

November 17, 2011

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns, was held on Thursday, November 17, 2011 in the Multi Purpose Room at John Paulding School, commencing at 8:00PM.

Present: B. Joseph Lillis, President  
Vincent Nadile, Vice President  
Sheila J. Conklin, Trustee  
Mimi Godwin, Trustee  
Craig Laub, Trustee  
Katharine M. Swibold, Trustee

**Roll Call**

Absent: Paul Rode, Trustee

Also present: Howard W. Smith, Superintendent of Schools  
John J. Staiger, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Business

**Call to Order**

Absent: Barbarann Tantillo, Assistant Superintendent

**Executive Session**

Trustee Godwin, moved, seconded by Trustee Swibold, that it be  
RESOLVED: That the Board goes into executive session to discuss particular personnel matters.

CARRIED 6-0 7:30PM  
No formal action was taken.

CARRIED 6-0 8:03PM  
Trustee Nadile moved, seconded by Trustee Conklin, that it be  
RESOLVED: That the Board returns to Public Session.

**Public Session**

President Lillis indicated that Trustee Rode is not in attendance this evening due to transportation related issues in getting back to New York from a business trip.

There was a moment of silent meditation, after which the Pledge to the Flag was given.

**Meditation  
Pledge to the Flag**

President Lillis noted that the Board received two email communications from two hispanic citizens offering their services to help us in engaging various constituencies in the hispanic community. The Board will be taking them up on their offer.

**Communications,  
Petitions &  
Requests from the  
Public**

CARRIED 5-0-1 Yes: Trustees Godwin, Laub, Lillis, Nadile, Swibold  
Abstain: Trustee Conklin

Trustee Godwin moved, seconded by Trustee Swibold, that it be  
RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, having received copies of the minutes of the regular public meeting of November 3, 2011, approves same. *Trustee Conklin indicated that she did receive a dvd copy of the meeting and was able to view the presentation.*

**Minutes:  
11/3/2011**

**Board Matters:**

President Lillis noted that the Board did review the student performance report at the last meeting and following the report many questions and concerns were raised. At the meeting, the Board agreed to follow-up on these concerns. Over the last few weeks, some concerned parents have put ideas forward and the Board has agreed to form a committee (task force) focusing on two broad themes: 1) excellence and 2) improvement. Dr. Smith has been working on this matter and updated the community on the progress. He stated that he is very impressed with the can do spirit he has witnessed from parents and community members. There is a lot of interest in doing everything we can in moving ahead of the kinds of progress benchmarks that are necessary for the kind of designation that we want as a District. Not being a DINI does not mean we're excellent. We have to expand the opportunities for all children. This has evolved into the formation of a task force and some meetings have already taken place. We're looking at the larger notion of excellence in our schools and finding ways to reinforce that. The task force would consist of representation from the various groups: parents, administration, board of education, teachers, and other interested community members. The steering group needs to be a relatively small group and it will be spearheaded by parent, Jill Schurtz. Jill comes to us with a great skill set and will be an asset on this committee. Trustee Godwin noted that this is a wonderful opportunity for the District. She has served on the board of the LIFE Center for approximately 15 years. The mission of the center is to get a comfort level with the latino population in the schools as well as tutoring, ESL, and mom and tots program. Sr. Susan Gardella, who runs the center, would be an integral part of this task force. Trustee Godwin recommended including the LIFE Center on this committee. Trustee Laub expressed his desire to have representation from across all levels on this committee. Trustee Conklin stated that she is excited about the level of participation from parents. Trustee Swibold noted that it's wonderful to see people coming to meetings to see how things get done. President Lillis expressed his excitement about the level of parent participation and engagement. He noted that what distinguishes a great school system can often be the level of parent involvement. One of the most important things that he hopes comes out of this process is better and more direct communication channels with the school district and parents/community. It was noted that Trustees Godwin and Laub volunteered to serve on this committee.

Dr. Smith reported that the next step is to agree on the final composition of this steering group and then refining a series of goals and objectives and map out a plan of action. There are some interesting grant opportunities coming up at the state level. We'll find out next week regarding eligibility criteria. If we can apply, the grant could amount to approximately \$600,000 a year for three years. We will need to put together a very competitive grant and we could use some help in the final proposal. Other opportunities include: 1) improving communication, 2) differentiated instruction – technology, expanding our capacity to use technology to help provide opportunities for individualized instruction.

Trustee Conklin reported that she, Trustee Swibold and Dr. Smith attended the annual joint dinner, sponsored by WPSBA, on Monday evening and heard from other state representatives who have lived

through the tax cap scenario. She noted that they heard about strategies that have been used and “best survival” mechanisms we can look at.

Trustee Laub inquired about public participation at BOE meetings. President Lillis stated that he read through the sample policies and regulations that were included in the prior board packet and suggested that the Board put together a draft policy for review. Trustees Nadile and Godwin volunteered to work together in getting this done.

Dr. Smith gave the following good news announcements:

**Superintendent's  
Report**

- A \$17,000 grant was received from Westchester Community Foundation to sponsor field trips
- A \$20,000 grant was received from Westchester Community Foundation for family literacy activities
- A \$1,000 grant was received by the Foundation from the Kendal Community
- A sponsorship pledge was received from Tarrytown Honda in support of our annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington, D.C.
- AP environmental science and AP biology classes joined students up and down the Hudson for the annual research day in the life of the Hudson River, sponsored by the state DEC, Hudson River Estuary Program and Hudson River Basin Watch. The students took samples and did seining at Kingsland Park.
- Students and parents celebrated American Education Week, with an open house for middle school parents that attracted classroom visits by more than 100 parents
- The middle school held a very successful 3<sup>rd</sup> annual career day, organized by parent, Fatima Gianni
- Another great production, Jungle Book, took place at WI, through our ongoing partnership with the YMCA
- The fall high school production of Wait Until Dark will be presented this Friday and Saturday
- Students of the month: English - Steven Bencosme, Robert Dondiego; ESL - Hasnain Aftab, Maria Regalado; Fine Arts - Robert Dondiego; Foreign Language - Megan Copley; Mathematics - Ryanne Galante, Blas Ortiz; Science - Jonathon Santana, Elizabeth Sobolik; Social Studies - Ra-chel Jackson, Ali London; Special Education - Juan Villa; Physical Education - Nadia Davidson, Mike Valentin
- 4 students were selected to perform in the area all state music festival earlier this month
- SHHS student, Kyle McGovern, was recognized at the annual Milly Kibrick Service Awards Dinner
- We had several students who made it to the state level in athletics
- One of our SHHS football players was invited to participate in the Junior Bowl in Texas in December.

Dr. Smith gave a brief report on labor contracts and negotiations. The presentation included:

- Presentation Goal
- Employee Bargaining Units
- Contract Structure

**Superintendent's  
Report:**

- Legal Protections
- Contract Terms & Conditions
- CSEA 1 & 2 – Salaries & Benefits
- CSEA 1 & 2 – Working Conditions (Standard for the Region)
- Teacher Salaries & Benefits
- Sample 2011-2012 Teacher Salary Schedule Format
- Teacher Assistant Salaries & Benefits
- Teacher & TA Working Conditions (Standard for the Region)
- Administrator Salaries & Benefits
- Administrator Working Conditions (Standard for the Region)
- Retirement Contribution Rates
- School Employee Pensions
- Health Insurance
- Looking Ahead
- Estimated Revenue vs Expenses 2012 – 2013 (assuming existing contracts unchanged)
- Contract Resolution Options
- Next Steps

Trustee Nadile inquired about the TAT contract, specifically, impasse/mediation.

Trustee Conklin asked about the amortization of costs increases.

President Lillis questioned what the steps in the CSEA and TAT contracts cost the District?

Trustee Laub inquired about longevity increases and step increases.

Discussion followed.

A citizen commented on the budget process and savings during negotiations with the bargaining units.

A citizen inquired if the Board is looking at a petition to modify the Taylor Law.

A citizen inquired about pay increases and step advancement.

A citizen inquired about having a special ed. parent representative on the task force committee.

A citizen inquired about retiree health insurance.

A citizen asked about other potential approaches during negotiations.

A citizen asked about estimated revenue and how do we generate more tax money.

Ellen Kaplan, school psychologist and President of the Teachers' Association of the Tarrytowns commented on the TAT negotiations and contract. She noted that she has been in the District for 28 years and the teachers have always done everything the administration has asked for. The TAT membership cannot support the entire school district. We all work hard and continue to be supportive of all the students in the District.

**Citizens'  
Comments**

CARRIED 6-0

**Naming of school  
Facility:  
Chebetar Park**

Trustee Godwin moved, seconded by Trustee Nadile, that it be  
RESOLVED: That the Board of Education hereby names the new Washington Irving Playground  
“Chebetar Park” in honor of Michele Chebetar. *Trustee Godwin noted that this is a wonderful honor for  
Michele and a tribute to the committee for all their hard work.*

CARRIED 6-0

**STAFF  
PERSONNEL:**

Trustee Conklin moved, seconded by Trustee Nadile, that it be  
RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education  
hereby approves the following Staff Personnel Motions, as listed:

In accordance with Policy #9020, be it  
RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education  
hereby appoints the following instructional/non-instructional substitute staff for the 2011/12 school year:

**Substitute Staff:**

Dana Pompa	AV Set-up	\$25.00 per hour
Roniel Bencosme	School Monitor	\$14.15 per hour
Josephine Tuths	School Monitor	\$14.04 per hour
Danielle Priore	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
Danielle Priore	Teaching Assistant	\$13.00 per hour
Diana Quizhpi	Long Term Teacher Aide	\$16.16 per hour
Maynor Ramos	Bilingual (Spanish) Translator	\$25.00 per hour
Ethel Zai	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
Margarita Mamaysky	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
Laura Birchman	Long Term Sub Teacher	\$290.00 per diem effective January 11 through June 22, 2012
Josefina Mota	School Monitor	\$14.15 per hour
Roniel Bencosme	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
Roniel Bencosme	Teaching Assistant	\$13.00 per hour
Elvira Juarez	Bilingual (Spanish) Translator	\$25.00 per hour

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education  
hereby grants an unpaid leave of absence to Alexander Xisto, cleaner – Sleepy Hollow High School,  
effective November 28, 2011 through December 1, 2011.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education  
hereby appoints the following to the After School Program for the 2011/2012 school year: (Grant  
funded)

**After School  
Program**

Washington Irving School  
Barbara Wohl Teaching Assistant \$25 per hour

CARRIED 6-0

**STUDENT  
PERSONNEL:**

Trustee Godwin moved, seconded by Trustee Conklin, that it be  
RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education  
hereby approves the following Student Personnel Motion, as listed:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education accepts the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education (CSE) at its September 21, 28; October 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 19, 21, 28; November 2, 2011 meetings as attached. (Appendix #1)

**CSE/CPSE  
Reports**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby approves the commencement of an impartial hearing brought pursuant to Part 200 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to Student #17721 to challenge a parent's refusal to consent to an evaluation.

**Impartial  
Hearing**

CARRIED 6-0

Trustee Conklin moved, seconded by Trustee Nadile, that it be  
RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following Finance & Facilities Motions, as listed:

**FINANCE &  
FACILITIES:**

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the Budget Calendar for the 2012-2013 school year, as per the attachment to these minutes (Appendix #2).

**Budget Calendar**

**WHEREAS**, law suits have been commenced to challenge the assessments on property owned by McNamara Properties, LLC (formerly Stephen]. Lennox), having a street address of 109, 111 and 117 Central Avenue, Tarrytown, and designated and described as Section 1.40, Block 10, Lots 1, 17 and 16 on the Tax Maps and Assessment Rolls of the Town of Greenburgh for assessment years 2003 through 2011; and

**Tax Certiorari:  
McNamara  
Properties**

**WHEREAS**, the Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns (the "School District"), through its attorney, John F. Burkhardt, Esq., appeared in the pending litigation to protect the interests of the School District; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous discussions and meetings were held with the attorney for the petitioner, the Deputy Town Attorney for the Town of Greenburgh and counsel for the School District and various settlement proposals were discussed at length prior to arriving at a tentative settlement; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District's counsel and Deputy Town Attorney recommend approving the tentative settlement; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that it is in the best interests of the School District to settle this law suit with the following reductions in assessed values:

Original Ass't Year	AV	Corrected AV	Reduction	Tax Rate	Refund
2003	\$55,920	\$28,240	\$27,680	\$441.2900	\$12,214.91
2004	\$55,920	\$28,240	\$27,680	\$497.4868	\$13,770.43
2005	\$55,920	\$28,240	\$27,680	\$527.3400	\$14,596.77
2006	\$55,920	\$28,240	\$27,680	\$574.4450	\$15,900.64
2007	\$55,920	\$28,240	\$27,680	\$628.6296	\$17,400.47
2008	\$55,920	\$28,240	\$27,680	\$632.0322	\$17,494.65
2009	\$55,920	\$28,240	\$27,680	\$624.5343	\$17,287.11
2010	\$55,920	\$29,080	\$26,840	\$674.0918	\$18,092.62
2011	\$55,920	\$29,080	\$26,840	N/A	
				Total Refund	\$126,757.60

