, 2nd Vice President
Mrs. Leslie Kretz, Trustee (arrived shortly after executive session began)
Mr. Juan Leon, Trustee
Mrs. Wendy Canestro, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Gina Talbert, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Joan Lange, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Bridgette Waite, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Ms. Olivia Buatsi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Mr. Carl Fraser, Consultant
Mr. John Sheahan, Esq., Guercio & Guercio (arrived shortly after executive session began)
Mrs. Melissa Durnin, District Clerk

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter to Executive Session at 5:34 p.m. made President Lisa Johnson for advice from counsel regarding a legal complaint as well as any updates from negotiations and particular person's employment history.

Motion to Enter to Executive Session made by Mrs. Santos; seconded by Ms. Seehof

Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Lisa Johnson, President
Mrs. Jeannette Santos, 1st Vice President
Ms. Carol Seehof, 2nd Vice President
Mrs. Leslie Kretz, Trustee (arrived shortly after executive session began)
Mr. Juan Leon, Trustee
Mrs. Wendy Canestro, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Gina Talbert, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Joan Lange, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
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Ms. Olivia Buatsi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Mr. Carl Fraser, Consultant
Mr. John Sheahan, Esq., Guercio & Guercio (arrived shortly after executive session began)

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There was a consensus of the Board of Education to enter the open meeting at 7:34 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Lisa Johnson, President
Mrs. Jeannette Santos, 1st Vice President
Ms. Carol Seehof, 2nd Vice President
Mrs. Leslie Kretz, Trustee
Mr. Juan Leon, Trustee
Mrs. Wendy Canestro, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Gina Talbert, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Joan Lange, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Bridgette Waite, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Ms. Olivia Buatsi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Mr. Carl Fraser, Consultant
Mr. John Sheahan, Esq., Guercio & Guercio
Mrs. Melissa Durnin, District Clerk

A. Emergency Exit, No Smoking Statement

In the unlikely event of an emergency, you need to note that exits are clearly marked. Take a moment to note the exit nearest to where you are seated. *Smoking is not allowed on school grounds. *As a courtesy, please turn off cell phones during the meeting.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

**Dr. Talbert makes an opening statement and introduces Dr. Joan Lange to award students
(See video for all of the recipients)**

C. Presentations

1. Portrait of a Graduate
2. Seal of Biliteracy
3. National French Exam- Le Grand Concours
4. Years of Service Awards/Retirement

D. Community Input Regarding Board Agenda Items Only

- Margaret Shuff
- Debra McQuillan
- Patricia Hobson
- Dr. Sally Thompson
- Caroline Fanning
- Sabba Chunzi (?)

2. Board Action Recommended by the Board of Education

A. Approval of Board Minutes

1. April 10, 2024 - Regular Meeting
2. April 16, 2024 - Special Meeting
3. April 23, 2024 – Special Meeting
4. May 1, 2024 – Work Meeting
5. May 8, 2024 – Regular Meeting
6. May 21, 2024 – Special Meeting (Election)

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7. May 30, 2024 – Special Meeting

Motion to Approve **2A** made by Mrs. Canestro; seconded by Mrs. Kretz

Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No

Motion to rescind **2A** as Trustee Canestro was not a Trustee and was unable to review 2A1-6

Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No

Motion to Approve **2A 1-6** made by Ms. Seehof; seconded by Mrs. Santos

Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No

Motion to approve **2A7** made by Mrs. Canestro; seconded by Mrs. Santos

Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No

B. Board Action Recommended by Board Policy Committee

C. Board Action Recommended by Board of Education

1. Employment Agreement: Durnin, M.

2. Independent Investigation

3. Appointment of Poll Workers

Motion to Approve **3C1-3C3** made by Ms. Seehof; seconded by Mrs. Kretz

Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No

D. Audit Committee

3. Board Action Recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

A. General

1. Consultant Services Agreement- Fraser, C.

Motion to Approve **3A-1** made by Mrs. Canestro; seconded by Ms. Seehof

Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 1 No (Mrs. Canestro)

2. Consultant Services Agreement- Lange, J.

Motion to Approve **3A-1** made by Ms. Seehof; seconded by Mrs. Kretz

Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No

3. Table of Organization Modification – Special Education/PPS

Motion to Approve **3A-3** made by Mrs. Santos; seconded by Mrs. Kretz

Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No

B. Personnel

1. Personnel Action Report

2. Tenure Probationary Extension

3. Probationary Appointment: Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: Stephens, M.

4. Employment Agreement 2023-24: Buatsi, O.

5. Employment Agreement 2023-24: Waite, B.

Motion to Approve **3B1-5** made by Mrs. Kretz; seconded by Mrs. Canestro

Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No

Dr. Talbert acknowledged and congratulated Principal Rose Hutchinson on her tenure, and Ms. Mary Stephens on her appointment as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

C. Business

1. Donations
2. Health Service Contracts Other Schools 2023-2024
3. Budget Transfer
4. Transfer Capital Funds to General Fund
5. Disposal of Fixed Assets
6. Motion to Increase the 2023-2024 Budget
7. Budget Transfer

Motion to Approve **3C1-7** made by Mrs. Santos; seconded by Mrs. Canestro

Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No

D. Finance

1. Treasurer's Report- April 2024

Motion to Accept **3D-1** made by Ms. Seehof; seconded by Mrs. Canestro

Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No

E. Contracts for Special Education Services

1. The Whole Child Academy- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
2. Developmental Disabilities Institute- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
3. Developmental Disabilities Institute- Rider to Service Agreement 2024/2025
4. Health and Safety Connection, LLC- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
5. Martin de Porres- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
6. Sunshine Alternative Education Center- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
7. The Hagedorn Little Village School- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
8. Homecare Therapies/ Horizon Healthcare Staffing- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
9. Homecare Therapies/ Horizon Healthcare Staffing- Non-Hire Clause 2024/2025
10. Health Source Group- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
11. Dr. Donna Geffner- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
12. St. James Tutoring- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
13. Kidz Educational Services- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
14. Kidz Educational Services-Contract Addendum #1 2024/2025
15. NY Therapy- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
16. Positive Behavior Support Consulting- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
17. Syosset Home Tutoring- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
18. Serene Home Nursing Agency- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
19. Brookville Center for Children's Services Inc.- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
20. United Cerebral Palsy of Nassau dba The Children's Learning Center- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
21. Long Island Tutorial Services Inc.- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
22. Christian Nursing Registry Inc.- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
23. Achieve Beyond/ Bilinguals Inc.- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025

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24. Dr. Ochoa, PH. D - Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
25. Da Vinci Education and Research- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
26. Mill Neck Interpreter Services- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
27. Cleary School for the Deaf- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
28. Innovative Tutoring, Inc. - Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
29. All About Kids- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
30. St. Anne Institute- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
31. Bayshore UFSD- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
32. ACP- Early Intervention (previously known as MKSA)- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
33. Metro Therapy, Inc.- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
34. Sensational Development Occupational Development- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
35. SCO Family of Services, Madonna Heights - Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
36. United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Suffolk- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
37. Birch Family Services- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
38. Eden II School/ Genesis Programs- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
39. Henry Viscardi School- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
40. Little Flower UFSD- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025
41. Beverly's Home Healthcare Inc.- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
42. Blue Sea Educational- Consultant Services Contract 2024/2025
43. Judge Rotenberg Center- Special Education Services Contract 2024/2025

Motion to Approve **3E1-43** made by Mrs. Kretz; seconded by Mrs. Canestro

Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No

F. Curriculum and Instruction

1. AMHS ELA/DEI Curriculum Project 2023-2024
2. Digital Literacy Curriculum Project 2023-2024
3. Blue Ribbon Committee Project 2023-2024

Motion to Approve **3F1-3** made by Mrs. Kretz; seconded by Mrs. Canestro

Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No

4. Community Input Regarding Non-Board Agenda Items Only

- Debra McQuillan
- Robert Plaia
- Alexa Perez
- Cale Rivera (?)
- Dina Rosenberg
- Ada Fanning-Holmes
- Jacqueline Stevenson
- Rose Torres

5. Reports

A. Legal Counsel for the District

President Johnson makes a Motion to go back into Executive Session for advice from Counsel regarding negotiation updates at 9:55pm

Motion to Approve enter Executive Session made by Mrs. Seehof; seconded by Mrs. Kretz

Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No

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Ms. Carol Seehof, 2nd Vice President
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Mr. Carl Fraser, Consultant
Mr. John Sheahan, Esq., Guercio & Guercio

B. Superintendent of Schools

C. Board of Education

Motion to Resume Open Meeting at 10:55 PM

Motion to Resume Open Meeting made by Mrs. Seehof; seconded by Mrs. Kretz

Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Lisa Johnson, President
Mrs. Jeannette Santos, 1st Vice President (left after Executive Session)
Ms. Carol Seehof, 2nd Vice President
Mrs. Leslie Kretz, Trustee
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Mrs. Melissa Durnin, District Clerk

6. Adjournment

President Johnson asked for Motion to adjourn Open Meeting at 10:56 PM

Motion to Adjourn Open Meeting made by Ms. Seehof; seconded by Mrs. Canestro

Motion Carries 5 Yes; 0 No (Mrs. Santos left after Executive Session)

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Becker
August 23, 2024