

Approved  
6/12/2013

**Board of Education**  
**Amityville Union Free School District**  
**Amityville, NY 11701**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes- February 13, 2013**  
**Park Avenue Elementary School - Auditorium - 7:00 PM**

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**LOCATION:** Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School - Auditorium

**IN ATTENDANCE:** President Juliet Jordon-Thompson     Vice President Lisa Johnson  
Trustee Nathan King     2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ron Moss  
Trustee Jeannette Santos

**BOE ABSENT:** Trustee Mark Epps  
Trustee Michele Sikhrangkur

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. John R. Williams, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Kathleen Gulbin – Asst. Supt. Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. William Fanning-Interim Asst. Supt. Finance & Operations  
Dr. Mary Kelly-Asst Supt. Technology  
Mr. Gary Steffanetta, Esq. Guercio & Guercio  
Ms. Nancy Hark, Esq., - Guercio & Guercio

**ABSENT:** Dr. Stephen Neidell-Interim Asst. Supt. Human Resources

**CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION:** Ms. Fran Fernandez, Director of Fine Arts  
Mr. Michael Fusaro, Director of Science  
Mr. Claude Irwin, Director of Mathematics  
Mr. Daniel Noviello-Director Social Studies  
Ms. Dana Musso, Director of English  
Ms. Elizabeth Reviez, Director ESL  
Mr. Peter Paternostro, Administrator - Pupil Personnel Services  
Mr. Robert Claps, President - ATA  
Mr. Ed Mercurio-Plant Facilities Administrator

**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION:** Mrs. Pauline Collins, Principal, N.E. Elementary School  
Mr. Scott Bullis, Principal PAMES  
Ms. Rose Hutcherson, Asst. Principal, PAMES  
Dr. Mary DeRose, Principal-AMHS  
Dr. Shirley Martin, Interim Principal – NW Elementary School  
Mr. Ted Tsirigotis, Asst. Principal-EWMMS

**CLERK IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs. Judith O'Neill/District Clerk

**COMMUNITY:** 20 members present

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** by Vice President Johnson at 7:02 PM.

**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 are you are seated. \*Smoking is not allowed on school grounds. \*As a courtesy, please turn off cell phones and pagers during the meeting.*

**B. Pledge of Allegiance** The Board and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Community Input Regarding Board Agenda Items Only** - None

**D. PRESENTATIONS:**

The Amityville High School Interact Club performed for the Board and attendees under the direction of Mrs. King and Mrs. Carlucci. There will be a full performance on Friday afternoon, February 15, at 1:00 PM. The performance will be about Black History from the days of slavery to what is happening today.

Dana Musso, Director of English Language Arts Department – Ms. Musso gave a presentation of the English Language Arts Department. A video depicting the students at work was also shown. – *See Attachment #1.*

*Trustee Sikhrangkur arrived at 7:45 PM.*

Dr. Mary DeRose, Interim AMHS Principal – Dr. DeRose said that it is important to provide staffing for remedial programs as well as regular programs. Board support for staffing is important during this budget time.

Trustee King asked about the concept of a flipped classroom. Dr. Williams responded that in traditional learning in a regular classroom the teacher introduces concepts and does most of the teaching and homework is assigned. The students go home and drill and practice on the instruction they got in school. A flipped classroom is the opposite. The students read to learn and draw the learning out in home assignments from the texts and the classroom becomes the drill. In class, the teacher focuses on how well they learned at home and responds to any questions they may have.

Fran Fernandez presented awards to students for their art work which was displayed in Albany.

Dr. William Fanning gave a presentation of the early stage of the budget process. Dr. Fanning said that every year the budget process gets more difficult due to cuts in State aid and he would do everything in his power to protect the programs that presently exist. It is important to have an undesignated fund balance but districts will eventually not have them. The amount of money going out exceeds the amount coming in. Expenses always go up. *See Attachment #2.*

*Trustee Epps arrived at 8:20 PM.*

Vice President Johnson asked Dr. Fanning about selling some of the land at Northeast and Northwest. Dr. Fanning said some land could be sold but it would require a Board Resolution. Trustee Sikhrangkur said that all the land at Northeast and Northwest is landlocked. Homes and school buildings surround the land.

Mr. Steffanetta commented that the Commissioner requires certain lot sizes based on the population of the school. It would also require a Board resolution and a public referendum. Also, a title search must be conducted.

President Jordon-Thompson noted that the Board wants the community to know that every attempt will be made to protect the education of the children. Dr. Fanning said that in the current year's budget, the salary appropriation is less than the salary appropriation for the prior year. Vice President Johnson asked Dr. Fanning to provide a salary breakdown of District employees to help the Board

with the decisions on the budget. Dr. Fanning responded that he has always provided that information and will do it again.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS:**

Jackie Allen said that it was a good idea for teachers to be involved in the budget decision making process.

Dr. Williams announced that due to the efforts of Michele Darby and Debbie Charles, Amityville School District has been invited to assist in establishing the science lab in the new Science Building at Farmingdale State College. Last year, Farmingdale paid for our students to commute to Brookhaven National Lab. Dr. Veronica Henry created a lab to facilitate our needs much closer to home so that students would no longer have to commute to Brookhaven to fulfill state mandated labs.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:** None

**2. BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

A. **Approval of Board Minutes** – None

B. **Board Policy Committee** - None

C. **Board Action Recommended by Board of Education:**

1. Adoption of Mission Statement and Goals

**MOTION to APPROVE** Agenda Item 2C-1 made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Discussion:** Floor opened for discussion. **Motion CARRIED:** 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

D. **Audit Committee** – None

**3. BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT**

A. **Superintendent** – None

B. **Personnel:**

1. Resignation for Retirement: Reading Teacher/PA – Weis, E.
2. Resignation: Teaching Assistant/PS – Schwarz, J.
3. Probationary Appointment: Teaching Assistant/PA – Replak, J.
4. Leave Replacement Appointment: Guidance Counselor/PA – Somberg, E.
5. Appointment: After School Test Prep Teacher/PA – Sleezer, L.
6. Appointment: After School Test Prep Teacher/PA – O’Connor, P.
7. Appointment: After School Test Prep Teacher/PA - Roddin, L.
8. Appointment: After School Test Prep Teacher/PA – Colavito, J.
9. Appointment: After School Test Prep Teacher/PA – Graham, D.
10. Appointment: After School Test Prep Teacher/PA – Thorn, K.
11. Appointment: After School Test Prep Teacher/PA – Stein, A.
12. Appointment: After School Test Prep Teacher/NW – Finizio, N.
13. Appointment: After School Test Prep Teacher/NW – Naso, K.
14. Appointment: 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC HW/Club Advisor – Cunningham, B.
15. Appointment: 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC HW/Club Advisor – Persaud, A.
16. Appointment: 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC HW/Club Advisor – Ross, D.
17. Intentionally Left Blank

**3. BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**B. Personnel (cont'd):**

18. Appointment: Spring Coach – V Baseball – Roth, C.
19. Appointment: Spring Coach – Asst V Baseball – Western, I.
20. Appointment: Spring Coach – JV Baseball – Cardone, P.
21. Appointment: Spring Coach – Volunteer Baseball – Greiss, M.

**MOTION to APPROVE** Agenda Items 3B-1 through 3B-21 made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Discussion:** Trustee Sikhrangkur asked if there would be a conflict between the appointments for 3B-19 and 3B-62. Dr. Williams responded no. **Motion CARRIED:** 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

22. Appointment: Spring Coach – MS Baseball – Zider, J.
23. Appointment: Spring Coach – JV Softball – Pesale, T.
24. Appointment: Spring Coach – JV Softball – Western, B.
25. Appointment: Spring Coach – JV Softball – Volkomer, K.
26. Appointment: Spring Coach – MS Softball – Napoli, J.
27. Appointment: Spring Coach – JV Boys Tennis – Pellegrino, R.
28. Appointment: Spring Coach – V Boys Track – Hawkins, R.
29. Appointment: Spring Coach – Asst V Boys Track – Pollock, D.
30. Appointment: Spring Coach – MS Boys Track – Miller, M.
31. Appointment: Spring Coach – V Girls Track – Duguay, P.
32. Appointment: Spring Coach – Asst V Girls Track – Mosley, S.
33. Appointment: Spring Coach – MS Girls Track – Graham, D.
34. Appointment: Spring Coach – Head Special Olympics – Karafantis, G.
35. Appointment: Spring Coach – Asst Special Olympics – Hovorka, A.
36. Appointment: Intramural Coach – Hovorka, A.
37. Appointment: Intramural Coach – Karafantis, G.
38. Appointment: Athletic Supervisor – Pellegrino, R.
39. Appointment: Athletic Supervisor – Clymer, B.
40. Appointment: Athletic Supervisor – Lorenzana, A.
41. Appointment: Athletic Supervisor – Surlin, J.
42. Appointment: Substitute Teacher/Art – Robinson, L.
43. Appointment: Substitute Teacher/Art – Garofalo, C.
44. Appointment: Substitute Teacher/Physical Ed – MacConnell, B.
45. Appointment: Substitute Teacher/Child Ed 1-6 – Koretsky, M.
46. Appointment: Substitute Teacher/English 7-12 – Byrnes, N.
47. Appointment: Substitute Teacher/Social Studies 7-12 – Floam, S.
48. Appointment: Substitute Teacher/Chemistry 7-12 – Lemire, J.
49. Appointment: Substitute Teacher/Students w/dis 7-12 – Cinelli, A.
50. Appointment: Substitute Teacher/Math 7-12 – Melia, K.
51. Appointment: Substitute TA – Cinelli, A.
52. Appointment: Substitute Clerk/Typist – Spero, J.
53. Appointment: After School Test Prep Teacher/MS – Allen, E.R.
54. Appointment: After School Test Prep Teacher/MS – Riordan, K.
55. Appointment: After School Test Prep Teacher/MS – Valla, L.

**3. BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**B. Personnel (cont'd):**

56. Appointment: After School Test Prep Teacher/MS – Przech, U.
57. Intentionally Left Blank
58. Intentionally Left Blank
59. Appointment: Athletic Supervisor – Church, D.
60. Appointment: Athletic Supervisor – Asbell, G.
61. Appointment: Part Time ESL Teacher/MS/NW – Fiore, L.
62. Appointment: Intramural Coach – Western, I.
63. Appointment: Special Education 1:1 Aide/NE – Lopez, M.
64. Appointment: Substitute Special Education 1:1 Aide – Coghiel, D.
65. Appointment: Substitute Special Education 1:1 Aide – King, S.
66. Appointment: Athletic Supervisor – Clymer, B.
67. Appointment: Athletic Supervisor – Pellegrino, R.
68. Appointment: 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC/HW/Club Advisor – Skaliotis, X.
69. Appointment: 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC/Special Ed 1:1 Aide – Carpenter, T.
70. Appointment: Intramural Coach – Drost, A.
71. Appointment: RCT/Regents Prep/Mathematics/HS – Pfaffe, L.
72. Appointment: Activity Advisor/PA – Thorn, K.

**MOTION to APPROVE** Agenda Items 3B-22 through 3B-72 made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Discussion:** Trustee Epps questioned the need for three coaches for JV Softball Team. Mr. Cardone said that we have two teams. One person coaches one team and two people coach the other team and split the salary. **Motion CARRIED:** 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**C. Business and Finance:**

1. Budget Transfers – Items 1 through 3
2. Fund Raising – Items 1 through 6
3. Use of Facilities – Items 1 through 6
4. Health Service Contracts – Other Schools Items 1 through 4
5. Motion to Accept Grant from Health Net
6. Motion to Dispose of Fixed Assets – School Lunch
7. Motion to Accept Donated Supplies and Materials
8. Award of Contract for Athletic Trainer

**MOTION to APPROVE** Agenda Items 3C-1 through 3C-8 made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Discussion:** Trustee King questioned 3C-3/5. Dr. Fanning said that he had been unable to obtain clarification that had been requested at last week's meeting. Trustee Moss pulled his motion and Trustee Santos pulled her second.

**MOTION to APPROVE** Agenda Items 3C-3/1 through 3C-3/4 made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Motion CARRIED:** 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**MOTION to PULL** Agenda Item 3C-3/5 made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Motion CARRIED:** 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**MOTION to APPROVE** Agenda Item 3C-3/6 made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Motion CARRIED:** 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**MOTION to APPROVE** Agenda Items 3C-4 through 3C-8 made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Discussion:** Dr. Fanning said that he recommends that the Board approve Agenda Item 3C-8. **Motion CARRIED:** 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**D. Monthly Finance Report:**

1. November, 2012

**MOTION to APPROVE** Agenda Item 3D-1 made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Discussion:** Floor opened for discussion. **Motion CARRIED:** 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**E. CSE & CPSE Action/Meetings/Educational Service Contracts** - None

**F. Curriculum and Instruction**

1. Approval of Conferences – Items 1 through 11

**MOTION to APPROVE** Agenda Item 3F-1 through 3F-11 made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Discussion:** Floor opened for discussion. **Motion CARRIED:** 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**5. REPORTS**

**A. Legal Counsel for the District** – Mr. Steffanetta will report in Executive Session.

**B. Superintendent of Schools** – Dr. Williams acknowledged three coaches and their teams:

Reynolds Hawkins – Boys Varsity Track Team

Jack Agostino – Boys Varsity Basketball Team – They are #1 on Long Island.

Woody Cromarty - Wrestling Team - They had a good season.

Congratulations to Dr. Mary DeRose, Interim Amityville High School Principal – Dr. DeRose was named Western Suffolk Counselors' Association Administrator of the year.

President Jordon-Thompson noted that at last week's meeting, parents had expressed some of their concerns. Dr. Williams had responded and had also spoken to the Amityville Record. Some of his responses were in today's edition. (*See Attachment #3*). Dr. Williams said that one of the parents had suggested we needed to copy the type of communication done in another school district where there was a message sent home closing school due to inclement weather. Dr. Williams responded that a message on the cancellation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Program posted on the district website the day before not the day of the storm. In addition, all parents received written notification of the cancellation the day before as well as a phone message. There was also a suggestion that parents were not canvassed in obtaining emergency contact information. All principals confirmed that emergency contact forms are sent to all parents in August in their back to school welcome packets. The information is then verified at the beginning of the school year. Each school updates emergency contact information throughout the year. Email addresses can be provided on the district registration form. The only building that collects that information is the Middle School. All principals indicated that they would amend their form for parents to provide their e mail addresses. Principals were also interested in using the email verification form which contains all information on file in the system and provides the opportunity for parents to provide email addresses and request changes as necessary. This would provide district wide consistency for parents and for staff. There was also mention of the speakers at Northwest. The speakers are working correctly and they were last Wednesday when this issue came up and all technical issues with the system have been resolved at this time. Another issue raised was about the registration process and Mr. Paternostro has reported to us that the fliers for last year's pre k and kindergarten registration were sent out in both Spanish and English. It is posted in many area locations and it is also posted on the district web site as registration date approaches. In many neighboring districts, parents must have an appointment to register. We also have open registration in all school buildings every day of the week all year long all summer long. Registration is only closed when the district is closed. The April 1 private school transportation date is separate from the registration process. Pre-k and kindergarten registration dates

in the past were held in February and March. The turnout was poor due to weather conditions. Our pre-k registration is on May 2 and May 3 and we expect a successful turnout.

President Jordon-Thompson invited the public to speak on non agenda items.

Mr. Robert Claps, ATA President – Mr. Claps spoke about the increased class sizes as a result of loss of teachers over the years. The teachers have been doing their part in keeping costs down Programs would be more effective if the class sizes were smaller. He also requested that an additional restroom for the teachers at northwest be included in the budget next year. He also wanted to know what amount was budgeted for attorneys and legal costs.

President Jordon-Thompson commented that this was the second preliminary presentation of the budget and the Board was mindful of his concerns.

Mr. Ed Mercurio, Plant Facilities Manager – Mr. Mercurio recognized the hard work of some of his crew who worked tirelessly on Saturday and Sunday to clean up following the significant snow storm.

**C. Board of Education** – None

President Jordon-Thompson appointed Trustee Sikhrangkur as District Clerk Pro Tem.

**MOTION to RECESS** to Executive Session at 9:36 PM for advice from Counsel, negotiations with CSEA and particular person made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Moss, seconded by Trustee Santos. **Motion CARRIED:** 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

*Judith O’Neill left at 9:40 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Judith O’Neill, District Clerk

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** called to order at 9:45 PM by President Jordon-Thompson.

**LOCATION:** Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School - Auditorium

**IN ATTENDANCE:** President Juliet Jordon-Thompson Vice President Lisa Johnson  
Trustee Nathan King 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ron Moss  
Trustee Jeannette Santos Trustee Mark Epps  
Trustee Michele Sikhrangkur

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. John R. Williams, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Kathleen Gulbin – Asst. Supt. Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. William Fanning-Interim Asst. Supt. Finance & Operations  
Dr. Mary Kelly-Asst Supt. Technology  
Mr. Gary Steffanetta, Esq. Guercio & Guercio  
Ms. Nancy Hark, Esq., - Guercio & Guercio

**ABSENT:** Dr. Stephen Neidell-Interim Asst. Supt. Human Resources

**ACTION TAKEN:** 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michele Sikhrangkur, District Clerk Pro Tem

