

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, Seaford Union Free School District, was held on Thursday, October 10, 2013, in the All Purpose Room of the Manor Elementary School, 1590 Washington Avenue, Seaford, New York.

PRESENT: Mr. Brian W. Fagan - President  
Mr. Bruce A. Kahn – Vice President  
Mr. Richard G. DiBlasio – Trustee  
Ms. Susan Ruona - Trustee  
Ms. Jeanmarie Wink – Trustee

Mr. Brian L. Conboy  
Mr. John A. Strifolino  
Mr. Alan S. Phillips  
Mr. Christopher Venator – Attorney (arrived 8:05 p.m.)

At 7:34 p.m., the President of the Board of Education opened the Regular Meeting. As the first order of business, Board President Brian Fagan led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPEN MEETING**

Board President Brian Fagan announced that Alexandria Battaglia from R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP will be presenting the financials from the 2012-2013 school year to the Board of Education. He also advised that Audit Committee Chairperson Nicholas DiMola and School District Treasurer Susan Unnold would also be available to answer any questions from the Board

**OPENING REMARKS**

Ms. Battaglia advised that the Board did not receive the bound final report because they were waiting for the OPEB number from the District's actuary firm Chernoff, Diamond. Once they have that number the report would be made final and the Board will be sent the report electronically and the bound reports would be mailed. She advised that the information from the Actuary would not impact the fund balance statements and the numbers would not change. Other areas covered included:

**PRESENTATIONS  
R.S. ABRAMS,  
EXTERNAL AUDITORS**

Changes created by GASB63 and GASB65  
Deferred inflows/outflows  
Fund Balance increased but reserves are still light  
Reserves

- Importance of increasing reserves
  - Try to get reserves where they should be
  - Make long-term plan – five years out and try to build it into budget
- Automated time system – helps with timekeeping makes things easier
- For the most part Moody's/financial institutions looks at liabilities/financial situation of the organization
  - Unsure if they would look at management letter
- Management Letter
- No current year comments
  - No material weaknesses
  - Controls are very good

Board should send reports to State by October 15<sup>th</sup> electronically

- Board will vote on final report at the next Board meeting and then forward resolution to the State

Compensated absences

- Discrepancies
- Making sure days were maxed out at right level according to their contract
- Contractual salary wasn't pulled from the right date
- Cristina Spinelli, in her last quarterly report, discovered no discrepancies in payouts

Topics covered in Mr. Conboy's Administrative Report dated October 4, 2013 included:

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
REPORT**

Harbor School Access Road

- Traffic issues last week; fragile situation every day
- Many calls made by residents
- News12 and legislators came down  
Conversations with Michael Martino and Donna Boyle of Nassau County Public Works, Senator Fuschillo, Legislators David Denenberg and Dennis Dunne, Republican Candidate Rhoads, Aisha Al-Muslim of Newsday who will be writing an article in Newsday on October 17th
- Meeting next week (Mr. Conboy, Mr. Fagan) at Department of Public works in Nassau County to review the plans we already have to see the efficacy of having this road built
- Thank you to everyone who has been advocating for this roadway
- Update on Andrews Technology NOVATime System  
Meeting last week with Jamie Blundell of Andrews Technology and Fred Kaden  
Customer hosted system - payment plan
- VADER – Violent and Disruptive Incident Report  
Every district must submit this report to the State annually  
Minor things last year; buildings safe for children
- Electrical issue at Seaford Avenue School  
Mr. Cavassa seeking estimates to remedy this problem  
Looking for least expensive solution to problem
- Smart Goals
- Newsday article about Nassau County Assessments and effect on tax rate

Assistant Superintendent John Striffolino briefly reviewed the Common Core. Areas covered:

**JOHN STRIFFOLINO  
COMMON CORE**

Curriculum

- Building/grade levels
- Common Core aligned materials
- Assessments

Staff Development

Transition Year

Some concerns over Third Grade modules

Go Math Program

Curriculum night about modules

Feedback Teachers/Parents

Board President Brian Fagan advised that the topic of Common Core came up at the Nassau Suffolk School Board Association's first meeting this year and discussions they had concerning this matter. He also advised that he had attended a meeting in Albany to meet with staff from the Commissioner of Education's office to discuss Common Core.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, that the consent agenda be approved as a whole with action recorded as if it had been taken severally.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS  
5. A, B, C, D, E (detailed  
below)**

No Discussion  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to approve the Board of Education Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 12, 2013 and the Workshop Meeting of September 26, 2013.

**MINUTES**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to acknowledge acceptance for audit of the Treasurer's Report dated August 31, 2013.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to acknowledge acceptance for audit of the Revenue Report dated August 31, 2013.

**REVENUE REPORT**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to acknowledge acceptance for audit of the Extracurricular Fund Activity Report dated August 31, 2013.

**EXTRACURRICULAR FUND  
ACTIVITY REPORT**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to acknowledge acceptance for audit of the Appropriation Transfer Report dated August 31, 2013.

**APPROPRIATION  
TRANSFER REPORT**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to acknowledge acceptance for audit of the Expenditure Report dated August 31, 2013.

**EXPENDITURE REPORT**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to acknowledge acceptance for audit of the Budget Transfers, as indicated in the Board's documentation.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS**

No Discussion  
All Ayes  
Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA (cont'd)

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to accept the recommendation to approve the Personnel Action Report, as amended:

**PERSONNEL ACTION REPORT  
- INSTRUCTIONAL**

A. Instructional (dated October 10, 2013):

P-1: POSITION ABOLITION: No Recommended Actions

P-2: POSITION CREATION: No Recommended Actions

P-3: RESIGNATIONS:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>KERRY CARSON</u> |  |
| Position               | Special Education Chairperson and<br>Special Education Teacher |
| Assignment             | District wide and Seaford High School                          |
| Effective Date         | October 25, 2013   |
| Reason                 | Resignation  |

P-4: LEAVES:

- |                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>KRISTEN GEERAERTS</u> |                                     |
| Position:                   | Social Studies Teacher              |
| Assignment:                 | Seaford High School                 |
| Effective Date:             | December 9, 2013                    |
| Sick Leave:                 | December 9, 2013 – February 3, 2014 |
| Leave without Pay:          | February 4, 2014 – March 24, 2014   |
| Expiration Date:            | March 24, 2014                      |
| FMLA:                       | December 9, 2013 – March 24, 2014   |
| Reason:                     | Child Care Leave of Absence         |

P-5: TERMINATIONS: No Recommended Actions

P-6: TENURE APPOINTMENTS: No Recommended Actions

P-7: APPOINTMENTS: No Recommended Actions

P-8: OTHER:

- a) Recommend the Board of Education amend the end date of Sharon Klein's child care leave without pay from November 22, 2013 to October 31, 2013 as approved at the August 8, 2013 Board of Education meeting.
- b) Recommend the Board of Education amend the end date of Alia Wool's leave replacement for Sharon Klein from November 22, 2013 to October 31, 2013 as approved at the August 22, 2013 Board of Education meeting.
- c) Recommend the Board of Education approve an additional .1 teaching assignment from September 25, 2013 to June 26, 2014 for Jeff Cronin at the Seaford Harbor School, which makes him a 1.0 FTE.
- d) Recommend the Board of Education amend Amy Hechler's child care leave without pay from N/A to November 1, 2013 through January 3, 2014 as approved at the August 8, 2013 Board of Education meeting.
- e) Recommend the Board of Education amend the end date of Mary Moy's leave replacement for Amy Hechler from October 31, 2013 to January 3, 2014 as approved at the August 22, 2013 Board of Education meeting.
- f) Recommend the Board of Education amend the end date of Christine Lindquist's child care leave without pay from November 7, 2013 to January 28, 2014 as approved at the April 11, 2013 Board of Education meeting.
- g) Recommend the Board of Education amend the end date of Kim Flood's leave replacement for Christine Lindquist from November 7, 2013 to January 28, 2014 as approved at the May 21, 2013 Board of Education meeting.



Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to approve acceptance of the determinations of the Special Education Committee Meetings 9/18; 9/23; 9/24/13.

**CPSE/CSE**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Help for teachers in light of the Common Core

- Class Size
- Get more Smart-Boards for classrooms that don't have them
- If there is extra money use it for Smart-Boards not a time clock

Meeting with Peter Cavassa concerning Harbor Access road

New York Rising meeting next week at High School

Legislator Denenberg's letter requesting \$650,000 be attached to County budget

Transfers on Agenda which were approved by Board

How many people work in payroll

Do we have all the Common Core materials needed for our students

Ridiculous still discussing spending that much money on time system

Go Math curriculum

- Program being taught at the Harbor in all Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade classes
- Only being taught in one Kindergarten Class, one First Grade class and one Second Grade class
- Others being taught Every Day math; feel those students will be behind next year when they will need to learn the Go Math
- Math program last school year

State testing; test prep

- Effect on children
- Please consider passing a resolution against high stakes testing
- Believe our teachers have the ability to look at our children without a test to see how they can be measured
- Important for our teachers to be able to teach and our children to learn and become independent thinkers

Forum at Garden City High School next week on Common Core

- In Bloom system

Does District have elementary enrichment program

- Does opting out of state exams at the elementary level negate students from getting into advanced classes in upper grades

Appropriateness of reading material

- Parent feedback
- Engage New York
- 

Who do we have to teach our kids on the new computers

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –  
AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Fagan thanked Ms. Ruona and Ms. Wink for the time they spent on the Board Goals. He also advised that a vote was not needed for them but the Board would be accepting them as their goals for the 2013/2014 school year.

**OLD BUSINESS – BOARD  
GOALS**

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to approve a Special Education Tuition Contract with the Levittown School District for the 2013-2014 school year for one Seaford-residing student with specific needs at an estimated tuition rate of \$49,978.00, and authorize the Board President to sign said Contract.

**CONTRACT – 2013/2014  
SPECIAL EDUCATION -  
LEVITTOWN SCHOOL  
DISTRICT**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to approve an Agreement with Carol A. Fiorile, Ph.D. for the 2013-2014 school year for conducting a Functional Behavior Assessment on a special education student at a cost of \$2,500 for each assessment, including a written report, and authorize the Board President to sign said Agreement.

**CONTRACT – 2013/2014  
CAROL A. FIORILE, PH.D.**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to approve an Agreement with Mill Neck Interpreter Services for the 2013-2014 school year for providing sign language interpreting during the school year for parents of those students covered by the terms of this Agreement, and authorize the Board President to sign said Agreement. Cost to the district is \$72 per hour with a two hour minimum per assignment.

**CONTRACT – 2013/2014  
MILL NECK INTERPRETER  
SERVICES**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to approve an Agreement with Positive Behavior Support Consulting and Psychological Resources, PC for the 2013-2014 school year for Behavior Intervention/Parent Training for seven students in the district, and authorize the Board President to sign said Agreement. The cost to the district is \$125 per hour.

**CONTRACT – 2013/2014  
POSITIVE BEHAVIOR**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to approve an Agreement with New York Therapy Placement Services for the 2013-2014 school year to provide therapy services during the school year for those children covered by the terms of this Agreement, and authorize the Board President to sign said Agreement. Payment schedule as indicated in the Agreement.

**CONTRACT – 2013/2014  
NEW YORK THERAPY  
PLACEMENT**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to enter into an Occupational Education Agreement with the Levittown UFSD for providing educational opportunities for nine of our high school students during the 2013-2014 school year, and authorize the Board President to sign said Agreement. The tuition cost per student is \$13,694.

**CONTRACT – 2013/2014  
LEVITTOWN UFSD (GERALD  
CLAPS) OCCUPATIONAL  
EDUCATION AGREEMENT**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to enter into an Employment Agreement with the Seaford School District Registered Nurses effective July 1, 2011 and terminating June 30, 2014.

**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT  
2011/2014 SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGISTERED NURSES**

Thank you to the Nursing staff for entering into this Agreement.

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to enter into an Employment Agreement with Peter Cavassa, Director of Facilities, for the 2013-2014 school year.

**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT  
2013/2014 PETER CAVASSA**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to approve the high school's request for a field trip to Carnegie Hall in NYC so that the high school chorus can attend the Barbershop and Sweet Adeline's Festival on Sunday, December 1, 2013.

**FIELD TRIPS – HIGH SCHOOL  
CARNEGIE HALL, NYC**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to approve the high school's request for a field trip to NYC so that the high school chorus can attend a workshop and performance of Wicked on Wednesday, March 19, 2014.

**FIELD TRIP – HIGH SCHOOL  
WICKED, NYC**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to approve the high school's request for a field trip to NYC so that the high school chorus can perform at Lincoln Center in NYC. The field trip consists of three consecutive days, Friday, March 21 – Sunday, March 23, 2014.

**FIELD TRIP – HIGH SCHOOL  
LINCOLN CENTER, NYC**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to approve the high school's request for a field trip to NYC for the music department to attend Newsies the Musical in the Nederlander Theatre on February 5, 2014.

**FIELD TRIP – HIGH SCHOOL  
NEWSIES, NYC**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to approve the high school's request for a field trip for Model Congress to attend a competition at New Rochelle High School on May 4 – May 5, 2014.

**FIELD TRIP – HIGH SCHOOL  
MODEL CONGRESS – NEW  
ROCHELLE HIGH SCHOOL**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to rescind their September 26, 2013 approval to accept the Treasurer's Report, the Revenue Report, the Extracurricular Fund Activity Report, the Appropriation Transfer Report and the Expenditure Report all dated July 30, 2013.

**RESOLUTION – JULY 2013  
TREASURER'S REPORTS**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.



Motion by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to accept the Treasurer's Report, the Revenue Report, the Extracurricular Fund Activity Report, the Appropriation Transfer Report and the Expenditure Report dated July 31, 2013.

**RESOLUTION - 2013  
TREASURER'S REPORTS**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Comments, Questions and/or Concerns Raised by the Public included:

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Why wait a full year; why can't we get the Go Math books in all the classrooms  
Would be willing to buy book for own child
- Feel putting too much pressure on 7 and 8 year olds
- Thank you for revisiting issue of Third Grade class size at Harbor  
If there is extra money instead of purchasing a swipe system hire another part-time AIS teacher for the Harbor school; restore the a.m. greeters at the Elementary Schools or purchase Smart-Boards for every classroom  
Opening up an afterschool homework center or adding Regents review class would put money to a good use  
Have aides that go above and beyond for students; very common for clerical staff to skip breaks or stay late without compensation  
Safety and educational support of students must come first
- Aides' hours were cut two years ago  
Overlap time was important for communication  
Aides do their jobs with pride, loyalty, dignity and professionalism  
Now Aides cannot substitute for each other; substitutes must be used in order to save money  
Board keeps taking money from this Unit
- Look at other places to save money  
Have seen blank pages wasted coming from Copy Center  
Security procedures not consistent in buildings  
Forget the swipe card system; do it in a couple of years when we have the money
- Do we have all the Common Core materials and technology for our students and staff to be successful  
Board of Education Policies  
Andrews swipe systems does nothing for our children  
Instead of using the money for the swipe system put the money back in for the students  
Community does not want time clock
- Would like the Board to re-review the policy on late buses for private schools – the seven student minimum for a late bus
- Yearly Fifth Grade Class trip to see Lion King cancelled due to safety and financial issues  
Why is trip being cancelled  
Students look forward to this trip for years  
Need to address parents with specifics as to why trip is being cancelled
- Financial controls which are Board responsibility - How many filings have you had in the last two years for impartial hearings which could cost \$10,000 to \$30,000 each; how many mediation filings have you had which are free

Closing remarks by the Administration and Board

**CLOSING REMARKS**

- ◆ Present other trips to students in a more positive manner; start a new tradition which can be passed down to next grade
- ◆ We are asked to listen to our Administrators; we listened to them and they have recommended that this trip not take place
- ◆ Communication is key; appears to be a lack of communication as to why this trip will not go forward  
Need to communicate better to the Board and more importantly to the parents to the extent possible why the trip will not take place  
Board approves what is brought to them

At 10:16 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with the Clericals, Aides' unit, SASA, Teachers and the performance evaluation of the Superintendent.

**ADJOURN REGULAR  
MEETING**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Kahn, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to adjourn Executive Session at 12:24 a.m., Friday, October 11, 2013.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen T. Ouellette  
District Clerk

Bruce A. Kahn  
Vice District Clerk