

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Special Meeting/Worksession – May 11, 2010  
High School Auditorium

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

LATE: Mrs. Mary Ellen Harkin.

ABSENT: Mr. Timothy Griffing.

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

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance to the flag at 8:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

A motion was made by Mr. Meyer, seconded by Mrs. Prete, to amend the agenda to include the following resolution:

Amend Agenda  
-Add: Civil Service Personnel Recommendation  
-Approved to Amend.

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

Appointment

Amala Cain – School Transportation Supervisor, effective 6/14/2010.

Yes 5 No 0  
Motion to Amend Agenda Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Prete, seconded by Mr. Meyer, to accept the agenda as amended.

Acceptance of Agenda As Amended  
-Approved

Yes 5 No 0  
Motion Carried.

Mrs. Harkin arrived at 8:04 p.m.

A public hearing commenced at 8:05 p.m. on the proposed budget for 2010-2011. Mr. Ivanoff gave a brief summary of the proposed 2010-2011 budget that maintains all current programs and would increase spending 1.99% (one of the lowest budget increases in Suffolk County) with an estimated tax levy increase of 2.57%. Program costs make up 79% of the budget, with administrative costs comprising 10%, and capital costs (including debt service) making up the other 11%.

*Public Hearing  
Proposed 2010-2011  
Budget*

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In addition to the operating budget proposition, there will be an additional proposition on the ballot to authorize the school district to expend an amount not to exceed \$1,340,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund for an elevator and new roof at Roanoke Avenue Elementary School at no extra cost to the taxpayers. Voters already approved the establishment of the Capital Reserve Fund on June 20, 2006, and now a separate referendum is needed for any specific use of that money. The roof at Roanoke is in extreme need of repair and the elevator is required by the federal Americans With Disabilities Act.

Voting will take place in the Riverhead High School gymnasium on May 18, 2010 between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

There were no comments heard from the audience.

The hearing ended at 8:12 p.m.

The following candidates spoke in the order as their names will appear on the ballot:

Opportunity for Candidates

1. Amelia Lantz
2. Jeffrey J. Falisi
3. Mary E. Meyer
4. Christine Prete
5. Mary Ellen Harkin

Each candidate was limited to three minutes to speak in support of their candidacy.

Mr. Sean O'Hara, K-12 Director of Fine Arts, gave a power point presentation on the Fine Arts program which has made wonderful headway. The program has grown and enriched the rest of the academic program. Per New York State Department of Education Regulations, each school operating a pre-kindergarten or kindergarten program shall establish and provide an educational program based on and adapted to the ages, interest and needs of the children. Learning activities shall include dramatic play, creative art, and music activities. During Grades 1-4, all students shall receive instruction that is designed to facilitate their attainment of the State elementary learning standards in the arts, including visual arts, music, dance and theatre. During Grades 5-6, all students shall receive instruction that is designed to facilitate their attainment of the State intermediate learning standards in the seven curriculum areas that includes arts (visual arts, music,

Fine Arts Presentation

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dance, and theatre). All students shall be provided instruction in Grades 7-8 designed to enable them to achieve by the end of Grade 8 the State intermediate learning standards in the arts, including  $\frac{1}{2}$  unit of study in the visual arts, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  unit of study in music. Students entering Grade 9 in the 2008-2009 school year and thereafter shall have earned at least 22 units of credit that shall include one unit of credit in visual arts, music, dance, or theatre. Extracurricular opportunities in Grades 9-12 are: Web Slingers Club, Art Club, Varsity Jazz Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Show Choir, and Blue Masques. In Grades K-4, music is integrated into Math and notated through a combination of pitch and rhythmic values (*i.e.*, whole note = 4 beats, half note = 2 beats, quarter note = 1 beat, eighth note =  $\frac{1}{2}$  beat). Art curriculum is also supported by reviewing shapes and then constructing them in 3D. In our elementary schools, Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students spend one month on Multicultural Music experiences. Each week a different country is studied by discovering the location of the country in relation to the U.S.A. and viewing clips of school children singing, playing instruments, or engaged in an everyday activity. Highlights of the 2009-2010 school year include:

- Numerous guest artists have conducted residencies with our students in each of our elementary buildings.
- Many of our students have participated in and received accolades for their entries in poster contests.
- Three students were selected to represent Riverhead High School in this year's All State Festival.
- Riverhead High School art students won numerous awards at this year's Southampton Student Artist Invitational, including – Best in Show, Best in Category for Computer Art and Photography, and Honorable Mention.
- Many students selected to perform in Honors festivals such as SCMEA, LISFA, HMEA, and the North Fork Festival.
- The Riverhead High School Chamber Choir auditioned for and was accepted to perform in Walt Disney World's Candlelight Processional.
- Ten Teeny Award nominations.

NOT BOARD APPROVED

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The future of the Fine Arts program looks to a Theater Program which includes courses in both acting and dance, as well as, updating our current Photography curriculum to include Digital Photography in combination with the current Computer Graphics curriculum in order to cover more animation concepts.

As quoted by Walt Disney himself – “If you can dream it, you can do it.”

A brief video of the Riverhead High School Blue Masques presentation of the musical, *FAME*, was enjoyed by all.

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

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

Civil Service Personnel Recommendation  
-Amala Cain  
School Transportation Supervisor  
-Approved

Appointment

Amala Cain – School Transportation Supervisor, effective 6/14/2010.

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried.

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

Adjournment

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Barbara O'Kula  
District Clerk