

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

March 22, 2011

Held at HS West

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Robert Rossi, President of the Board of Education. On motion by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Liguori, the Board voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session to discuss employment and/or appointment of particular persons, and pending litigation.

At 7:30 p.m. Ms. Wilson, District Clerk, joined the Executive Session, a discussion and presentation regarding formal 3020-a charges brought by Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Edward L. Ehmann, against a tenured teacher followed.

Mr. Rossi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knox that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that probable cause exists to bring a disciplinary proceeding pursuant to the New York State Education Law against a tenured teacher on the Charges filed with the District Clerk by the Superintendent on March 21, 2011, and it is further

RESOLVED, that the maximum penalty that will be imposed by the Board if the teacher does not request a hearing or that will be sought by the Board if the teacher is found guilty of the Charges after a hearing is termination.

Roll Call Vote

AYE: Mr. Rossi, Mr. Saggese, Mrs. Waldron, Mrs. Knox, Mr. Liguori,
Mr. Carlin, Mr. Martella

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

The finding of probable cause as to the Charge numbered I was affirmed by the following Board Members:

AYE: Mr. Rossi, Mr. Saggese, Mrs. Waldron, Mrs. Knox, Mr. Liguori,
Mr. Carlin, Mr. Martella

The finding of probable cause as to the Charge numbered II was affirmed by the following Board Members:

AYE: Mr. Rossi, Mr. Saggese, Mrs. Waldron, Mrs. Knox, Mr. Liguori,
Mr. Carlin, Mr. Martella

The finding of probable cause as to the Charge numbered III was affirmed by the following Board Members:

AYE: Mr. Rossi, Mr. Saggese, Mrs. Waldron, Mrs. Knox, Mr. Liguori,
Mr. Carlin, Mr. Martella

At 8:10 p.m. Mrs. Waldron moved, Mr. Martella 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
Scott Martella	

Also present:

Edward Ehmann, Superintendent
 Mary Cahill, Asst. Supt.
 Joan Niles, Asst. Supt.
 Karen Ricigliano, Asst. Supt.
 Sharon N. Berlin, Lindsay Croker, Board Counsel
 Visitors
 Mary Wilson, District Clerk

I. OPENING CEREMONY - conducted by Mr. Rossi. Mr. Rossi asked that the agenda format be changed to move all BOE items before the Audience portion. The Board unanimously agreed to the change in agenda format.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Letter to Board of Education from the Hennings-Lowe family regarding appreciation for expression of sympathy.
2. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi, President Board of Education, from HS East and West Math Honor Society Advisors regarding invitation to Sixth Annual Math Fun Night.
3. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi, President, from Mr. Michael Chlystun regarding Senior Awards Night.
4. (16) Letters to Board of Education from concerned community members regarding parochial school transportation.
5. (14) Letters to Board of Education from Smithtown Teachers Association regarding disappointment in negotiation status.
6. Letter to Board of Education from Ms. Jaqueline Gallagher regarding invitation.
7. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi from Congressman Steve Israel regarding invitation.
8. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi from Mr. Peter Wunsch regarding support for candidacy for WS BOCES.
9. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi from Ms. Jeannette Santos regarding support for candidacy for WS BOCES.
10. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi from Mr. Richard Forzano regarding phone call from Board Member to STA President.
11. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi, President of the Board of Education, from Ms. Debra Kalabza regarding thank you for Carnegie Hall opportunity.
12. Letter to Component Board Members from Dr. Michael Mensch, BOCES, regarding notice of Annual Meeting.
13. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi from Ms. Patricia Randazzo, ASPN, regarding intent of ASPN to open negotiations with SCSD.
14. Letter to Board of Education from Ms. Pam Farino regarding transparency of meeting documents.
15. Letter to members of the Board of Education from Mr. Robert Urbancik regarding teachers' contract, superintendent search and possible school closing. (2 letters)
16. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi from Timothy and Maureen Flynn regarding parochial school transportation.
17. (5) Letters to Mr. Robert Rossi from concerned community members regarding Smithtown High School Business Department.
18. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi from Mr. James Harrell regarding appreciation for expression of sympathy.
19. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi from Mr. Mike Gargiulo regarding invitation to Robotics competition.

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

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

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

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Open Items List

Mr. Rossi requested that the Board Members review the Open Items listing and determine which items have not been answered yet and bring those items back to the administration. If there are items with which we are satisfied with the answers, we can remove them from the list. Mrs. Knox noted one outstanding item is the need for a Policy Meeting; suggesting that a date be set once the budget meetings are scheduled.

Ms. Niles supplied the BOE with paperwork regarding Reorganization Incentive Aid which had been requested at the previous BOE meeting.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Audit Committee

Mr. Saggese reported that the Audit Committee met on March 17th to discuss the status of the reserves. The Board has received a letter from a member of the Audit Committee outlining his concern for the future liability and effects on the school district's financial condition. In 2007 it was estimated that the future liability would be \$185 million and in 2009 that had risen to \$224 million. The annual expense for post-retirement health benefits is roughly five or six million. This will have ramifications on the financial conditions for borrowing and the like. The District provides the post-retirement health benefits through the contracts of the employees. The member of the Audit Committee thought it was important that this become a negotiating item. The Smithtown School District affords its employees a benefit 40% above the State mandated benefit and the Audit Committee feels it was one that we should look at. The Superintendent presented his budget at that meeting, of \$213.3 million and a 4.9% tax levy and that is the beginning of the budget debate process. Mr. Saggese stated that he is very proud of this Board of Education and what they have accomplished in the past few years; stating that this Board of Education, under the leadership of Superintendent Ehmman, the past four years has made great strides in reducing costs and tax benefit without attacking program.

B. Business Affairs

Mr. Saggese reported that there will be a Business Affairs Committee Meeting on March 24th which will be the first Business Affairs Meeting to discuss the budget proposed by the Superintendent. The Superintendent has had a number of meetings by department outlining the costs for each department. All of the documents that have been presented to the committee can be found online at the Smithtown School District website. Mr. Saggese requested that the administration present the BOE with what the estimated reductions would be under the budget for next year, 2012-13, and 2013-2014 if this State mandated 2% tax cap goes through; what does that mean to us. He asked to see that in a dollar amount, a worst case scenario.

C. Facilities

Mr. Liguori reported that the Committee met March 15th and were given updates on projects and budget information. The bid for the Tackan playground renovation/restructuring of the back area is on tonight's agenda. The bid for HS West toilet renovations is also on tonight's agenda.

D. Negotiations

Mrs. Waldron announced that we are negotiating with the SSEA and had meetings September, October 2, 27, November 17, December 9, 16, January 12, 31, February 9,

March 15 and meetings are scheduled for April 5 and 28. With regard to the STA we have met with them September 24, 30, October 28, November 16, January 31, and February 15. Mediation was held and on March 7. Our negotiator met with the Board to report on the mediation session. We are waiting for more updates. Ms. Berlin stated that she has been in touch with the mediator and he is trying to set up a conference call with the STA's negotiator and herself. Mrs. Waldron continued that the ASPN has asked to start negotiating with the District and shortly we will be meeting with the SSAA.

Mr. Saggese questioned if the dates that were read here were just the dates since impasse; noting that June dates were not mentioned. He asked that the list be all-inclusive with all of the meetings starting with June because this Board was proactive looking for negotiations to commence. Ms. Berlin responded that she will prepare for the Board a list of the dates on which we met.

E. Housing

Mr. Martella reported that a recommendation regarding the Citizens' Advisory Committee will be voted on tonight.

F. Instructional Services

Mrs. Knox announced that they would like to have a meeting on Race to the Top, probably after the budget cycle.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Updates** – Mr. Ehmann noted that he had spent his entire professional career in the Smithtown School District. Throughout the years Smithtown has had many successes. We are now faced with a once-in-a-generation challenge. The economic recession has led to our state aid being cut, pension contributions going to over 11% of the payroll and unfunded mandates creating more and more expenses. People do not want to see their school closed, people don't want to lose their transportation, people don't want higher taxes, people don't want larger class sizes, people don't want to lose negotiated benefits, and people don't want to lose electives or extracurricular activities. It is very easy for a community to become fragmented at a time like this; or we can come together and work for the kids. The Superintendent discussed budget issues, explaining that the District is looking at a \$5.4 million cut in state aid along with increases in salaries and pension contributions. This leaves the District with a large budget gap.

Mr. Rossi stated the difficult budget discussions are not brought on by the school district. All seven Board Members are interested and concerned about the future of this school district. The Board must work together with the Superintendent, staff and unions and look to the future of the District. We hope that in the future this great Smithtown School District will continue to be the great Smithtown School District that we all came here to know and are proud of. The Board of Education has never backed away from talking to anyone about contracts, as difficult as those talks can be. The Board of Education directed the administration at its negotiations meeting to make sure that as long as they can, talks continue. In the beginning no negotiation goes well. Both sides have to give in a little. That could happen quickly, in good times; and in bad times it takes an awful long time to happen. But you can never give up discussing what has to be taken care of. The Board thanks the administration and we respect our staff for understanding that this is not an easy time for anybody.

B. Committee on Special Education

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

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

1. Committee on Special Education - RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education for cases 161420, 303672, 305997, 310558, 310409, 310570, 176218, 311916, 157590, 309537, 307192, 304527, 310865, 310324, 311843, 311274, 302494, 308964, 309927, 312062, 311939 and 300262 be approved.
2. Sub-Committee on Special Education - RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Special Education for cases 309412, 152360, 309521, 200524, 300889, 302626, 301716, 305882, 200149, 200650, 301792, 153940, 308428, 193359, 305068, 310859, 308600, 308492, 308619, 306097, 308041, 307952, 305008, 304801, 306684, 308519, 306979, 306980, 305292, 306327, 306263, 306070, 306247, 307199, 300626, 302496, 302355, 304012, 300258, 301891, 306684, 309112, 300264, 300302, 306676, 307847, 306188, 305518, 304578, 309158, 309760, 304860, 307033, 308879, 309412, 309255, 306005, 307272, 305500, 301426, 305863, 303416, 306790, 307443, 160080, 308613, 310335, 306430, 306940, 306429, 309956, 308547, 304134, 304133, 304233, 307009, 307702, 310869, 309612, 309793, 303061, 308809 and 301212 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 (7-0).

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 cases P312337A, P312337, P311732A, P311732, P311956, P311928, P312140, P310305, P312014, P311957 and P311935 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 P311357A, P311357, P311492, P310481, P309490, P311626, P311545, P311202, P311868, P311850, P310421, P310410, P309641, P311620, P310418, P311799, P310419A, P310419, P309693A, P309693, P310475A, P310475, P310865, P310234, P311847 and P310480 be approved.

D. Recommendation to Form a Citizens' Advisory Committee on Instruction and Housing

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be is RESOLVED, that a Citizens' Advisory Committee on Instruction and Housing be established to investigate the appropriate long-range housing patterns needed to support a quality instructional program, based on long range enrollment projections and future educational needs and requirements. Further be it resolved, that this committee will make recommendations that will reduce the facility/school footprint of the Smithtown Central School District and/or identify potential sources of significant revenue via our buildings as well as an analysis of the cost factors, and that the recommendations thereof to be submitted to the Board of Education by January 31, 2012.

The Citizens' Advisory Committee on Instruction and Housing will provide an addendum to the Citizens' Advisory Report of October 2008. The composition of the committee will include: a PTA representative from every school, representatives from the community at large, a representative from each of the bargaining units, and representatives from administration and Board of Education

The needs assessment will:

- Analyze enrollment projections to determine the housing patterns that are required in a challenging economic climate to effectively provide the K-12 educational program in a uniform and equitable manner.
- Study the impact of *Race to the Top (RTTT)* and *Response to Intervention (RtI)*.
- Analyze special education needs.

- Explore special area needs.
- Analyze the costs of maintaining the status quo vs. changes in housing patterns and/or potential sources of revenue.
- Study feasibility of changing housing patterns, including but not limited to: closing an elementary school, closing a middle school and redistricting all schools to balance enrollment, establishing a Kindergarten Center full or half day, establishing a K-2 3-5 pattern, closing NYA and moving Central Office to another building.
- Study impact on transportation.
- Assist the Board and Administration in developing and maintaining a long range plan.

The recommendations of the Committee will address the instructional and housing needs of the Smithtown Central School District for the next ten years including the recommended change to the housing pattern for the 2012-2013 school year.

Discussion

Mr. Liguori asked if the committee could consider other items that were not listed in this resolution. Mr. Ehmann answered that if the Committee decides that there are scenarios that they would like to pursue, or if they come up with an analysis that leads to another topic, we would give them the ability to that. We are charging the committee to do a thorough analysis of all possible scenarios so that at the end of the process when the recommendation is made no one can say that we didn't take a look at everything that is out there. Mr. Liguori added that he would have liked to see a bullet point about revenue opportunities. Mr. Ehmann noted that it is in the narrative and will be a major part of the research. He read a portion of the resolution, "...that this committee will make recommendations that will reduce the facility/school footprint of the Smithtown Central School District and/or identify potential sources of significant revenue via our buildings..." Mr. Liguori asked that the process for selection of committee members and size of the group be outlined. Mr. Ehmann responded that the central office administration has a working team that will co-chair various aspects of the committee and the PTA's will be asked to send a representative from each school. The meetings themselves are open. We will have representatives from all schools, a couple of at-large community members, we have reached out to all of the bargaining units and there will be administrative presence as well.

Mr. Martella stated that he is pleased that this is being proposed. If someone is interested in participating, what direction should they take? Mr. Ehmann responded if they are a PTA member they should contact the PTA, if they are a community at large member they should e-mail me and I will bring that to the committee so that we can consider them and we will be broadcasting, advertising the meeting dates and times and putting it on the website so that people can show up and participate, at least as a spectator.

Mr. Rossi questioned whether the committee would be limited to what is in the resolution and if not should the resolution state "...not limited to..." Ms. Berlin responded that the language is appropriate as is. Mr. Rossi noted that there is an end date of January 31, 2012. Mr. Ehmann stated that if the Board approves this resolution, we are ready to move forward and solicit the group. They have been told that they must commit to a pretty rigorous timeframe and we even expect to meet over the summer. By January the recommendation will be made and we have six months of school time providing transitional time. We plan on a meeting once every two weeks of the big committee. The subcommittees will meet in addition to that; they will be reporting back about the different possibilities. We have quite a bit of the work done already, but we still have a lot to do.

Mr. Carlin noted that according to Policy the charges can be changed at any time by the Board and the administration and it is also non-binding with respect to any recommendation or findings. And the committee could be, at the will of the Board, extended in time or actually dismissed even during their charge according to Policy. Mr. Ehmann added that it is an advisory committee to the Board, it is not making a decision, and it is just making a recommendation which the Board will vote their consciences.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

E. Student Transportation Guidelines

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Liguori that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools be it RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District hereby adopts the following proposition for consideration by the voters of the District at the Annual Election of Members of the Board of Education and Budget Vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2011.

PROPOSITION NO. 1
(STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES)

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized to increase the current transportation limit in K - Grade 5 from unlimited transportation to ½ mile. The anticipated savings in transportation costs to the District by increasing the limit is approximately \$200,250.00, and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized to increase the current transportation limit in Grades 6 – 12 from 1 mile to 1 and ½ miles. The anticipated savings in transportation costs to the District by increasing the limit is approximately \$333,720.00.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized to decrease the distance which the District is obligated to transport students to private schools from 20 miles to 15 miles. The anticipated savings in transportation costs to the District by decreasing the distance is approximately \$337,947.00.

OR

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District hereby adopts the following propositions for consideration by the voters of the District at the Annual Election of Members of the Board of Education and Budget Vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2011.

PROPOSITION NO. 1
(STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES)

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized to increase the current transportation limit in K - Grade 5 from unlimited transportation to ½ mile. The anticipated savings in transportation costs to the District by increasing the limit is approximately \$200,250.00, and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized to increase the current transportation limit in Grades 6 – 12 from 1 mile to 1 and ½ miles. The anticipated savings in transportation costs to the District by increasing the limit is approximately \$333,720.00.

PROPOSITION NO. 2
(STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES)

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized to decrease the distance which the District is obligated to transport students to private schools from 20 miles to 15 miles. The anticipated savings in transportation costs to the District by decreasing the distance is approximately \$337,947.00.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

F. Special Education Extended School Year Program – Summer 2011

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools be it resolved that the Smithtown Central School

District establish an Extended School Year Program for the dates of July 1 through August 11, 2011

The Extended School Year Program is designed to meet the needs of those children whose special needs are severe enough to need a structured learning environment of twelve months duration to maintain educational and developmental levels. All students in grades kindergarten to sixth grade who attend a district self-contained special education class and whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) designates the Extended School Year Program as the service provider for a twelve month program will be eligible to attend.

The Committee on Special Education criteria is in accordance with the criteria submitted to the State Education Department for approval of the Extended School Year Program.

Eligibility for this program is also extended to Smithtown School District residents who are in out of district placements and for who the Committee on Special Education recommends twelve month programming and designates the Extended School Year Program as the service provider for the July/August component. The building designated as the site of this program is Smithtown Elementary School.

Students from other Suffolk County school districts may be eligible to attend the program on a tuition basis if the Committee on Special Education of the home district recommends twelve month programming, designates the Smithtown School District Extended School Year Program as the July/August component, and that student does not displace a Smithtown resident.

Tuition and transportation costs for the Extended School Year, at present, are reimbursed at the rate established through the State Education Department.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

G. Calendar for March and April 2011

The calendars were reviewed and amended by the Board. Mrs. Knox asked that after the budget issues are finalized Policy and Instruction meetings be scheduled for the beginning of May.

H. Acceptance of Superintendent’s Goals as Determined by the Board of Education for 2010-2011

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the attached Superintendent’s Goals as determined by the Board of Education for 2010-2011 be and are hereby approved.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

I. Litigation – was discussed during the earlier Executive Session.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT

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

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

A. 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.

Jennifer Wilcox 7th Grade V Girls Golf HS West

B. Overnight Field Trip Request – Smithtown High School East Boys’ and Girls’ Track – April 15-16, 2011 –Red Raider Track Meet – Thiells, NY - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that permission is granted for 30 students from Smithtown High School East Varsity Boys’ and Girls’ Track to compete in the Red Raider Track Meet at North Rockland High School in Thiells, NY. Students will depart April 15, 2011 and return April 16, 2011.

VIII. BUSINESS AFFAIRS

A. Finance

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving AMENDED Finance Items 1 – 6 on a consent motion.

Discussion

Item #4 – Mr. Saggese asked for clarification on this item. Ms. Niles responded that the External Auditors are required to audit our federal funds. At the last meeting I gave my response to this audit report. At this meeting you are getting the audit report.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

1. **Bid Recommendations** - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following bid recommendations are approved as submitted herein:

09-09	Ext.	Sheet Music
09-14	Ext.	Paper & Dispensers
11-02		Student Toilet Renovation – High School West SED#58-08-01-06-0-038-020
11-03		Site Work – Tackan Elementary SED#58-08-01-06-0-031-017
11-11		Gas Piping Upgrade-High School West SED#58-08-01-06-0-038-024

2. **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:	1621-469-53-0000	Plant Project	\$20,000.00
TO:	1620-466-53-0000	Building Repairs	\$10,000.00
	1621-544-53-0000	Electric Supplies	\$10,000.00

3. **Appointment of Architectural/Engineering Surveyors** - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of Hawkins Webb Jaeger to perform a survey at Smithtown High School East, 10 School Street, St. James, NY 11780 at the quoted price of \$8500.00.

4. **Single Audit Report for Year Ended June 30, 2010** - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the Board of Education receive the Single Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2010, prepared and submitted by the District's Independent Auditor, R.S. Abrams and Company.

5. **Appointment of School Physicians** - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following physicians at the Orthopedic Associates of Long Island be appointed as School Physicians, as required by law, for interscholastic sports and working papers:

Philip L. Schrank, MD

Michael J. Sileo, MD
Gregg Jarit, MD
Hayley Queller, MD
Nestor Blyznak, MD
Christopher Collins, RPA-C
Christina Hull, RPA-C

6. Annual Election and Legal Notice - upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the Annual Election of the District be held on the 17th day of May 2011, that due notice thereof be duly published, and be it further

RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of Smithtown Central School District, Suffolk County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. That the annual election of the qualified voters of the said School District shall be held on the 17th day of May 2011, and that the polls will be kept open between the hours of 6:00 o'clock a.m. and 9:00 o'clock p.m., time then in effect, for vote by voting machines.

Section 2. That the notice of said annual election, including the proposition(s) to be voted upon, shall be substantially in the form annexed hereto.

B. Operations

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

Discussion

Item #1 – Mr. Rossi noted that the donations are always well appreciated but he wanted to note that the Booster Club has been very active in helping and that is a big part of the budget as well. The Booster Club donates a lot of money to make purchases; scoreboards, tables, all kinds of different things. These are things that we would normally take out of the budget, but instead the Booster Club has worked very hard raising money. We want to give a special thanks to them.

Mr. Carlin also noted that there are two Eagle Scout projects also being donated. Mr. Rossi agreed and thanked Mr. Carlin for noting that.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

1. 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

Fence contribution in front of St. James Elementary as his Eagle Scout Project (see attached for further description)

Dean Bauer
Troop 301
6 Fifty Acre Road
St. James, NY 11780

AMENDMENT

\$10,853.00 donation for two scoring tables and forty-eight teams chairs to be used at High School East & West, previously approved on the March 8, 2011 agenda for \$10,063.00

The Booster Club of Smithtown
P.O. Box 166
Smithtown, NY 11787

\$50.00 for the Ed V. Viscount III Memorial Scholarship Fund

Mark & Susan Guatney
9339 E. Hillery Way
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

\$814.50 to fund field trips for the

Mt. Pleasant Elementary School parents

2010-2011 school year

Outdoor classroom donation in the HS East courtyard next to the auditorium as his Eagle Scout Project (see attached for further description)	Bobby Printer 5 Greenwood Lane St. James, NY 11780
\$4,824.00 to fund field trips for the 2010-2011 school year	St. James Elementary School parents
\$20,677.00 for the participation in the Smithtown 2011 NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble Festivals	SCSD parents
\$218.00 to fund field trips for the 2010-2011 school year	Smithtown Elementary School parents
\$680.00 donation to the Account for Early Childhood at HS East	Smithtown High School East parents
\$760.00 donation to the Account for Early Childhood at HS West	Smithtown High School West parents

2. Addition 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 application, is 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:

Living Word Church

IX. PERSONNEL

A. Certified – The following Certified Personnel Items were presented for the Board’s approval (Attachment IX. A 1-11):

1. Appointment of a District ESL Family Liaison for 2010-2011
2. Appointment of Teachers and Substitute Teachers for the District ESL Extension Program for 2010-2011
3. Appointment of Substitute Teacher(s)
4. Appointment of Regular Substitute Teacher(s)
5. Certifications
6. Appointment of Volunteers
7. Appointment of Home Instruction Tutor(s)
8. Coaching Assignment(s)
9. Comment
10. Request for FMLA, Without Pay/Leave of Absence, Without Pay
11. Request for Leave of Absence, Without Pay

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox approving the Certified Personnel Items 1-11, as detailed in the attached resolutions.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

B. Classified – Mrs. Ricigliano asked that the Board note that the first name on Appointments should be removed; the candidate declined the position. The following AMENDED Classified Personnel Items were presented for the Board’s approval (Attachment IX. B. 1-9):

1. Appointments
2. Appointment – Reason(s)

3. Change of Status
4. Change of Status – Reason(s)
5. Leave of Absence Unpaid
6. Leave of Absence – Reason(s)
7. Retirements
8. Resignation
9. Termination

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox approving the AMENDED Classified Personnel Items 1-9, as detailed in the attached resolutions.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

Mrs. Ricigliano congratulated the retirees on their retirement.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Real Property Tax Exemption/Local Options Adopted by Tax Jurisdiction 2011/2012 Assessment Roll

Ms. Niles stated that every three years the Town of Smithtown normally sends us a letter asking us if the exemptions that the school district grants have changed. The letter we received from the Town was late getting to the District. We have since received a phone call from the Town asking us if we wanted to change any of our exemptions. If you grant additional exemptions what would happen would be those people would not pay a portion of their tax but the taxes they would not pay would be spread among the rest of the people in Smithtown. Ms. Niles referenced a situation in 2001 when the District granted a senior citizens' exemption which allowed the senior citizen to still receive their exemption even if they had a child living with them. In 2006 the District received a letter from the Town asking us if we wanted to do the same thing for a person with limited income but with disabilities. The Board at that time said that they were not looking to change any exemptions. Ms. Niles stated that looking at the exemptions that are listed she believed if the BOE is going to consider something she thought that would be the only thing it might consider. The Board discussed the chart which had been provided to them, noting that portions of it were not legible. Mr. Saggese asked that the Board be provided a legible copy by the Business Affairs meeting 3/24. Ms. Niles agreed to provide a legible copy.

Mrs. Waldron noted that the BOE had received notification from the Nesconset Chamber of Commerce regarding tax relief for a supermarket that may come to Smithtown. Mr. Ehmann noted that it had been sent as an FYI that the Chamber of Commerce is asking that the BOE entertain the request for giving a tax relief for the first few years of their coming in. Mrs. Waldron asked that this be looked into; see if this would bring income into our area.

Mr. Saggese noted that the BOE has received information from the Town Assessor that there are no new developments in Smithtown and that the estimation is that the revenue will go down this year. The tax assessment is going down every year with people grieving their taxes.

Mr. Carlin stated that the letter from the Town asked for a non-specific time frame for an abatement. We don't know what it is that is paid now, we don't know what type of abatement and they were very non-specific about the time frame. Without that information no one can make a decision right now. Mr. Ehmann responded that we will pursue it and get more details and share that with the BOE.

VII. AUDIENCE

Mr. Rossi reminded everyone that under Roberts Rules of Order we currently hold our speakers to five minutes. If you ask a question during your five minutes and you would like a response that is part of your five minutes. There are twenty-five speakers tonight; it is 9:00 at night. We do want to hear what everyone has to say. Please limit your discussion and think about the question.

1. Rich Forzano identified himself as President of the Smithtown Teachers' Association. He stated that he would be speaking to clear the air and the record of the negotiations between the STA and the District. He offered to meet with any community member with reference to his comments this evening or anything else. Mr. Forzano disputed certain statements that have been made regarding the STA-District negotiations and gave a timeline of the negotiations.
2. Susie Schlomann stated that Mr. Ehmann had previously stated that the most efficient way to run a district is using the Princeton model. She encouraged the Board and administration to look at this model.
3. Pam Farino asked what the District's actual projected expenditures are for the end of this year. She noted that it has been said that our reserves are finite, but so is what the taxpayer is able to pay. She expressed her displeasure with talk of trying to increase our budget because of the looming tax cap. Mrs. Farino asked that the public be made aware of what was voted upon this evening regarding Transportation Guidelines.

At 9:20 Mr. Carlin left the meeting.

4. Kristen Clark identified herself as Director of L.I. Operations for Jr. Achievement of NY. She praised the Smithtown School of Business and asked the Board to reconsider cuts there.
5. Robert Mattson praised the Business Department, IAB and CTE and stated that the District cannot afford to lose a jewel in the District's crown.
6. Kyle Scott identified himself as a 2007 graduate and discussed the extracurricular programs which prepare students for the rest of their lives. He discussed his gratifying experience in DECA.
7. Cristina Capone identified herself as a Smithtown graduate and discussed the many great electives in the Business Department.
8. Benjamin Guttman identified himself as a Smithtown graduate and praised the Smithtown Business Department and noted that it should be a model; not on the chopping block.
9. Chris Giamanco identified himself as a Smithtown graduate and praised the Smithtown Business Department.
10. Debra Hickey gave kudos to the Business Department and the graduates. Ms. Hickey listed concessions that other school district employees had given. She spoke against the change in start time for the winter varsity schedule.
11. Debbie Mahoney, President of Smithtown Council of PTA's, asked people to visit their website NYSPTA.ORG to lobby their legislators.
12. Lisa Maxson thanked Mr. Ehmann for the meeting with parents regarding bussing and thanked the BOE for making the busing guidelines a one-item proposition.
13. Mark Slawinski stated that since the teachers left he was not going to preach to the choir.
14. Stan Meyers asked that the teachers share the pain with the community. He is against having the students walk to school on our dangerous roads. He suggested that the superintendent and administration voluntarily take a 5% pay cut to set an example for the STA.
15. Amy Cusumano stated that the teachers go above and beyond for our students and there have been too many attacks on teachers.
16. Bill Brennan stated that we must provide a quality education for all of our students. He especially singled out the School of Business.
17. Elizabeth Paget identified herself as a teacher in Farmingdale. She noted the quality of education in the Smithtown School District and noted that teachers still go above and beyond even without a contract. She also noted that class size is important.
18. Chris Merlino stated that going out with less than a contingency budget is not in the best interest of our community or our children. She thanked the BOE for committing to a thorough analysis by approving a Citizens' Advisory Committee on Housing. She suggested that the District send out data and facts to all taxpayers about the district and not just at budget time.
19. Rick Schlomann offered to be on the Citizens' Advisory Committee as a member at large. He stated that the salaries paid by the District have gone up 5.6% a year over the past ten years. Medical benefit costs have gone up 100% over the past ten years, 10% a year.
20. Robert S. Thompson stated that he did not think children should walk to school because there are too many dangerous roads. He suggested our district combine with other districts to save money.

21. Kevin L. McCardon stated that the STA leaving the meeting was disrespectful to the BOE and the community. He suggested the BOE look at Wisconsin and stand up for the taxpayer.
22. Jackie Thiele discussed the difference between wants and needs.
23. Linda Rose noted that it was virtual lobby day. She asked that residents e-mail our senator and congressman and make them lobby for us.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Liguori that the meeting be adjourned at 10:40 p.m. Motion carried.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wilson
District Clerk