

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 13, 2015**

**Board members present:** Mary Lownes, Phelan Wolf and Patrick Bistran III

**Board members absent:** Victoria Handy and Patrick R. Bistran

**Others present:** Superintendent Tritt, Principal DiPrimo, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Dorr, Clerk Bloecker, Treasurer Ecker and Christopher Walsh

Mary Lownes called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.

**MEETING CALLED  
TO ORDER**

Pledge of allegiance.

**PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE**

Thanks to the Amagansett PTA for the wonderful Holiday Store and delicious hot lunch; Accolades to Miss Cindy Galvin and all students that participated and performed in the holiday concerts and shows that brightened up everybody's holidays.

**THANKS TO...**

Upon motion of Patrick Bistran III, seconded by Phelan Wolf and carried 3-0, the minutes of the regular meeting of December 9, 2014 were approved, the treasurer reports for November 2014 were accepted, the claims audit report for November 2014 was accepted, the corrective action plan for November 2014 was approved and the warrant for December 15, 2014 was approved.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA  
APPROVED**

Superintendent Tritt commented on the following:

**SUPT COMMENTS**

- Education topics in the News
  - ProPublica: "When Charter Schools Are Nonprofit in Name Only"
  - Newsday: "Amid School Wars, How Much Does John King's Leaving Matter?"
  - New York Times: "Cuomo Signals Changes for Education Next Year"
  - Newsday: "Long Island, NYS High School Graduation Rates Rise in 2014"
  - Washington Post: "Computers in the Classroom are a No-Brainer, Right? Not so fast."
  - Councilgram: "To War?"
  - EdWeek.org: "Kids Who Take Vacations in the Middle of the School Year"
  - Education Week: "The Promise and Peril of Turning Student Learning Into a Number"
  - Letter to Chancellor Tisch and Commissioner King on Governor Cuomo's behalf
  - NY.Chalkbeat: "Here are all of the Policy Changes Proposed in Tisch and Berlin's Response to Cuomo"
  - New York Times: "The Central Crisis in New York Education"
  - Lohud.com: "View: Math Teachers Need More Time, Training"
- Four year financial plan projections (1<sup>st</sup> draft)
- Enrollment update

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
LEARNERS  
GUIDELINES**

New English Language Learners regulations were presented by Brigit DiPrimo and Maria Dorr.

Upon motion of Patrick Bistran III, seconded by Phelan Wolf and carried 3-0,

**RESOLUTION #69**

WHEREIN, Dr. and Mrs. Huntington Sheldon have enjoyed the original Amagansett Schoolhouse as an integral part of their property for eight decades, and

**DONATION OF  
ORIGINAL**

WHEREIN, the Sheldon's would like to share this historic piece of Amagansett history with the future generations of Amagansett students and residents,

**SCHOOLHOUSE  
ACCEPTED**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of Superintendent Eleanor Tritt, the Amagansett School Board, pursuant to Policy #5230 – Acceptance of Gifts, Grants and Bequests to the School District, hereby accepts a donation from Dr. and Mrs. Huntington Sheldon of the original Amagansett Schoolhouse, to be situated on Main Street for all to enjoy in perpetuity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Clerk is hereby directed to send a letter of thanks and appreciation to the Sheldon Family, and the District Treasurer is directed to add the aforementioned donation to the current inventory listing, if applicable.

Upon motion of Patrick Bistran III, seconded by Phelan Wolf and carried 3-0,

**RESOLUTION #70  
MANDATORY  
STATE  
TESTING**

WHEREAS, mandatory New York State assessment tests in ELA and math are given to New York students in grades 3 through 8 during April of each school year which is the beginning of the fourth quarter of the school year. The Amagansett Union Free School District Board of Education ("Board of Education") believes this timing is dictated by the needs of the State Education Department teachers' and principals' accountability system, known as APPR;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes the quality of instruction of all students in grades 3-8 grade is lowered by mandatory testing practices of the State Education Department resulting in the reduction of students' learning opportunities;

WHEREAS, these mandatory tests are developed, in part, through the administration of additional "field tests" used by testing companies to develop appropriate questions for future tests;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes the testing companies realize a commercial profit by using children and taxpayer resources to advance their business plans;

WHEREAS, in the past, a district's participation in these "field tests" was on a voluntary basis;

WHEREAS, the State Education Department has proposed amending certain Regulations of the Commissioner of Education such that New York school districts would be required to administer the "field tests". The Board of Education believes this will result in the use of more instructional time for the purpose of advancing a mandatory testing system organized and based, in part, on APPR, not on the basis of what is best for children;

WHEREAS, the Regents are considering the proposal of the State Education Department to make the administration of these "field tests" mandatory;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes additional mandatory testing will force children and districts to, in effect, subsidize the profit-making work of testing companies thus using public resources and private families for the purpose of advancing a private business plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education disagrees strongly with any additional mandatory testing and urges the Regents to reject the State Education Department's proposal to make "field tests" mandatory and to reconsider its approach to assessing student learning and teacher and/or principal effectiveness. The Board of Education believes that a decision to increase mandatory testing would hurt children and abuse the public trust by subsidizing private enterprise without public discussion.

Upon motion of Phelan Wolf, seconded by Patrick Bistran III and carried 3-0,

**RESOLUTION # 71  
MILEAGE  
REIMBURSEMENT  
RATE  
ESTABLISHED  
FOR 1/1/2015-6/30/2015**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of Superintendent Eleanor Tritt, the Amagansett School Board hereby establishes the mileage rate for the period January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 at the IRS prescribed rate of \$ .575/mile. All reimbursements requests in excess of 50 miles round trip must have web-based mileage verification (i.e. Mapquest, Google, Yahoo, etc.)

Upon motion of Phelan Wolf, seconded by Patrick Bistran III and carried 3-0,

**RESOLUTION #72  
SUBSTITUTE LIST  
UPDATED**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of Superintendent Eleanor Tritt, the Amagansett School Board hereby appoints/reinstates the following persons to the previously established substitute list for the 2014/2015 school year:

Victoria Hoffman C (Reinstated)  
Amy Tanner C

Upon motion of Patrick Bistran III, seconded by Phelan Wolf and carried 3-0,

**RESOLUTION #73  
MAD HEART BALL  
ENTERTAINMENT  
REQUEST  
APPROVED**

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of Superintendent Eleanor Tritt, the Amagansett School Board hereby authorizes payment of \$500.00 to East End Entertainment Corp. for disc jockey services to be provided at the East Hampton Middle School "Mad Heart Ball" on February 6, 2015 to which Amagansett students have been invited and are attending.

Upon motion of Phelan Wolf, seconded by Patrick Bistran III and carried 3-0,

**RESOLUTION #74  
K. MEERMAN  
APPT. PART-TIME  
SCHOOL  
PSYCHOLOGIST**

WHEREIN, after careful consideration of the Amagansett UFSD Special Education program, it has been determined that there is a need for a part-time School Psychologist, and

WHEREIN, a part-time School Psychologist would be able to provide the following:

- provide psychological emotional support as needed for student emergencies,
- provide tri-annuals and re-evaluations as needed with adequate and appropriate student observations,
- complete Functional Behavior Analysis and Behavior Intervention Plans as needed,

- provide consistent psychological services for mandated students,
- provide Special Education evaluations,
- be an active member of the CSE/CPSE and RtI Teams
- reduce the need for outside contracts

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of Superintendent Eleanor Tritt, the Amagansett School Board does hereby create the position of part-time School Psychologist (.4), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of Superintendent Eleanor Tritt, the Amagansett School Board hereby appoints KAITLIN ROESSLE MEERMAN to the position of part-time School Psychologist (.4) effective January 16, 2015 through on or before June 30, 2015. MS. MEERMAN will be paid at the rate of .4 of Column E, Step 1 (Master's+15) of the current teachers' contract. MS. MEERMAN holds valid New York State certification in the area of:

**School Psychologist, Permanent**

Upon motion Patrick Bistran III, seconded by Phelan Wolf and carried 3-0,

BE IT RESOLVED that upon recommendation of Superintendent Eleanor Tritt the Amagansett School Board hereby authorizes the President of the Board or District Clerk to execute an amended contract between the Amagansett Union Free School District and The Great Neck Math Enrichment Center, d/b/a The Center for Research, Curriculum and Instruction as per attached agreement.

**RESOLUTION #75  
CENTER FOR  
RESEARCH,  
CURRICULUM &  
INSTRUCTION  
CONTRACT AMENDED**

Upon motion of Patrick Bistran III, seconded by Phelan Wolf and carried 3-0, the board went into executive session at 8:05 AM to discuss contractual items and a personnel item.

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

The board returned to public session at 8:45 AM.

**RETURN TO  
PUBLIC SESSION**

**AFFIRMATION:** I, Cheryl E. Bloecker, District Clerk of the Amagansett Union Free School District, do hereby affirm that the minutes of this meeting are true and accurate statements of the proceedings.

**AFFIRMATION**

Dated: January 13, 2015

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Cheryl E. Bloecker, District Clerk

Approved, 2/10/2015