

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020
VIA LIVE STREAM**

PRESENT:

Ms. Barbara Berkowitz, President
Mr. Donald L. Ashkenase, Vice President
Ms. Donna Peirez
Ms. Rebecca Sassouni
Mr. Jeffrey Shi

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Teresa Prendergast, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. John Powell, Assistant Superintendent – Business
Dr. Stephen Lando, Assistant Superintendent – Secondary
Ms. Kelly Newman, Assistant Superintendent – Elementary
Dr. Joseph Hickey, Assistant Superintendent – Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Jennifer Kirby, Director – Human Resources
Mr. Marc Epstein, Director – District Technology
Mr. Jack Feldman, Counsel to the Board
Ms. Kuniko Langel, Board Secretary

Ms. Barbara Berkowitz called the meeting to order at 11:00 am via live stream.

Viewers: 593

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. **March 24, 2020**

The Board accepted the minutes of the above meeting, as presented.

2. **BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS**

a. **Superintendent's Report**

- Acknowledgements
 - Board of Ed, teachers, administrators, support staff, parents, UPTC leaders and students for ongoing support throughout this national crisis.
 - Food services team, led by Mr. Jim Gounaris, for providing Grab and Go breakfast and lunch program.
 - Technology support team, led by Mr. Joe Cangialosi, for ensuring that every child has a device to support instruction.
- Coronavirus
 - Pandemic has affected us all deeply and these are incredibly trying times.
 - Our counselors, psychologists, and social workers have worked proactively to support the mental health and well-being of our students and their families during these unprecedented times.
- Impact of the Governor's Executive Orders
 - Closure of schools through May 15; All district-related activities, recreation programs, use of facilities by outside organizations suspended until further notice. Strong likelihood that we will not be back before June 30.
 - Regents exams have been canceled, as have student recognitions, plays, concerts, proms, senior awards. Administrators and central office administrators discussing ways to recognize our high school seniors.
 - Will follow guidance from State Education Department and NYS and Nassau County Departments of Health regarding returning in September.
 - Commitment to education hasn't changed. Employ a wide variety of best practices for remote instruction. Not a single method that can recreate all the benefits of face-to-face learning that take place in classrooms. Administrators and teachers continue to identify ways to further support our students through extended closure.
- Staff Updates: Delighted to recommend:
 - Kathlyne Snyder, as new North High School Assistant Principal
 - Adam Hopkins, as new South High School Assistant Principal
 - Neepa Redito, as Interim Lakeville Elementary Principal while Emily Zucal out on maternity leave
- Budget Update:
 - Governor will announce when school district budget vote will take place, sometime after June 1. Will be required to send out absentee ballots. How this unfolds will be a directive from the Governor.
 - Budget presentation will be held at next Board meeting on April 30.

Dr. Teresa Prendergast
Superintendent of Schools

b. **Policy 9150 – Staff-Student Relationships (Non-Fraternization)**
(Second Reading)

INFORMATION

Attached for Board of Education consideration is a new policy: Staff-Student Relationships (Non-Fraternization) (9150). This policy emphasizes the District's ongoing commitment to avoiding any situations in which an inappropriate relationship might occur between a District staff member (as defined by the policy) and a student. Prohibited conduct as well as the responsibilities of all parties are clearly described. Following its first reading on 2/10/20, further review by the Policy Committee resulted in no changes to the policy other than to move language that describes a breach of appropriate personal boundaries from the introduction to the section on Prohibited Conduct. It is being submitted for the second of three readings. No Board action will be taken at this time.

9150

STAFF-STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS **(NON-FRATERNIZATION)**

The Board of Education is committed to avoiding any situations in which an inappropriate relationship occurs between a District staff member and a student. ~~Staff must establish appropriate personal boundaries with students and refrain from any behavior/conduct that could reasonably lead to perceived or actual impropriety.~~ As per the District's *Code of Conduct* (Policy 5300), staff should maintain relationships that comprise a climate of mutual respect and dignity that which strengthens a student's self-concept and promotes the confidence to learn. Therefore, undue fraternization or familiarity with students that takes place on or off District property during or outside of regular school hours, regardless of the student's age or whether or not the behavior is consensual or is initiated by the student, is prohibited. Every District staff member, whether paid or unpaid, shall adhere to this standard of conduct.

Definitions

1. *Staff* shall mean any individual employed by the Great Neck Public Schools, including but not limited to all full or part time employees, interns, student interns, volunteers, partners, contractors or employees thereof or any other member of the District's workforce.
2. *Student* shall mean any individual who is enrolled in the Great Neck Public Schools.

Prohibited Conduct

Staff must establish appropriate personal boundaries with students and refrain from any behavior/conduct that could lead to perceived or actual impropriety.

Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Engaging in a sexual or romantic relationship with student(s)
- Inappropriate touching, sexual contact and/or sexual relations
- Inappropriate displays of affection and/or flirting
- Entertaining or socializing with students, either during or outside of class time, in a manner by which the perception of a relationship, other than a professional one, exists
- Sexually explicit or suggestive comments

9150/2

- Initiating, continuing or otherwise engaging in inappropriate personal communications in any form or manner with students unrelated to course work, official school matters or concerns regarding a student's welfare or safety. This includes inappropriate communication through professional and/or personal means, such as, but not limited to, sending letters, notes, photos or other communication via phone, text, email, social networks, webcams, chat rooms, websites, etc.
- Promoting, providing or sharing pornographic materials
- Offering or giving of inappropriate personal gifts
- Providing alcohol or drugs (prescription or illegal) to students, regardless of age, with the exception of medication provided in accordance with Policy 5420 *Student Health Services*.
- Transporting of students without prior parental consent and advance notice to the District.

Reporting Procedures**1. Duty to Report**

Any person (e.g., school employee or third party) who witnesses, has knowledge of or suspects any possible occurrence of an inappropriate relationship between a staff member and student shall immediately report the incident/conduct to the employee's supervisor, the student's principal, the pupil support services or the District's designated Compliance Officer(s).

Any employee having knowledge or reasonable suspicion that another employee may have engaged in inappropriate conduct with a student that may constitute child abuse must follow the reporting procedures for such allegations in accordance with Policy 9620 *Child Abuse in an Educational Setting*, and such information shall be reported by the designated administrator to law enforcement officials as required by New York State law, the New York State Education Department and/or Child Protective Services (CPS) as may be applicable.

Behavior that is initiated by a student towards a staff member that is perceived to be inappropriate must be promptly reported to a supervisor.

2. Student Reporting

Students who believe that they have been subjected to inappropriate staff behavior shall report concerns to a staff member, school administrator(s) or the District's designated Compliance Officer(s). Students who have knowledge of, or witness, any such occurrence of inappropriate staff-student relations shall report the incident to any staff member.

9150/3**Protection from Retaliation**

Any staff member who provides disclosure of a suspected fraternization violation, or who cooperates with inquiries or investigations of such violations, shall be afforded protection against retaliation in accordance with Policy 9645 *Disclosure of Wrongful or Unlawful Conduct: Whistleblower*.

District Responsibility

This policy, or summary thereof, shall be disseminated as appropriate to all staff. Building administrators shall be responsible for informing students, staff and volunteers of the requirements of this policy including the duty to report, the procedures established for investigation and the resolution of complaints.

The District shall promptly investigate all complaints regarding staff-student relations, including those that are made anonymously, and take prompt action as necessary. Investigations of such allegations shall follow the procedures utilized for complaints of harassment. The District shall ensure that all investigations relating to the foregoing shall be appropriately documented including the investigator's findings, conclusions and/or any actions taken respecting the matter and shall be treated as confidential and private to the extent possible within legal constraints.

Disciplinary Sanctions

Any staff member who engages in inappropriate conduct with a student shall be subject to disciplinary measures up to and including termination of employment in accordance with legal guidelines and District policy and regulation. A violation of this policy may also subject the employee to criminal and/or civil sanctions as well as disciplinary action by the New York State State Education Department.

Great Neck Public Schools***Proposed: 2/10/20; 4/21/20***

c. **Resolution to Adopt the 2020-2021 BOCES Administrative Operations Budget**

WHEREAS, the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County (hereinafter "BOCES") has proposed and presented its Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2020-2021 school year (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021), now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nassau BOCES Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of twenty-two million, eight hundred ten thousand, eight hundred seventy-three dollars (\$22,810,873) be, and hereby is, approved by this Board of Education.

Motion: J. Shi

Vote: 5-0

d. **Resolution for the Election of BOCES Board Members**

WHEREAS, three seats on the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County (hereinafter "BOCES") must be voted upon, and now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Great Neck Public Schools, after consideration and discussion, casts one (1) vote for each of these candidates:

Deborah Coates
Eric B. Schultz

e. **Driver Education In-Car Instruction 2020-2021**

INFORMATION

The District will be completing the fourth year of our current contract with Bell Auto School this June. Bell Auto provides the driving portion of the Driver Education program for resident high school students, run by the Community Education Program. The contract is for three (3) years with two (2) one-year extensions, renewable annually, if mutually agreeable.

The District has been satisfied with Bell Auto School's services and would like to continue with the second one-year extension option.

The cost for in-car instruction, to be paid by the students, for the 2020-2021 school year is \$355 per student.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Education continue its agreement with Bell Auto School for the driving portion of our Driver Education program for the 2020-2021 school year at the rate of \$355 per student. There is no cost to the District for this service, which is paid in full by each student.

f. **Inservice Institute Course Intra-Building – Spring 2020**

INFORMATION

The Superintendent and her Inservice Institute designees, Jennifer Kirby and Kelly Newman, propose that the course described in the attached course description be offered to District personnel as part of our ongoing staff development program.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the Spring 2020 Inservice Institute course.

<u>Course Titles/Descriptions</u>	<u># Hours</u>	<u>Supplies</u>
Google Suite For You (Part 2)! (PKV)	4	0

This is a follow-up course to the first Google Suite course offered in February. This course will continue our exploration of Google Suite with a more in-depth look at what Google has to offer.

g. Interior Alterations – South High School
(Revision to March 24, 2020 Agenda)

INFORMATION

The March 24, 2020 recommendation, “Interior Alterations – South High School”, contained errors to vendors and amounts. The revised recommendation is below.

One of the projects in the District’s Capital Program includes interior alterations at the South High School. On January 21, 2020, Mr. Jason Martin, Purchasing Officer, received the bids in the name of the Board of Education from the following vendors who submitted bids in accordance with the specifications:

ACS System Associates, Inc.	Nafees Construction Corp.
AFL Construction Co., Inc.	Palace Electrical Contractors, Inc.
All Con Contracting	Patriot Organization, Inc.
Ambrosio & Company, Inc.	Pella General Construction Corp.
Ashlar Contracting	Preferred Construction, Inc.
Benchmark Construction Group, Inc.	RENU Contracting & Restoration, Inc.
Best Climate Control Corp.	Roland’s Electric, Inc.
Cooper Power & Lighting Corp.	Stalco Construction, Inc.
Eldor Contracting Corp.	Tameer, Inc.
Hirsch & Co., LLC	Total Construction Corp.
IJZ Associates, Inc.	Ultimate Power, Inc.
Inshallah Mechanical Corp.	Veritas Construction Services, Inc.
Irwin Contracting Inc.	WHM Plumbing & Heating, Contractors, Inc.
JAG Contracting Group Corp.	WJ Northridge Construction Corp.
Liberty Contracting of New York	

After the bids were opened, Pella General Construction Corp., withdrew their bid.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Education award the interior alterations at the South High School to Nafees Construction Corp. for Base Bid GC-1 plus Alternates No. 1 & 3 in the amount of \$482,000, Tameer, Inc. for Base Bid MC-1 plus Alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$495,000, WHM Plumbing & Heating Contractors, Inc. for Base Bid PC-1 plus Alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$49,054 and Palace Electrical Contractors, Inc. for Base Bid EC-1 plus Alternates No. 1 & 3 in the amount of \$216,300. Combining all contracts for this project totals \$1,242,354.

**h. SEQRA Resolution – John F. Kennedy Elementary School
Proposed Elevator Replacement**

RECOMMENDED ACTION: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Great Neck Union Free School District Board of Education approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to embark upon the Emergency Replacement of the Elevator at John F. Kennedy Elementary School (Project); including replacement of the cab, hydraulics, controls, rails, etc. and eliminating the second rear entrance on both floors; and

WHEREAS, said Project is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of SEQRA; and the Board of Education, as the lead agency, has examined all information related to the Project and has determined that the Project as a whole is classified as a Type II Action as defined by Section 617.5 of the SEQRA Regulations and therefore requires no further review;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the Project Review Exemption Form from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, in connection with its request for approval of said Project from the New York State Education Department.

i. **Donation – Equipment: South Middle School (Laptops)**

INFORMATION

The South Middle School PTA would like to make a monetary donation of \$1,400 to South Middle School. The funds will be used to purchase 2 laptops to be used in the school library.

The administration has indicated that the donation would be very much appreciated.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Education accept the donation of \$1,400 to the Great Neck Public Schools and increase the following budget codes:

	<u>Budget Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Expenditures:	A2110-4500-031-2500	Instructional Supply	South Middle	\$1,400
Revenues:	A2705-096	Gifts and Donations	District	\$1,400



Great Neck South Middle School PTA
349 Lakeville Road ▪ Great Neck, NY 11020 ▪ 516.441.4600 ▪ ptasouthmiddle@gmail.com

March 27th, 2020

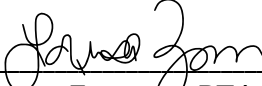
Mrs. Barbara Berkowitz, President
Board of Education
Great Neck Public Schools
345 Lakeville Road
Great Neck, NY 11020

Re: Donation to South Middle School

Dear Mrs. Berkowitz and the Members of the Board,

The South Middle School PTA would like to donate \$1400 to South Middle School. The funds will be used to purchase two laptop computers to be used in the school library. Both the staff and administration have expressed a need for this equipment. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Louisa Zeppieri, PTA Co-President



Approved by Dr. Gina Cartolano, Principal

j. **Donation – Supplies: Great Neck Public Schools (Masks)**

INFORMATION

Mr. Liang, father of a South High student would like to donate 500 masks to the district. The administration has indicated that the donation would be very much appreciated.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of education accept the above donation.

From: GITZ, CHRISTOPHER
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 4:59 PM
To: LANGEL, KUNIKO
Cc: DINA, LAURETTA
Subject: Re: Donation of 500 masks

Hi Kuniko,
I approve of this generous and well needed donation.
Chris

Christopher Gitz
Principal
William A. Shine - Great Neck South HS
Sent from my iPhone

From: 梁惠民
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:15 AM
To: DINA, LAURETTA
Subject: Re: Donation of 500 masks

Dear Mrs. Berkowitz and members of the Board of Education,

I am the father of Shu Liang, South High student. I would like to donate 500 masks to the district. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

*Sincerely,
Mr. Huimin Liang*

Apr 15 /2020

k. **Roof Reconstruction and Exterior Door Replacement – Saddle Rock School**

INFORMATION

One of the projects in the District's Capital Program includes roof reconstruction and exterior door replacement at the Saddle Rock School. On April 7, 2020, Mr. Jason Martin, Purchasing Officer, received the bids in the name of the Board of Education from the following vendors who submitted bids in accordance with the specifications:

Barrett Roofs, Inc.
Benchmark Construction Group, Inc.
Empire Energy Specialists
Long Island Roofing
Marfi Contracting Corp.
Milcon Construction Corporation
More Consulting Corp.
Niko K Construction
PB Contracting Corp.
Sea Breeze General Construction
Sienia Construction Inc.
Statewide Roofing

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Education award the roof reconstruction and exterior door replacement at the Saddle Rock School to More Consulting Corp. for Base Bid GC-1 plus Alternates GC1-1 & GC1-2 in the amount of \$1,337,000 and Empire Energy Specialists for Base Bid GC-2 in the amount of \$125,277.

3. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

a. Claims Audit Report to the Board of Education – March 2020

INFORMATION

Each month the District's claims auditing firm, R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP prepares a report of the previous month's claims activity. This report is solely for the Board of Education's information. It has been recommended that the submission of these monthly claims reports to the Board of Education and their acknowledgement of receipt be documented.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of the March 2020 claims audit report, as presented.

The Board accepted the above report as presented.

b. Electronic Submission of Reports to the Board of Education

- 1) Monthly Treasurer's Report – February 2020
- 2) Monthly Budget Status Report for General, Capital, Debt Service, Lunch and Special Aid Funds – February 2020
- 3) Revenue Status Report General Fund – February 2020
- 4) Quarterly Budget Transfer Report – January through March 2020

The Board accepted the above reports as presented.

4. STUDENT MATTERS AND CURRICULUM

**a. Committee on Preschool Special Education Recommendations
2019-2020**

INFORMATION

In accord with applicable regulations and law, the Board of Education is required to approve services to students with disabilities as recommended by the Committee on Preschool Special Education.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Education has been provided with the schedule of specific recommendations for the 2019-2020 school year made by the Committee on Preschool Special Education for students whose ID numbers appear below. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve this schedule.

B2872
J7271
K1020
L9795
L5329
M2616
N8866
Z1688

On a motion by Ms. Berkowitz and approved by unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 12:14 pm.

Kuniko Langel
Secretary to the Board