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MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Meeting – January 23, 2007  
Riverhead High School Cafeteria

PRESENT: President, Mrs. Nancy G. Gassert; Vice President, Mr. W. Brian Stark; Mrs. Kathleen Berezny; Ms. Angela DeVito; Mrs. Mary Ellen Harkin; and, Mrs. Christine Prete.

ABSENT: Mr. Timothy Griffing.

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

President, Mrs. Gassert, opened the meeting at 5:38 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of Allegiance

A motion was made by Mr. Stark, 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 5:39 p.m.

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

Return to  
Open Session

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:42 p.m.

A brief recess followed.

The meeting resumed at 7:50 p.m.

There were about 55 other people in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara O’Kula.

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A motion was made by Mrs. Berezny, seconded by Mrs. Harkin, to amend the agenda as follows:

Amend Agenda  
-Approved

**Correct from "second" reading to:**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the **third and final reading** of Board Policy #9645 – *Disclosure of Wrongful Conduct*, as amended.

**Add to Appointments of Vote Workers for Special District Meeting:**

Poll Clerks: Dennis Mueller, Linda Mueller  
Alternates: Josephine Sideratos (Inspector)  
Toni Vodola (Poll Clerk)

**Table:**

WHEREAS, the Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) is calling for nominations of individuals to the BOCES Board and such nominations must be received at the Office of the Clerk of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES First Supervisory District of Suffolk County no later than January 24, 2007, and

WHEREAS, there is one seat to be filled by a special election as follows:

Position previously held by Pamela Waltz of Miller Place School District - Term expiring June 30, 2008

and,

WHEREAS, the successful candidate will complete the balance of the unexpired term of the above listed position, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District nominates the following individual as candidate for the position on the Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational Services of the First Supervisory District of Suffolk County: \_\_\_\_\_; and, directs the District Clerk to submit the nomination accordingly.

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**Add:**

Announcement of Community Forum, open to the general public, to address concerns and criteria and all around input to help the Board of Education develop a profile of leadership qualities for the new superintendent.

Yes 6 No 0

Motion to Amend Agenda Carried.

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

***Separate vote on the following:***

Emergency Conditional Appointments Pending Fingerprint Clearance

Laura Jacques – Clerk Typist, effective 2/5/07.

Arlene Durkalski – Employee Relations Director, effective 1/24/07.

Yes 6 No 0

Motion to Amend Agenda Carried.

A public hearing on the Capital Project Referendum Vote on February 6, 2007 began at 8:00 p.m.

Public Hearing  
-Capital Projects  
Referendum

Mr. Singleton commented that on June 20, 2006, the residents approved the establishment of a \$10 million Capital Reserve Fund and, about the same time, legislation passed state aid for renovations to schools called *Excel funds* of which Riverhead received \$1.5 million. The district already has about \$4.5 million in the capital reserve fund. This means \$6 million on hand to pay for the proposed projects with the balance of \$4 million authorized to fund over the next five years. The school district now seeks to authorize a spending plan that will update the district's schools to bring them into compliance with the federal Americans With Disabilities Act (i.e., upgrade bathrooms, proposed elevator in the Middle School and other safety and security issues). Any specific uses of the funds are subject to a separate vote; and, as stated by Mr. Singleton, the projects being proposed are common sense safety issues that are long overdue. Approximately 45% of the

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total cost of the projects will be paid for by the State...the highest amount received in any project of the district's history. Voters were asked to come out and vote on February 6, 2007 – 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. – High School gymnasium - in support of the program.

The public hearing ended at 8:32 p.m.

Mrs. Gassert announced that on Monday, February 5, 2007, an open community forum will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School cafeteria at which time residents will have an opportunity to share their thoughts as to what the most important issues are that face the district and, to identify the qualities/characteristics they would like to see in the new superintendent. Representatives from the search consultant firm of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates will facilitate the meeting. A "Leadership Profile Assessment" form is available on the district's website: [www.riverhead.net](http://www.riverhead.net) and people are asked to bring the completed form with them or mail it to the District Office.

Announcement of  
Community Forum  
-Feb. 5, 2007  
-Superintendent Search

Mr. Stark inquired as to the policy regarding mid-terms and test schedules as emanated from parents of the community. Ms. Carney stated that in order to prepare students, mock assessments are being conducted that will provide data for teachers before assessments and Regents are taken. She recommended that parents who have any questions regarding their child's mid-term schedule call the building principal.

Opportunity for  
Board Members

Ms. DeVito announced that she is in the process of trying to create a course for those students interested in the construction trade. Two field trips are planned that will introduce young people in the construction trade as career choices via the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 138 to their training facility in Yaphank. The field trips are scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 7<sup>th</sup> and she encouraged students to take advantage of the opportunity. She, also, encouraged residents to attend the Community Forum on February 5<sup>th</sup> that will assist the Board with the identification and selection of a new superintendent. In addition, as discussed at the last Board meeting regarding disconnect with language, she has

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followed up on course(s) available at Suffolk County Community College and is currently waiting for an answer to her phone call.

Comments from the community included:

Community  
Comments

- request that the Board consider a policy on cell phone usage for elementary grade students
- inquiry as to the Metro Therapy, Inc. contract (hourly or unlimited service?) and if a bid occurred (Mr. Singleton stated that it involves half-hour units and that professional services do not require a bid).
- referring to the district's Agreement with UCP, inquiry was made as to whether the district has people on-site to provide services and consulting support...to which Ms. Chappell replied "Yes".

A motion was made by Mr. Stark, seconded by Mrs. Harkin, to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

Approval of Minutes  
-Approved

Regular Meeting – January 9, 2007  
Special Meeting – January 17, 2007

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried.

Mr. Singleton announced his privilege to introduce Katy Pettit and Donna Verbeck, teachers from the Riley Avenue Elementary School, who were chosen to make a presentation at the annual renowned conference of the *National Council of Teachers of English* held in Tennessee attended by more than 7,000 teachers from across the country. They gave a brief presentation of their shared experiences and things learned while there. Ms. Carney stated that the district's goal is for all students to reach their potential. Plans are to align curriculum to state standards and strengthen the ELA program very aggressively (*i.e.*, piloting remediation reading programs); to provide instruction to get children on grade level; and, put energy into literacy, ensure that children attend Pre-K and expand school programs to raise expectations.

National Council  
Of Teachers of English  
Presentation  
-Katy Pettit and Donna  
Verbeck

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

WHEREAS, teachers Katy Pettit and Donna Verbeck were chosen to present a unit of study on "Teaching Nonfiction in Reading and Writing Workshop" at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention in Tennessee, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Verbeck and Ms. Pettit have brought credit to themselves and to the Riverhead School District, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools commends these teachers for their accomplishment in being chosen as "teacher leaders" by this renowned educational organization.

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education presented Ms. Verbeck and Ms. Pettit with certificates of achievement.

A motion was made by Mrs. Harkin, 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>
10-17-06	207888
12-06-06	216583
12-12-06	210444, 211316, 212018, 212214
12-13-06	212033, 213541, 213660, 214057, 214357
12-15-06	208900, 209084, 209893, 210601, 215097

Recognition of Teachers  
-Katy Pettit and Donna Verbeck  
-Approved

Committee on Special Education  
-Approved  
-Supplemental File

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<u>C.P.S.E. MEETING</u>	<u>STUDENT NUMBERS</u>
12-06-06	220068, 221023, 220291, 220151
12-14-06	220413, 220422, 221198, 221021, 22139, 220146, 220418, 220420, 222101, 22146, 220017

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the third and final reading of Board Policy #9645 – *Disclosure of Wrongful Conduct*, as amended.

Third and Final  
Reading of Board  
Policy #9645  
-Disclosure of  
Wrongful Conduct  
-Approved as Amended

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried as Amended.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the Agreement between Metro Therapy, Inc. and the Riverhead Central School District to provide physical and/or occupational therapy services for the 2006-07 school year at an estimated cost of \$150,000; and, authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign such Agreement.

Approval of Contracts  
-Metro Therapy, Inc.  
-United Cerebral Palsy  
-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the Agreement between United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Suffolk, Inc. and the Riverhead Central School District for Consultation Services and/or Collaboration services for the 2006-07 school year at an estimated cost of \$10,000; and, authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign such Agreement.

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District appoints the following persons for the special district meeting of qualified voters on February 6, 2007 for the capital projects proposition vote:

Chairperson: Edward Doherty  
Alternate Chairperson: Barbara O’Kula

Inspectors of Election: Adele Abrahamsen, Rosemary Colavito, Victoria Farruggia, Deborah Goroleski, Barbara Reichel, Gail Yeager (Chief Inspector of Election).

Poll Clerks: Justyna Breitenbach, Dorothy Bascomb, Amanda Jane Brown, Ann Engelhardt, Dorothy Exum, Muriel Groneman, Mary Hatcher, Dorothy Haupt, Katherine Konkel, Irene Lachick, Barbara Lennon, Frances Mapes, Dennis Mueller, Linda Mueller, Roxanna Parker, Anjum Raja and Patricia Raja.

Alternates: Josephine Sideratos (Inspector)  
Toni Vodola (Poll Clerk)

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried as Amended.

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

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

Jennifer Galimi – Spring Crew  
James Janecek – Girls’ M.S. Basketball

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried.

Appointment of  
Workers for  
Special District  
Meeting

-Approved as Amended

Appointment of  
Volunteers

-Approved



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

Professional  
Personnel  
Recommendations  
-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:

Emergency Conditional Appointment Pending Fingerprint Clearance

Pamela Egbert – Substitute Teacher, effective 1/24/07-6/30/07.

Appointments

Caroline Kwas – Substitute Teacher, effective 1/24/07-6/30/07.

Jason Richardson – Substitute Teacher, effective 1/24/07-6/30/07.

Traci Zambriski – Substitute Teacher, effective 1/24/07-6/30/07.

Tenure Appointment

Trevor Hewitt – Music Teacher, effective 3/29/07.

Salary Advancements: *Effective 2/1/07*

Danielle Altman – From: Masters+15-Step 3, To: Masters+30-Step 3.

Mindy Benze – From: Bachelors+30-Step 2, To: Masters-Step 2.

Lisa Bohleber – From: Bachelors+30-Step 2, To: Masters-Step 2.

Pretoria Falkner – From: Bachelors+30-Step 7, To: Masters-Step 7.

Danielle Good – From: Masters-Step 2, To: Masters+15-Step 2.

Chris Martin – From: Masters+30-Step 3, To: Masters+45-Step 3.

Christopher McCrary – From: Masters+15-Step 8, To: Masters+30-Step 8.

Steven Mercorella – From: Masters+45-Step 4, To: Masters+60-Step 4.

John Rossetti – From: Masters+60-Step 10, To: Masters+75-Step 10.

Jeri Schilpp – From: Masters+45-Step 10, To: Masters+60-Step 10.

Linda Wallace – From: Masters+45-Step 8, To: Masters+60-Step 8.

Continuation of Leave Replacements

Kelly Lester – Leave Replacement, Elementary Teacher,  
To: 1/17/07-2/28/07, From: 11/13/06-1/16/07.

Jill Gevinski – Leave Replacement, Elementary Teacher,  
To: 2/1/07-6/30/07, From: 9/1/06-1/31/07.

Sherry Hansen – Leave Replacement, Social Worker,  
To: 2/1/07-6/30/07, From: 9/1/06-1/31/07.

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Request for Extension of Maternity/Child Care Leave

Alicia O'Connor – Elementary Teacher, To: 1/17/07-2/28/07  
Unpaid Child Care Leave, From: 11/13/06-1/16/07 Unpaid FMLA.  
Jennifer Olsen – Social Worker, To: 2/1/07-6/30/07 Unpaid Child  
Care Leave, From: 9/1/06-1/31/07 Unpaid Child Care Leave.

Request for Maternity/Child Care Leave

Debra Mitchell – Speech Teacher, 2/26/07-3/7/07 Using  
Accumulated Sick Time; 3/8/07-4/13/07 FMLA.

Request for Paid Sick Bank Leave

Justin Snyder – Math Teacher, 1/29/07-5/4/07 RCFA Sick Bank,  
5/7/07-6/30/07 Unpaid Leave.

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Harkin, 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:

Civil Service  
Personnel  
Recommendations  
-Approved

Emergency Conditional Appointments Pending Fingerprint  
Clearance

Letty Krejci – Substitute Clerk Typist, effective 1/24/07-6/30/07.  
Claire Latour – Substitute Hourly Food Service Worker, effective  
1/24/07-6/30/07.

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried.

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

Civil Service  
Personnel  
Recommendation

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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:

-Laura Jacques  
**-Failed**

Emergency Conditional Appointments Pending Fingerprint Clearance

Laura Jacques – Clerk Typist, effective 2/5/07.

Yes 3  
Mrs. Gassert  
Mrs. Harkin  
Mr. Stark

No 3  
Mrs. Berezny  
Ms. DeVito  
Mrs. Prete

Motion **Fails**.

A motion was made by Mr. Stark, seconded by Ms. DeVito, to table 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:

Civil Service Personnel Recommendation  
-Arlene Durkalski  
**-Tabled**

Emergency Conditional Appointments Pending Fingerprint Clearance

Arlene Durkalski – Employee Relations Director, effective 1/24/07.

Yes 5  
Mrs. Berezny  
Ms. DeVito  
Mrs. Gassert  
Mrs. Harkin  
Mr. Stark

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No 1  
Mrs. Prete

Motion to **Table** Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Harkin, seconded by Mr. Stark, 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:

Appointments

Michael Brown – Substitute School Bus Driver, effective 2/14/07-6/30/07.

Scott Lapinski – Substitute Custodial Worker I, effective 1/24/07-6/30/07.

Michael Sanchez – Substitute Custodial Worker I, effective 1/24/07-6/30/07.

Change in Status

Robert Latour – To: Part-time Custodial Worker I, From: Substitute Custodial Worker I, effective 1/24/07.

Edwin Stewart – To: Custodial Worker I, From: Substitute Custodial Worker I, effective 2/5/07.

Jaime Tonn – To: Substitute Teacher Aide, From: 1:1 Individual Aide, effective 1/22/07-6/30/07.

Request for Paid Catastrophic Leave

Thomas Jasinski – Guard, effective 1/17/07-2/16/07.

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried.

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Community  
Comments

Additional community comments included:

- inquiry as to how much the district pays per student (i.e., football team) Mrs. Gassert stated that stipends, equipment, athletic fees, busing, etc. are variable factors.
- request that the district consider introducing “fencing” as a new intramural sport (Mrs. Gassert stated that the Board would certainly consider it, if not for this year, then maybe for next year).
- a number of parents addressed the Board and expressed much concern and bother that a number of students who attended Phillips Avenue School and are now at Pulaski Street School, cannot write in script. They stated that cursive writing instruction was taken out of the curriculum in 2003-03 and reintroduced in the 2005-06 school year. Instances cited was a student who could not sign his/her passport and caused a delay while another was unable to understand his/her report card because it was written in script. Parents felt that if this happened in Phillips, it could have, also, happened in the other schools. Ms. Carney offered that at one time the district taught cursive before print – when the curriculum changed from kindergarten to it being introduced in second grade – a big change in administration and lack of communication in administration on the teaching of cursive was not articulated to the faculty. She stated that script is now being mandated and she will oversee for its consistent instruction in all schools. A committee of leaders from each school will be established to address the literacy problems. Mrs. Prete assured parents that the process will be followed. Mrs. Harkin noted recollection of when script was taken out of the curriculum...the feeling at that time was that too much time was being spent on cursive instruction versus reading time. Much discussion took place; however, it was not adequately analyzed in third grade and will now most definitely be addressed. Ms. Carney stated that the issue will be addressed immediately with plans to implement instruction at Pulaski in February.
- a teacher requested actual cost savings to the district when the Board of Education made the determination to hire academic supervisors/administrators in the High School and eliminate the department chairpersons (Ms. Carney stated that a meeting is scheduled for Thursday to review and bring that information forward.)

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-request for definition of the position of Employee Relations Director (Mr. Singleton stated that the position existed in the district for a number of years and the proposed hiring is a replacement for Linda Mueller).

-update on the hiring of Internal Auditor (Mr. Singleton stated that the Internal Auditor will establish a protocol of information they want to review and identify and prioritize what should be addressed, inasmuch as, a five-point plan is now required. A risk assessment should be completed by February with conclusion some time in May 2007.)

-how many social workers work in the district? (There are seven and Mr. Singleton stated that they work in the district by need...not by school).

-request to consider budgeting for bi-lingual teachers at the elementary level as the demographics at Phillips versus Riley show more of a Latino population (Ms. Carney stated that Phillips currently has three ESL teachers).

A motion was made by Mrs. Berezny, seconded by Mr. Stark, to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara O'Kula  
District Clerk

