

**SPECIAL MEETING (Wednesday, October 3, 2018)**

**HEMPSTEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 3, 2018  
MINUTES**

The special meeting of the Hempstead Public Schools Board of Education was held in the high school board room, 201 President Street, Hempstead, New York 11550. The meeting was called to order at 6:20 P.M. All of the Board Members were present. Due to a prior commitment Trustees Gates excused himself at 7:15 P.M. and returned at 9:15 P.M.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lamont E Johnson , President  
Carmen Ayala, Vice President  
David B Gates, Trustee  
Patricia Spleen, Trustee  
Randy Stith, Trustee  
Jack Bierwirth, Trustee Ex-Officio

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Regina Armstrong, Acting Superintendent  
Rodney Gilmore, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources  
James Clark, Assistant Superintendent for Special Projects  
Djuana Wilso, Assistatn Superintendent for Special Eucation  
Patricia Wright, District Clerk  
John Sheahan, General Counsel  
Jonathan Scher, Labor Counsel

**Trustee Stith moved, seconded by Trustee Ayala to approve the consent calendar.**

**MOTION**

**YES 5**

**MOTION CARRIED**

To approve the  
consent calendar

**Trustee Ayala moved, seconded by Trustee Stith to convene to executive session at 6:57 P.M. to discuss personnel and legal counsel advice.**

**MOTION**

**YES 5**

**MOTION CARRIED**

To convene to  
executive session

**A. BOARD OPERATIONS**

**Action: 1. FOUNDATION AID RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution authorizing efforts to obtain equitable school funding**

**Whereas**, in 2006, Campaign for Fiscal Equity successfully challenged New York State's school finance system on the grounds that the system underfunded schools and denied students the right to a "basic education" guaranteed by the New York State Constitution; and

**Whereas**, in 2007, New York State enacted legislation to reform the State's method of allocating resources to school districts in order to comply with the 2006 New York Court of Appeals' order in Campaign for Fiscal Equity v. State of New York; and

**Whereas**, the Foundation Aid formula, created by New York State, was supposed to result in the allocation of resources to school districts in a more equitable manner; and

**Whereas**, the way that New York State has funded the Foundation Aid formula since 2008 has resulted in gross inequalities where "minority-as-majority" school districts are nearly three times as likely to be underfunded; and

**Whereas**, the [insert name of school district] School District has previously suffered and is continuing to suffer from the results of this inequitable funding system; and

**Whereas**, the Brentwood and Westbury school districts are seeking the support of the other 8 school districts on Long Island (Roosevelt, Freeport, Hempstead, Amityville, Copiague, Central Islip, Uniondale and Wyandanch) that are being similarly underfunded by New York State's inequitable funding system; and

**Whereas**, our school districts are collectively owed approximately \$485 million in Foundation Aid funding on an annual basis;

**Therefore**, the Board of Education of the [insert name of school district] School District hereby authorizes the Board President to sign an open letter in support of Brentwood's and Westbury's efforts; and

**Therefore**, the Board of Education of the [insert name of school district] School District hereby authorizes the board, collectively, or through individual board members, to participate in a press conference, which is tentatively scheduled to be held in late October 2018, in support of the fight for equitable school funding for the children of our school district.

**Furthermore**, the Board of Education of the [insert name of school district] School District will take the necessary measures to explore the option of filing a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights ("OCR") in an effort to bring federal attention to the discrepancies in New York State's school funding by having OCR conduct a formal investigation of New York State's distribution of Foundation Aid funding. The Board is exploring a potential OCR complaint in order to secure the Foundation Aid funding that is rightfully owed to the children of our District.

## **Action: 2. AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS**

**WHEREAS**, the immediate past President did not sign the following 2017-2018 Empire State Program contracts;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the President to execute the Empire State After School Program contracts as indicated below.

### **CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

#### **Empire State After School Program**

1. **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the award for the Empire State After school Program through the Office of Family and Children Services (OFCS). The district will receive \$1.4 million dollars yearly for 5 years with a total

award amount of \$7,016,000. The grant will service students and parents in the following schools: Barack Obama, David Paterson, Franklin, Front, Jackson Annex, Jackson Main, ABGS Middle School, and Hempstead High School. The grant funded period is: September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2022.

2. **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to enter into a partnership agreement with CulturePlay. CulturePlay serves as the M/WBE and lead partner for the grant. CulturePlay is a STEM based program that prepares students for college, and places a strong emphasis on developing students' social, academic, and emotional needs. Students from the six (6) elementary schools, middle school and high school will be targeted. The program will run from January 2, 2018 through August 31, 2018, inclusive of a Summer Camp for students. Agreement amount covers all expenses, supplies, and material cost. This project will be paid for through the Empire State \$415,000.

**Recommended by:** Mr. James Clark and Regina Armstrong  
Associate Superintendents

**Strategic Goal:** Student Achievement

**Source of Funds:** Empire State Afterschool Program amount of \$415,000

Name	Budget Line	Budget Amount	Money Committed	Proposed Cost	Money Available
Culture Play, Inc.	Empire State	\$939,000	\$0	\$415,000	\$524,000

3. **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to enter into a contractual agreement with Family and Children Associates. FCA We propose to work with the school district to engage parents, along with their children, utilizing an evidenced-based model known as Strengthening Families. The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) is a nationally and internationally recognized parenting and family strengthening program for both high-risk and regular families. SFP is an evidence-based family skills training program found to significantly reduce problem behaviors, delinquency, and alcohol and drug abuse in children and to improve social competencies and school performance. Cost - \$47,000

**Recommended:** Mr. James Clark and Regina Armstrong  
Associate Superintendents

**Strategic Goal:** Student Achievement

**Source of Funds:** OCFS Empire State After school Grant

Name	Budget Line	Budget Amount	Money Committed	Proposed Cost	Money Available
Family and Children Services	Empire State	\$939,000	\$415,000	\$47,000	\$462,000

4. **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to enter into a contractual agreement Hispanic Counseling Center. The Hispanic Counseling Center will

provide ESL and Spanish Classes for parents; Counseling for Students and their families; Health and Wellness for our students and parents at HHS at a yearly cost - \$137,000

**Recommended:** Mr. James Clark and Regina Armstrong  
Associate Superintendents

**Strategic Goal:** Student Achievement

**Source of Funds:** OCFS Empire State After school Grant

Name	Budget Line	Budget Amount	Money Committed	Proposed Cost	Money Available
Hispanic Counseling Center	Empire State	\$939,000	\$462,000	\$137,000	\$325,000

5. **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to enter into a contractual agreement with Safe Child Learning Center. Safe Child Learning Center will provide a health and wellness agricultural program for our middle school students. Students will understand how to grow and eat healthy meals at a yearly cost - \$72,000

**Recommended:** Mr. James Clark and Regina Armstrong  
Associate Superintendents

**Strategic Goal:** Student Achievement

**Source of Funds:** OCFS Empire State After school Grant

Name	Budget Line	Budget Amount	Money Committed	Proposed Cost	Money Available
Safe Child Learning Center	Empire State	\$939,000	\$599,000	\$72,000	\$253,000

6. **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to enter into a contractual agreement with Zenia Jenette (AES). Zenia Jenette (AES) will provide a vocational program designed to attract students who are interested in going into the field of cosmetology our middle school students. Students will also be taught job readiness skills, inclusive of resume writing and interviewing skills at a yearly cost - \$19,500

**Recommended:** Mr. James Clark and Regina Armstrong  
Associate Superintendents

**Strategic Goal:** Student Achievement

**Source of Funds:** OCFS Empire State After school Grant

Name	Budget Line	Budget Amount	Money Committed	Proposed Cost	Money Available
Zenia Jenette (AES)	Empire State	\$939,000	\$671,000	\$19,500	\$233,500

7. **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to enter into a contractual agreement with the Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County. The Hempstead Community Action Program, will implement a program for 150 youth who reside in Hempstead, NY. The program will implement of positive youth development through the soccer program recreational activities, provide parental involvement and increase awareness of youth development issues. Participants will be able to interpret and apply nutrition concepts in evaluating and improve their nutritional health. Programs will be held in the qualifying elementary schools. At a cost of \$90,000 per year inclusive of a summer camp.

**Recommended:** Mr. James Clark and Regina Armstrong  
Associate Superintendents

**Strategic Goal:** Student Achievement

**Source of Funds:** OCFS Empire State After school Grant

Name	Budget Line	Budget Amount	Money Committed	Proposed Cost	Money Available
Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County	Empire State	\$939,000	\$690,500	\$90,000	\$143,500

8. **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to enter into a contractual agreement with The Everton Bailey Trumpet Academy. The Academy will seek to develop the talent of students in an effort to prepare them to receive scholarships to college. Exposing students to quality art programs can curve behavior and increase academic achievement. The Academy will target students in our elementary schools and high school.

Trustee Ayala moved, seconded by Trustee Stith to reconvene to open session at 7:45 P.M.

**MOTION  
CARRIED**

**YES 4**

**MOTION**

To reconvene to open session

**Trustee Stith moved, seconded by Trustee Johnson to approve addendum item as indicated below.**

#### **ADDENDUM ITEM OCTOBER 3, 2018**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves to continue the services of Jack Bierwirth under the terms of his current contract until negotiation of a new contract is complete;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education appoints the Chandler Law Firm to negotiate a new contract with the distinguished educator to be complete no later than October 10, 2018.

**MOTION  
CARRIED**

**YES 4**

**MOTION**

To continue contract services and

negotiate new contract

**Trustee Stith moved, seconded by Trustee Ayala to convene to executive session for the 2nd time at 9:15 P.M. for legal counsel advice.**

**MOTION  
CARRIED**

**YES 4**

**MOTION**

To convene to executive session

**Trustee Gates moved, seconded by Trustee Stith to reconvene to open session at 10:51 P.M.**

**MOTION  
CARRIED**

**YES 5**

**MOTION**

To reconvene to open session

**Trustee Stith moved, seconded by Trustee ayala to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 P.M.**

**MOTION  
CARRIED**

**YES 5**

**MOTION**

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia Wright  
District Clerk