

**PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
241 South Ocean Avenue  
Patchogue, New York 11772

Business Meeting  
Held via the Zoom Application and Livestreamed on the District Website  
February 22, 2021

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Kelli Anne Jennings, President

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT AND VOTING:** Diana Andrade, Teresa Balducci-Greenberg, Thomas Donofrio, Marc Negrin

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ABSENT:** Anthony O'Brien, Bernadette Smith

**OFFICIALS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:** Dennis M. Logan, District Clerk; Richard Guercio, General/Labor Counsel; Lisa Hutchinson, General/Labor Counsel; Reesa Miles, General/Labor Counsel; Christopher Shishko, General /Labor Counsel

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT AND REPORTING:** Donna Jones, Superintendent of Schools; Lori Cannetti, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction; Joey Cohen, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Jessica Lukas, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services; Frank Mazzie, School Business Administrator

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board of Education President Kelli Anne Jennings called the meeting to order on the Zoom Application at 6:34 p.m.

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion offered by Marc Negrin, seconded by Diana Andrade to wit:  
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education enters Executive Session in order to conduct a confidential discussion regarding agreements with employees and collective bargaining agreements at 6:35p.m.

Motion carried: 5 - Yes; 0 – No; 3- Absent (T. Balducci-Greenberg,  
A. O'Brien, B. Smith)

**3. ARRIVAL OF BOARD MEMBER**

Board of Education First Vice President Teresa Balducci-Greenberg arrived and joined Executive Session at 6:36 p.m.

**4. RESUME PUBLIC SESSION AND DEPARTURE OF ATTORNEYS**

Board of Education President Kelli Anne Jennings called the meeting to order in Public Session via teleconference and livestreamed on the district website at 7:30 p.m.

School Attorneys Christopher Shishko and Reesa Miles departed the meeting at this point.

**5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Jennings led those present in the Salute to the Flag.

**6. OPENING STATEMENT**

Ms. Jennings provided an Opening Statement regarding the attendance at and conduct of the meeting.

**7. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING REVISIONS TO THE DISTRICT-WIDE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN**

The Board of Education conducted a Public Hearing in order to introduce updates the community on recommended changes to the District-Wide School Safety Plan. After a presentation, members of the Board of Education and those in attendance were afforded the opportunity to ask questions and make comments regarding the plan. The revised plan was posted beginning on February 17, 2021 for a thirty-day public comment period. The Board of Education may consider a resolution to approve the District Wide Safety Plan at the March 22, 2021 Business Meeting.

**8. REPORT BY EX-OFFICIO STUDENT MEMBER**

Ex-Officio Student Member Madison Frascogna provided her report to those present.

**9. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS**

A. Employees of the Month

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Joey Cohen recognized the following individuals as Employees of the Month for March 2020 (delayed by the COVID-19 Pandemic) and February 2021:

March 2020

- Marylou Weyman, Teacher, Barton
- Roanie Taveras, Social Worker, Family Center
- Jessica Reyes, Clerical

February 2021

- Caitlin Hall, Teacher, PMHS
- Dominick Nuzzi, Teacher, Oregon
- Theresa DeLeva, Senior Cook, PMHS

B. Vocabulary Initiative

Elementary Principal Tania Dalley presented an update on the District's Vocabulary Initiative.

**10. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion offered by Marc Negrin, seconded by Diana Andrade to approve the Consent Agenda (Items A through S) as follows:**

A. Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Meeting Minutes for the following Board of Education meetings:

- January 9, 2021 – Special Meeting/Budget Workshop #1 Minutes
- January 25, 2021 - Business Meeting
- February 9, 2021 - Budget Workshop #2 Minutes

B. Approval of Phase IV of the Smart Schools Investment Plan

WHEREAS, the New York State Smart Schools Bond Act of 2014 requires that the Patchogue-Medford Union Free School District ("District") develop a Smart Schools Investment Plan to be submitted to the Smart Schools Review Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has approved a preliminary Smart Schools Investment Plan, Phase IV, which has been posted on the District's website for at least thirty (30) days with an address to which any written comments on the Plan can be sent; and

**10. CONSENT AGENDA – continued**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education conducted a hearing on January 19, 2021, which allowed all requisite stakeholders to respond to the preliminary Plan; and  
WHEREAS, following the hearing on January 19, 2021, the District prepared and submitted a Smart Schools Investment Plan, Phase IV, for Board of Education review; and  
WHEREAS, the District has complied with all requisite legal requirements for development and approval of a Smart Schools Investment Plan, Phase IV. Now, therefore be it  
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the District’s Smart Schools Investment Plan, Phase IV, and directs that this Plan be submitted to the Smart Schools Review Board.

C. Approval of Personnel

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes that in order to be eligible for tenure, an individual receiving a probationary appointment as a classroom teacher or building principal must receive annual composite or overall APPR ratings of H or E in at least three (3) of the four (4) proceeding years, and if the individual receives a rating of one (1) in the final year of the probationary period, he or she will not be eligible for tenure at that time, be it  
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following personnel Reports. (see Schedule #1 - Attached)

- A1. Instructional Staff
- A2. Instructional Staff Leaves of Absence/Returns
- B1. Operational Staff
- B2. Operational Staff Leaves of Absence/Returns
- B3. Operational Staff Payouts

Be it further  
RESOLVED, that these appointments and the stipends applicable to same are subject to and contingent upon the reopening of school and/or the further closure thereof related to or emanating from the Covid-19 virus and/or state(s) of emergency and the aforementioned stipends will be paid, prorated, or not paid accordingly.

D. Approval of Stipulation of Settlement and Release with Member of Patchogue-Medford Congress of Teachers

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a Stipulation of Settlement and Release with the member of the Patchogue-Medford Congress of Teachers named in Confidential Schedule A in regards to a disciplinary matter and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said stipulation on behalf of the district.

E. Approval of Stipulation of Settlement and Release with Patchogue-Medford Registered Professional Nurses Association

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a Memorandum of Agreement with the Patchogue-Medford Registered Professional Nurses Association in regards to COVID testing of student athletes and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said agreement on behalf of the district.

10. CONSENT AGENDA – continued

F. Approval of Extension of Sick Leave Bank – Patchogue-Medford Congress of Teachers

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves an Agreement permitting the extension of a sick leave bank for the member of the Patchogue-Medford Congress of Teachers named in Confidential Schedule A for 38 days. The donation of leave by the Patchogue-Medford Congress of Teachers is not to be considered precedent-setting and the president of the Board of Education is authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of the district.

G. Approval of Provision of Educational Opportunities to Resident Pupils with Disabilities

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the provision of educational opportunities to resident pupils as listed, in date order, shown on the following rosters provided:

1. Committee for Pre-School Special Education
2. Committee for Special Education
3. Section 504 Committee

H. Acceptance of Financial Reports

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the following financial reports for the December 2020 period:

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Claims Auditor Letter
3. Claims Auditor Reports
  - Payroll Schedule Audit Report
  - Payroll Adjustments Report
  - Substitute Teacher Report (Budget)
  - Custodial Overtime Report
  - Cash Disbursement Report
  - Workers' Compensation Cash Disbursement
  - Wire Reconciliation Report
  - nVision Audit Reports
4. Cash Flow Projection
5. Extra Classroom Activity Fund
6. Scholarship Activity Fund
7. General Fund Financial Reports
8. School Lunch Fund Financial Reports
9. Special Aid Fund Financial Reports
10. Capital Projects Fund Financial Reports
11. Trust & Agency Fund Financial Reports
12. Private Purpose Trust Fund Financial Reports
13. Debt Service Fund Financial Reports
14. Workers' Comp. Reserve Financial Reports
15. Budget Transfer Query
16. Capital Project Report (7/01/99 – Present)
17. Warrants

I. Budgetary Adjustments

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following Budgetary Adjustments which for the period from January 15, 2021 through February 5, 2021 will total \$86,394.99.00

1. Budget Transfers in Excess of \$5,000

**10. CONSENT AGENDA – continued**

**J. Approval of Contracts**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the following contracts:

<b>#</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Atty. Reviewed</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Renewal</b>
1.	Advanced Cardiovascular Diagnostics	Consultant Services	No cost associated with this agreement.	No	Attorney Approved	No
2.	First Choice Medical	CTE Clinical Experience Agreement	No cost associated with this agreement.	Yes	Vendor Template	No
3.	Generation Ready, Inc.	Consultant Services – AMENDMENT	Addition of 5 days at \$1,850.00 per day.	No	Attorney Approved District Template	Yes
4.	Middle Country CSD	Health Services	Per pupil rate has increased by \$69.07 from 2019-2020.	No	Attorney Approved Template	Yes
5.	Music Theatre International (MTI)	Les Miserables School Edition for HS All School Musical Performances June 4-5, 2021	See contract for specific rates.	No	Not Necessary	No
6.	Riverhead CSD	Health Services	Per pupil rate has decreased by \$6.93 from 2019-2020.	No	Attorney Approved Template	Yes
7.	Suffolk County Board of Elections	Use of 7 School Buildings for General & Primary Elections	District receives \$75.00 per election district, immediately following the General Election	No	Not Necessary	Yes
8.	Swank Motion Pictures, Inc.	K-12 Streaming Agreement	\$7,875.00	No	Not Necessary	Yes
9.	West Islip UFSD	Health Services	Per pupil rate has increased by \$49.72 from 2019-2020.	No	Attorney Approved Template	Yes

**K. Approval of Bid Awards**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following Bid Awards:

- #2020-12 Districtwide Laptop Repair Bid:
  - Cell Mechanic, Inc.
  - iFixYouri Corp.

**L. Disposition of Obsolete Items**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes disposition of the following books and equipment as per the lists provided:

- Assorted gym equipment (*located at Tremont Elementary School*)
- Library books (*located at Patchogue-Medford High School*)

10. CONSENT AGENDA – continued

M. Acceptance of Donation

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the donation of the following:

- One 2020 Newest Lenovo Ideapad 3, 15.6” HD Non-Touchscreen Display, AMD Ryzen 3 3250U Processor, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD, Wi-Fi, Webcam, Online Class, Zoom Meeting, Windows 10 Home, KKE Bundle Black valued at \$519.00 is being donated for use by a student in need to support their academic growth by Dr. Cohen’s cousin, Robert Derector.

N. Approval of Scholarship and Award Additions and Changes

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the following Scholarship and Award Additions and Changes:

- Update to title and criteria for the VIRGINIA K. SPICE SCHOLARSHIP.

*Old:* The VIRGINIA K. SPICE SCHOLARSHIP is presented to a graduating senior who will be pursuing a career as a Registered Nurse. Documents needed for matriculation are: proof of attending a BSN degree (college schedule, paid bill).

*New:* THE PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD REGISTERED NURSES’ ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP will be awarded to one recipient of the Associations’ choosing who has provided documentation that they are planning to attend a BSN Nursing program.

- Establish the following scholarships and award:

THE ROBERT STINGO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP will be presented to a Patchogue-Medford student that has overcome a personal challenge related to a physical or emotional condition. This candidate challenges himself or herself to meet their goals while demonstrating determination and perseverance. This candidate holds themselves to a high standard and strives to be their best self. They possess at least an overall 3.0 average and are planning to attend a four year college.

THE ROBERT STINGO MEMORIAL AWARD will be presented to a student that is motivated, hard-working, and responsible. This student exhibits leadership skills, and a passion in the area of construction. His or her interests lie in woodworking, homebuilding, and remodeling. He or she possesses an overall average of 85 or higher and are planning to pursue a two year collegial program or vocational school.

THE ROBERT STINGO MEMORIAL GOLF SCHOLARSHIP is given to one male and one female student athlete who over the years has triumphed in the face of extreme adversity to achieve academic and athletic excellence and did so with determination, selflessness, maturity, hard work, laughter and a willingness to never give up while remaining positive through it all.

- Establish the following scholarship:

The P.S. I LOVE YOU DAY SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF MARK CHARVAT will be presented to a graduating Patchogue-Medford senior that has plans to attend college. Applicants must write an essay describing 1) a personal account of a time they influenced someone with the message of P.S. I Love You Day; 2) what they have learned by participating in P.S. I Love You Day and how this

10. CONSENT AGENDA – continued

experience has inspired them; and 3) how they have promoted the message of P.S. I Love You Day.

- Update the following scholarship offerings:

*Old:* THE PAT-MED SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (SEPTA) SCHOLARSHIP FOR A DIPLOMA BOUND STUDENT: A \$500.00 scholarship for 1 diploma bound individual will be presented to a graduating senior with an IEP or 504 plan who: 1) Will attend an accredited post-secondary program, 2) Has earned a grade point average of 70 or better, 3) Has demonstrated cooperativeness, good citizenship and character, and 4) Has proven trustworthy and may have participated in extra-curricular activities. Each student applicant will provide 2 letters of recommendation from any of the following character reference sources: Parent, teacher, counselor, coach, advisor, therapist, work supervisor, or civic/volunteer supervisor position. In addition, each student applicant should complete an essay on the subject of “What My Disability Taught Me About Life.” Length of essay is to be determined by applicant.

*Old:* THE PAT-MED SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (SEPTA) SCHOLARSHIP FOR A NON-DIPLOMA BOUND STUDENT: A \$500.00 scholarship for 1 non-diploma bound student with an IEP or 504 plan who: 1) Demonstrates cooperativeness, trustworthiness, good character and citizenship, 2) Will provide 2 letters of recommendation from any of the following character reference sources: Parent, teacher, counselor, coach, advisor, therapist, work supervisor, or civic/volunteer supervisor position, and 3) Will provide a portfolio containing 5 pieces of the applicant’s best work. Submissions may include: A written piece of work from school work and/or activity; a recording or composition of music work; an art piece (actual piece of OR a photo showing the art piece (computer generated or otherwise)), proof of an accomplishment in physical education or a related work/activities (ie) a copy of an award or certificate; Proof of an achievement from a program activity outside of school. Students must submit at least a one paragraph (up to one page) explanation of how they intend to use the scholarship to further their education or career choice.

*New:* PAT-MED SEPTA SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP I FOR THE DIPLOMA BOUND STUDENT: The Pat-Med Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) Scholarship is for a Diploma bound student is to be presented to a graduating senior with an IEP who plans to attend an accredited post-secondary program of study or training; has earned a grade point average of 70 or better; demonstrates cooperativeness and good character. Applicants should include two (2) letters of recommendation to support ratings for Service, Accomplishments/Honors, Work Experience or Volunteerism. Recommendations can be from a teacher, parent, counselor, coach, work supervisor or advisor. An essay (100 word minimum) that explains: The student applicant’s experience in “What I’ve learned about myself to become successful and manage my disability?”. Essay should also note what area of study the applicant plans to pursue and what institution they plan to attend. Accomplishments could include activities, clubs, sports, music groups, art, robotics, virtual enterprise, accolades from a work supervisor or community leader. Service relates to volunteerism and community service. Honors: any honors, awards, or noteworthy accolades that the student applicant has received.

10. CONSENT AGENDA – continued

*New:* PAT-MED SEPTA SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP II FOR THE DIPLOMA BOUND STUDENT: The Pat-Med Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) Scholarship is for a Diploma bound student is to be presented to a graduating senior with an IEP who plans to attend an accredited post-secondary program of study or training; has earned a grade point average of 70 or better; demonstrates cooperativeness and good character. Applicants should include two (2) letters of recommendation to support ratings for Service, Accomplishments/Honors, Work Experience or Volunteerism. Recommendations can be from a teacher, parent, counselor, coach, work supervisor or advisor. An essay (100 word minimum) that explains: The student applicant’s experience in “What I’ve learned about myself to become successful and manage my disability”. Essay should also note what area of study the applicant plans to pursue and what institution they plan to attend. Accomplishments could include activities, clubs, sports, music groups, art, robotics, virtual enterprise, accolades from a work supervisor or community leader. Service relates to volunteerism and community service. Honors: any honors, awards, or noteworthy accolades that the student applicant has received.

*New:* PAT-MED SEPTA SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP III FOR THE DIPLOMA BOUND STUDENT: The Pat-Med Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) Scholarship is for a Diploma bound student is to be presented to a graduating senior with a 504 who plans to attend an accredited post-secondary program of study or training; has earned a grade point average of 70 or better; demonstrates cooperativeness and good character. Applicants should include two (2) letters of recommendation to support ratings for Service, Accomplishments/Honors, Work Experience or Volunteerism. Recommendations can be from a teacher, parent, counselor, coach, work supervisor or advisor. An essay (100 word minimum) that explains: The student applicant’s experience in “What I’ve learned about myself to become successful and manage my disability”. Essay should also note what area of study the applicant plans to pursue and what institution they plan to attend. Accomplishments could include activities, clubs, sports, music groups, art, robotics, virtual enterprise, accolades from a work supervisor or community leader. Service relates to volunteerism and community service. Honors: any honors, awards, or noteworthy accolades that the student applicant has received.

*New:* PAT-MED SEPTA SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP IV: The Pat-Med Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) Scholarship is for a Non-Diploma bound student is to be presented to a graduating senior with an IEP or 504 who plans to attend a post-secondary training. Applicants should include two (2) letters of recommendation to support ratings for Character, Talents, Service, Accomplishments/Honors, Work Experience or Volunteerism. Recommendations can be from a teacher, parent, counselor, coach, work supervisor or advisor. Five (5) pieces of the student’s best work: examples could include daily assignments, photos of work, copies of awards or letters from advisors noting student’s accomplishments. A statement of intent that explains how they plan to utilize this award with documentation about the post-secondary program they plan on attending.

- Establish the following scholarships:

The GERSHOW RECYCLING/MEDFORD TAXPAYERS AND CIVIC ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP in the amount of \$1000.00 will be presented to a graduating high school senior who intends to

10. CONSENT AGENDA – continued

continue their studies in environmental science, recycling, public policy or government.

The GERSHOW RECYCLING/MEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP in the amount of \$1,000.00 will be presented to a graduating high school senior who, after graduation, wishes to continue to volunteer as a firefighter or EMT, or is pursuing a career in public service.

The PATCHOGUE ROTARY CHARLES “CORKY” SHERMAN SCHOLARSHIP in the amount of \$1,250.00 will be presented to a student who has maintained a B average or better and intends to pursue a course of studies in marine science or maritime matters.

O. Approval of Continuation of Senior Citizens’ and Persons with Disabilities Tax Exemptions

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the continuation of the Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities Exemptions, as per Chapters 186, 187 and 252 of the Laws of 2006, effective March 1, 2021:

<u>Annual Income</u>	<u>Percentage of Assessed Valuation Exempt From Taxation</u>
\$29,000 or less	50%
More than \$29,000, but less than \$30,000	45%
\$30,000 or more, but less than \$31,000	40%
\$31,000 or more, but less than \$32,000	35%
\$32,000 or more, but less than \$32,900	30%
\$32,900 or more, but less than \$33,800	25%
\$33,800 or more, but less than \$34,700	20%
\$34,700 or more, but less than \$35,600	15%
\$35,600 or more, but less than \$36,500	10%
\$36,500 or more, but less than \$37,400	5%

P. Approval of Continuation of Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Workers Tax Exemptions

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the continuation of the Volunteer Firefighters’ and surviving spouse and Ambulance Workers’ and surviving spouse Tax Exemption for the Town of Brookhaven, effective March 1, 2021.

Q. Approval of Continuation of Veterans’ Tax Exemption

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the continuation of the Veterans’ Tax Exemption, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraphs (a), (b), and (c), effective March 1, 2021.

R. Approval of 2021-2022 School Year Student Calendar

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the 2021-2022 School Year Student Calendar (See Schedule #2 – attached).

S. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with C.S.E.A. Part-Time Unit

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves a Memorandum of Agreement with the C.S.E.A. Part-Time Unit regarding Remote Learning Days and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said agreement on behalf of the district.

**10. CONSENT AGENDA – continued**

**A roll-call vote was taken on the Consent Agenda (Items A through S above)**

<b>Diana Andrade – Yes</b>	<b>Anthony O’Brien - Absent</b>
<b>Teresa Balducci-Greenberg – Yes</b>	<b>Bernadette Smith - Absent</b>
<b>Thomas Donofrio – Yes</b>	<b>Kelli Anne Jennings - Yes</b>
<b>Marc Negrin - Yes</b>	

**The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.**

**11. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Policy First Reading**

The following policies were circulated for a first reading on February 17, 2021. If there are no changes, these policies will be included on the March 22, 2021 Board of Education agenda:

- 2451 Nondiscrimination in Education Programs and Activities
- 4211 Appointment to Positions in Operational Unit
- 4313 Conditional Appointment and Emergency Conditional Appointment of Staff Members Subject to Such Appointments
- 5121.1 Screening of New Students for Enrollment in Schools
- 5141-R Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity in Education – Regulations
- 5185 Gender Neutral Restrooms

**B. Policy Second Reading**

Due to recommended changes, this policy is being presented for a second reading. If no other changes are made, it will be presented at the March 22, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

- 5141 Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity in Education

**12. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Jones provided a report on her recent activities and timely matters pertaining to the district.

**13. DISCUSSION TOPICS**

The members of the Board of Education may choose to discuss and act on any of the following topics:

**A. Resolution Opposing the Legalization of Recreational Cannabis**

Motion offered by Teresa Balducci-Greenberg, seconded by Thomas Donofrio to wit:

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo has included plans in his 2021-2022 Executive Budget Proposal to legalize the use of recreational cannabis, also known as marijuana, in New York State; and

WHEREAS, the legalization of recreational marijuana will lead to second-hand smoke exposure of children who live with adults using marijuana in their homes; and

WHEREAS, considerable evidence suggests that students who smoke marijuana have poorer educational outcomes than their non-smoking peers; and

**13. DISCUSSION TOPICS - continued**

WHEREAS, research has shown that marijuana’s negative effects on attention, memory, and learning can last for days or weeks after the acute effects of the drug wear off, depending on the person’s history with the drug; and  
WHEREAS, marijuana has been identified by the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute on Drug Abuse as a possible “gateway drug” and use of it may lead to other types of licit and illicit substance use; and  
WHEREAS, New York State, and particularly Eastern Long Island, has a rich agricultural community that produces numerous food crops that may be replaced by more profitable marijuana crops, threatening food security for the region; therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, that the Patchogue-Medford Board of Education calls upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to reject any plans to implement the proposed legalization of recreational cannabis in the 2021-2022 budget and in any subsequent year.

Motion offered by Thomas Donofrio, seconded by Diana Andrade to wit:  
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby tables this motion until the March 22, 2021 Board of Education Business Meeting.

Motion carried: 5 – Yes; 0 – No; 2 – Absent (A. O’Brien, B, Smith)

**B. Resolution Opposing the Use of School Buildings as Polling Places**

Motion offered by Thomas Donofrio, seconded by Marc Negrin to wit:  
WHEREAS, in New York State, the County Boards of Elections designate polling locations for all elections; and  
WHEREAS, Section 4-104 of the Election Law of the State of New York indicates that these sites may include public schools, which are often open on Election Day and Primary Days with students and staff in the buildings; and  
WHEREAS, school districts have been the targets of violent incidents in recent years, resulting in districts investing in security enhancements and adopting policies that limit access to school buildings, including keeping doors locked, and requiring identification and escorts to enter the building in order to protect students and staff; and  
WHEREAS, on Election Day, such procedures must be suspended and unrestricted access to buildings must be permitted, putting students and staff at risk; and  
WHEREAS, school districts must bear the cost of additional security personnel being present on Election Day to protect students and staff because of the open access of the school buildings used as polling locations, with no reimbursement to the districts for the additional expense, therefore be it  
RESOLVED, that the Patchogue-Medford Board of Education calls upon Governor Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, the Suffolk County Board of Elections and the New York State Board of Elections to eliminate the use of public schools as polling sites for any election when schools are in session, be it general elections, primaries, special elections, school budget votes, bond votes, or early voting.

A roll-call vote was taken on the resolution

Diana Andrade – Yes	Anthony O’Brien - Absent
Teresa Balducci-Greenberg – Yes	Bernadette Smith - Absent
Thomas Donofrio – Yes	Kelli Anne Jennings - Yes
Marc Negrin – Yes	

The resolution was approved.

**13. DISCUSSION TOPICS - continued**

C. Resolution Calling for the Cancellation of Annual New York State Assessments in 2020-2021

Motion offered by Thomas Donofrio, seconded by Marc Negrin to wit:

WHEREAS, the New York State Education Department cancelled all annual assessments starting March 2020 through the end of the 2019-2020 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic which caused severe disruption to the education of students in New York State; and

WHEREAS, due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, school districts across New York State are managing the education of their students in varying ways, depending upon the individual size of the student body and available building resources in the individual districts, with some districts educating in person, some online, and some as a hybrid model; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause severe disruption to the education of students in New York State, as well as affecting the social and emotional health of students which, in turn, affects students' ability to succeed academically, skewing assessments, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Patchogue-Medford Board of Education calls upon the New York State Education Department to cancel all annual assessments once again through the end of the 2020-2021 school year due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

A roll-call vote was taken on the resolution

Diana Andrade – Yes	Anthony O'Brien - Absent
Teresa Balducci-Greenberg – Yes	Bernadette Smith - Absent
Thomas Donofrio – Yes	Kelli Anne Jennings - Yes
Marc Negrin – Yes	

The resolution was approved.

- C. Review of the Status of Board of Education Goals
- E. Review of Board Retreat Survey Results
- F. Review the Hiring, Availability and Retention of Substitute Teachers
- G. Regulations regarding the allowance of spectators at Interscholastic Sporting Events
- H. Organizing a Consortium of School Districts in the Town of Brookhaven to Work Together to Address Common Issues
- I. Setting Up a Zoom Meeting with Commissioner Betty Rosa and the Regents to Discuss Various Issues, especially Getting Patchogue-Medford off of the Focus Schools List.
- J. Reaching out to the Federal Government regarding the Disbursement of Federal Funds Directly to School Districts and not the States.
- K. Possibility of a 9-period day at the high school and including lunch.

**14. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Board of Education members reported on the Board of Education Committees which they chair.

**15. DEPARTURE OF EX-OFFICIO STUDENT MEMBER**

Ex-Officio Student Member Madison Frascogna departed the meeting during Committee Reports at 10:13 p.m.

**16. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

The Board responded to questions and comments submitted by the Public.

**17. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS**

Members of the Board of Education made comments.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion offered by Teresa Balducci-Greenberg, seconded by Thomas Donofrio to wit:

RESOLVED, that there being no further items for discussion, the meeting is adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

Motion carried: 5 – Yes; 0 – No; 2 – Absent (A. O’Brien, B, Smith)

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis M. Logan  
District Clerk