

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Amityville Union Free School District, Amityville, NY 11701**  
**Combined Session Meeting – January 22, 2025**  
**Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School Auditorium**

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Meeting Called to Order by President Johnson at 5:34 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisa Johnson, President  
Carol Seehof, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Megan Messmann, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Wendy Canestro, Trustee  
Caroline Fanning, Trustee  
Leslie Kretz, Trustee remove she was on time  
Christopher Nehring, Trustee

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Gina Talbert, Superintendent of Schools  
Mary Stephens, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Olivia Buatsi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Dr. Bridgette Waite, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
John Sheahan, Esq., Guercio & Guercio, LLP  
Lynn Larson, District Clerk

Motion to Adjourn Open Session to enter to Executive Session at 5:36 PM for advice from Legal Counsel and discussion employment history of particular person(s). M. Messmann; seconded W. Canestro 7-0

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisa Johnson, President  
Carol Seehof, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Megan Messmann, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Wendy Canestro, Trustee  
Caroline Fanning, Trustee  
Leslie Kretz, Trustee  
Christopher Nehring, Trustee

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Gina Talbert, Superintendent of Schools  
Mary Stephens, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Olivia Buatsi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Dr. Bridgette Waite, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
John Sheahan, Esq., Guercio & Guercio, LLP

Consensus of the Board to reconvene Open Session at at 7:39 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisa Johnson, President  
Carol Seehof, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Megan Messmann, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Wendy Canestro, Trustee  
Caroline Fanning, Trustee  
Leslie Kretz, Trustee  
Christopher Nehring, Trustee

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Gina Talbert, Superintendent of Schools  
Mary Stephens, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
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John Sheahan, Esq., Guercio & Guercio, LLP  
Lynn Larson, District Clerk

**COMMUNITY:** 20 in person

- A. The Emergency Exit/No Smoking Statement Read**
- B. The Board of Education led the Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance**
  
- C. Presentation(s)**
- D. Community Input Regarding Board Agenda Items Only

### **2. Board Action Recommended by the Board of Education (7:40 PM)**

#### **A. Approval of Board Minutes**

- 1. Draft #1 - December 3, 2024 - Special Meeting
- 2. Draft #1 - December 4, 2024 - Special Meeting
- 3. Draft #1 - December 11, 2024 - Combined Monthly Meeting
- 4. Draft #1 - December 19, 2024 - Special Meeting

Motion to Approve Agenda Items 2A-1 through 2A-4 made by C. Nehring; seconded W. Canestro  
Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

#### **B. Board Action Recommended by the Board Policy Committee**

Will be provided to Legal team at next board meeting.

### **3. Board Action Recommended by the Superintendent of Schools**

#### **A. General**

##### **1. 2025-2026 Academic Calendar**

Motion to amend Agenda Item 3A1 to amend emergency school closings to April 2, 2026; April 10, 2026, and May 22, 2026 made by C. Nehring; seconded W. Canestro

Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

#### **B. Personnel**

- 1. Resolution (PEL): Teaching Assistant - Romanelli, Amanda

Motion to Approve Agenda Item 3B1 made by C. Fanning; seconded W. Canestro

Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

- 2. Tenure Recommended: Literacy Teacher / EWMMS - McGlynn, Margaret
- 3. Tenure Recommended: Teacher Assistant / NE - Khan, Sabiha

Motion to Approve Agenda Item 3B2 through 3B3 made by M. Messmann; seconded C. Seehof

Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

- 4. Appointment: Probationary Family And Consumer Science (FACS) Teacher - Gordon, Andrew
- 5. Appointment: Permanent Substitute Teacher- Melendez-Diaz, Katherine
- 6. Appointment: Permanent Substitute Teacher- Priesman, Joshua

Motion to Approve Agenda Item 3B4 through 3B6 made by C. Nehring; seconded L. Kretz

Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

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7. Appointment: Home Instruction Coordinator - Cohn, Charles – See Video for Discussion (7:55PM)

Motion to Approve Agenda Item 3B7 made by C. Nehring; seconded C. Seehof

Motion Carries: 7 Yes, 0 No

8. Appointment: ENL Teacher Leave Replacement - D'Antonio, Joanna
9. Appointment: Elementary Teacher Leave Replacement - Blando, Luigina
10. Additional Assignment: Assistant Drama Club Advisor - Valenti, Tiffany
11. Additional Assignment: Assistant Drama Club Advisor - Valenti, Tiffany
12. Additional Assignment: HS Pit Band Director - McGlone, Brendan
13. Additional Assignment: Athletic Supervisor - Fallot, Ryan
14. Additional Assignment: Athletic Supervisor - Fallot, Patrick
15. Resignation: Teaching Assistant - Longwell, Danielle
16. Resignation: Permanent Sub Teacher - Riccio, Annalise
17. Retirement: Teaching Assistant - Davis, Anther

Motion to Approve Agenda Item 3B8 through 3B17 made by W. Canestro; seconded M. Messmann

Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

18. Retirement: Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources - Dr. Waite, Bridgette

Motion to Approve Agenda Item 3B18 made by C Nehring; seconded . Seehof

Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

19. FMLA: Math Teacher - Fallot, Ryan
20. FMLA: Special Ed Teacher - Arrington, Sherefer
21. Probationary Appointment: Office Assistant - Ullmann, Alexis
22. Appointment: Monitor - Bidetti, Carolann
23. Appointment: Monitor - Patterson, Adrienne
24. Appointment: Food Service Worker 5.0 Hour - Dominguez Tazarez, Johanan
25. Appointment: Substitute Office Assistant - Wills-Miller, Tresha
26. Appointment: Substitute Office Assistant - Phillipotts, Cynthia
27. Resignation: Monitor - Dickens-Walker, Lance
28. Appointment: Substitute Monitor - Dickens-Walker, Lance
29. Appointment: Substitute Custodian - Smith, Joseph
30. Appointment: Substitute Custodian - Napolitano, Michael
31. Resignation: Food Service Worker 7.0 - Posy, Rubina
32. Resignation: Bus Monitor - Miller, Patricia
33. FMLA: Cook - DeVecchis, Juliane

Motion to Approve Agenda Item 3B19-3B33 made by C. Seehof; seconded M. Messmann

Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

34. Appointment: Instructional Position - Palmer, Maria

Motion to Amend Agenda to Add Agenda Item 3B34 made by W. Canestro; seconded C. Nehring

Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

Motion to Approve Agenda Item 3B34 made by C. Seehof; seconded M. Messmann

Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

35. FMLA: Special Ed Teacher - Trotman, Jennifer

Motion to Amend Agenda to Add Agenda Item 3B35 made by W. Canestro; seconded C. Nehring  
Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

Motion to Approve Agenda Item 3B35 made by M. Messmann; seconded by C. Seehof  
Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

**C. Business** (9:20 PM)

1. Donations – No Discussion

Motion to Approve Agenda Item 3C1 made by C. Nehring; seconded W. Canestro  
Motion Carries: 7 Yes, 0 No

2. Corrective Action Plan (CAP) – See Video for Discussion (8:05 PM)

Motion to Approve Agenda Item 3C2 made by W. Canestro; seconded W. Canestro  
Motion Carries: 7 Yes, 0 No

3. Budget Transfers – See Video for Discussion (8:21 PM)

Motion to Approve Agenda Item 3C3 made by W. Canestro; seconded C. Nehring  
Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

4. Revised 2024-2025 District-Wide Safety and Emergency Response Plan – See Video for Discussion (8:25 PM)

Motion to Approved Agenda Item 3C4 made by C. Nehring; seconded W. Canestro  
Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

**D. Finance**

1. Treasurer’s Report – See Video for Discussion (8:29 PM)

Motion to Approve Agenda Item 3D-1 made by C. Nehring; seconded C. Seehof  
Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

**E. Contracts for PPS & Special Education Services**

1. Ascent School – Special Education Contract 2024-2025

2. Seaford UFSD – Special Education Contract 2024-2025

Motion to Approve Agenda Items E1-E2 made by C. Nehring; seconded W. Canestro  
Motion Carries: 7 Yes; 0 No

**F. Curriculum and Instruction**

4. **Old Business** – See Video for Discussion (8:38 PM)

5. **New Business** – See Video for Discussion (9:05 PM)

Motion to Approve travel costs for Cheerleaders to State Competition

Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 1 No Wendy Canestro; 1 Abstain Caroline Fanning

6. **Community Input Regarding Non-Board Agenda Items Only**

- Jessica Adams
- Monique Cox
- Donnell Cronin
- Rev. Saba Mchunguzi
- Nakia Wolfe

7. **Reports**

- A. Legal Counsel for the District – No report
- B. Superintendent of Schools Community Forum Highlights (9:22 PM)
- C. Board of Education – No report

8. **Adjournment:**

**Motion to Adjourn at 10:20 PM** made by C. Seehof; seconded C. Nehring

**Motion Carries:** 7 Yes; 0 No

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Larson

**BOE APPROVED: 02/26/25**