

(320)

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting – March 13, 2007
Roanoke Avenue Elementary School Auditorium

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

ABSENT: Mr. Timothy Griffing.

LATE: Mrs. Mary Ellen Harkin.

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

President, Mrs. Gassert, opened the meeting at 5:50 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of Allegiance

A motion was made by Mr. Stark, seconded by Mrs. Berezny, to recess to executive session to discuss personnel (Sheehan & Company) and legal (land acquisition).

Recess to
Executive Session

Yes 5 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education recessed to executive session at 5:51 p.m.

Mrs. Patricia Nelson and Mr. Robert Armbrrecht of Sheehan & Company arrived at 6:03 p.m. to provide the Board with preliminary results of risk assessments for all scope areas reviewed. They left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Mr. Harvey Besunder, Esq. arrived at 6:30 p.m. to update the Board of Education on the status of possible land acquisition. He left the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Mrs. Harkin arrived at 6:35 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Stark, 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 7:30 p.m.

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A brief recess followed.

The meeting resumed at 7:37 p.m.

There were about 80 other people in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara O’Kula.

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

Approval of Minutes
-Approved

Regular Meeting – February 27, 2007
Special Meeting – March 6, 2007

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Harkin, seconded by Ms. DeVito, to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Budget Transfers for the month of January 2007.

Approval of Treasurer’s
Report and Budget
Transfers
-January 2007
-Approved

Fund	Check Numbers	Amount
General Fund	21519-21947	\$2,166,702.91
Federal Fund	8147-8187	725,135.82
Cafeteria	8163-8193	131,569.66
Extraclassroom	4328-4346	30,796.27

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

Mr. Singleton announced that the 2007-2008 tentative budget review work session on *Instruction* would take place at the end of the meeting.

Opportunity for
Superintendent

A motion was made by Mrs. Berezny, seconded by Mrs. Harkin, to amend the agenda to separate the vote on the *Appointment to River Pointe After-School Program* from the rest of the Professional Personnel Recommendations.

Amend Agenda
-Approved to Amend

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Yes 4
Mrs. Berezny
Ms. DeVito
Mrs. Harkin
Mrs. Prete

No 2
Mrs. Gassert
Mr. Stark

Motion Carried.

Mrs. Berezny commented on her attendance to the following:

Opportunity for
Board Members

-February 28th, *Story Night* at Phillips Avenue Elementary School
-March 2nd, the annual kick-off for the *Relay for Life* fundraiser for cancer research that will take place on June 15 and 16 on the football field at the Pulaski Street School
-March 9th, accompanied by Ms. DeVito, they attended the *Teen Art Showcase* reception by the friends of the Riverhead Free Library that displayed photos, pottery, etc. of students in grades 9-12 under the direction of art teachers, Vinnie Nasta and Mary Twomey. She encouraged the Board and community to attend this annual event to take place March 5-23.

Ms. DeVito commented on the many changes that are taking place in Riverhead and expressed her concerns on the proposed relocation of the existing Riverhead Fire Department's firehouse on Second Street to the corner opposite the Roanoke Avenue Elementary School; and, its impact on the school's daily operation. Mrs. Berezny stated that a public forum is being held on March 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the fire- house on Second Street. The vote on the \$14,740,000 bond to purchase land and build a new fire headquarters on Roanoke Avenue is being held on March 20 at the firehouse on Second Street between the hours of 3:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. In turn, Ms. DeVito inquired as to the process to keep the public informed of questions put forth at that public meeting on the plans and findings of same that would be incorporated into action by the agency.

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Mrs. Prete thanked building Principal, Deborah Rodgers, for her leadership skills and “family” atmosphere and well-run operation of the school as evidenced in her visit (along with Ms. DeVito) to the school on Friday, March 9th. She, also, expressed her concerns about the excessive number of latenesses at the High School since the beginning of the school year (approximately 11,000 recorded) and asked that the Board of Education formulate a policy on attendance, absences, latenesses and subsequent consequences; and, requested support in addressing this problem.

Mrs. Gassert addressed cadets of the NJROTC Unit in attendance and in uniform, for their strength, value and pride they bring to the school district and community. On behalf of the Board of Education, she stated reassurance that an assistant to the current instructor would be hired as soon as possible and that the Board is in total support of the program.

Comments expressed by the community include:

Community
Comments

-a number of parents and NJROTC cadets expressed their frustration and concern on the immediate need for a second instructor and the non-hiring of a recently interviewed candidate for the position (Mr. Singleton clarified that the intention to fill the position is resolute and the rationale to reject the candidate in question is a personnel issue and cannot be discussed in public. According to N.Y.S. Education Law, the Superintendent must recommend the candidate meeting standards to the Board of Education and is restricted to talk about any candidate in public. While the pool of candidates is very limited, two other candidates are being interviewed on March 27 in an effort to find a certifiable candidate in sufficient time.)

-a commanding officer of the NJROTC Unit stated that the hiring of an assistant would alleviate pressure and enhance training toward a larger scale for events, competitions, drills, etc. and not jeopardize the Unit’s current ranking (Mr. Singleton stated that the separation of the last assistant was done at the February Board meeting...units on Long Island and throughout New York State have been without a second position for over a year...he has been in contact with regional offices to find someone in the area or who will relocate to the area; and, Mrs. Gassert has reached out to our

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retired Naval instructor, Commander Roth, for input and recommendations.)

-request for explanation of interview process (Per Mr. Singleton, typically, the building Principal and Specialist interview the candidate and make a recommendation to the Superintendent...the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent will sit in on the interview, resulting in the Superintendent making recommendation to the Board of Education for approval).

-clarification on *Use of Time Out Rooms* (Per Mr. Singleton, the Riverhead Central School District does not use time out rooms for any of our students. However, there may be some agencies that we send students to that use time out rooms...it must be within the student's IEP (Individualized Education Plan) adopted by the Committee on Special Education and approved by the parent(s) before commencement of the school year...it is not the intention of the District to implement time out rooms).

Because the Roanoke auditorium is inaccessible to the handicapped (wheelchair), Mrs. Berezny read an email from the Vice President of the NJROTC Unit requesting the Board's full support of the program, its continuance and expansion.

A motion was made by Mrs. Harkin, seconded by Ms. DeVito, 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:

Committee on
Special Education
-Approved
-Supplemental File

<u>C.S.E. MEETING</u>	<u>STUDENT NUMBERS</u>
01/04/07	209090
01/25/07	216164
01/31/07	208312, 208567, 208899, 209136, 209893, 210601
02/06/07	206219, 201789, 207189, 208010, 208904, 209767, 214038, 215234, 219157
02/07/07	206110, 206423
02/13/07	210100

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<u>C.P.S.E. MEETING</u>	<u>STUDENT NUMBERS</u>
02/14/07	221203, 220410, 222162, 220213, 220221, 220311, 220198, 222027

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

Proposition for
Placement on Ballot
-Tabled

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the following proposition and directs the District Clerk to include same on the May 15, 2007 ballot:

Yes 6 No 0
Motion to Table Carried.

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

Adoption of Board
Policy #5310.1
-Use of Time Out Rooms
-Amended to
indicate *First Reading*
-Approved as **Amended**

WHEREAS, the Riverhead Central School District does not utilize time out rooms for behavior management, and

WHEREAS, agencies or service providers may use time out rooms for behavior management for Riverhead Central School District students attending those facilities, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that due to the importance of the adoption of this resolution, it is recommended that the first and second readings be waived, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the attached Board Policy #5310.1 regarding the *Use of Time Out Rooms* is hereby adopted for the Riverhead Central School District and any agency treating District students.

In a discussion that followed, Ms. DeVito stated her concerns on vacating the usual three readings for adoption of Board policies and benefit to the Board to abide by this practice. Her recommendation is that this policy should state that "it is the policy of the Riverhead Central School District **not** to use time behavior management rooms" and that the Board of Education consider this as a *first reading*.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the **first reading** of Board Policy #5310.1 – *Use of Time Out Rooms*.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried as Amended.

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

WHEREAS, six (6) bids for *Sale of District Owned Surplus Vehicles and Equipment* were opened on February 14, 2007, and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Supervisor and the Assistant Superintendent for Business have recommended award to the highest responsible bidder(s) meeting the bids and specifications, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the award of bids as follows:

Bid Award
-Sale of District Owned Surplus Vehicles and Equipment
-Approved

Highest Bidder	Items Awarded	Total Amount Due
Michael Majsce	# 1, 2	\$1,859.59
Brian Cybulski	# 4	\$ 600.00
Out Post Automotive	# 3, 5, 6, 7	\$1,587.00

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

Overnight Field Trip
-HUGS

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RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the participation of students (number of students attending to be determined by April 2) at a HUGS weekend leadership retreat the weekend of April 13-15, 2007 at Camp Quinipet, Shelter Island. Costs to the district are bus transportation and the price of ferry tickets (approximately \$120 bus/driver and \$50 for ferry tickets – 2 round trips = \$240). Transportation is subject to approval pursuant to Board policy.

-Approved

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

Surplus Equipment
-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District declares as surplus certain broken and outdated equipment at the Phillips Avenue Elementary School as outlined in the list made part of the Supplemental File; and, authorizes to discard same in the best financial manner of the school district.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

Appointment of Volunteer
-Approved

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

Allen A. Borghard - Spring Crew

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

Approval of Contracts
-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the following contracts for the 2006-2007 school year:

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Eastern Suffolk BOCES Reconnecting Youth Program
\$10,000
(Paid through Eastern Suffolk BOCES Reconnecting Youth
Program)

Family Service League of Suffolk County
_ Training for HS students in Critical Incident Stress Management
\$ 1,000
(Paid through Emergency Response Grant)

In a discussion that followed, Mrs. Berezny requested information on the Reconnecting Youth Program. Ms. Carney responded in that the program has been in the District for many years and is an effective intervention program for 8-12 students during the school day. Mrs. Prete stated that she would vote "no" as there are many other different programs to consider.

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

No 1
Mrs. Prete

Motion Carried.

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

Adoption of Textbook
-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead School District adopts the following Textbook for the Advanced Placement Music Theory Class:

Tonal Harmony: With An Introduction to Twentieth Century Music
by Steven Kostka and Dorothy Payne.

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Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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:

Appointments

Carrie Patrizio – Substitute Teacher, effective 3/14/07-6/30/07.
Aimee Garry – Substitute Teacher, effective 3/14/07-6/30/07.

Change in Status

Jacqueline Andrejack – To: Leave Replacement, Elementary Teacher, From: Substitute Teacher, effective 3/14/07-4/30/07.
Lindsey Fuhs – To: Leave Replacement, Elementary Teacher, From: Substitute Teacher, effective 4/9/07-5/18/07.
Donna Elmore – To: Leave Replacement, Elementary Teacher, From: Substitute Teacher, effective 3/14/07-5/4/07.
Stephanie Cordiero – To: Substitute Teacher, From: Permanent Substitute Teacher, effective 2/5/07-6/30/07.
Cori Koroleski – To: Permanent Substitute, From: Substitute Teacher, effective 3/14/07-6/30/07.

Change in Step Placement

Garrett Moore – 3/5 Social Studies Teacher/High School;
2/5 Social Studies Teacher/Alternative School, effective 9/1/06.

Spring 2007 Coaching Appointments

Louis Vecchio – Girls' Track Varsity Assistant.
Greg Sanders – Baseball M.S. Head Coach.

Change in Maternity/Child Care Leave

Jennifer Barth – Elementary Teacher, To: 3/5/07-4/25/07 Using accumulated sick time, 4/26/07-5/4/07 Unpaid FMLA; From: 3/19/07-5/4/07 Using accumulated sick time.
Carolyn Colantropo – Elementary Teacher, To: 3/26/07-4/13/07 Using accumulated sick time, 4/16/07-4/24/07 Unpaid FMLA; From: 3/7/07-4/24/07 Using accumulated sick time.

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Sick Bank Leave

Crystal Crespo - Music Teacher, effective 3/23/07-4/20/07 RCFA
Sick Bank.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

Recommendation

-Appointment to
River Pointe After-School
Program
-Approved

Appointment to River Pointe After-School Program

Kevin Brown – Elementary Tutor, effective 3/14/07-6/15/07.

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

No 2
Mrs. Berezny
Mrs. Prete

Motion Carried.

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

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Emergency Conditional Appointments Pending Fingerprint Clearance

Koffi Messeko – Substitute Hourly Food Service Worker, effective 3/14/07-6/30/07.

Michael Repperger – Substitute Guard, effective 3/14/07-6/30/07.

Appointment

Tye Jones – Substitute Guard, effective 9/1/06-6/30/07.

Change in Status

Mark Hellerman – To: Part-time Custodial Worker I, From: Substitute Custodial Worker I, effective 3/14/07.

Change in Hours

Robert Szczepanik – School Bus Driver, To: 5.5 hours per day, From: 5 hours per day, effective 3/19/07.

Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence

William Fitzpatrick – School Bus Driver, effective 3/26/07-3/30/07 Unpaid.

Request for Extension of Catastrophic Leave

Thomas Jasinski – Guard, To: 3/19/07-4/17/07; From: 2/16/07-3/18/07.

Joseph Pettiford – School Bus Driver, To: 3/17/07-4/16/07; From: 2/14/07-3/16/07.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

Additional comments from the community are:

Community Comments

-request that the Board review and expand the Pre-1st program throughout the district as many children would benefit (Board members, Mrs. Gassert, Mrs. Berezny and Mrs. Prete agreed that it is a priority to expand and educate these children. Ms. Carney offered that the District has no intention of eliminating the program...each student is recommended by the teacher...and, that at least 12 students be enrolled in the program to be cost effective.)

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-comment that to delay the hiring of a second instructor would be detrimental to the NJROTC Unit

The Budget Review on the *Instruction* portion of the proposed 2007-2008 Budget commenced at 8:50 p.m.

2007-2008 Tentative
Budget Review
Work Session
-Instruction

Mr. Singleton turned the budget review over to Ms. Lynn Kobylenski who presented the *Instructional* costs being proposed in the 2007-2008 budget:

TOTAL INSTRUCTION – 10.5% overall increase
K-6 Teacher Salaries

REGULAR INSTRUCTION – up 11.6%

Modest increases of 3.9% in Curriculum & Instruction and 2% increase in Testing & Measurement to focus on literacy and reading on grade level in all schools.

Proposed new positions are:

- one (1) reading teacher @ Roanoke
- four (4) new elementary school literacy coaches
- one (1) additional special education teacher in the Middle School
- one (1) .5 elementary teacher
- one (1) full-time ESL teacher @ High School (Mrs. Prete commented on the population and demographic changes in our community and a majority of new student enrollment required ESL services in all schools that equates to approximately \$1 million spent/budgeted for ESL teachers. Inasmuch as ESL services are federally mandated and of which the District is minimally reimbursed (about \$60,000), she expressed the need for the community at large to appeal to our State and Federal representatives to provide funding for the mandates they place upon the schools and undo the stress being placed upon the taxpayers and the ability to pay.
- additional 3.0 positions at the High School level for implementation of new Math and Science curriculum next year
- one (1) music teacher to keep Strings Program at the Middle School at par with two sections of orchestra next year

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Clerical – no change in positions

Security – status quo

(Mrs. Berezny requested a breakdown of overtime in the security department and how much is reimbursed by outside organizations). Questions were, also, raised about sending our security personnel to other schools. Mr. Ogeka stated that the District has no jurisdiction at another school district. Mr. Henderson stated that no guards were sent as workers to other school districts for this school year. Mrs. Prete that the District cease and desist sending security to all games outside the District.

Charter School – 48% increase due to increased enrollment

BOCES – up 12% attributed to increases in Special Education services

Both Mrs. Berezny and Mrs. Prete commented on the inclusion of a Driver's Education program as part of curriculum, inasmuch as, it includes instruction on potential driving hazards, under-age consumption of alcohol, illegal use of drugs, etc. and the responsibilities the privilege of a driver's license entails.

Mrs. Prete commented on the 8.8% salary increase for the interim Director of Guidance position and stated that as soon as a new permanent Superintendent is in place, that recruitment to replace the interim High School Principal and interim Guidance positions with permanent people begin immediately as opposed to retaining each interim for an additional year.

TOTAL COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION – increase of 34% to improve the District's infrastructure

PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES – Home Instruction services up 40% related to suspension rate, hospitalization of students, etc.

INTERSCHOLASTIC COACHING SALARIES – up 17%

- Varsity women's golf coach
- Varsity Crew coach
- JV women's tennis coach @ Middle School

Mrs. Berezny commented that the District is out on compliance with Title IX with the absence of a girls' lacrosse program and encouraged the timeliness of its implementation.

Some more comments expressed by the audience included:

- bring equity to girls'/boy's sports
- confirmation that the Crew Club is co-ed
- who decides on number of substitutes needed at each school (*i.e.*, 17 subs for two buildings versus 7 for the remainder)...due to its complexity – there are many more teachers at the High School and Middle School levels vs. elementary that substantiates the number.
- request that the Board consider the number of boys who participate in the lacrosse program who further their education on full scholarships (Mrs. Prete offered that a girls' lacrosse program is indeed needed but difficulty lies in the field space/facilities needed to accomplish it.)
- imperative need for permanent subs at the High School due to the fact that 10% of the teaching population (approximately 130 teachers) can be absent on any given day (In this regard, Mrs. Prete stated the need for the Board to address problematic issues involved when teachers who teach core curriculum courses are pulled out of the classroom to be a club advisor or participate in field trips).
- request for guideline of budget process (Mr. Singleton stated that the Board of Education requested to see all proposals/requests from all buildings/departments. Following full input from each, the Board carefully examined all appropriations in order to present a sound educational budget in consideration of what percentage was, also, affordable for the community).

Additional Community
Comments

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

Adjournment

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara O'Kula
District Clerk

