

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

September 28, 2010

Held in the Joseph M. Barton Bldg.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Robert Rossi, President of the Board of Education. On motion by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Liguori, the Board voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining, employment and/or appointment of particular persons, and pending litigation.

At 8:08 p.m. Mrs. Waldron moved, Mr. Liguori seconded, and the Board reconvened the Regular Meeting.

Members present:

Neil S. Carlin	Robert Rossi
Theresa Knox	Joseph T. Saggese
Louis Liguori	Gladys M. Waldron

Members absent:

Scott Martella

Also present:

Edward Ehmann, Superintendent  
Mary Cahill, Asst. Supt.  
Karen Ricigliano, Asst. Supt.  
Eugene Barnosky, Lindsay T. Crocker, Board Counsel  
Visitors  
Mary Wilson, District Clerk

**I. OPENING CEREMONY** - conducted by Mr. Rossi

**II. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Correspondence** - The following correspondence was presented for the Board's review.

1. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi from Mr. Derek Solomon and Mr. Jason Pettis regarding invitation to Annual Spirit Parade.
2. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi from Mr. Patrick Vecchio regarding invitation to Supervisor's Prayer Breakfast.

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox that the correspondence in Section A, as listed above, be received and the recommendations of the administration (where indicated) be accepted.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

**B. General Communications** – There were no general communications presented for the Board's review.

**III. OLD BUSINESS** – none.

#### **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **A. Facilities**

Mr. Liguori reported that a meeting was held September 21<sup>st</sup> during which the following updates were given:

###### Projects on Hold

Accompsett MS building upgrades (flooring replacement & ceiling replacement), HS East building upgrades (science lab), HS West student toilet renovation

###### Projects Currently at SED

District-wide elevator upgrades

###### Projects Ready for Bid

HS West electrical service upgrade

###### Projects Under Design

Tackan site improvements (Is being re-evaluated)

###### Construction During the Summer

Mills Pond windows & unit ventilators, HS W fuel tank, kitchen hood & chiller replacement, HS East - took credit on floor, Great Hollow commissary flooring replacement, HS East turf field underway

The Committee also received a draft on the capital project spending. Mr. Ehmann noted that one column lists specific work that was to be done at Great Hollow. That work must be done or another proposition must be resubmitted to the community to change the allocation of the project. This will be discussed in the upcoming weeks. Mr. Ehmann thanked Mr. Rob Varello for his donation of material and labor for the entranceway to the athletic complex at HS East.

Mr. Liguori added that the District is still fine-tuning the list of projects which need to be done throughout the district. In the coming months we will present that to the Board along with how we want to tackle maintaining our facilities within the budgetary confines.

##### **B. Business Affairs**

Mr. Saggese reported that Business Affairs Committee meetings will be held on the third week of the month on Wednesdays. The first meeting will take place Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

##### **C. Audit Committee**

Mr. Saggese reported that the Audit Committee met July 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Saggese asked that a July 8, 2010 letter from one of the Audit Committee Members, Thomas Novak, be noted and attached to the minutes of tonight's meeting. Mr. Saggese stated that, as noted in the letter, the Audit Committee is very concerned about the school district's liability for post retirement health benefits.

##### **D. Housing Committee**

Mr. Carlin stated that one of the Committee Chairs has had discussion with the Superintendent on how we should proceed and what we look to accomplish in the next twelve months.

##### **E. Policy**

Mrs. Knox reported that the chair people are looking to schedule a meeting with a possible date in the middle of November.

##### **F. Negotiations**

Mrs. Waldron reported that the Board will be holding a Special Meeting for the purpose of STA negotiations this Thursday, September 30, 2010. The administration had SSEA negotiations on 9/15 and has meetings scheduled for 10/7, 10/27 and 11/17.

#### **G. Athletic Council**

Mrs. Waldron reported that there will be a meeting on Monday, 11/8 at 6:00 p.m.

#### **H. College Scholarship**

Mrs. Knox reported that the group is working on coming up with new fundraisers.

#### **I. IAB**

Mrs. Knox reported that she has been participating in a several-year-long sub-committee which has started to analyze some of the data that has been acquired. Mrs. Knox gave a special thanks to the business partners in the IAB for taking the time to fill out a detailed survey about what kind of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills they value and are looking for in graduates. Mrs. Knox also thanked John Nolan and Jen Bradshaw for their help.

#### **J. PTA Council**

Mr. Liguori reported that he had attended the PTA Council's first meeting of the school year. There was a very good turnout and it was very organized and energetic. Mr. Liguori explained that he gave the group a synopsis of what had gone on over the summer. The Council meets on a monthly basis and there is a constant feedback between them and the Board liaison person. Mr. Liguori let the Board know that the Council appreciates having a Board Member at its meetings and if there are any meetings he cannot attend he will ask another Board Member to attend in his place.

#### **K. SEPTA**

Mr. Saggese noted that he had not been able to attend the meeting but asked Ms. McHugh for an update. Ms. McHugh reported that the first meeting went very well and had a big turnout.

### **V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Updates** – The Superintendent brought the Board up-to-date on the following items:

- *Bullying, Drugs, Health and Safety: Smart Choices for Parents and Children* will be the theme of the District's Fourth Annual Parent University on Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at SHS West. The evening will highlight a panel of professionals.
- SHS has four Semifinalists and 12 Commended Students named in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. Julia Apoznanski, Sanjay Palat, Angelina Seffens and Alice Shan have been named Semifinalists. The Commended Students are: Nicole Aleman, Eric Culver, Elena Faverio, Eric Gratta, Michael Lau, Joseph Matragrano, Christopher Mcllwaine, Erin Purdie, Brian Ralph, Peter Ren, Theodore Schneider and Andrea Willard.
- SHS East Seniors Lisa Leitgeb and Lars Folkerts recently attended the World Maker Fair, held at the New York Hall of Science in Queens. Both students had spent the summer at Brookhaven National Laboratory working with Senior Physicist Dr. Helio Takai and had developed an interact game that demonstrated how electrical circuits work. While at the World Maker Fair, both students helped young children play with the circuits and, for interested youngsters, assemble their own to take home.
- SHS West's literary magazine, Penumbra has won a silver medal from the Columbia University Scholastic Press Association.

- Mills Pond Elementary Librarian Louise Prescott has been selected by the Western Suffolk BOCES School Library System to receive the 2010 School Library Media Specialist of the Year award.
- SHS East student Alexandra McHale won The Long Island Presidents' Council Essay Contest "My School is Cool Because.." Her essay was recorded and is airing on various radio stations.
- Students throughout the District observed Constitution Day on September 17<sup>th</sup> in a variety of ways. Throughout the week, students learned about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in their classes. For example, students developed class constitutions to outline rules and responsibilities for a successful school year.
- Mills Pond students participated in an Arts-in-Education Bully Prevention presentation, "The Power of One." Teachers conducted grade level meetings to generate ideas about how students can develop leadership characteristics.
- October 1<sup>st</sup> is the district's Shanti Peace for the Planet Celebration, in honor of Gandhi's birthday. Activities include: Peace Pinwheels, Peace Walks, lessons on world religion, and the concept of nonviolence over time.
- The French classes at High School West are happy to greet and include three students from French speaking countries who are participating in their classes. The students are from Switzerland, France, and Canada. The experience is helping to enhance global awareness.

#### **B. Committee on Special Education**

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Liguori approving Committee on Special Education Items 1-2 on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

1. Committee on Special Education - RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education for cases 304322, 309612, 310828, 308559, 305635, 309495, 305253, 311336, 311591, 311685, 310850 and 187129 be approved.
2. Sub-Committee on Special Education – RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Special Education for cases 304317, 308022, 307312, 200060, 301673, 305652, 301675, 306684, 303157, 172798 and 309612 be approved.

#### **C. Committee on Preschool Special Education**

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving Preschool Special Education Items 1-2 on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

1. Initial Placement for Preschool Special Education Program/Services – RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education for Initial Placement – Program/Services for case P311634 be approved.
2. Special Education Preschool Annual IEP Review/Amended IEP – RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education for Annual IEP Review/Amended IEP for cases P311626, P309347 and P311583 be approved.

**D. Calendar for September and October 2010** - The calendars were reviewed by the Board.

**E. Litigation** - was discussed during the earlier Executive Session.

## **VI. INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT**

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving Instructional Items A and C on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

### **A. Overnight Field Trip Request – Smithtown High School East Varsity Kickline – March 3-7, 2011 – National Kickline Competition – Orlando, Florida -**

upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that permission is granted for 16 students from Smithtown High School East Varsity Kickline to compete in the Contest of Champions in Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida. Students will depart March 3, 2011 and return March 7, 2011.

### **B. Report on New York State Assessments**

Mrs. Cahill gave a comprehensive presentation on the State Assessment 2010 – New Cut Scores and What They Mean for Smithtown. Mrs. Cahill reviewed information she had previously sent the Board regarding a meeting with Commissioner Steiner, Regents and the Chancellor. The impact of the State’s decision to change the 3-8 ELA and math cut scores and the future plans involving Regents exams were highlighted with a PowerPoint presentation. Mrs. Cahill noted that three math and three ELA tutors will need to be added at the secondary level. Part of this increase, two tutors, is to bring HS East up to the level of staffing that has existed at HS West. The inequity occurred when the twelfth grade moved over to East; but because we were on austerity that year the staffing was never corrected. Since our budget does not allow for that increase in staffing we have determined that the salaries for the six tutors can be coded to one of our grants. We will reallocate money previously assigned to supplies or equipment and reassign it to cover the salaries of the tutors. The total for the tutors will be approximately \$144,000. The grant being considered is the 611 grant which comes in to the Special Education department. This grant covers some items such as Adaptive P.E.

Mr. Rossi, on behalf of the Board, thanked Mrs. Cahill for her very informative presentation.

**C. Selection Classification Recommendation** - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that permission is granted at the request of the Athletic Director to the following Middle School athletes to play on High School teams. They have been deemed “exceptional” and have passed the Selection/Classification process:

Jessica Anderson	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV G VB	HS East
Samantha Delany	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV G VB	HS East
Tyler Clark	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV B Golf	HS East
Christopher Walsh	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV B Golf	HS East
Joseph Balfe	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV B Golf	HS East
Brett Harris	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV B Golf	HS East
Zach McDonough	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV B Golf	HS East
Gerard Martusciello	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV B Golf	HS East
Nick Pace	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV B Golf	HS East
Andrew Werner	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV B Golf	HS East
Lantze Lange	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV Boys Golf	HS West
Michael McEvoy	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV Boys Golf	HS West
Patrick Carroll	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV Boys Golf	HS West
Robert Peters	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV Boys Golf	HS West

Patrick Montagnino	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV Boys Golf	HS East
Matthew Galindo	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV Boys Golf	HS East
Zach Cooke	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV B Golf	HS West
Nick Swanson	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	JV B Golf	HS West

**VII. AUDIENCE** – Mr. Rossi welcomed the members of the audience and called speakers to the podium from the sign-in sheet.

1. Joseph Campanelli asked how Board Meetings are advertised to the public and how a mediator is selected. Mr. Campanelli asked the Board to be proactive in controlling taxes.
2. Pam Farino asked what the STA salary increase is this year. Mrs. Farino asked for an update on the homeowners who have encroached on school district property. Mrs. Farino suggested that perhaps various facilities projects, such as Accomsett Elementary, should not be on hold due to some money being left from previous bonds.
3. Bob Urbancik noted that not enough people attend Board meetings. He suggested that a few months before the next teachers’ contract expires the Board should explain what is in the contract to the public.
4. Eileen Cook asked if there is a plan to stop the flooding of yards near the Branch Brook Elementary school.

**VIII. BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

**A. Finance**

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving Finance Items 1- 7 on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

1. Budgetary Transfers - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfers of funds be approved for the 2010-11 school year:

FROM:	2025-465-51-0000	Equipment Repair	\$17,500.00
	2025-503-51-0000	Gen Office Supplies	\$5,794.00
TO:	2025-469-51-0000	Plant Project	\$23,294.00

2. Change Orders - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the attached change orders listed below:

**Bid Recommendation #10-19 Awarded on June 14, 2010  
Capital Project #58-08-01-06-0-023-025  
High School East – Upgrades 1 – Window and Flooring Replacement**

CHANGE ORDER #01 – Amount: \$98,337.50  
Contractor: Arrow Steel Window Corp.

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**Bid Recommendation #09-33R Awarded on August 25, 2009  
Capital Project #58-08-01-06-0-023-026  
High School East – Upgrades 11 – General Construction Work**

CHANGE ORDER #02 – Amount: (\$27,000.00)

Contractor: DeMartino Construction Company

3. Credit Card with Chase Bank - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to enter into the Business Card-member Agreement between Smithtown Central School District and Chase Bank USA, NA, approving Edward L. Ehmann, Superintendent, as the authorized officer to sign for the District
  
4. Internal Risk Assessment Update Report - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Risk Assessment Update Report, dated June 15, 2010, issued by the District's Internal Auditor, Cullen & Danowski, LLP.
  
5. Agreement with Collaborative Excellence in Education (CEE) - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement for the 2010-11 school year with the following organization for their services to students who, either for situational or behavioral issues, must be relocated to an alternative educational program while their permanent placement is under review, at the rates indicated:

Windwood Meadow, Inc. / Parent Corporation of CEE  
 3253 Route 112, Building 10  
 Medford, NY 11763

Consultant Services:  
 \$45.00 per hour for each enrolled student  
 Educational Instruction Services:  
 \$450.00 per week for 10 hours of instruction for each enrolled student

6. Extra Classroom Activity Account with Bank of Smithtown - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the relationship between Smithtown Central School District and Bank of Smithtown for the following new Extraclassroom Activity Account is recognized:

Nesconset Elementary School

7. Extra Classroom Activity Accounts - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education hereby approves the following list of potential donors for Extra Classroom Activity Accounts for the 2010-2011 school year:

<u>School</u>	<u>Potential Donor</u>
Smithtown High School East	Allstate Intel Society for Science & the Public Island Photography Jostens Life Touch Photography PTA Donations Smithtown Wrestling Alumni Stop & Shop Target Terra Cycle

**B. Operations**

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving Operations Items 1-3 on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

1. Additions to List of Organizations Approved to Use School Facilities, 2010-2011 School Year - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following organizations, having made formal applications, are hereby approved to use school facilities at the Smithtown Central School District during the 2010-2011 school year, subject to all School District policies, rules and regulations, Standard Uniform Practices, and contract provisions:

Accompsett Middle School PTA  
Cub Scout Pack 340  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Long Island Rebels  
St. Joseph CYO  
United States Air Force

2. Declaration of Obsolete Items - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following items, due to poor condition and/or obsolescence, are no longer useful to the District, and are hereby declared to be obsolete, and are to be disposed of in a manner that is in the best interest of the Smithtown Central School District:

High jump mats, volleyball referee stand, rejected football helmets, and rejected shoulder pads.  
GE Electric Range, serial # LS237043G, SCSD #7000193 at H.S. East

3. Acceptance of Gifts - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of the following gifts:

Donated By

\$1,000.00 Intel Science Semifinalist	Society for Science & the Public 1719 N. Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20036
\$1,154.00 donation for Accompsett Elementary School	Target Take Charge of Education Mail Stop 2A-O P.O. Box 59214 Minneapolis, MN 55459-0214

**IX. PERSONNEL**

- A. Certified** – The following Certified Personnel Items were presented for the Board's approval:

1. Appointment of Substitute Teacher(s)
2. Appointment of Regular Substitute Teacher(s)
3. Appointment of Interim Administrator
4. Appointment of Probationary Teacher(s)
5. Certifications
6. Appointment of Academic Intervention Tutor(s)
7. Appointment of Home Instruction Tutor(s)
8. Appointment of Part-time Teacher(s)
9. Certifications
10. Coaching Assignments
11. Request for FMLA Without Pay/Leave of Absence, Without Pay
12. Increase in Assignment/Additional Class(es)
13. Request Leave of Absence, Without Pay

14. Notice of Resignation(s)
15. Restoration to Former Tenure Area
16. Appointment of Co-Curricular Activity Sponsors
17. Appointment of Music Organization Event Chaperones

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox approving the Certified Personnel Items 1-17, as detailed in the attached resolutions.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

Ms. Ricigliano introduced the newly hired employees.

Mr. Rossi, on behalf of the Board of Education, also welcomed the newly hired employees.

**B. Classified** - The following Classified Personnel Items were presented for the Board's approval:

1. Appointments
2. Appointments – Reason(s)
3. Change of Status
4. Leave of Absence Unpaid
5. Leave of Absence – Reason(s)
6. Retirements
7. Resignation
8. Terminations

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving the Classified Personnel Items 1-8 as detailed in the attached resolutions.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

**C. Nurses** – The following Nursing Personnel Items were presented for the Board's approval:

1. Termination – Nurse
2. Resignation – Nurse

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox approving the Nursing Personnel Items 1-2 as detailed in the attached resolutions.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

### **2010/11 Town of Smithtown School District Assessment**

The Superintendent announced that the District had just received a new 2010/11 school district assessment from the Town. The number for the final full taxable assessed value for 2010/11 is \$120,384,229. This number is \$1,258,256 lower than last year; which equates to a 1.035% decrease in the assessed value. The tax levy that had been established for this year was 1.66; with a decrease in the assessed value of 1.03 we are looking at a 2.69 tax rate. This document explains that people are constantly going to courts and reviewing their assessments; subsequently this number could change.

Mr. Saggese asked that the Board consider recommending a hiring freeze in the District in light of this kind of information. The direction of this Board to the District should be to decrease the size of the personnel footprint. That can only be done by

attrition and not replacing positions. Mr. Saggese used an example of an employee who makes a certain salary retiring and being replaced with an employee making substantially less. His concern is that the District then uses that potential savings on something else. He suggested that the number of employees eventually be reduced by 5%. Mrs. Ricigliano responded that in the last two to three budgets we have eliminated positions through attrition. 17.8 FTE's were not 17.8 bodies; we did excess three teachers this year, but they were program reductions. The footprint shrunk this year. The staff that we have matches the program that we offer. Mr. Ehmann stated that every department head has been asked to gain efficiencies and he will provide the Board the last three years' lists of efficiencies that have resulted in reducing the overall budgetary expenditure. Everyone is dedicated to conserving as many dollars as possible. Some of the program additions have to do with things such as IEP's and the like. Mr. Rossi noted that this year is going to be a very difficult year; there have to be savings. Mrs. Cahill added that she and Mrs. Ricigliano hold themselves very accountable to staffing. Mrs. Knox stated that the Board approves every person that is hired. There is no question that we have to continue to monitor efficiencies. But to make a philosophical statement that we are going to have a hiring freeze... Mr. Liguori stated that we all have that same agenda of being as efficient as possible. We also know that 77% of our budget is payroll and employee compensation; however, they have guidelines to run the District. We have policies that are in place with student/teacher ratios; those kinds of things that do not coincide with that theory of a hiring freeze. Right now the Board's objective is to put goals in place for our Superintendent and one of the goals will be to run this district with the mindset of efficiencies and controlling staffing. We have many measures that we are going to be working with in regard to reducing staff or reducing the big picture of employee compensation. We are working on labor agreements. They have shown us reductions in elective classes; these are things that they looked at, in essence, to reduce staffing. There are some things that we can put in place with regards to clerical people and custodial people; but you can't necessarily do it with teaching staff. Mr. Saggese added that there will be cuts in things like State aid and then teachers and program will be cut. If we don't do anything, at the end of the road we will decimate everything. You reduce the footprint over time so that when the crunch comes it doesn't hit you that you have to cut program and cut teachers. Mr. Liguori agreed with the idea of cutting the footprint, but there are methodical ways of going about it and we should certainly have those discussions. Some will have to do with housing and some with many other issues. We have to put a plan in place other than just saying we are cutting staff. Mr. Saggese said that if the Board is not unified in its message to the District then the message is lost. Mrs. Waldron said that she is in favor of making efficiencies but to blanketly say I want a hiring freeze...Mr. Saggese said that is not what he meant. Mr. Carlin added that the District is probably looking at the ERS going up \$1.1 million and probably looking at TRS going up about \$1 million or \$1.3 million. If you take those two numbers, you may have two and a half million dollars worth of increases to next year's budget. That would equate to over a 1% increase just on retirement benefit contributions that are mandatory.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Carlin, seconded by Mr. Liguori that the meeting be adjourned at 10:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wilson  
District Clerk