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MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION – September 8, 2009
Riverhead High School Auditorium

PRESENT: President, Ms. Angela M. DeVito; Vice President, Mrs. Christine Prete; Mrs. Kathleen V. Berezny; Mrs. Ann Cotten-DeGrasse; Mr. Timothy Griffing; and, Mrs. Mary Ellen Harkin.

ABSENT: Mr. Gregory Meyer.

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Diane B. Scricca.

Board President, Ms. DeVito, opened the meeting at 6:08 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of Allegiance

A motion was made by Mr. Griffing, seconded by Mrs. Harkin, to recess to executive session to discuss personnel.

Recess to
Executive Session

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education recessed to executive session at 6:09 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Prete, seconded by Mrs. Harkin, to return to open session.

Return to
Open Session

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:51 p.m.

A brief recess followed.

The meeting resumed at 8:00 p.m.

There were about 12 other people in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Nancy Carney, Mr. Michael Ivanoff, Mr. Joseph Ogeka, Jr., and Mrs. Barbara O’Kula.

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

Implementation of
Findings and

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RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District, having received and reviewed the decision of Hearing Officer, David Gregory, dated August 24, 2009, hereby implements such decision pursuant to Education Law §3020-a(4)(b).

Recommendations
-§3020-a(4)(b)
-Approved

Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse requested a "price tag" attached to this.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

Ms. DeVito brought the Board's attention the following work items and dates:

Work Items & Dates

- R.E.F.I.T. Annual Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker, Regent Roger Tilles, on September 24
- NYSSBA Annual Resolutions Dinner on September 30 (The Board will be receiving resolution workbooks to look through and make decisions for support/non-support).
- decision for the Board to formally respond or just attend as a participant at the public hearing on CPF funds at the Town of Southampton regarding the administering of CPF funds and changes that are being proposed which will have an impact on PILOT payments here in Riverhead. Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse stated her understanding that the PILOT payments will be cut to make up for the \$2 million overage. Dr. Scricca expounded on the misinformation about the school district's role in the application of the CPF fund and explained that it is not an overage and the Town of Southampton is using the term incorrectly. The school district sent the Town of Southampton a tax bill for \$12 million...they gave us \$12 million - what they did was that they took monies out of the CPF and used that to supplement what they should have gotten from the taxpayers...in other words, they undercharged the taxpayers who reside in the Town of Southampton. As stated by Mrs. Prete, the school district sees no money from the CPF funds. It is the people who live in Flanders, Northampton, and Riverside who see a reduction in their tax bills by that amount of money.

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The school district assessed the Town of Southampton for \$12 million...that \$12 million gets subsidized by CPF monies...so, they are paying \$10 million instead of \$12 million – the \$2 million is coming from the CPF fund. Ms. DeVito stated that from the school district's point of view, getting paid for the tax bill we send to the Town of Southampton is our only concern. Repayment by the school district is essentially incorrect...there was no error on the district's part. Rather, it is the mis-use and mis-application of the CPF fund applied to the entire levy by the Town of Southampton. It is not a school district issue but an issue for the residents of the Town of Southampton west of the canal and the people who live there need to make a decision on what they will do about it. The people who live in the Flanders, Northampton, and Riverside areas are school families. Mrs. Prete further offered that part of the pending legislation proposes to wean the taxpayers off of the CPF monies over 10 years. They want to reduce the amount (percentage) of CPF monies allocated to the taxpayers. She stated that the taxpayers should benefit from the full amount (10% of that fund) until 2030 when the PILOT payments expire...all residents in the Town of Southampton should get their fair share for the entire 10 years. For the record, Mrs. Prete stated that she will likely attend the public hearing as a resident and speak on behalf of the residents and, as a taxpayer.

Dr. Scricca prefaced the scheduled presentation by stating that one of the Board's initiatives was to improve many curriculum areas beginning with grammar curriculum. With the advent of K-12 ELA Director, Maria Andreotti, she took on this task with a group of professionals and expressed her excitement about prospects to come as a result of their hard work. With that, she introduced Ms. Andreotti who proceeded with a Power Point presentation on the new grammar curriculum.

*New Grammar
Curriculum
Presentation*

Ms. Andreotti stated that in May of this year, a committee was put together whose goals were to develop a grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and handwriting curriculum anticipated for completion and implementation in the Fall of 2009. She was pleased to announce that implementation has begun and thanked the Board of Education and Central Administration for their support.

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Many hours of professional development were included in this undertaking which centered around the instruction of grammar and how to incorporate the teaching of grammar into daily lesson plans. The following Literacy Coaches were present to assist in addressing integrating grammar into the curriculum: Amy Brennan, Jeanne Marie Mazzeferro, Rita Maloney, and Katy Pettit. Vocabulary instruction, classroom strategies and activities, handwriting objectives, grammar instruction, as well as, assessments, principles, and objectives were outlined in their presentation. For example, the implementation of *Words Their Way* in grades 4-6 is an instructional approach to provide an integrated way to teach phonics, vocabulary, and spelling to improve literacy skills. Through tools such as conferences 101 and Readers/Writers Workshops, and continuous professional development through Pearson learning, the teachers can address the needs and areas of weakness of students and improve upon the grammar skills of our young student population.

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

Adjournment

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Barbara O'Kula
District Clerk