

(275)

NOT BOARD APPROVED

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting – March 22, 2011
Executive Session/Riley Avenue Elementary School Library
Public Session/Riley Avenue Elementary School Cafetorium

PRESENT: President, Mrs. Ann Cotten-DeGrasse; Vice President, Mr. Gregory Meyer; Mrs. Kathleen Berezny; Ms. Angela DeVito; and, Mrs. Amelia Lantz.

LATE: Messrs. Jeffrey Falisi and Timothy Griffing.

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Nancy Carney, Dr. Lois Etzel, Mr. Joseph Ogeka, Jr., and Mr. Joseph Singleton.

Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Call to Order

A motion was made by Mrs. Berezny, seconded by Mrs. Lantz, to recess to executive session to discuss personnel.

Recess to
Executive Session

Yes 5 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education recessed to executive session at 5:41 p.m.

Mr. Falisi arrived at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Griffing arrived at 6:45 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Falisi, seconded by Mr. Meyer, to return to open session.

Return to
Open Session

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:03 p.m.

A brief recess followed.

The meeting resumed at 7:10 p.m.

There were about 25 other people in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara O’Kula.

A motion was made by Mr. Falisi, seconded by Mr. Griffing, to accept the agenda as published.

Acceptance of Agenda
-Approved

(276)

NOT BOARD APPROVED

Minutes
Board of Education
March 22, 2011
Page 2

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

There were no comments made by the community related to Agenda topics only.

Community Comments

A motion was made by Mrs. Berezny, seconded by Mr. Griffing, to approve the following:

Consent Agenda

Financial

-Financial

Month of January 2011

Fund	Check Numbers	Amount
General Fund	37167-37534	\$4,975,895.87
Capital Fund	2204-2208	182,407.53
Federal Funds	9707-9736	140,975.76
Cafeteria	9133-9165	56,819.46
Extraclassroom	5143-5175	13,212.26

Committee on Special Education

-Committee on
Special Education

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District accepts the following recommendations of the Committee on Special Education regarding children with disabilities and whose Individualized Education Plans need to be implemented:

<u>C.S.E. MEETING</u>	<u>STUDENT NUMBERS</u>
10/20/10	218605
11/30/10	220186
11/16/10	214027, 215356
12/06/10	217619
12/09/10	208139, 212583
12/14/10	219510
12/14/10	214082, 216137
12/21/10	223431
01/03/11	223444, 221029
01/06/11	223569, 220441
01/11/11	215631, 216493, 214081, 215509
01/18/11	220698, 222187, 221160, 223106, 222244, 219173
01/25/11	222599, 223183, 223369
01/26/11	216362, 217205, 216647

NOT BOARD APPROVED

Minutes
Board of Education
March 22, 2011
Page 3

01/28/11	212018, 213593, 214028, 214127, 210414, 210726, 212550, 211407, 212844, 211495, 215010
01/31/11	215356, 209770
02/01/11	212370, 213206, 214445, 211192
02/03/11	214081
02/17/11	213194
02/18/11	223283, 219039
03/01/11	220413
11/12/10	999990043, 999990042
11/12/10	211775
01/11/11	999990072
01/14/11	999990055
02/07/11	999990044
02/07/11	999990087

<u>C.P.S.E. MEETINGS</u>	<u>STUDENT NUMBERS</u>
12/15/10	225198, 224418
01/06/11	224378, 224428, 224157, 224348
01/26/11	224195
02/09/11	224155, 224360, 224252, 224185, 224176, 224258, 224448, 224004, 224033
02/16/11	226016, 224126, 224331, 225273, 224384, 225161, 225268, 225270, 225269, 224444
02/28/11	225022, 224052

Personnel

-Personnel
-All Approved

RESOLVED, that on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following Professional Personnel recommendations be approved per Supplemental File Personnel Report and are subject to Board Policy #9310:

(AS PER THE ATTACHED SHEETS)

RESOLVED, that on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following Civil Service Personnel recommendations be approved per Supplemental File Personnel Report and are subject to Board Policy #9310:

(AS PER THE ATTACHED SHEETS)

(278)

Minutes
Board of Education
March 22, 2011
Page 4

NOT BOARD APPROVED

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lantz, seconded by Mr. Meyer, to approve the following resolution:

Approval of Letter of Engagement

-R.S. Abrams & Co.
-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the letter of engagement with R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP for services to prepare for the closing of the district's books and to prepare the financial statements for the 2010-2011 fiscal year at a total cost of \$28,300; and, authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign such letter of engagement.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Falisi, seconded by Mrs. Berezny, to approve the following resolution:

Approval to Refund Donation

-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District hereby agrees to refund the donation from the RHS Softball Booster Club in the amount of \$1,290 which was to be applied towards the Softball team's trip to Queensbury, New York on March 18-20, 2011, due to cancellation of trip.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Griffing, seconded by Mr. Falisi, to approve the following resolutions:

Acceptance of Donations
-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District hereby accepts the donation from Wal-Mart in Riverhead of school supplies at an estimated value of \$600 for Roanoke Avenue School.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District hereby accepts the donation from Wal-Mart in Riverhead of school supplies at an estimated value of \$500 for Riverhead High School.

NOT BOARD APPROVED

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District hereby accepts the donation from Wal-Mart in Riverhead of school supplies at an estimated value of \$600 for Pulaski Street School.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

The following are approved contracts under \$100,000 signed by the Superintendent

Approved Contracts under \$100,000 signed by Superintendent

Horizon Health Care	Nursing/Therapy Special Education	\$10,000.00
Uniondale SD	Health Services - Kellenburg HS	\$ 1,575.00
Westbrook Academy	Tuition Special Education	\$ 8,000.00
East Islip SD	Health Services – St. Mary’s School	\$ 653.24
West Islip SD	Health Services – St. John the Baptist/ Lady of Lourdes	\$ 875.00

Adult Education Vendors

Manning Dandridge	Line Dance Instruction Fall	\$ 305.40
Renee Pino	Zumba Instruction	\$ 610.80
Mark Hobson	German Instruction	\$ 305.40
Dennis Wayne	Song Writing	\$ 325.76
Manning Dandridge	Line Dance Instruction Spring	\$ 305.40

Ms. Carney commented on the following:

Opportunity for Superintendent

- on March 10th, Ms. Lorene Custer and the Middle School Latin Club held their Annual Roman Banquet. Over 125 students participated in this annual event. This year’s play was entitled, “The Gift That Keeps on Giving” to the pleasure of a packed house.
- on March 11th, the Riverhead Free Library hosted the annual Riverhead High School Teen Art Show dedicated to the memory of Art teacher, Vinny Nasta.
- on March 12th, the Riley Avenue Drama Club, under the direction of James Schaefer, presented *Cinderella* to a packed audience.
- as part of the Race To The Top education funding, the district has offered presentations of the standards in ELA and Math to the teachers in preparation for implementation in September of the NYS Common Core Learning Standards.

Some upcoming events are:

- Pulaski Street School Science Fair on March 24
- Riverhead High School Blue Masques production of "Once Upon A Mattress" in the Charles Cardona Auditorium at the High School on April 2, 8 and 9. There will be a Sunday matinee on April 3rd.
- Robert "Bubby" Brown, community member, will be the next speaker to our 4th grade students as part of our *Community Role Models* series on March 24th in the High School Auditorium.
- on April 30, the RCFA sponsored 5K Run Walk fundraiser starting at the Middle School

Ms. Carney then proceeded to give an overview of the 2011-2012 preliminary budget. It is a very challenging time for school districts moving forward and the following is where we are in such a difficult situation. Due to the financial situation of the state and with losses in state aid, the mandated pension contributions to ERS and TRS have gone up significantly. It is projected that it will take us until 2013 to make up the losses. Our current pension cost increase amounts to \$2,126,928 or a 39% increase. This alone will increase our tax levy 5.7% before any other current contractual or mandated increases which could add another 2.55% to the tax levy. The preliminary budget (draft) for 2011-2012 is \$110,345,610 or a 1.96% spending increase from the 2010-2011 budget of \$108,237,909. This figure reflects almost \$4 million in reductions. Without the mandated increases in ERS and TRS, the preliminary draft budget would be a negative -.01%. The budget reflects 38 full time staff reductions and 8 part time staff reductions throughout the departments/buildings and results in slight increases in class sizes. While Ms. Carney noted that this is the smallest increase we have had in many years, the tax levy is still significant. If the district had to go on a contingency budget, it would be at 1.92% which represents a tax levy of 5.89%. The difference would be in state mandated contingency reductions of instructional/non-instructional equipment, community use of facilities (would have to charge), decrease in student supplies, and no building improvements, except for safety items. This is a very challenging time to prepare a budget and the situation will continue through the years knowing that a tax cap is coming and knowing that New York State is in dire finances. We need to think wisely...be creative...share services...and provide for our students.

*Preliminary 2011-2012
Budget Presentation*

Some questions raised include:

-What is the guaranteed rate of return on pensions (ERS and TRS)? (Per Mr. Singleton: They were estimated at 8% for the last few years. They have lost money on their average rate of return for the last several years . Last year they made about 12% on return...the income from their investments paid approximately 82% of the cost of all pensions. He does not believe there is a guaranteed rate of return except on mortgages and fixed loans.)

-We are making up the difference because the people who oversee the investments did a poor job. This is an unfunded mandate that happens when politicians and unions get together and pass the costs on to the taxpayers.

-If the preliminary 2011-2012 draft budget includes \$3,440,000 from the estimated fund balance...where does that money come from next year? At the present time, we have about \$4 million unallocated, unassigned funds...of that \$4 million, about \$3.4 million will go to next year's budget. It has a way of compounding itself and is a "double edge" sword. We hope that next year we can find a way to make up the difference.

-Have we taken gas prices into consideration for transportation next year? (Per Mr. Singleton: Estimated at \$3.75 per gallon).

-A fund balance is needed for unexpected occurrences...it is very good business to keep an unallocated fund balance at about \$4 million.

-What per cent of our budget is for unfunded mandates? (Mr. Singleton responded: Has no real answer. However, between state, local, and federal mandates...would estimate it to be 30-40% of the budget without any study.)

-The CPR Committee is working very hard – if the bond is passed but the budget is not and we go on contingency, would that stop us from revitalizing our facilities? (Per Ms. Carney: The bond is separate for capital improvements. It would not be part of the contingency budget.)

-If the tax cap legislation goes through as is being proposed, next year we will be required to have a 2% levy unless the majority of voters approve to override...2% means continuous deductions in the budget.

-Concern on the size of combined Middle School sports teams to which there is no definite resolution at this time.

Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse informed the public that the Board has asked Ms. Carney to give the budget presentations over and over again so that the community can fully understand it.

Mr. David Enos, Principal at the Riley Avenue Elementary School, gave a Power Point presentation on programs and how next year's budget will effect their school. There is a steady growth of enrollment at Riley. Just today, two new students were added to the current student population of 640 children and projections for 2011-2012 are yet to be determined. Special/Support Areas reflect some down-sizing and staff cuts/excessing include:

*Riley Avenue Elementary
School Presentation*

- ◊ Library Aide (-1)
- ◊ Teaching Assistant (-1)
- ◊ Security Guard (-1)
- ◊ Teacher (-1)

After-school enrichment programs remain the same as last year (*i.e.*, Drama Club, Science Club, Art Club, Readers Theatre, Reading Club, 3rd and 4th grade ELA/Math Enrichment, and Scrabble Club), and their existing programs remain intact (Morning Care Program, ESL, Music, Cultural Arts, Reader's and Writer's Workshop-Teacher's College, Foundations, Words Their Way, and Reading Recovery).

The goals at Riley are:

- Increase Student Achievement
- Consistent K-4 implementation of balanced literacy approach
- Incorporating the latest educational technology
- Continued character education with an emphasis on community service (There has been great emphasis on *The Power of One* where every student has read and signed an anti-bullying oath. It is posted throughout the building and involves the fact that everyone has the ability to make a difference and to make it a bully-free environment.)

Mr. Enos' presentation is made part of the Supplemental file of the Minutes.

Minutes
Board of Education
March 22, 2011
Page 9

Opportunity for
Board Members

Mrs. Berezny on her attendance to:

- the 14th Annual PTA Dinner on March 16 at the Brookhaven Technical Center/Bellport Academic Center sponsored by Eastern Suffolk BOCES and prepared by the BOCES culinary arts and horticulture students. They do a great job each and every year.
- the Riverhead Middle School Roman Banquet on March 10
- the production of *Cinderella* under the direction of James Schaefer at the Riley Avenue Elementary School
- The Teen Art Show is on exhibit until March 28 at the Riverhead Free Library
- the Key Club is hosting Riverhead's Got Talent on April 1 @ 7:00 p.m. at the Pulaski Street School
- on April 2, Ann Cotten-DeGrasse, Patrick Harris, and Carl James will be recognized their service to our community at the STAR Breakfast which is sponsored by the Riverhead Kiwanis of Greater Riverhead and will be held at Calverton Links.

Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse stated that the News Review and riverheadlocal.com websites have great photo collages on the presentation of *Cinderella*.

Mr. Falisi thanked Andrea Pekar, Lorene Custer and "Doc" Greenberger for yet another wonderful Roman Banquet. Thanks to Mr. Payton for the production on March 11 of Music In Our Schools Month under the supervision of Sean O'Hara and Lisa Talmage. Congratulations to Mr. Enos and Ms. Grim for their efforts to organize the great production of *Cinderella* with the support of RAPA...every year it just gets better and better.

Mr. Meyer commented in his amazement to hear that twelve out of thirteen of our Fall/Winter teams were recognized as Scholar Athletes. Congratulations to all.

There were no comments made on behalf of the R.C.F.A.

Community comments are:

Community Comments

-Does the district have a school uniform policy because if one exists, no one enforces it. (Per Ms. DeVito: As a member of that committee, a uniform policy was encouraged and while it was more successful in some areas than others, it cannot be mandated that students wear them as it is a controversial issue.

Minutes
Board of Education
March 22, 2011
Page 10

Per Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse: The policy is still in force and it is the part of administration to enforce that policy to the degree that it can be enforced. One must go through the process of "opting" out and discuss "why" with the building principal.) It was offered to put the policy within the district's newsletter to make parents more aware.

-Why is Riley losing a security guard? (Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse responded that the Board wanted to ensure that one department/area did not take the heavy hit when cuts were discussed. The Board wanted a quality of sacrifice across the board and preserve programs for kids involved. Ms. Carney added that safety is important and one security guard will be maintained at each elementary school which should enable them to operate effectively.)

-Concern that a decrease in security guards will be problematic for next year taking into consideration that it is in close proximity to a big development with all "walkers" and no busing, there are no crossing guards, people travel at excessive speed with no regard for traffic laws, lack of police presence, and the Riverhead Charter School has two crossing guards. (Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse offered to look into it since our security guards have no jurisdiction on town/state roads. Perhaps the town could supply crossing guards. Ms. DeVito added that solutions on issues of safety, immediate or short term, can be put into place. She recommended that the Board of Education consider discussions on re-districting to deal with safety and security issues, long-term, as we are above the mass allowed for safety at the buildings.)

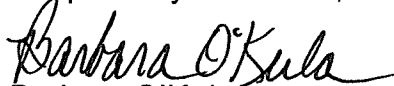
A motion was made by Mr. Falisi, seconded by Mr. Griffing, to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara O'Kula
District Clerk

NOT BOARD APPROVED

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following personnel actions:

Professional Personnel

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title & Area:</u>	<u>Effective Date:</u>
<u>Advisor Appointments:</u>		
McCafferty, Shannon	MSG Varsity Media Head	2/1/2011
<u>Salary Advancements:</u>		
Lindenbaum, Lindsay	To: M+30 Step 5 From: M+15 Step 5	2/1/2011
<u>Retirement:</u>		
Byrne, Joanne	Teaching Assistant	<u>On or Before:</u> 6/30/2011
Kurpetski, Patricia	Teaching Assistant	6/30/2011
<u>Substitute Appointments:</u>		
Gabrielsen, Georgia	Substitute Teacher	2/7/2011-6/24/2011

Civil Service Personnel

Substitute Appointments:

Andrychowski, John	Substitute Custodian	3/23/2011
--------------------	----------------------	-----------

Retirement:

Brunke, Linda	Employee Benefits Supervisor	<u>On or Before:</u> 8/31/2011
Clinton, Betty	School Bus Driver, 10 Months	6/30/2011
Green, James M.	School Bus Driver, 10 Months	6/30/2011
Hulse, Marion A.	Senior Clerk Typist, 12 Month	6/30/2011
McCabe, Roger	Driver Cafeteria	6/30/2011
McCormick, Stanley W.	School Bus Driver, 10 Months	6/30/2011
Meyer, Paul D.	Maintenance Mechanic II	6/30/2011
Miloski, Jennie	Senior Stenographer	6/30/2011
Olsen, Theodore J.	School Bus Driver, 10 Months	6/30/2011
Tuttle, Claudette	School Bus Driver, 10 Months	6/30/2011
Voss, Marilyn A.	Clerk Typist, 10 Month	6/30/2011

Resignations

Burke, Jennifer L.	P/T Food Service Worker - Riley Ave.	3/1/2011
--------------------	--------------------------------------	----------