

December 10, 2009

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns, was held on Thursday, December 10, 2009 in the Board Room of the Administration Building, commencing at 8:00PM.

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

Roll Call

Also present: Howard W. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Barbarann Tantillo, Assistant Superintendent
John J. Staiger, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Business
Elizabeth Lopez, Principal, Sleepy Hollow Middle School
Nelly Valentin, District Clerk

Call to Order

President Godwin called the meeting to order at 7:31PM. *Note: Trustee Nadile arrived for executive session at 7:40PM.*

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

Executive Session

CARRIED 5-0 7:31PM
No formal action was taken.

Public Session

CARRIED 6-0 8:00PM

Trustee Nadile moved, seconded by Trustee Lillis, that it be
RESOLVED: That the Board returns to Public Session.

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

Silent Meditation

President Godwin indicated that Trustee Conklin would be arriving late to the meeting this evening.

President Godwin stated that a letter was received regarding usage fees for the Washington Irving School auditorium. This letter will be addressed.

**Communications,
Petitions and
Requests**

CARRIED 6-0

Trustee Nadile moved, seconded by Trustee Swibold, that it be
RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, having received copies of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 19, 2009 approves same.

**Minutes:
11/19/09**

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Trustee Nadile asked about the status of the bus garage lease request. Dr. Smith indicated that the district has not received a formal response yet from the village, but indicated informally that they are prepared to approve it but the District may need to pay rent. Discussion followed.

Trustee Swibold commented on the Jack McCleery High School Gymnasium Dedication Ceremony held on Dec. 5th. She stated that it was a very moving event and everyone spoke so highly of Jack McCleery. She thanked Mimi, Nelly and Dr. Smith for their efforts in organizing this event.

President Godwin reported that it was a lovely ceremony and encouraged everyone to stop in to see the name prominently displayed above the entrance to the gymnasium.

Elizabeth Lopez gave a report on the middle school. Topics included:

- 6th Grade Transition
- 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Schedules
- Goals Achieved
- Schedule Changes
- Cornerstone Strategies Implemented
- Continuity Across Grades 6-8
- What is the Middle School Like
- Teams in the Middle School
- Recognitions and Celebrations
- Communication in the Middle School
- School Counselors Support All Students/Parents/Teachers

Discussion followed.

Note: Trustee Conklin arrived for the public meeting at 8:18PM.

Ms. Lopez thanked the Board and central administration for their continued support. She also thanked the middle school teachers and staff for their commitment to the students that they serve. There were several middle school staff members in attendance at the meeting.

President Godwin thanked Beth and her staff for all the work they do and specifically for a smooth 6th grade transition.

Dr. Smith gave the following good news items:

- The District has been awarded 2 IBM grants- one for a new translation software that translates websites and email communication and the other for an interactive reading support software

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- Students of the month: ESL - Diana Pani, Jose Luis Rivera, Cristina Rodriguez, Laisa Barros; Physical Education - Tamara Vasquez, Jason Martinez; English - Jordan de Beer, Joseph Scarpati, Jenny Yanqui; Foreign Language - Michele Lopera; Math - Adeldo Suarez, Madison Ortiz; Social Studies - Kelly Pereira, Jonathan Segarra
- Sleepy Hollow High School was chosen by the U.S. Department of Education as a model school in dropout prevention. It is the only school in New York State and one of only three schools nationally to be highlighted in the study. Further information on this prestigious honor can be found on the Doing What Works website: www.dww.ed.gov.

Dr. Smith noted that a Building Consolidation Study Committee was formed to explore ways to save money during these difficult economic times. The committee is comprised of elementary parents, teachers, administrators and non-instructional staff members. The charge of the committee is to take an exhaustive look at all considerations that should be taken into account in contemplating the idea of closing either Tappan Hill or John Paulding School. Lists are being gathered from all parties and a master list will be converted to survey monkey format. The plan is to have this information readily available by February, in anticipation of the budget process. If there is serious consideration for a building closure, a public hearing(s) will be scheduled. If parents have any questions or concerns, they can send an email directly to Dr. Smith or contact the EPTA.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

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 2009/2010 school year:

Grace Williams	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
Grace Williams	Teaching Assistant	\$13.00 per hour
Maureen Killeen	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
Maureen Killeen	Teaching Assistant	\$13.00 per hour
Li (Mike) Lee	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
Debra Weintraub	School Nurse	\$125.00 per diem
Gwen Jagde	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
Vera Djurkinjak-Martin	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
Andrew Militscher	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
John M. Vukusic	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
David Campbell	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
David Campbell	Teaching Assistant	\$13.00 per hour
Anne McGee	Long Term Teaching Assistant	\$18.49 per hour (effective December 11, 2009 through February 26, 2010)
Rasheda Mohiuddin	Long Term Teacher Aide	\$16.16 per hour (effective December 11, 2009 through June 30, 2010)

Substitute Staff:

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Myrene Conner	Long Term Teacher	\$290 per diem (effective January 4, through April 30, 2010)
Myrene Conner	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
Jeff Chanin	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
Pamela Bodden	Teacher	\$85.00 per diem
Christen Hicks	Long Term Teacher	\$290 per diem (effective January 30 through March 19, 2010)
Rasheda Mohiuddin	Teaching Assistant	\$13.00 per hour

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby grants an extension of an unpaid leave of absence to Rosetta Pichardo, Teaching Assistant – Tappan Hill School, effective December 1, 2009 through December 23, 2009.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby grants an unpaid leave of absence to Dolores Billings, Teaching Assistant – John Paulding School, effective December 7, 2009 through January 12, 2010.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby revises the unpaid childcare leave of absence for Susan Habicht, Mathematics Teacher – Sleepy Hollow Middle School, effective January 6, 2010 through March 19, 2010.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby grants an unpaid leave of absence to Kenny Torres, Health Aide – Sleepy Hollow High School, effective September 25, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby grants an extension of an unpaid leave of absence to Leila Madani, Physics Teacher – Sleepy Hollow High School, effective September 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby revises the effective retirement date for Janis Caola, Typist/Deputy Treasurer – Business Office, from January 4, 2010 to March 18, 2010.

WHEREAS, Mr. George Thornton has been absent on leave of absence for a period of at least one year pursuant to Civil Service Law §71; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George Thornton has been provided a pre-termination opportunity to be heard pursuant to §71 of the Civil Service Law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George Thornton attended the meeting scheduled for him to provide information as allowed for under §71 of the Civil Service Law and provided information, a record of which was provided to the Board of Education, along with the report of the Assistant Superintendent for Business, John J. Staiger, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Tarrytowns Union Free School District has reviewed the report of Assistant Superintendent for Business, John J. Staiger, Jr.;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Mr. Thornton’s employment as a Part-time Cleaner for the Tarrytowns Union Free School District is hereby terminated pursuant to §71 of the Civil

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Service Law, subject to the reinstatement rights provided for therein, effective November 19, 2009.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby grants an unpaid leave of absence to Sergio Bowen, Custodian – W.L. Morse School, effective December 3, 2009 through March 3, 2010.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby grants an extension of an unpaid leave of absence to Gail Smilkstein, Registered Professional Nurse Transfiguration School/SHMS/SHHS, effective December 4, 2009 through December 9, 2009.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following instructional/non-instructional staff for the 2009/2010 school year:

Sergio Bowen, Head Custodial Worker, W.L. Morse School, 8 hours per day, in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations, at a salary of \$57,928 (prorated amount December 3, 2009 through March 3, 2010 will be \$14,482), based on Step 7 of the CSEA salary schedule, effective December 3, 2009 through March 3, 2010. (Leave Replacement)

Valerie Rhames	Home Tutor	\$35.00 per hour
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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 2009/2010 school year:

Tappan Hill School (Funded by 21st Century Grant)

Kathia Javier	Teacher	\$35.00 per hour
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Sleepy Hollow Middle School (Funded by Extended Day Program Grant)

Richard Molina	Teaching Assistant	\$25.00 per hour
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W.L. Morse School (Funded by 21st Century Grant)

Rasheda Mohiuddin	Sub Teacher	\$35.00 per hour
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(Note: resolution amended to include the above named staff for Morse School)

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby revises the following:

Christopher Davis, Maintenance Mechanic (Air Conditioning and Heating), from probationary to permanent, in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations, effective December 30, 2009.

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RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following to a stipend position for the 2009/10 school year:

**Stipend:
A. Emmerich**

Audra Emmerich 7th Grade Team Leader \$2562 (effective December 7, 2009 through June 30, 2010)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**STUDENT
PERSONNEL:**

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

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education accepts the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education (CSE) at its October 14, 21, 28, 29; November 4, 12, 13, 18, 2009 meetings and the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) at its October 22, 23; November 3, 5, 19, 2009 meetings, as attached (Appendix #1).

**CSE/CPSE
Reports**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

FINANCE/FACILITIES:

WHEREAS, the UFSD of the Tarrytowns (“District”) maintains the OMNI Group Inc., Model 403(b) Retirement Plan (“Plan”); and

403(b) Retirement Plan

WHEREAS, the Plan was duly adopted on the 11th day of December, 2008 by the District’s Board of Education (“Board”); and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to restate and amend the Plan as regards section 2.1 Eligibility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that section 2.1 of the Plan is hereby restated and amended to read as follows:

2.1 Eligibility

Each Employee shall be eligible to participate in the Plan and elect to have Elective Deferrals made on his or her behalf hereunder immediately upon becoming employed by the Employer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Plan, as restated and amended is hereby approved and adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the District has caused this Resolution and Amendment to be adopted this 10th day of December, 2009.

WHEREAS, law suits have been commenced to challenge the assessments on the property owned by Ichabod’s Landing Condominium, having a street address of 53-145 River Street, Sleepy Hollow, and designated and described as Section 115.14, Block 1, Lots 1/100 to 1/411 on the Tax Maps and Assessment Rolls of the Town of Mount Pleasant for assessment years 2006 through 2009; and

**Tax Certiorari:
Ichabod’s Landing**

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 Town Assessor 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 recommends 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:

<u>Ass't Year</u>	<u>Original AV</u>	<u>Corrected AV</u>	<u>Reduction</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Refund</u>
2006	\$484,600.00	\$290,760.00	\$193,840.00	\$1,251.0200	\$242,497.72
2007	\$323,200.00	\$323,200.00	\$-0-	N/A	\$ -0-
2008	\$323,200.00	\$323,200.00	\$-0-	N/A	\$ -0-
2009	\$323,200.00	\$323,200.00	\$-0-	N/A	<u>\$-0-</u>
				Total	\$242,497.72

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that John F. Burkhardt, Esq. is authorized to execute a Stipulation, Consent Judgment and any other relevant settlement documents consistent with this Resolution on behalf of the respondent-intervenor, the Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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 General Motions, as listed:

GENERAL:

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts, with appreciation, the following gift:

Donation:

Solaris Sports Club

Solaris Sports Club, 201 Veterans Road, Yorktown, NY, of approximately 400 square feet of rubberized flooring, to be used in the fitness center at Sleepy Hollow High School.

President Godwin thanked the above company for their generous donation to the school district and noted that it will be well used.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the dates indicated on the attachment to these minutes (Appendix #2) as days of religious observance for the 2009-2010 school year. Trustee Nadile inquired about days when schools are in session.

Days of religious observance

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**Agreement:
Nugent & Haeussler, PC**

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education is authorized and empowered to execute an agreement with Nugent & Haeussler, P.C., to perform internal audit services of the extra classroom activity funds, at a fee of \$5,500, for the 2009/2010 school year. Trustee Nadile asked for clarification on the above.

Dr. Smith clarified that rumors regarding code compliance issues at Tappan Hill School are untrue. He reported that all schools are required to be inspected every year and certificates of occupancy are issued at that time.

President Godwin wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

The Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2009 is attached to these minutes as Appendix #3.

**Treasurer's Report:
October 2009**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9:00PM

Adjournment

Trustee Conklin moved, seconded by Trustee Nadile, that it be RESOLVED: That the meeting of the Board be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelly Valentin
District Clerk

Appendices:

Appendices

- #1 CSE/CPSE Reports
- #2 Days of Religious Observance 2009/10
- #3 Treasurer's Report: October 2009