

**SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING**

July 19, 2011

Held at Smithtown High School West

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Gladys Waldron, President of the Board of Education. On motion by Mrs. Knox seconded by Mr. Martella, the Board voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session to conduct interviews for District Clerk. At 8:00p.m. Mrs. Knox moved, seconded by Mr. Martella and the Board reconvened the Special Meeting.

Members present:

Gladys M. Waldron	Theresa Knox	Joanne McEnroy
Scott Martella	Louis Liguori	Grace Plourde

Members absent:

Joseph Saggese

Also present:

Edward Ehmann, Superintendent  
Mary Auguliario School Transportation Supervisor

Mr. Saggese entered the meeting at 8:05p.m.

**I. OPENING CEREMONY** - conducted by Mrs. Waldron.

**II. STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES-**

Mr.Ehmann presented a Power Point presentation on the May 17, 2011 busing referendum and the impact those changes will have at the elementary, secondary and private and parochial schools.

Mrs. Auguliario offered a Power Point presentation on Transportation Services and how runs and buses are built.

After a lengthy discussion and several questions from the board including clarification regarding crossing guards, number of buses, inclement weather issues, responsibility of parents getting their children to and from school etc. Mrs. Waldron asked the Board to vote if they would be willing to put up a new referendum on the Transportation Guidelines.

**Discussion-** Mr. Saggese vehemently opposed the Board putting forth another Transportation referendum for a vote. He expressed his concern for going against the democratic process and felt a re-vote would disenfranchise the voters who came out and voted the first time, which was a large percentage.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Grace Plourde	YES
Joanne McEnroy	YES
Louis Liguori	NO
Theresa Knox	YES
Joseph Saggese	NO
Scott Martella	YES
Gladys Waldron	YES

By a vote of (5-2) the Board agreed to vote on going forward with a vote for a new referendum on Transportation guidelines.

Mr. Ehmann put forth the following referendum to be voted upon

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING AND VOTE  
(STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES)  
AND NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting and vote upon a proposition changing the student Transportation Guidelines by the inhabitants of the Smithtown Central School District qualified to vote at school meetings in said District, will take place in the four (4) election districts of said District at the voting places herein below designated, on September 19, 2011, and the polls will remain open from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. for vote by voting machine.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the absentee ballots for the vote will be issued to those qualified voters who are substantially impaired by reason of permanent illness or physical disability and whose registration record has been marked "permanently disabled" by the Board of Elections of the County of Suffolk as mandated by Section 2018-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. In addition, applications for absentee ballots may be obtained in the Office of the District Clerk, located in the Joseph M. Barton Building, 26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York, on school days, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Such application must be received at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. No absentee ballot shall be canvassed unless it is received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that a list of persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection in the said office of the District Clerk on each of the five days (except Sunday) prior to the day of the election between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on school days and on Saturday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. by prior appointment.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that at the said special meeting and vote, the following proposition will be submitted for the purpose of voting thereon by voting machine between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.:

**PROPOSITION NO. 1**

**(STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES)**

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that for the 2011/2012 school year, the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized and required to provide transportation to all students in K - Grade 5. The anticipated increase in transportation costs to the District is approximately \$200,250.00, but it will not result in a change to the adopted budget or the tax levy for the 2011/2012 school year, and it is further

RESOLVED, that for the 2011/2012 school year, the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized and required to provide transportation to students in Grades 6 – 12 who reside more than 1 mile from their school. The anticipated increase in transportation costs to the District is approximately \$333,720.00, but it will not result in a change to the adopted budget or the tax levy for the 2011/2012 school year, and it is further

RESOLVED, that for the 2011/2012 school year, the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized and required to provide transportation to students for up to 20 miles. The anticipated increase in transportation costs to the District is approximately \$337,947.00, but it will not result in a change to the adopted budget or the tax levy for the 2011/2012 school year.

A vote of "yes" on this proposition means that for the 2011/2012 school year, the transportation guidelines shall be as follows: grades K – 5, unlimited; grades 6 – 12, 1 mile; private schools, up to 20 miles.

A vote of "no" on this proposition means that the transportation guidelines for the 2011/2012 school year shall be as follows: grades K – 5; ½ mile; grades 6 – 12, 1 ½ miles; private schools, up to 15 miles.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Martella.

**Discussion-** Mrs. Knox questioned if it was necessary to have the wording both “private and parochial schools” or was “private” sufficient. Mr. Ehmann said he would check with the attorneys on that wording.

Mr. Martella expressed his concern over the fact that the community, the Board and the Administration did not have enough time or information when the original referendum was put forth for a vote. He feels another vote on the referendum will more accurately reflect what the community really wants.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Grace Plourde	YES
Joanne McEnroy	YES
Louis Liguori	NO
Theresa Knox	YES
Joseph Saggese	NO
Scott Martella	YES
Gladys Waldron	YES

**MOTION carries (5-2)**

**III. AUDIENCE-** Mrs. Waldron welcomed the members of the audience and called the speakers to the podium from the sign-in sheet.

- Christine Santori- expressed her concerns for safety issues regarding transportation.
- Robert Thompson- expressed his concerns for safety issues regarding transportation
- Jennifer Savickis- expressed her concerns for safety issues regarding transportation
- Linda Rosasco- thanked the Board for voting to put forth a new Transportation referendum. Ms. Rosasco asked if information on the revote would be published, Mr. Ehmann replied it would be published in the Digest. Ms. Rosasco asked if letters would be going home to all those who have lost transportation, Ms. Augugliaro replied they would.
- Catherine Creighton- thanked Mr. Saggese for his concern over protecting the democratic process and she noted that the submitting of petitions is part of that process as well. Ms Creighton asked Mr. Ehmann if the crossing guards would be able to handle the additional number of walkers, and if he took into account the additional vehicles entering Nesaquake.
- Helena Yanke- expressed her concerns over safety issues as it relates to transportation.
- JoAnn Erwin- expressed her concerns over safety issues regarding transportation.
- Sheryl Wiener- questioned what type of signage would be on Dogwood Ave., who would pick up the additional cost of the flashing beacons.
- Michael Cohen- questioned why this detailed analysis was not done until now. Had concerns over the security at the central pickup location.
- John Garvey- concerns over the central pickup point. He questioned if the buses would be waiting for the children when they arrived.
- Maryellen McCrossen- expressed concerned over safety issues regarding transportation.
- Bob Urbancick- expressed concerns safety issues regarding transportation.

**IV. Adjournment-** Motion by Mrs.Knox, seconded by Mrs. McEnroy that the meeting be adjourned at 10:20p.m.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen O’Connor  
Interim District Clerk