

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns, was held on Thursday, March 1, 2007, in the Auditorium of Washington Irving Intermediate School, commencing at 8:00 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Mimi Godwin, President
Joseph Lillis, Vice President
Marc Kirschner, Trustee
Craig Laub, Trustee
Paul Rode, Trustee

Absent: Sheila Conklin, Trustee
Vincent Nadile, Trustee

Also present: Howard W. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Barbarann Tantillo, Assistant Superintendent
Andrew V. LaBella, Business Manager
Wendy Thomas, The Thomas Group
Dan McClure, The Thomas Group
Nelly Valentin, District Clerk

Call to Order

President Godwin called the meeting to order at 7:45PM.

Exec. Session

Trustee Kirschner moved, seconded by Trustee Rode , that it be
RESOLVED: That the Board goes into executive session to discuss
recommendations from the Committee on Special Education, Committee on
Preschool Special Education, particular personnel matters and matters related to
negotiations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7:45PM
No formal action was taken.

Return to Public
Session

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8:07PM

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

Silent Meditation

President Godwin asked that the following be remembered. They recently passed
away: The grandmother of Barbara Escudero-Zaphire, elementary teacher
at Washington Irving, the brother of Greg Large, math specialist at Washington
Irving, stepson of Bridget McGraw, ESL teacher at SHMS, the father-in-law of Clare
Carr, special education teacher at Washington Irving and the father-in-law of
Maribel Oliva, special education teacher at Washington Irving.

President Godwin announced that the format of tonight’s meeting will include an information session on the Washington Irving School Facilities Project followed by the regular public meeting.

Washington Irving
Informational
Session

Dr. Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation on the renovation project at Washington Irving School. Topics included:

Presentation Overview

- Factors contributing to reduced project budget
- New project scope
- Comparison of new scope with original project objectives
- Revised construction timeline
- Moving forward

Summary of public comments:

- How long will construction process at Washington Irving take
- Concerns about safety issue at SHMS/HS with the pick-up and drop off of students in the morning and afternoon
- Projections for number of students at Washington Irving
- Contractors should take advantage when schools are closed, mainly during the winter and spring breaks to do bulk of work
- Safety concerns about Morse school being suitable for small children
- Conversion of Marymount College to house students K-8

A Washington Irving teacher read aloud a letter in support of Rachel Gonzalez. The letter was also read aloud in spanish.

Citizens’
Comments

Several parents spoke in support of Rachel Gonzalez and feel disheartened over her resignation.

A citizen questioned an item on the agenda related to tax certioraris.

Communications,
Petitions and
Requests from the
Public

President Godwin reported that she received a petition from parents regarding safety concerns at Washington Irving School. The matter is being addressed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Rode moved, seconded by Trustee Laub, that it be
RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, having received copies of the minutes of the special public meeting of January 31, 2007 approves same.

Minutes:
1/31/07

Trustee Lillis moved, seconded by Trustee Laub, that it be
RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, having received copies of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 8, 2007 approves as amended.

2/8/07

Board Matters

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President Godwin reported that she attended the performance of Shakespeare's A Comedy of Errors at Washington Irving School. The performance was outstanding!

Dr. Smith presented a preliminary overview of the proposed budget for 2007-2008. Topics included:

- Current vs Proposed Budgets
- Additional Areas of Need
- Current vs Projected Revenue
- Estimated Property Tax Impact
- Budget Increases by Category
- Budget Increase Breakdown
- Tax Rate Impact Factors
- Enrollment Growth
- Proposed Staffing Changes
- Initial Staffing Requests not included in Proposed Budget
- Cost Reduction Measures Considered but not Enacted
- Standards Supported by Budget
- Standards Inadequately Supported by the Budget
- Enrollment vs Staffing Increases 2001-02 to 2006-07
- Regional Expense Rankings 2006-2007
- Regional Revenue Comparisons 2006-2007
- Next Steps

Discussion followed.

Dr. Smith gave an update on the Sleepy Hollow facilities project. The steel work in the front of the building is nearing completion. The foundation work for the new auditorium and gymnasium is also nearing completion within the next week or two. The steel for the gymnasium will be arriving within two to three weeks. The pace of the work is on schedule.

A citizen commented that the taxpayers should not be burdened by a turf fields proposition. It should be supported through private fundraising.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In accordance with Policy #9020

Trustee Rode moved, seconded by Trustee Kirschner, that it be

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following Personnel Motions, as listed:

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

Monique Poriss-Gonzalez, Personnel Assistant – Office of Instruction and Personnel, effective March 5, 2007.

Rachel Gonzalez, Assistant Principal – Washington Irving Intermediate School, effective June 30, 2007.

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Steve Borys, from the stipend position of Spring 2007 intramural at Sleepy Hollow High School.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby grants an unpaid medical leave of absence to Rosetta Pichardo, teaching assistant – TH, effective March 2, 2007 through March 9, 2007.

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 2006/2007 school year:

Emmanuel Michael Cappello	Bus Driver	\$18.36 per hour
Ellen Sobol	Long Term Sub. Teacher	\$150 per diem (1 st 30 working days) \$250 per diem (after 30 working days)
Desmond Turner	Teacher	\$80 per diem
Randa Rabadi	Teacher	\$80 per diem

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following to stipend positions for the 2006/2007 school year:

Director – Spring Musical	Peter Kennedy	\$3,424
Intramural – SHHS	Thomas DiLorenzo	\$2,255

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following instructional staff for the 2007/2008 school year:

Rachel Gonzalez, Elementary Teacher
Assignment: Washington Irving Intermediate School
Appointment Type: Probationary
Probationary Dates: July 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007
Tenure Area: Elementary
Certification: New York State Permanent Certification
N-6, Bilingual Elementary, SAS
Education: Hunter College, New York, NY - MS, BA
Experience: Washington Irving Intermediate School, Tarrytown, NY
Assistant Principal - 3 years
Washington Irving Intermediate School, Tarrytown, NY
Elementary Teacher - 4 years
NYC Board of Education, New York, NY
Bilingual Teacher - 5 years
Salary: MA+30, Step 9 (Replacement)

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following non-instructional staff for the 2006/2007 school year:

R. Rodriguez

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Rosario Rodriguez, Teacher Aide – Tappan Hill, 6¾ hours per day, probationary, in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations, at a rate of \$14.58 per hour, based on Step 1 of the CSEA salary schedule, effective March 5, 2007. (New position)

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 2006/2007 school year (21st Century Grant funded):

Sleepy Hollow Middle School		
Keith Lenn	Substitute Site Coordinator	\$40 per hour

Sleepy Hollow High School		
Matei Cru	Teacher	\$35 per hour

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Laub moved, seconded by Trustee Kirschner, 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 January 10, 19, 24, 31; February 7, 2007 meetings, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) at its January 12, 2007 meeting, as attached (Appendix #1).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Lillis moved, seconded by Trustee Laub, that it be RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following Finance and Facilities Motions, as listed.

Trustee Lillis requested that the resolution for the Bank of New York tax certiorari be voted on separately. Trustee Kirschner moved, seconded by Trustee Laub, that the motion be discussed.

WHEREAS, litigation has been commenced to challenge the assessments on the property currently leased by The Bank of New York, having a street address of 64 North Broadway, Tarrytown and designated and described as Section 1, Sheet 8, Block 0025, Lot 1 on the Tax Maps and Assessment Rolls of the Town of Greenburgh for assessment years 2001 through 2006; and

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

WHEREAS, several 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

March 1, 2007

WHEREAS, the School District's counsel and Deputy Town Attorney all 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 lawsuit with the following reductions in assessed values:

<u>Ass't Year</u>	<u>Orig. AV</u>	<u>Corrected Ass't</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
2001	\$155,000	\$127,050	\$27,950
2002	\$155,000	\$110,150	\$44,850
2003	\$155,000	\$107,000	\$48,000
2004	\$155,000	\$95,500	\$59,500
2005	\$155,000	\$95,500	\$59,500
2006	\$155,000	\$95,500	\$59,500

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.

Trustee Rode moved, seconded by Trustee Kirschner, that the above motion be tabled for further discussion.

WHEREAS, litigation has been commenced to challenge the assessments on the property formerly owned by Spelimi Real Estate Co. and currently owned by Atiganos Realty and VDC Realty Corp., having a street address of 2-4-6 and 8 North Broadway and 13-15 Neperan Road, Tarrytown and designated and described as Sheet 11, Block 45, Lots 17, 17A and 25 on the Tax Maps and Assessment Rolls of the Town of Greenburgh for assessment years 1999 through 2006; and

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

WHEREAS, several 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 all 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 lawsuit with the following reductions in assessed values:

March 1, 2007

<u>Ass't Year</u>	<u>Orig. AV</u>	<u>Corrected AV</u>	<u>Reduction</u>	Tax Certioraris cont'd:
1999	\$191,250	\$100,000	\$91,250	
2000	\$191,250	\$100,000	\$91,250	
2001	\$191,250	\$100,000	\$91,250	
2002	\$191,250	\$75,000	\$116,250	
2003	\$105,350	\$55,000	\$50,350	
2004	\$146,250	\$72,000	\$74,250	
2005	\$146,250	\$72,000	\$74,250	
2006	\$146,250	\$72,000	\$74,250	

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.

WHEREAS, litigation has been commenced to challenge the assessments on the property known as Quay Tarrytown Condominium Association, Inc., located on South Broadway in the Village of Tarrytown and designated and described as Sheet 17B/1/281A and various lots on the Tax Maps and Assessment Rolls of the Town of Greenburgh for assessment years 1999 through 2006; and

Quay Tarrytown

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

WHEREAS, several 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 lawsuit with the following reductions in assessed values:

<u>Ass't Year</u>	<u>Orig. AV</u>	<u>Corrected AV</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
1999	\$1,091,150	\$1,036,600	\$54,550
2000	\$1,091,150	\$982,000	\$109,150
2001	\$1,091,150	\$943,850	\$147,300
2002	\$1,091,150	\$862,000	\$229,150
2003	\$1,091,150	\$857,650	\$233,500
2004	\$1,091,150	\$763,800	\$327,350
2005	\$1,091,150	\$742,000	\$349,150
2006	\$1,091,150	\$690,000	\$401,150

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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.

Tax Certioraris
cont'd.

WHEREAS, litigation has been commenced to challenge the assessments on the property currently owned by Travassos Owners Corp., having a street address of 154 and 158 Beekman Avenue, Sleepy Hollow and designated and described as Section 115.11, Block 6, Lots 33 and 34 on the Tax Maps and Assessment Rolls of the Town of Mount Pleasant for assessment years 2002 through 2006; and

Travassos Owners
Corp.

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

WHEREAS, discussions were held with the attorney for the petitioner, the Assessor for the Town of Mount Pleasant 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 Town of Mount Pleasant Assessor 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 lawsuit with the following reductions in assessed values:

<u>Ass't Year</u>	<u>Orig. AV</u>	<u>Corrected AV</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
2002	\$16,500	\$11,400	\$5,100
2003	\$16,500	\$10,750	\$5,750
2004	\$16,500	\$10,250	\$6,250
2005	\$16,500	\$9,650	\$6,850
2006	\$16,500	\$9,100	\$7,400

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.

Appointment of
Internal Auditor:

RESOLVED: That, Korn, Rosenbaum, Phillips & Jauntig be appointed auditor for the 2006-2007 fiscal year at a retainer of \$26,000.

Korn, Rosenbaum,
Phillips & Jauntig

RESOLVED: That, the President of the Board of Education is authorized and empowered to execute an agreement with American Property Counselors, for the purpose of conducting a property appraisal, at a fee of \$3,000.

Agreements:

American Property
Counselors

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Kirschner 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 General Motions, as listed:

March 1, 2007

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education is authorized and empowered to execute an agreement with School Improvement Evaluation Network, to serve as Evaluator of the Dual Language Program, at a fee of \$5,000, for the 2006-2007 school year.

Agreements:

School Improvement Evaluation Network

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education is authorized and empowered to execute an agreement with Belinda Ritter, to serve as choreographer for the Sleepy Hollow Middle/High School spring musical at a fee of \$2,000, for the 2006-2007 school year.

Belinda Ritter

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education is authorized and empowered to execute an agreement with Flora Lu Kuan, to serve as accompanist for the Sleepy Hollow Middle/High School spring musical at a fee of \$1,140, for the 2006-2007 school year.

Flora Lu Kuan

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education appoints the following residents to serve on the Board of Registration for the 2006-2007 school year:

Board of Registration

District #1: Katherine Camillieri Mildred McCarthy
 Helen DeMilia Gloria Koval
 Marilyn Helwig

District #2: Joan Wald Mary McCarthy

The Treasurer's Report dated January 2007 is attached to these minutes as Appendix #2.

Treasurer's Report: January 2007

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Adjournment

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10:05PM
Respectfully submitted,

Nelly Valentin
District Clerk

Appendices:

- #1 – CSE/CPSE Reports
- #2 - Treasurer's Report January 2007