

(177)

MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting - December 7, 2004

Riverhead High School Auditorium

PRESENT: President, Mrs. Lori H. Montefusco; Vice President, Mrs. Nancy Gassert; Mrs. Kathleen Berezny; and, Mrs. Christine Prete.

LATE: Mr. Timothy Griffing and Mrs. Mary Ellen.

ABSENT: Mr. Timothy Hubbard.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Paul R. Doyle, Mr. Joseph Singleton and Mr. Joseph Ogeka.

President, Mrs. Montefusco, opened the meeting at 5:43 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gassert, seconded by Mrs. Berezny, to recess to executive session to discuss personnel, collective bargaining, grievances and litigation.

Yes 4 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education recessed to executive session at 5:44 p.m.

Mrs. Harkin arrived at 5:53 p.m.

Mr. Griffing arrived at 7:25 p.m.

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

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:40 p.m.

A brief recess followed.

The meeting resumed at 7:50 p.m.

There were about 70 other people in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara O'Kula.

(178)

Minutes

Board of Education

December 7, 2004

Mr. Paul Doyle, the new school district Superintendent, greeted the community and proposed to the Board of Education a policy to allow an arranged period of time the day before Board meetings to meet with residents and hear any questions regarding the agenda to be shared with the public during the "Opportunity for Superintendent" portion of meetings. His belief is that board meetings are business meetings conducted in public and he would not engage in dialogue/debate during the meeting but would be happy to answer any questions or concerns before/after each meeting. He plans to establish a Superintendent's Community Advisory Council and encouraged residents to join. He aims to improve the status of education in the Riverhead Central School District and maintain decorum of the business meetings of the Board of Education.

Mr. Don Henderson, head of security, presented a letter of recognition to security guard, Ed Johnson, for his efforts to provide a safe environment for the students.

The Director of the Peconic Housing Initiative, Jennifer Truscott, presented a plaque to the members of the High School Key Club for their fundraising efforts and awareness of the homeless and those on the verge of becoming homeless.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gassert, seconded by Mrs. Prete, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2004.

Mrs. Berezny commented on the first annual "Family Night" held at the elementary school and her pleasure to partake in the K-2 Math Night at Riley Avenue School on November 17th. She encouraged the community to attend the many upcoming holiday concerts, as well as, the Blue Masques production of *Chrous Line*.

Mrs. Prete commented on her pleasure to attend the Math Night at the Phillips Avenue Elementary School and encouraged parents and community to take advantage of these programs.

Mrs. Montefusco announced the hiring of Nancy Carney as the new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and that the Board of Education will interview construction management firms in January 2005. The Board of Education will,

(179)

Minutes
Board of Education
December 7, 2004

also, meet with the Riverhead Town Board on December 16 to discuss implications of the school tax levy. Updates on the administrative audit by the New York State Comptroller's Office will be forthcoming. According to Mr. Singleton, Interim Superintendent of Business, he is confident that the completed audit will report that the school district has been responsible to the taxpayers. Mrs. Montefusco also stated that student participation in blood drives at the High School will be Board approved and that parental consent forms will be confirmed and verified. A meeting with Long Island Blood Services is planned to advise of a school nurse on-site at the time of the blood drive as safeguard. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council should contact the Superintendent's Office.

Comments from the community included:

- request that the Board continue in the community forum and tradition of dialogue at Board meetings. Mrs. Montefusco clarified the intent of the Board and Superintendent to encourage dialogue with the public by way of a Community Advisory Council to permit the Board to conduct the business of the school district as efficiently as they can.
- assignment of \$200,000 legislative grant to the District initiated by Senator Kenneth LaValle. Mr. Singleton stated that the monies were applied to lowering the tax rate at a Board meeting in November.
- recommendation that administrators be contractual and not tenured positions
- opposition to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction and request to leave this position vacant for one year
- opinion of minimal search for an architect by the Space Planning Committee
- appeal to the Board to retain her job as a school bus driver (Mrs. Montefusco stated that the matter is on tonight's agenda to be voted upon)

Amend

Add: Overnight Trip

- RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the attendance of the Boys' and Girls' Winter Track Teams at the 28th Annual Pearl River Holiday Track and Field Festival at Rockland County Community College located in Pearl River, New York on December 26-27, 2004. Cost to the district is limited to school bus transportation, lodging for coaches/chaperones/bus drivers and entry fees for two teams at a cost not to exceed \$1,515. Transportation is subject to approval pursuant to Board policy.

Replace Partial Tax Exemption/Volunteer Firemen & Volunteer Ambulance Workers resolution with the following:

WHEREAS, Chapter 450 of the Laws of 2002, and Chapter 9 of the Laws of 2004 authorizes School Districts to adopt resolutions pursuant to Section 466-c of the Real Property Tax Law creating a real property tax exemption for members of volunteer fire companies or volunteer ambulance services; and

WHEREAS, such resolution may provide that real property owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service or such enrolled member and spouse residing in a county with a population of more than one million four hundred thousand and less than one million five hundred thousand, according to the latest federal decennial census, shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of ten percent of the assessed value of such property for city, village, town, part town, special district, county, or school district purposes, exclusive of special assessments; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education elects to approve and adopt by resolution, the aforesaid tax exemption,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves of and adopts the provisions of Section 466-c of the Real Property Tax Law, granting a real property tax exemption for members of volunteer fire companies or volunteer ambulance services, as defined by such law, and as it applies to the School tax levy, *only to the extent set forth below*, and subject to the following conditions:

The extent of said real property exemption shall be limited to 10% of the assessed value of the property, and

Such exemption shall not be granted unless:

1. The applicant resides in the town which is served by such incorporated volunteer fire company or incorporated volunteer ambulance service; and
2. The property is the primary residence of the applicant; and
3. The property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided, however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this Resolution; and
4. The applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department as an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department for at least five (5) years, or the applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled member of such incorporated voluntary ambulance service for at least five (5) years; and
5. Application for such exemption shall be filed by the volunteer fire or ambulance service members with the Assessors of the Town of Riverhead, Town of Southampton, or Town of Brookhaven, as the case may be, on or before the taxable status date on a form prescribed by the State Board of Real Property Services; and, it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reserves the right and option of, having granted this exemption effective for the 2005 tax levy, rescinding said exemption in subsequent years; and, it is,

FUIRTHHER RESOLVED, that the District Clerk is authorized and directed to notify the Town Assessors of this action, and provide said Assessors with a certified copy of this 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>
09/14/04	213622, 214605, 215156, 215561, 216165
10/06/04	205089, 205101, 205731, 206219, 206807, 207208, 207649, 207846, 207850, 207851, 208662
10/12/04	214614
10/13/04	204476*, 205543*, 206086*, 206385*, 207472*, 214640*
10/14/04	212003, 212036, 212039, 212043, 212059, 216220, 217117, 217143
10/15/04	217101
10/20/04	204594, 205006, 205055, 205127, 205591, 205730, 206383, 206810, 207019, 207065, 207689
10/21/04	208023, 209477, 209686, 209713, 209774
11/04/04	209770

<u>C.P.S.E. MEETING</u>	<u>STUDENT NUMBERS</u>
12/07/04	219237, 219220, 219240, 219238, 218271, 218282, 219239, 218265

*High Cost Student

WHEREAS, two (2) bids for (Two) 65 Pupil Capacity Conventional Type "C" School Buses were opened on November 12, 2004 and

WHEREAS, the Supervisor of Transportation and the Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business have reviewed such bids and recommended award to the lowest reasonable bidders meeting the specifications, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District awards the bids for (Two) 65 Pupil Capacity Conventional Type "C" School Buses to Truck King International Sales and Service of West Babylon, New York in the bid award amount of \$125,800.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the agreement between Council for Unity, Inc. and the Riverhead Central School District (to be funded completely by a grant from District Attorney Thomas Spota's office); and, authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign such contract. The purpose of the program is to work with High School students; anti-violence program.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District gratefully accepts the donation of \$1,000 from Riverhead Wal-Mart to the Roanoke Avenue Elementary School to be used to purchase a book for each student through the Scholastic Book Fair.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the request of the 8th Grade Class of Riverhead Middle School (approximately 140 students) to participate in a trip to Hershey Park, Pennsylvania on Saturday, June 11, 2005. Cost to the district is limited to the cost of approximately 40 chaperones (one chaperone for every six students); and, transportation is subject to approval pursuant to Board policy.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District authorizes the District to enter into a contract with Turning Point Driving School, 970 Route 25A, Miller Place, New York 11764 to provide driver education for the Fall semester at \$205 per student.

WHEREAS, Chapter 450 of the Laws of 2002, and Chapter 9 of the Laws of 2004 authorizes School Districts to adopt resolutions pursuant to Section 466-c of the Real Property Tax Law creating a real property tax exemption for members of volunteer fire companies or volunteer ambulance services; and

WHEREAS, such resolution may provide that real property owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service or such enrolled member and spouse residing in a county with a population of more than one million four hundred thousand and less than one million five hundred thousand, according to the latest federal decennial census, shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of ten percent of the assessed value of such property for city, village, town, part town, special district, county, or school district purposes, exclusive of special assessments; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education elects to approve and adopt by resolution, the aforesaid tax exemption,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves of and adopts the provisions of Section 466-c of the Real Property Tax Law, granting a real property tax exemption for members of volunteer fire companies or volunteer ambulance services, as defined by such law, and as it applies to the School tax levy, *only to the extent set forth below*, and subject to the following conditions:

The extent of said real property exemption shall be limited to 10% of the assessed value of the property, and

Such exemption shall not be granted unless:

1. The applicant resides in the town which is served by such incorporated volunteer fire company or incorporated volunteer ambulance service; and
2. The property is the primary residence of the applicant; and
3. The property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided, however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this Resolution; and
4. The applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department as an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department for at least five (5) years, or the applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled member of such incorporated voluntary ambulance service for at least five (5) years; and
5. Application for such exemption shall be filed by the volunteer fire or ambulance service members with the Assessors of the Town of Riverhead, Town of Southampton, or Town of Brookhaven, as the case may be, on or before the taxable status date on a form prescribed by the State Board of Real Property Services; and, it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reserves the right and option of, having granted this exemption effective for the 2005 tax levy, rescinding said exemption in subsequent years; and, it is,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Clerk is authorized and directed to notify the Town Assessors of this action, and provide said Assessors with a certified copy of this resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District establishes the position of *Language Interpreter*.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District authorizes the Agreement between the Riverhead Central School District and All County Interpreting Services for the Deaf, Ltd. For the 2004-05 school year for interpreter services, as needed, at a rate of \$48.50 per hour.

RESOLVED, that the Riverhead Central School District, after a full review of the circumstances presented by this matter, hereby adopts the findings of fact and recommendations with respect to disciplinary proceedings conducted before Hearing Officer Joseph Wooley, Esq. against Wendy Ruskowski; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Wendy Ruskowski is hereby terminated from employment in the Riverhead Central School District effective December 8, 2004.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the following appointments to the Adult Continuing/Community Educational Program (ACCE) for the 2004/05:

	<u>COURSE</u>	<u>FALL</u>	<u>SPRING</u>
<u>Instructors</u>			
Nancy Bagshaw	Spanish	\$ 360	\$ 360
Carol Benson	Line Dancing	300	300
Steven Brown	Drivers Ed	1,800	1,800
Linda Lee Chase	For..Anth..	0	144
Sue Cincotta	Pilates	600	600
Karl Cutler	Ball..Dan..	450	450
Joseph Doll	Sen..Comp..	144	144
Karen Fellows	Acrylic Pain..	540	540
Arnold Fischer	Bridge	360	360
Connie Gevinski	Stained Glass	0	144
Sarah Graham	Yoga	360	360
G.W. Husing	5 Hour Class	396	396
Gail Kappenberg	Sen..Comp..	144	144
Irene Krohn	Calligraphy	0	144
Mary Kromhout	S.A.T. Prep	375	375
John Neely	Photography	0	144
Peggy Parpan	Scrapbooking	36	360
Donna Pierro	Aerobics	400	400
Cynthia Reighter	Sign Lang..	0	360
<u>Assistant Instructor</u>			
Amy Benson	Computers	\$ 160	\$ 60

Child Care Worker

Susan DiGeronimo Riley Avenue \$ 800 \$ 800

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

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Felix Martinez - Wrestling
Ziggy Wilinski - Boys' Basketball

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

Change in Status-Fingerprint Clearance

Amanda Bowman – Substitute Teacher, effective 11/17/04-06/24/05.
Shirley Cepero – Assistant Principal/High School, effective 11/29/04-11/28/07.

Extension of 20-day Conditional Appointments

Meghan Montpetit – Elementary Teacher, To: 12/08/04-12/26/04;
From: 11/18/04-12/07/04.
Elizabeth Prebish – School Nurse, To: 12/11/04-12/30/04;
From: 11/20/04-12/10/04.
Michael Padalino – Substitute Teacher, To: 12/11/04-12/30/04;
From: 10/13/04-10/31/04 – Substitute Teacher, 11/01/04-06/24/05 – Contract Leave Replacement.
Ryan Case – Substitute Teacher, To: 12/18/04-01/06/05;
From: 11/27/04-12/17/04.
Arlene Cooke – Substitute Teacher, To: 12/18/04-01/06/05;
From: 11/27/04-12/17/04.
Mindy Maclellan – Substitute Teacher, To: 12/10/04-12/29/04;

From: 11/19/04-12/09/04.
Kathleen Marelli – Substitute Teacher, To: 12/07/04-12/26/04;
From: 11/17/04-12/06/04.
Nicole Muller – Substitute Teacher, To: 12/07/04-12/26/04;
From: 11/17/04-12/06/04.

Emergency 20-day Conditional Appointments

Jason Lee – Substitute Teacher, effective 12/08/04-06/30/05.
Emily Sills – Substitute Teacher, effective 11/22/04-06/30/05.

Appointments

Cheryl Drozd – Home Instructor, effective 12/08/04-06/24/05.
Tara Bonawandt – Substitute Teacher, effective 12/08/04-06/24/05.
Jessie Fields – Substitute Teacher, effective 12/08/04-06/24/05.
Anthony Gentile – 3/5 Health Teacher, effective 12/08/04-06/24/05.

Tenure Appointments

Charles Giannone – Pre K-6, effective 02/10/05.
Elizabeth Roberts – English to Speaker of Other Languages, effective 01/31/05.
Gregory Wolbert – Pre K-6 & Mathematics 7-9 Ext., effective 01/27/05.

Maternity Child Care Leave of Absence

Kimberly Benkert – Elementary Teacher, approximate dates: 12/10/04-01/31/05 Using Accumulated Sick Days.

Maternity Child Care Leave of Absence/Family Medical Leave Act

Ellen Knierieman – Speech Therapist, approximate dates: 11/15/04-01/31/05 Using Accumulated Sick Days; 03/14/05-06/03/05 Family Medical Leave Act; 06/06/05-06/24/05 Unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence.

Alicia O'Connor – Elementary Teacher, approximate dates: 11/15/04-01/31/05 Using Accumulated Sick Days; 02/01/05-04/22/05 Family Medical Leave Act; 04/25/05-06/24/05 Unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence.

Request for Unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence

Nneka Fils-Aime – Elementary Teacher, effective 11/29/04-06/24/05 Unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence.

RESOLVED, that on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Civil Service Personnel recommendations be approved per Supplemental File Personnel Report and are subject to Board Policy #9310:

Change in Status-Fingerprint Clearance

Karen Carrick – Substitute: Clerk Typist, Hourly Food Service Worker, effective 11/17/04-06/24/05.

Barbara Crabb – Substitute Hourly Food Service Worker, effective 11/17/04-06/24/05.

Marilyn Herr – Substitute Clerk Typist, effective 11/17/04-06/24/05.

Donna Pierro – 21st Century Grant After School Program Group Fitness Instructor, effective 11/17/04-06/24/05.

Donna Watkins – School Teacher Aide, effective 10/27/04-06/24/05.

Extension of Emergency 20-day Conditional Appointments

Wendy Turbush – Special Education Aide, To: 12/08/04-12/27/04; From: 11/18/04-12/07/04.

Joann Bonne – Substitute: Clerk Typist, School Teacher Aide, To: 12/08/04-12/27/04; From: 11/18/04-12/07/04.

Change in Status

Christine Block – To: Hourly Food Service Worker; From: Substitute Hourly Food Service Worker, effective 12/08/04.

Lynn Ligon – To: Hourly Food Service Worker; From: Substitute Hourly Food Service Worker, effective 12/08/04.

Joanne Zilnicki – To: Hourly Food Service Worker; From: Substitute Hourly Food Service Worker, effective 12/08/04.

Rosemarie Cadorette – To: Substitute Clerk Typist; From: School Teacher Aide, effective 01/03/05-06/30/05.

Sarah Atkins – To: Guard; From: Substitute Guard, effective 12/08/04.

Emergency 20-day Conditional Appointment

Timothy McElroy – Special Education Aide, effective 12/08/04.

Appointments

Colleen Scura – Special Education Aide, effective 12/08/04.

Vermona Smith – Clerk Typist (Part-time), effective 12/08/04.

Donna Clement – Substitute: Clerk Typist, School Teacher Aide, effective 12/08/04-06/24/05.

Jennifer Burke – Substitute Clerk Typist, effective 12/08/04-06/24/05.

Amanda Makson – Substitute Clerk Typist, effective 12/08/04-06/24/05.

Denis Grichenko – Substitute Custodial Worker I, effective 12/08/04-06/24/05.

Brett Kurz – Substitute Custodial Worker I, effective 12/08/04-06/24/05.

Fred Ligon – Substitute Guard, effective 12/08/04-06/24/05.

Request for Extension of Catastrophic Leave

Elizabeth Deluca – School Bus Driver, To: 01/03/05-06/24/05;
From: 07/01/04-01/01/05.

Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence

Tara Thompson – School Bus Driver, effective 12/03/04-06/24/05.

Resignation to Retire

Rosemarie Cadorette – School Teacher Aide, effective 12/29/04.

Resignation

Rebekah Dillahunt – Special Education Aide, effective 01/28/05.

Termination

Wendy Ruskowski – School Bus Driver, effective 12/08/04.

OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY