

A Workshop Meeting of the Board of Education, Seaford Union Free School District, was held on Thursday, October 23, 2014, in the All Purpose Room of the Manor Elementary School, 1590 Washington Avenue, Seaford, New York.

PRESENT: Mr. Bruce A. Kahn - President  
Ms. Susan Ruona - Trustee  
Ms. Stacie Stark - Trustee  
Ms. Jeanmarie Wink - Trustee

ABSENT: Mr. Brian W. Fagan – Vice President

Mr. Brian L. Conboy  
Mr. John Striffolino  
Ms. Elisa Pellati  
Mr. Christopher Venator – Attorney

At 7:32 p.m., Bruce Kahn, President of the Board of Education, opened the Workshop Meeting. As the first order of business, Mr. Kahn led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPEN MEETING**

Topics covered in Mr. Conboy's Administrative Report dated October 17, 2014 included:

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Goal is to keep two distinct Board meetings each month

- First meeting of the month action meeting – items to be voted on
- Second meeting of the month - workshop topics such as policies or other areas needing discussion

Workshop topics for this evening:

- Common Core Update
- Anaphylaxis Policy
- Building Level Updates

Homecoming this Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

Update on \$50,000 CRP funds promised by Nassau County Legislator Denenberg; project has been put in front of Norma Gonzalez and is being considered

Court hearing on November 6<sup>th</sup> for Harbor School neighbor who was engaging in target practice in his back yard

- Mr. Conboy advised that he has been at past hearings and will be present at this hearing

Congratulations to Seaford Schools 1968 graduate Liberty DeVitto on being inducted in the Long Island Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

In response to Mr. Kahn's question, Mr. Venator advised that they were still waiting for the revised IMA for the Harbor Roadway project.

Questions/Concerns/Comments raised by the public:

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chorus and chorus lessons during the school day

- Pulled from classes on rotational basis; not same class each time
- Are allowed to be pulled from Science and Math
- Only activity allowed to do this
- This needs to be revisited; source of stress for children and parents

No bowling offered at High School level

- Other school districts in Nassau offer bowling; some offer two teams – a boys' team and a girls' team; some offer co-ed teams
- New York State Public High School Athletic Association Section 8 acknowledges bowling as a sport
- Why isn't bowling offered
- US Bowling Congress has a grant to make it possible
- Know there are students who would love to be on a bowling team

Letter sent to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students re: wrestling from coach

- Cost of postage, ink, paper, envelopes
- Was this paid for by residents' tax dollars

Excellent Go Math presentation

Anaphylaxis Policy

- Children (elementary) in quarantine situation - Must sit in the front of the bus; peanut allergy children have to sit at a special table in the lunch room
- Other districts on Long Island not treating it this way
- Why do we have such a lax policy concerning anaphylaxis
- Policy as it exists now; created in August 2013
- Allergy is life-threatening
- Why can't we have just a peanut table for those bringing peanut products
- Should enforce no eating on the bus
- There are no epi-pens on the bus
- If necessary put an aide on the bus
- Medically fragile is not the term for a child with food allergies
- Current policy is not really a policy; it is a description of anaphylaxis
  - Does not list what the District will do; should be more specific

PUBLIC COMMENTS (cont'd)

- What happens on the bus is the district's responsibility
- Appreciate all the efforts and steps taken at the Manor
- Policy needs to be made stricter
- An inconvenience does not outweigh a life-threatening allergy
- If a line has to be drawn then the focus should be on anaphylaxis issues
- Peanuts, tree nuts and sesame seeds are the main ones
- It depends on the child which foods it may be
- EPI pen must be administered within one minute

Areas covered in the Common Core Curriculum update:

**WORKSHOP TOPIC: COMMON  
CORE CURRICULUM**

Thank you to administrators staff and parents  
Common core adopted in January 2011 by NYS  
Modules/Domains

- ELA/Math
    - Areas of focus
  - High School, Middle School, Elementary
- Mr. Conboy spoke about the implementation of Common Core, downloading of information from Engage New York,
- Issues with shoddy rollout of assessments and the assessments themselves
  - More and more common core based books and computer programs being created
  - Common core helping to get rid of some of the older methods
  - Showed great improvement from year 1 to year 2
  - Transition process still evolving

Areas covered in the discussion on Anaphylaxis Policy:

**WORKSHOP TOPIC:**

Health Services Coordinator and Middle School Nurse Lynn Gerrie and Manor School Nurse Julie Canale spoke about the procedures and precautions which are currently in place in the building. Other areas covered included:

- In-district training concerning how to identify anaphylaxis
- Training for use of the Epi Pen
- Allergies other than peanut allergy in the current student population
- Distribution of allergy information; every student has allergy action plan
- Daily efforts to keep students safe
- Permission slips for parties/field trips
- Procedures at the elementary level
- Standing order for Epi Pen in every building every year
- Try to cover every base to keep students safe
- On average every year – approximately 12-15 Epi Pens in Middle School, 10-12 at the High School, and 15 - 25 at the elementary schools
- Some doctors prescribe a dose of Benadryl before using the Epi Pen depending on situation/child
- Issues are addressed as they come to our attention
- Some High School students may be carrying their own Epi Pens but we are usually aware of those students
- Procedures are tweaked/added/adjusted as needed

Other areas covered:

Possibility of adding permission slips to our policy

“Safe” snacks

Yearly review of student medical information by nursing staff; distribution of information where necessary

Information folder for substitute teachers

Enforcing “no eating” policy on the buses

Obtain best practices from other school districts to see what, if any, practices are working and could be incorporated into our policy

- How are parties, lunches, etc. handled

Parental complaints from parents who want children to have peanut products

- Need to develop a fair plan
- Every child must be kept safe

Guidelines for parties in other school districts

- Different ways to celebrate without food

Other areas/events which involve food must be looked at as well

Need for a more specific policy

- Further research and discussion needed on this policy

Building Level Updates:

Middle School Principal Dan Smith, Manor School Principal Debra Emmerich, Harbor School Principal Donna DeLucia-Troisi and High School Assistant Principal Jessica Sventoraitis briefly spoke about new implementations, events which have taken place so far in the school year and upcoming/future events in each of the buildings

- Some of the areas covered included academics, assemblies, curriculum, social events, athletic events, testing, professional development, parent information, safety drills, training, community events, school spirit, Newsday Band Competition, PTA/SEPTA/PTSA and upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Middle School

Closing remarks by the Administration and Board

- ◆ Update from Stacie Stark on Safety Committee Meeting
- ◆ Superintendent's Conference Day

At 9:32 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Ruona, second by Ms. Wink, to adjourn the Workshop Meeting and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with the Nurses Unit, a specific student matter and a specific personnel matter.

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Ruona, second by Ms. Wink, to adjourn Executive Session at 11:33 p.m.

No Discussion.  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen T. Ouellette  
District Clerk

Susan Ruona  
Vice District Clerk

**WORKSHOP TOPIC:  
BUILDING LEVEL UPDATES**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**ADJOURN WORKSHOP  
MEETING**

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**