

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

June 20, 2011

Held in Joseph M. Barton Bldg.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Robert Rossi, President of the Board of Education.

Members present:

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

Also present:

Edward Ehmann, Superintendent
Eugene Barnosky, Board Counsel
Visitors
Mary Wilson, District Clerk

I. OPENING CEREMONY - conducted by Mr. Rossi. Mr. Rossi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knox, to change the order of the agenda and place the audience portion before the Superintendent's report. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Jennifer Savickis expressed displeasure with the new transportation guidelines and asked that those guidelines be voted upon again.
2. Stacey Heinz expressed displeasure with the new transportation guidelines and asked that those guidelines be voted upon again.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Appointment of Interim District Clerk

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron that

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that Maureen O'Connor, a current employee of the District, be approved as Acting District Clerk effective June 23, 2011 through June 30, 2011.

Be it further RESOLVED, Maureen O'Connor be approved as the Interim District Clerk effective July 1, 2011 as needed. Mrs. O'Connor's hours are to be concurrent with those of the District Clerk at her current rate of pay.

VOTE ON MOTION: Mr. Carlin abstained, motion carried (6-0-1).

B. Appointment of Hearing Officer

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron that

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints Stephen Bluth as the Hearing Officer in the disciplinary charges brought against a District employee; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the employee is hereby suspended without pay, following the service of the charges upon him, for not more than thirty days pending the determination of the charges; and

RESOLVED, that the District Clerk be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Sharon N. Berlin, Esq.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

C. Rejection of Petitions

MOTION by Mr. Liguori, seconded by Mr. Martella that

WHEREAS, at its meeting on March 22, 2011, the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District (“the Board”) adopted the following resolution (“the Transportation Referendum”):

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. 2 (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.

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2011 during the annual meeting and election, the Transportation Referendum was approved by the voters (3,915 Yes votes – 3,055 No Votes); and

WHEREAS, the Board has received the annexed petition(s) requesting that the Board of Education conduct a revote of the transportation referendum (“the Petition”);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby rejects the Petition because the Transportation Referendum was properly presented to the voters, voted on by the voters during the election on May 17, 2011, and was approved by the voters by a margin of 860.

Discussion

Mr. Rossi read the following statement:

The Board of Education is in receipt of a petition asking for a revote on the transportation referendum that was approved by the voters during the annual budget vote in May. Another vote on a transportation referendum prior to the 2012 annual budget vote in May can take place at a special district meeting. Pursuant to the Education law, voters may

petition the District to hold a special district meeting. The petition must state its purpose and be signed by 5 percent of the voters who voted in the previous election. In this case, the petitions did meet the 5 % requirement. We are acting tonight because pursuant to the Education law and decisions of the Commissioner of Education, the Board must take formal action to accept or reject the petition within 20 days of the filing of such petition. By voting to reject the petition, the Board will not be calling a special district meeting in response to the petition. The transportation proposition was approved by the voters by a margin of 860 votes. The Board is not required to accept a petition under these circumstances. The Board's action tonight does not preclude the Board from putting a transportation proposition on the ballot during the annual budget vote next May or from calling a special district meeting prior to that time.

VOTE ON MOTION: YES Mr. Liguori, Mrs. Knox, Mr. Saggese, Mr. Rossi
 NO Mr. Martella, Mrs. Waldron
 ABSTAIN Mr. Carlin

Motion carried (4-2-1).

At 7:10 p.m. on motion by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Saggese the Board voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session to discuss hiring of particular personnel. Maureen Gjersvik, Kim Marie Rosario, Tabitha Brauer and Kristine Hausch joined the Executive Session.

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Carlin left the meeting.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. and indicated that no motions had been made in Executive Session.

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox that the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wilson
District Clerk