

(339)

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting – March 27, 2007
Phillips Avenue Elementary School Auditorium

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

LATE: Mr. Timothy Griffing, Mrs. Mary Ellen Harkin and Mrs. Christine Prete.

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

President, Mrs. Gassert, opened the meeting at 5:37 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of Allegiance

A motion was made by Mrs. Berezny, seconded by Ms. DeVito, to recess to executive session to discuss personnel (RAA grievance).

Recess to
Executive Session

Yes 4 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education recessed to executive session at 5:38 p.m.

Mr. Griffing arrived at 5:57 p.m.

Mrs. Harkin arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Ms. Prete arrived at 6:20 p.m.

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

Return to
Open Session

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:28 p.m.

A brief recess followed.

The meeting resumed at 7:45 p.m.

There were about 75 other people in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara O’Kula.

Minutes
Board of Education
March 27, 2007
Page 2

Mr. Singleton announced that Blue Waves Coach, Dave Spinella, received the County's Coach of the Year award; and, that members of the girls' basketball team received a number of honors at the Suffolk County girls' basketball awards dinner last week. They will be recognized at another Board meeting.

Opportunity for Superintendent

A brief power-point presentation was given by Mr. Robert Hines of the Technology Department on the long-term technology plan in the process of being implemented within the district and the steps that are needed to make sure that students and faculty have the necessary tools they need to be successful.

Technology Plan Presentation

Mr. Singleton, in concert with Mr. John McCormick, Supervisor of the Transportation Department, spoke on the school bus purchase proposal that will appear as a separate proposition on the upcoming ballot for the May 15, 2007 school budget vote and election of board members. The purchase plan, if passed by the voters of the district, will permit the purchase of school buses over a seven (7) year period. The total requested is \$3,620,407 to buy 45 new school buses to replace (not to expand) the fleet to address increased student population and/or overall service expansion demands. This will include 20 full size buses, 9 wheelchair vans and 16 regular vans. The proposal to purchase buses in the very early years of the 7-year bond issue to replace old equipment will be cheaper in the long run as the costs of school buses will increase due to changes in federal rules and regulations regarding the technology for diesel engines. Full authorization to issue bonds in a series of notes over the next 7 years is requested now versus year by year and as is recommended by bond counsel.

Proposition on Bus Purchases

Mrs. Berezny commented on her attendance to the sold-out performance of *Cinderella* at the Riley Avenue Elementary School and complimented Mr. Shafer for his demonstration of twenty years of exuberance to put on such great shows. She, also, thanked Mr. Payton for hosting tonight's Board meeting and thanked his wife and children for the great cookies they made.

Opportunity for Board Members

Comments from the community included:

-request for the implementation of the latest technology that is affordable within the district and associated professional development

-concern on the need to keep kids prepared for the world of work and ability to compete via updated technology implementation

Community Comments

Minutes
Board of Education
March 27, 2007
Page 3

A motion was made by Mrs. Harkin, seconded by Ms. DeVito, 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. MEETING</u>	<u>STUDENT NUMBERS</u>
12-12-2006	210099
01-09-2007	211739
01-31-2007	208902, 210546
02-06-2007	205072, 208904, 209006, 209014
02-07-2007	207324, 208476, 216386, 216386, 219189, 219189
02-08-2007	215215, 215564, 219492, 210044, 210582, 211004, 212370, 215298
02-09-2007	212021
02-13-2007	211746
02-27-2007	206041, 207156, 208339, 208341, 208465, 208710, 209866
03-09-2007	206060

<u>C.P.S.E. MEETING</u>	<u>STUDENT NUMBERS</u>
03-01-2007	221007, 221170, 220186, 221168, 221118, 221198
03-14-2007	220242, 220210, 221039

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

Approval of Proposition
For Placement on
Ballot
-Purchase of
School Buses
-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District authorizes the placement of the following proposition on the ballot for the May 15, 2007 Universal Day of Voting:

Minutes
Board of Education
March 27, 2007
Page 4

“Shall the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District be authorized to pay the cost of the purchase of school buses over the next seven years, at a maximum estimated cost of not exceeding \$3,620,407, and that said amount or so much thereof, as may be necessary, after applying eligible State aid shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued.”

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 approves the adoption of the *amendments* to the proposed increases in income limits in real property tax exemptions for Senior Citizens pursuant to New York State Real Property Tax Law effective for the December 2007 tax bill:

Amendment to
Real Property Tax
Exemption for
Senior Citizens
-Approved

<u>Income Limits</u>	<u>Percentage of Assessed Valuation Exempt from Taxation</u>
Less than \$26,000	50%
More than \$26,000 but less than \$27,000	45%
\$27,000 or more but less than \$28,000	40%
\$28,000 or more but less than \$29,000	35%
\$29,000 or more but less than \$29,900	30%
\$29,900 or more but less than \$30,800	25%
\$30,800 or more but less than \$31,700	20%
\$31,700 or more but less than \$32,600	15%
\$32,600 or more but less than \$33,500	10%
\$33,500 or more but less than \$34,400	5%

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

Approval of License
Agreement/Rowing
Program
-Approved

Minutes
Board of Education
March 27, 2007
Page 5

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the License Agreement between the Town of Southampton and the Riverhead Central School District for use by the School District and the East End Rowing Club of town-owned property at 1030 Flanders Road, Flanders, New York, at a cost of (\$1.00) One Dollar for the period commencing March 7, 2007 and ending on May 31, 2007.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

Second Reading of
Board Policy #5310.1
-Use of Time Out Rooms
-Approved

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

Ms. DeVito felt that the policy was somewhat confusing in its current written form and suggested that it be re-worded using vernacular in the third person.

Yes 5
Mrs. Berezny
Mrs. Gassert
Mr. Griffing
Mrs. Harkin
Mr. Stark

Abstention 2
Ms. DeVito
Mrs. Prete

Motion Carried.

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

Contract for Services
-St. Charles
Rehabilitation Hospital
-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District authorizes St. Charles Rehabilitation Hospital to provide a maximum of 35 hours of additional speech services for one student at the rate of \$80/per hour, effective March 19, 2007 and ending August 31, 2007.

(344)

Minutes
Board of Education
March 27, 2007
Page 6

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

Acceptance of Donations
-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District gratefully acknowledges the payment of bequest in the amount of \$2,112.81 from the Estate of Anna M. Tyler to the Riverhead High School.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District gratefully acknowledges the donation of \$181.18 from Washington Mutual as part of the *WaMoola for Schools* program to the Roanoke Avenue Elementary School.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District gratefully acknowledges the donation of \$170.82 from Washington Mutual as part of the *WaMoola for Schools* program to the Phillips Avenue Elementary School.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

Appointment of
Vote Workers for
Special District Meeting
-Approved

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 April 17, 2007 for the Riverhead Free Library and Baiting Hollow Free Library Budget vote:

Chairperson: Barbara O’Kula.

Inspectors of Election: Victoria Farruggia, Deborah Goroleski and Kathy Konkel.

Poll Clerks: Justyna Breitenbach, Dorothy Exum, Muriel Groneman, Dorothy Haupt, Irene Lachick, Marie Lennon, Frances Mapes and Mary Skiba.

Minutes
Board of Education
March 27, 2007
Page 7

Alternates: Evelyn Buhner, Roxanna Parker and Josephine Sideratos.

AND, BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the rate of compensation for the Inspectors of Election and Poll Clerks be set at \$10.00 per hour.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

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

Appointment

Tianna Vassallo – Substitute Teacher, effective 3/28/07-6/30/07.

Change of Status

Lucas Fifield – To: Leave Replacement, Elementary Teacher,
From: Permanent Substitute, effective 4/9/07-6/22/07.

Traci Zambriski – To: Permanent Substitute, From: Substitute
Teacher, effective 4/9/07-6/30/07.

Amendment to Probationary Appointment

Lorraine Dunkel – Special Education Teacher, To: 3/1/07-2/28/09,
From: 3/1/07-2/28/10.

Spring 2007 Coaching Appointment

Leif Shay – Spring Intramural Weight Training, effective 3/26/07-
5/4/07.

Change in Leave Replacement Dates

Lindsey Fuhs – Leave Replacement, Elementary Teacher, To:
3/19/07-5/18/07, From: 4/9/07-5/18/07.

Margaret Flood – Leave Replacement, Music Teacher, To:
12/20/06-4/20/07, From: 12/20/06-3/22/07.

Minutes
Board of Education
March 27, 2007
Page 8

Correction to Change in Maternity/Child Care Leave

Carolyn Colantropo – Elementary Teacher, To: 2/26/07-4/13/07
Using Accumulated Sick Time, 4/16/07-4/24/07 Unpaid FMLA;
From: 3/26/07-4/13/07 Using Accumulated Sick Time, 4/16/07-
4/24/07 Unpaid FMLA.

Change in Maternity/Child Care Leave

Vanessa Williams – Elementary Teacher, To: 3/19/07-5/4/07 Using
Accumulated Sick Time, 5/7/07-5/18/07 Unpaid FMLA; From:
4/9/07-5/18/07 Using Accumulated Sick Days.

Request for Maternity/Child Care Leave

Jennifer Simoes – Elementary Teacher, 4/23/07-6/1/07 Using
Accumulated Sick Time.

Cyndi Haverty – Elementary Teacher, 4/9/07-6/15/07 Using
Accumulated Sick Time, 6/18/07-6/22/07 Unpaid FMLA.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Stark, 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

Appointments

Donald Pelis – Substitute Custodial Worker I, effective 3/28/07-
6/30/07.

Dietrich Holland – Substitute Custodial Worker I, effective 3/28/07-
6/30/07.

John Lupfer, Jr. – Substitute School Bus Driver, effective 3/28/07-
6/30/07.

Maryann Dilberto – Substitute School Teacher Aide, effective
3/28/07-6/30/07.

Change in Status

Michael Sanchez – To: Part-time Custodial Worker I, From:
Substitute Custodial Worker I, effective 3/28/07.

Minutes
Board of Education
March 27, 2007
Page 9

Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence

Nicholas DiPierro – School Bus Driver, effective 4/9/07-4/13/07.

Terminations

Colleen Mowdy – Substitute School Bus Monitor, effective 3/14/07.

Denise Naso – Substitute School Bus Monitor, effective 3/14/07.

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

Mr. Singleton apprised the audience that revisions to the budget continue pending receipt of information needed from the state aid package (increase of 1.7% or \$60,000 and STAR reimbursements for reduction in property levies based on the formula); the Senate proposal under which we would receive over \$1 million; and, final equalization rates from each of the three townships – Riverhead, Southampton and Brookhaven – which have not yet been determined for 2007-08. Last year, Southampton was reassessed at 100% true value that, subsequently, resulted in the filing of many grievances that reduced the assessment rolls by \$61 million and will have impact on the other two towns; and, further stated that more of the burden is being placed on residents/homeowners rather than commercial property. The adjustments reduce the budget from 10% to a 7.31% increase on a tentative basis, pending receipt of state aid and STAR aid. The budget has been reduced by \$2.4 million = \$99,962,785.

2007-2008 Tentative
Budget Review
-Overview and Revenue

Mrs. Berezny commented on the monies received from the sod farm rental of district-owned property on Tuthill's Lane. Ms. Kobylenski stated that a new lease is being worked upon and that rental monies received last week represented last year's rental.

Additional community comments are:

-confirmation that the NJROTC program is funded by the Federal government (Mr. Singleton stated that the federal government pays a portion)

-request for statistics on NJROTC graduates that go on to serve in the military (Mrs. Gassert stated that the program is based on discipline, camaraderie, leadership, etc. and is not limited to careers in the military).

Community Comments

Minutes
Board of Education
March 27, 2007
Page 10

-question as to the possibility to wean off any BOCES services (\$10,600,000) that now make up more than 10% of the district's budget (Mrs. Gassert stated that the Board shares the same concern and that BOCES services are under constant review. The largest increases are in the area of Special Education that are not aidable through BOCES).

-request for amount of state aid directly related to BOCES expenses

-request for financial information (actual savings) and evaluation of efficiency related to the major administrative shift whereby department chairpersons were replaced with administrators (Mr. Singleton offered to have an educational professional report for the next Board meeting).

-announcement that March is "Music In Our Schools" month and the Blue Masques production of "Guys and Dolls" is scheduled for April 20, 21, 27 and 28 at 8:00 p.m. in the High School auditorium

-consideration to name the High School auditorium after retired Music Director, Charles Cardona

-request for permission to plant thirteen (13) trees between Riley, Phillips and Aquebogue Elementary Schools in celebration of Arbor Day (the site at Roanoke is very limited) and submission of blueprints/schematics to the Plant Facilities Administrator for review

-the President of the PTO Counsel expressed concern by some parents as to how the decision was arrived at to allow the students to leave for a lacrosse tournament in Connecticut following an incident on the bus on Friday, March 23 when a zip-lock bag containing a small amount of marijuana in a cigar box was found under the seat of the bus (Mr. Singleton stated that the students agreed to sign-off that in the event of any future similar occurrences, the program would not be allowed to move forward. Legal counsel was called upon and district officials made the decision to let the trip continue as planned. He apologized to the parents and community in that the bigger mistake made was not calling the parents at the time the incident was discovered.)

-reminder of "zero tolerance" policy in the District and parental opinion that the students should have been taken off the bus and the trip cancelled (Mr. Singleton stated that under a democracy, one can be right and one can be wrong...it was felt that 24 students should not be punished for what one student may/may not have done).

(349)

Minutes
Board of Education
March 27, 2007
Page 11

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

Adjournment

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara O'Kula
District Clerk

