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MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting – April 24, 2007
Aquebogue Elementary School Cafetorium

PRESENT: President, Mrs. Nancy G. Gassert; Vice President, Mr. W. Brian Stark; Mrs. Kathleen V. Berezny; Ms. Angela DeVito; Mr. Timothy Griffing; and, Mrs. Christine Prete.

LATE: Mrs. Mary Ellen Harkin.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Joseph F. Singleton, Ms. Nancy Carney, Ms. Lynn Kobylenski and Mr. Joseph Ogeka, Jr.

President, Mrs. Gassert, opened the meeting at 5:45 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of Allegiance

A motion was made by Mr. Griffing, seconded by Ms. DeVito, to recess to executive session to discuss personnel matters and legal issues.

Recess to
Executive Session

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

Mrs. Harkin arrived at 6:10 p.m.

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

Return to
Open Session

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:25 p.m.

A brief recess followed.

The meeting resumed at 7:47 p.m.

There were about 45 other people in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara O’Kula.

A motion was made by Ms. DeVito, seconded by Mrs. Prete, to amend the agenda as follows:

Amend Agenda
-Add: Professional
Personnel
Recommendation
-Retirement
-Approved to Amend

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Add:

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

Retirement

Joseph A. Sferlazza – Science Teacher, effective 6/30/07.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion to Amend Agenda Carried.

A motion was made by Ms. DeVito, seconded by Mrs. Prete, to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

Approval of Minutes
-Approved

Regular Meeting – March 27, 2007
Special Meeting – March 29, 2007

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

Mr. Singleton reminded the community that the next regular Board meeting is scheduled for May 8th at which a public hearing will be held on the proposed 2007-2008 budget and proposition regarding the purchase of buses. He suggested that anyone having questions regarding the proposed budget and proposition should call the District Office beforehand to address any matter of particular interest. He further stated that one of the most important functions of a Superintendent is to recommend professional staff for tenure. He commended the wonderful group of teachers who have served the district for three years and done a superb performance in their teaching and administrative fields and who are recommended for award of tenure this evening.

Opportunity for
Superintendent

“Happy Birthday” wishes were extended to Mr. Singleton.

Opportunity for
Board Members

In honor of Administrative Professionals’ Day on April 25, the Board of Education recognized Mrs. O’Kula for the excellent job she performs in her service as District Clerk and Secretary to the Board of Education.

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To clear up any misinformation, Board President, Mrs. Gassert, read the following statement:

The Board of Education recognizes the outstanding leadership provided by Jim McCaffrey and Dr. Joe Connolly over the last two school years as interim administrators. After a great deal of consideration, the Board has determined that it is in the best long-range interests of the High School program to have permanent administrators in place as soon as possible.

It is for that reason we have placed advertisements in The New York Times this past Sunday. We will work diligently to identify qualified candidates and, until such time such identification is made, will continue our commitment to the excellent services and leadership provided by the current interim staff.

In no way should our desire to hire a permanent High School Principal and Guidance Director be interpreted as meaning that Dr. Connolly and Mr. McCaffrey will not continue in our grateful employment through next year. Their absence will only be if and when qualified replacements are selected.

Ms. DeVito commented on her wonderful experience spending the day visiting at Aquebogue Elementary School. Everyone was very receptive and she was in awe of all that is going on. She thanked the building Principal, Mr. Phil Kent, and all staff for all they do and for hosting this evening's Board meeting, as well.

Mrs. Berezny commented on her visit to the Roanoke Avenue Elementary School in the company of Ms. Carney on April 17th to observe the many programs and activities taking place (*i.e.*, excellent educational pieces on poetry, the library system and a special 4th grade project assisted by the Riverhead Garden Club to make pressed flower bookmarks, etc). She, also, attended the College Fair at the High School with 83 vendors present and an abundance of literature available; and, then on to visit the Alternative High School and view their programs. On Saturday, April 21, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Riverhead held its second annual "Breakfast of Stars" to honor community members who serve as important role models for our youth. She had the pleasure to attend this event with Ms. DeVito and Mrs. Harkin to witness Board President, Mrs. Gassert, and High School teacher, "Doc" Jeff Greenberger, receive this honor.

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Comments from the community included:

Community
Comments

-inquiry as to tenure versus tenure renewal and process of bringing tenure to the Board (Mr. Singleton explained that tenure is a permanent appointment except if the teacher(s) is brought up on charges to remove him/her. Evaluations are on-going and a Masters degree must be obtained within the first five years of employment. The process to bring forth tenure recommendations to the Board starts at the building level in the manner of formal evaluations on an annual basis and informal observations. All evaluations and observations are presented to the Superintendent who then makes the recommendation to the Board of Education...in order for any employee to get tenure...it must be recommended by the Superintendent.)

-a teacher asked to share her thoughts on the leadership profile report and urged the Board to retain the two interims (Mrs. Gassert informed her that the Board will not accept discussion on employees, inasmuch as, a statement had already been made in the introduction of the meeting relative to the topic.)

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

Committee on
Special Education
-Approved
-Supplemental File

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. MEETINGS</u>	<u>STUDENT NUMBERS</u>
02-15-2007	217389
02-26-2007	216307, 216619, 219550
03-01-2007	209852, 210026, 210058, 210123, 211321, 211567, 211693, 212006, 212022
03-06-2007	210790, 211062, 211380, 211644, 212010, 212016, 212398, 212632, 217186
03-07-2007	210192, 211098, 211532, 211533, 211610, 211739, 212042, 212362, 212640, 211732, 212057, 212501, 212699, 212714, 213067, 213214
03-15-2007	208049, 209770, 209896, 209896
03-23-2007	214103, 214036, 216595, 217165, 217573, 212481, 219228

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<u>C.P.S.E. MEETINGS</u>	<u>STUDENT NUMBERS</u>
03-01-2007	220170, 220265, 221218
03-22-2007	220415, 221142, 220201, 220260

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the first reading of revised Board Policy #5252 – *Student Activities Funds Management*.

Mrs. Prete thanked Ms. Kobylenski for getting this policy in order as it was one of the items that both the internal and external auditors wanted addressed.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign the finalized License Agreement between the Riverhead Central School District and Capital Computer Associates, Inc., effective July 1, 2007 for the use of the WinCap Software; and, as approved by legal counsel. The one-time license and first year conversion fees are estimated at \$81,000; subsequent years and support fees for 2008-09 and 2009-10 would be \$22,750 per year.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

First Reading of
Board Policy #5252
-Student Activities
Funds Management
-Approved

Authorization to
Sign Agreement with
Capital Computer
Associates, Inc.
-WinCap Software
-Approved

Annual Memorial Day
Parade Request from
VFW
-Approved

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RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the request of the Combined Veterans Committee of Riverhead, American Legion Post #273 for the School District to participate in the Annual Memorial Day Parade on May 28, 2007 and to transport the veterans to all the sites (V.F.W. Post, Calverton National Cemetery, St. Isidore Cemetery, and local service locations) with the services of a district bus and volunteer bus driver.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Ms. DeVito, seconded by Mrs. Prete, to approve the following resolution:

Declaration of
Surplus Equipment
-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District declares as surplus the following items at the Roanoke Avenue Elementary School that are obsolete and no longer being used; and, authorizes to discard same in the best financial manner of the School District:

DuKane "A-V Matic", Model 28!1C, Serial #1205838, RCSD Silver Tag 2475

DuKane "A-V Matic", Model 28A1D, Serial #1493474, RCSD Silver Tag 2474

DuKane "A-V Matic", Model A1C, Serial #1452032, RCSD Blue Tag 06174

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Harkin, seconded by Mrs. Berezny, to approve the following resolutions:

Acceptance of
Donations
-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District gratefully accepts the donation of \$69.94 on behalf of Target and the Take Charge of Education program for the benefit of the Roanoke Avenue Elementary School.

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RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District gratefully accepts the check in the amount of \$400 from the General Mills Foundation which represents their matching contribution to the Riverhead Central School District on behalf of their employee, Mary Ann Johnsen.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District gratefully accepts the donation in the amount of \$239.98 from the Riverhead High School PTSO for the purchase of two (2) Sunbeam Mix Master stand mixers to be used in the Home and Career Classes.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District gratefully accepts the donation in the amount of \$879.20 from the Riverhead High School PTSO for the purchase of one (1) Angiospermleaf Section Model and two (2) Chromosome Models to be used in the High School Biology Department.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District gratefully accepts the donation in the amount of \$700.00 from the Riverhead High School PTSO for the purchase of sweatshirts for the High School Band.

Mrs. Prete thanked Mrs. Laurie Downs, President of the PTSO for the many wonderful donations the organization has made to the District.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District appoints the following persons for the annual School District Budget Vote and Election of Board members on May 15, 2007:

Chairperson: Edward Doherty
Alternate Chairperson: Barbara O’Kula

Appointment of Vote
Workers for the
School Budget Vote
And Election of Board
Members on
May 15, 2007
-Approved

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Inspectors of Election: Adele Abrahamsen, Rosemary Colavito, Victoria Farruggia, Deborah Goroleski, Katherine Konkel, Sarah Mayo, Barbara Reichel, Josephine Sideratos, Maryann Soika and Gail Yeager (Chief Inspector of Election).

Poll Clerks: Dorothy Bascomb, Justyna Breintenbach, Evelyn Buhner, Amanda Jane Brown, Ann Engelhardt, Dorothy Exum, Mary Hatcher, Dorothy Haupt, Irene Lachick, Barbara Lennon, Frances Mapes, Laura O’Kula, Roxanna Parker, Patricia Raynor, Vanessa Sblendorio, Mary Skiba, Toni Vodola, Drew Yeager.

Alternates: Dennis Mueller, Linda Mueller, Josephine Sideratos, Muriel Groneman

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

Appointment of
Volunteers
-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the appointment of the following volunteers:

Dillon Palmer – Middle School Baseball
John Razzano – Varsity Boys’ Track

In a discussion that followed, Mrs. Prete questioned as to whether these appointments required a date (beginning and end) to which Mr. Ogeka responded “no”.

Yes 6
Mrs. Berezny
Ms. DeVito
Mrs. Gassert
Mr. Griffing
Mrs. Harkin
Mr. Stark

Abstention 1
Mrs. Prete

Motion Carried.

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A motion was made by Ms. DeVito, seconded by Mrs. Prete, to approve the following resolution:

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:

Professional Personnel Recommendations
-Tenure Appointments
-Approved

Tenure Appointments

- Pamela Argenti – Elementary Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Jessica Cohen – English Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Carolyn Colantropo – Elementary Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Jacqueline Dias – Elementary Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Linda Dowd – Science Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Christopher Gatz – Elementary Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Danielle Gioe – English Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Nadine Greenberg – Music Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Lauren Hamilton – Reading Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Kevin Hewkin – Social Studies Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Stacy Hubbard – Elementary Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Jennie Jaeger – Elementary Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Marisa Lapaz – Mathematics Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Barbara Marsicano – Elementary Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Christopher Martin – Guidance Counselor, effective 6/30/07.
- Christina Mercurio – Music Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Meghan Montpetit – Elementary Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Kristen Realander – Science Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Shelly Sprung – English Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Colleen Stalter – Elementary Mathematics Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Jeanne Stearns – Elementary Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Daniel Vallance – Elementary ESL Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Vanessa Williams – Elementary Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Robin Yates – Reading Teacher, effective 6/30/07.
- Nicholas Kardaras – Social Worker, effective 6/30/07.
- Candice Perry – Elementary Teacher, effective 6/30/07.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Ms. DeVito, seconded by Mrs. Prete, to approve the following resolution:

Professional Personnel Recommendations
-Tenure Appointments

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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:

Tenure Appointments

Debra Rodgers – Elementary Principal, effective 6/30/07.
Nancy Carney – Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, effective 5/1/07.

-Debra Rodgers
-Nancy Carney
-Approved

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

All recipients of tenure received a standing ovation.

A motion was made by Ms. DeVito, seconded by Mrs. Harkin, to approve the following resolution as amended:

Professional Personnel
Recommendations
-Approved as Amended

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:

Appointments

Vivian Holmstrom-Frosch - .8 Grant Writing Specialist, effective 6/1/07-6/30/08.
Tiffany McKenna – Substitute Teacher, effective 4/25/07-6/30/07.
Kerri Stitt – Leave Replacement, Elementary Teacher, effective 4/25/07-6/1/07.
Christopher Amato – Data Processing Systems Coordinator, effective 7/1/07.

Spring 2007 Coaching Appointment

Casey Reisig – Girls' Track M.S. Assistant.

Change of Status

Margaret Flood – To: Substitute Teacher, From: Leave Replacement, Music Teacher, effective 4/23/07-6/30/07.
Jacqueline Andrejack – To: Permanent Substitute, From: Leave Replacement, effective 5/1/07-6/30/07.
Melanie Davis – Leave Replacement, Elementary Teacher, effective 4/25/07-6/22/07.

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Extension of Leave Replacement

Donna Elmore – Leave Replacement, Elementary Teacher,
To: 5/7/07-6/22/07, From: 3/14/07-5/4/07.

Change in Leave Replacement

Carrie Patrizio – Leave Replacement, Elementary Teacher,
To: 4/11/07-5/11/07, From: 4/11/07-5/18/07.

Change in Maternity/Child Care Leave

Michele Koronkiewicz – Spanish Teacher, To: 4/9/07-5/9/07 Using
accumulated sick time, 5/10/07-6/22/07 Unpaid FMLA;
From: 4/23/07-5/29/07 Using accumulated sick time, 5/30/07-
6/22/07 Unpaid FMLA.

Suzanna LoMagno – Elementary Teacher, To: 3/26/07-4/12/07
Using accumulated sick time, 4/13/07-5/11/07 Unpaid FMLA;
From: 3/26/07-4/12/07 Using accumulated sick time, 4/13/07-
5/18/07 Unpaid FMLA.

Extension of Maternity/Child Care Leave

Jennifer Barth – Elementary Teacher, To: 5/7/07-6/22/07 Unpaid
FMLA; From: 3/5/07-4/27/07 Using accumulated sick time,
4/30/07-5/4/07 Unpaid FMLA.

Unpaid Leave

Elizabeth Scimeca – Spanish Teacher, effective 4/9/07, 4/16/07
(half-day) and 4/18/07.

Jennifer Sullivan – Teaching Assistant, effective 5/7/07-6/22/07
Unpaid FMLA.

Retirements

Madeline Lawler – Elementary Teacher, effective 6/30/07.

Carol Sabat – Reading Teacher, effective 6/30/07.

Joseph A. Sferlazza – Science Teacher, effective 6/30/07.

Sick Bank Leave

Pretoria Falkner – Elementary Teacher, effective 5/25/07-6/22/07.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

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Mr. Singleton commented on the three retirees who have almost 100 years of combined service to the children of Riverhead. They were thanked for their many years of service to the District and students of the community.

A motion was made by Ms. DeVito, seconded by Mrs. Prete, to approve the following resolution:

Civil Service
Personnel
Recommendations
-Approved

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:

Emergency Conditional Appointment Pending Fingerprint Clearance

Annette Galante – Substitute Hourly Food Service Worker, effective 4/25/07-6/30/07.

Appointments

Nancy Raynor – Clerk Typist, effective 4/25/07.

John Hockett – Student Worker, effective 12/6/06.

Ethel Griffin – Substitute School Bus Driver, effective 4/25/07-6/30/07.

Change in Hours

Tiffany Belcher – School Bus Monitor, To: 5.5 hours per day, From: 5 hours per day, effective 4/30/07.

Unpaid Leave of Absence

Dawn Muller – School Teacher Aide, effective 4/10/07-4/17/07.

Gladys Sullivan – School Bus Driver, effective 3/23/07-4/16/07.

Wayne Ehlers – School Bus Driver, effective 3/22/07-4/10/07.

Retirement

Theresa Sutton – School Bus Driver, effective 4/30/07.

Resignations

Jaime Tonn – Substitute Teacher Aide, effective 4/23/07.

Chris Hilbert – Substitute Custodial Worker I, effective 4/9/07.

Carl LeFort – Substitute School Bus Driver, effective 4/19/07.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

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Mr. Singleton commented on Ms. Sutton's fourteen years of service to the students of the District and extended her best wishes in her retirement.

Additional community comments included:

*Additional Community
Comments*

- the hope for more curriculum based field trips in the next school year similar to last Friday's field trip to the Museum of Natural History
- the need for more safety in our schools with a formal chain of command especially in light of the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech (Mr. Singleton stated that the District does have an emergency plan that includes a chain of command...table-top workshops are being held and the District has coordinated a number of items with the Town of Riverhead...Mrs. Prete suggested that the Town of Southampton, also, be contacted to coordinate an emergency plan with the schools.)
- is there a dress code in the High School? (Mr. Singleton stated his belief that the dress code is enforced to the degree that it can be. Mrs. Gassert stated that the Board has discussed it and plans to conduct further discussion on the subject).
- request that the Board look to options other than sports and co-curricular activities when making cuts in the budget should it not be passed by the voters on May 15th. (Mr. Singleton concurred with the public's frustration but offered that many items in the proposed budget are State mandates (*i.e.*, ESL teachers comprise a large part and Special Education programs do not get a lot of reimbursement from the State). Preparing a budget becomes a balancing act to maintain sound financial management of taxpayers' dollars. He further stated that the Board of Education has held 6-8 meetings in public on the development of the budget...all expenditures are closely examined and the findings of the both the internal and external auditors are positive.)
- opinion that presentation of the budget has been confusing to the public (Mrs. Gassert responded in that the Board has been conscientious in making minimal cuts in many different areas so that teachers, programs and courses will not have to be eliminated).
- how much is spent on curriculum? (25%)
- a petition to keep the two interims was presented to the Board

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-criticism was expressed that science fairs were not held this year at the High School and Middle School because the teacher/coordinator was unable to devote as much time to it as in the past...why, then, couldn't the responsibility be assumed within the reorganization of the new academic supervisors who replaced several department chair positions (Mrs. Berezny apologized because the Board was unaware that no Science Fairs were being held at these schools and Mrs. Prete that with new leadership comes stability and she is excited about the future of the District.)

Mrs. Gassert announced that the new Superintendent will be identified at a special meeting of the Board on May 1st in the High School auditorium at 7:30 p.m....a reception to meet the new Superintendent will immediately follow.

-request for stability in the High School
-support for a girls' lacrosse program and suggestion that parents attend the public hearing on the proposed 2007-2008 budget on May 8th to advocate its formation
-recommendation for next year that the Board hold budget worksessions separate from regular Board meetings...the public hearing on May 8th is a question and answer session on a budget that has already been adopted.

A motion was made by Ms. DeVito, seconded by Mrs. Prete, to recess to executive session to discuss personnel.

Recess to
Executive Session

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education recessed to executive session at 9:18 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT: Christopher Venator, Esq.

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

Return to
Open Session

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 10:14 p.m.

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

Adjournment

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara O'Kula
District Clerk

