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MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting – October 10, 2006
Riverhead High School Auditorium

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

ABSENT: Mrs. Mary Ellen Harkin.

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

President, Mrs. Gassert, opened the meeting at 5:10 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

A motion was made by Mr. Griffing, seconded by Mr. Stark, to recess to executive session to discuss personnel (Interview candidates: Acting Superintendent, CSEA grievance, High School Department Chairs and stipend: pit orchestra/conductor) and negotiations (RAA).

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education recessed to executive session at 5:11 p.m.

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

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:47 p.m.

A brief recess followed.

The meeting resumed at 7:55 p.m.

There were about 200 other people in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara O’Kula.

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

Delete:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves appointments to the following positions to be funded through the 21st Century Grant for the after school program:

Teachers (\$31.70 per hour) up to \$45,648
Patrick McDonald

Delete:

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

Volunteer

Jeff Blom – Middle School Football.

Add:

WHEREAS, the Riverhead Central School District recognizes that the loss of a superintendent is a traumatic event, and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board of Education to ensure continuity and consistency for the benefit of education for the children in this school district, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District appoints Joseph F. Singleton as Acting Superintendent for the period October 11, 2006 through December 31, 2006.

In a discussion that followed, Mrs. Prete expressed that it is unfair for the district to be without a superintendent and she has been assured that the Board will actively look for an Interim Superintendent. She will vote "yes" with regret. Mrs. Berezny shared in the concern to have a superintendent in place according to State Education Department Law but commented that the district, also, has three Assistant Superintendents on hand suitable to provide the service.

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Yes 5
Ms. DeVito
Mrs. Gassert
Mr. Griffing
Mrs. Prete
Mr. Stark

No 1
Mrs. Berezny

Motion to Amend Agenda Carried.

A motion was made by Ms. DeVito, seconded by Mr. Stark, to approve the Treasurer's Report and Budget Transactions for the month of July 2006.

Mrs. Berezny commented on her previous inquiry to the Business Office and check(s) in question.

Yes 4
Ms. DeVito
Mrs. Gassert
Mr. Griffing
Mr. Stark

No 2
Mrs. Berezny
Mrs. Prete

Motion Carried.

Mrs. Berezny thanked Bonnie Campbell for the invitation to attend the Open House at the Alternative High School on October 4th. She congratulated our student winners of the Riverhead Fire Department's annual poster contest this year:

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Middle School students

1 place - Stacy Griffing (Mr. Griffing's daughter)
2nd place - Clinton McCoy
3rd place - Ben Edmund

High School students

1st place - Amy Czekatka
2nd place - Keith Lehm

She, also, complimented Mrs. James on a recent article in Newsday called *Think Pink and Green* that spoke on chemicals in the home and environment.

Comments from the community included:

- how much will the Acting Superintendent be paid? (\$900 per day)
- how much will the resigned Superintendent be paid? (\$45,000 contractually) Mr. Griffing stated that the Board's stance in this regard has, in fact, saved the District money.
- how long will it take to find another superintendent? (Time period cannot be predicted but the Board of Education is starting the process immediately and realizes the importance to consider more than one candidate).
- can anyone in-house fill the Superintendent's position? (Mrs. Gassert stated that, at this time, no one in-house chooses to step up to the position...the Board will utilize NYSSBA to conduct a search, as well as, place ads in the New York Times for broad circulation and explore all avenues as may be necessary to be completely involved in the interview process.)
- will there be a search committee that will include someone from the public? Mrs. Cynthia Richardson offered to participate. (Mrs. Gassert stated that the search will be conducted by the Board.)

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

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WHEREAS, the State Senate (sponsored by Senator Bill Larkin) has adopted a legislative resolution memorializing Governor George E. Pataki to proclaim October, 18, 2006 as *School Bus Driver Appreciation Day* in the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, each school day, more than two million children are transported to and from school in school buses in cities, towns and suburbs across the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of these children are of the utmost concern to all New Yorkers and parents and schools who entrust school bus drivers with the welfare of these children, and

WHEREAS, the position of a school bus driver requires tremendous responsibility; they have to maneuver through traffic regardless of road conditions while maintaining the conduct of the children on the bus and are looked upon for leadership and life-saving decision-making in the event of an emergency, and

WHEREAS, school bus drivers delicately direct these children while they are exiting the bus at their destination when an adult is normally at a bus stop to meet a child and is not present, they will keep that child in their safe care until adult supervision is located or the child can be returned to school, and

WHEREAS, furthermore, school bus drivers may also be an important aid in the fight against terrorism; they are able to observe any suspicious activity or people along their bus route and communicate that information to the proper authorities, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that it is the sense of the Riverhead Central School District to recognize with appreciation and pay tribute to our dedicated professionals who deliver children safely every day of every school year.

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Mrs. Berezny commented that our Transportation Department is #1 and thanked all for their patience and dedication to a department that is run on our own. Mrs. Prete expressed the same.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

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>
9/19/06	210189, 211731, 212022, 212398
9/20/06	205514, 206845, 207881, 208820, 209138, 209554, 209605

<u>C.P.S.E. MEETING</u>	<u>STUDENT NUMBERS</u>
8/8/06	221171, 221158
9/20/06	222000, 221118, 221172, 221173, 220202, 220270, 220292, 220235, 220276, 220309, 220250

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the contract for Katherine Galan, DBA Teacher Registry Consulting (substitute teachers) for the 2006-2007 school year in the amount of \$15,425.

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In a discussion that followed, Mrs. Prete questioned the previous hiring of someone in this capacity. Ms. Carney stated that while this is the same registry...this is approval of the *contract*.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the contracts for the 2006-2007 school year with the following consultants to be paid through Title Funds:

21st Century

Nia Solutions	\$2000
Big Brother's/Big Sisters	\$5000
Town of Southampton, Anger Management	\$4000
Cityspan Technologies	\$1000
Riverhead Foundation	\$4000

Title IA

Timothy Hill Children's Ranch	\$41,310
Columbia University Teachers College	\$40,000
Cornell Cooperative Extension	\$5,000

Title IIA

Columbia University Teachers College	\$24,000
Multicultural America Inc./Other	\$10,000
TBD	

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Title IV

Council for Unity	\$5000
Family Service League (Steps to Success)	\$865
Alternatives Counseling (BABES)	\$900
Riverhead Community Awareness Program	\$11,000

IDEA 611

Donna Vestal (Urban league)	\$ 30, 396
Eden/Genesis (Consultant for autistic students)	\$100,000

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves appointments to the following positions to be funded through Title IIA funds (stipend \$2000 as per grant allocation)

Literacy Coach
Susan Trafford

Science Curriculum Liaison Teachers
Charlie Giennone
Michael Kanter
Joanne Armstrong

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves appointments to the following positions to be funded through the 21st Century Grant for the after school program:

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Lauren Farber- On site Coordinator (\$31.70 per hour) up to \$11,888

Teachers (\$31.70 per hour) up to \$45,648

Janis Ellis-Smith
Jan Mackey
Kelly Cregan
Donna Elmore
Blayne Karlin
Keith McGuire
Bob Fallot
Gary Karlson
Matt Smorra
Rebekah Dillahunt
Barbara Kobus
Janet VanBrunt
Cindi Acritelli
Linda Condon – sub
Jackie Dias – sub

Teaching Assistants (14.30 per hr)

Erin Gould
Toni Gallo
Linda Mikelinich

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District accepts the resignation of the following:

Literacy Coach
Katy Pettit

As confirmed by Ms. Carney, literacy coaches assist in the new reading initiative and act as liaisons in the buildings.

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Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the contract for inclusion support with Lakretz Creative Support Services, Inc. for one (1) program evaluation @ \$1,400 and two (2) days Technical Assistance (dates to be determined @ \$950 per day for a total fee of \$3,300; and, authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign such contract.

In a discussion that followed, Mrs. Prete asked for clarification of the word *inclusion*. Ms. Kobylenski explained that the organization will provide special services for very high need students.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Riverhead applied to the N.Y.S. Division of Criminal Justice Services for a grant in the amount of \$11,000 specifically for the development of curriculum, training, technical support and supplies to support the Riverhead Central School District Council for Unity program under a consulting agreement with Council for Unity, Inc., and

WHEREAS, said grant was approved in the amount of \$11,000 which includes \$10,000 for services to be provided by Council for Unity, Inc., pursuant to a consulting agreement with the Riverhead Central School District and \$1,000 for supplies and materials to be provided by the Riverhead Central School District, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to execute the attached grant agreement between the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services and the Town of Riverhead for services to be provided by the Riverhead Central School District by consulting agreement with the Council for Unity, Inc., and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall provide a certified copy of this resolution to Andrea Lohneiss, CD Director and Theresa Drozd, Riverhead Central School District.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

WHEREAS, bids for the *Library Book Security System* were opened September 27, 2006, and

WHEREAS, bids for such services have been reviewed by the Purchasing Agent and Plant Facilities Director, and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent and the Plant Facilities Director have recommended that certain awards be made to the qualified low bidders meeting specifications, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District awards the following services to the vendor indicated for the service listed below for the 2006-07 school year:

<u>Bid Title</u>	<u># of Bids</u>	<u>Recommended Company</u>
3M Library Detection Systems & Circulation Accessory	5 bid packets sent 1 returned	3M Library Systems @ \$11,801 for supply, install new & remove old

Mrs. Berezny inquired as to when the system would be up and running to which Ms. Kobylenski indicated that such information is not yet available.

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Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District gratefully accepts the donation of a wheelchair from Barbara Ceckowski for utilization in the District where needed.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District gratefully accepts the contribution of \$400 from Dr. and Mrs. Henry A. Johnson as part of the General Mills Foundation Gift-Matching Program for Education and Arts and Culture.

Yes 6 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 Central School District Declares as surplus a non-fixable Lexington piano (Serial #100875) and one outdated acoustic head amp (Serial #PA1705) as recommended by David Loddengaard of the Music Department; and, authorizes the District to dispose of same in the best financial manner possible.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Griffing, seconded by Mr. Stark, 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:

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Emergency Conditional Appointment Pending Fingerprint Clearance

Ellen Pisano – Intramural Cheerleading, effective 9/13/06-1/19/07.

Appointments

Carol Mishkin – Substitute Teacher, effective 10/11/06.
Courtney Kenneally – Leave Replacement, Reading Teacher, effective 10/11/06-12/29/06.

Pulaski Street Advisor Appointments: *Effective: 2006-2007 year*

Robert Fallot – Art Club.
Jaimee Draskin – Scrabble Club.
Colleen O’Leary – Yearbook Club.
Marion Johnson – Math Olympiads.
Michelle Chauncey-Bauman – Book of the Month Club.
Stacy Hubbard – Journalism Club.
Eileen Gorman – Technology Club.

Middle School Advisor Appointments: *Effective: 2006-2007 year*

Betsy Fabricatore – French Club.
Judith Arnone – National Jr. Honor Society.

High School Advisor Appointments: *Effective: 2006-2007 year*

Louise Wilkinson – H.U.G.S.
Louise Wilkinson – Key Club.
Christine Shay – Class of 2010.
Elizabeth Gerosa – Bible Club.
Joan Bernhardt – Outdoors Club.

Change of Status

Amy Gammon – Leave Replacement, Elementary Teacher, effective 10/16/06-11/30/06.

Amendment to Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence

Colleen O’Leary – Elementary Teacher, To: Unpaid Leave of Absence 10/11/06-10/13/06, From: Unpaid Leave of Absence 10/11/06, 10/12/06, 10/14/06.

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Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence

Patricia Wellbrock – Teaching Assistant, effective 12/21/06,
12/22/06 Unpaid Leave of Absence.

Salary Advancements

(SEE ATTACHED SHEETS)

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Berezny, seconded by Mrs. Prete, 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 are subject to Board Policy #9310:

Amendment to Appointment

Diana Hayes – 1:1 Special Education Aide. To: 6.5 hours per day,
effective 9/1/06-6/30/07.

Change in Status

Laurie Gallo – To: 12-month School Bus Driver, From: 10-month
School Bus Driver, effective 10/16/06.

Change in Hours

Joanne Bonne – 1:1 Special Education Aide, To: 6.5 hours per
day, From: 6 hours per day, effective 10/11/06-6/30/07.

Terrell Brown – 1:1 Special Education Aide, To: 7 hours per day,
From: 6 hours per day, effective 10/11/06-6/30/07.

Deborah Gagnon – 1:1 Special Education Aide, To: 7 hours per
day, From: 6 hours per day, effective 10/11/06-6/30/07.

Claire Mielnicki- 1:1 Special Education Aide, To: 6.5 hours per day,
From: 6 hours per day, effective 9/5/06-6/30/07.

Barbara Grathwohl – 1:1 Special Education Aide, To: 6.5 hours per
day, From: 6 hours per day, effective 9/5/06-6/30/07.

Jaime Tonn – 1:1 Special Education Aide, To: 6.5 hours per day,
From: 6 hours per day, effective 9/5/06-6/30/07.

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Deanna Davis – School Bus Driver, To: 7.5 hours per day,
From: 6 hours per day, effective 9/7/06.
Michael Slovensky – School Bus Driver, To: 7.5 hours per day,
From: 6 hours per day, effective 9/7/06.
Julie Snow – School Bus Driver, To: 7.5 hours per day,
From: 6 hours per day, effective 9/7/06.
Karen Turbush – School Bus Driver, To: 5.5 hours per day,
From: 6 hours per day, effective 9/18/06.
Nicholas DiPierro – School Bus Driver, To: 6 hours per day,
From: 7.5 hours per day, effective 9/18/06.
Claudette Tuttle – School Bus Driver, To: 7.5 hours per day,
From: 6 hours per day, effective 9/7/06.
Tara Thompson – School Bus Driver, To: 8 hours per day,
From: 6 hours per day, effective 9/7/06.

Return from Workers' Compensation

Cornelius Trent – Custodial Worker I, effective 10/2/06.

Resignation

Linda Gatz – Substitute School Bus Driver, effective 9/26/06.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

WHEREAS, the Riverhead Central School District recognizes that the loss of a superintendent is a traumatic event, and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board of Education to ensure continuity and consistency for the benefit of education for the children in this school district, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District appoints Joseph F. Singleton as Acting Superintendent for the period October 11, 2006 through December 31, 2006.

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Mrs. Prete stated that she was opposed to voting for the Superintendent's resignation, however, it would have been costly otherwise. Voting for this appointment is the responsible thing to do for the administrators.

Yes 5
Ms. DeVito
Mrs. Gassert
Mrs. Griffing
Mrs. Prete
Mr. Stark

No 1
Mrs. Berezny

Motion Carried.

Additional community comments included:

- request for summary of budget versus actual
- request to expand the search for a superintendent and include CEO's
- request that the procedure and notification of a *lockdown* be tooled for glitches and flaws (Mrs. Gassert read a statement related to the unusual occurrence on campus this afternoon, explaining that appropriate action was taken...the sequence of events....that no shots were fired...and, that a briefing will be held tomorrow morning with staff. Mr. Griffing stated that a nail-hammer used in the ongoing construction adjacent to the High School, in all likelihood, replicated the sound of a gunshot. Mrs. Prete requested information on the Homeland Security grant, *i.e.*, exactly how much has been spent and on what; and, the need to communicate with local state and county officials).
- suggestion to notify BOCES in *lockdown* situations
- need for qualified personnel in emergency response training, chain of command/protocol, etc.; and, need to coordinate all procedures with the Town of Riverhead. Mr. Ogeka stated that the Head of Security is trained in such situations. Some of his qualifications include prior service in the armed forces, former employment as a police officer and training as a nuclear specialist.

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- status of the church's expired lease for use of three classrooms at Riley and that protection of our children is a high priority
(Mr. Ogeka stated that the lease agreement has been sent to legal counsel for review.)
- request for list of capital projects (The current list may be revised in the next few months but is currently available at the District Office.)
- request for quality health care into retirement for teachers
- request to hire a 4th grade teacher at Phillips to maintain smaller class sizes and reward parents with the level of education their children deserve
- inquiry as to whether the Board of Education or any other organization will open an investigation as to occurrence of any alleged improprieties/misconduct committed by the superintendent during business hours with an alleged co-conspirator and report back to the public. He, also, suggested informing the Suffolk County DA's Office (Mrs. Gassert stated that the Board of Education does not have the right to speak about any employee but she reassured everyone that comments and concerns will be taken under advisement.)
- many teachers spoke united in the purpose for a fair and equitable contract
- a parent spoke on a specific incident and difficulty for a parent to get tutoring for her child who suffers from a chronic illness (Ms. Carney stated that she will look into the matter and contact both the parent and PPS.)
- Does the District issue certificates of completion from the High School? (Answer: the district does not)
- Does the District issue IEP's? (Answer: The district does) and related concern that children are being told they cannot attend college with such a certificate (Mrs. Prete expressed concern on Guidance Department procedures regarding a child's eligibility to attend college.)
- awareness of the Board that children at the High School are going without breakfast due to arrival/scheduling of buses (Ms. Carney stated that the matter has been discussed with possible solutions to bring before the Board.)

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-follow up on security matter on our athletic fields and suggestion made to Mr. Ogeka to contact Sister Margaret to communicate all rules and guidelines to the Hispanic community

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

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education recessed to executive session at 9:55 p.m.

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

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara O’Kula
District Clerk