

**SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2023
MINUTES**

**HEMPSTEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2023**

MINUTES

The Board of Education Special Meeting of the Hempstead Union Free School District was held in the Administration Office, 185 Peninsula Blvd, Hempstead, New York 11550. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm, motioned by Trustee Brown Young, seconded by Trustee Pratt.

Board Members Present:

Trustee Olga Brown Young
Trustee LaMont E. Johnson
Trustee Victor Pratt
Trustee Joylette Williams, PhD.

Board Member Absent:

Trustee Randy Stith

NYSED Monitor/ Trustee Ex. Officio Present:

Dr. William Johnson

Staff Members Present:

Ms. Regina Armstrong	Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. April Keys	District Clerk
Mr. John Sheahan	General Counsel
Mr. Matthew Harrison	General Counsel
Mr. LeAndre Jones	Special Counsel
Mr. Stuart Besen	Special Counsel

A. Meeting Opening

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Moment of Silence – Rosemary Finney, Sister of Angela Finney

Trustee Brown Young moved, seconded by Trustee Pratt, to go into Executive Session to seek advice from counsel at 6:01 pm.

MOTION

YES 4

MOTION CARRIED

To go into Executive Session

:Trustee Brown Young moved, seconded by Trustee Pratt, to Re-Convene from Executive Session at 7:27 pm.

MOTION

YES 4

MOTION CARRIED

To Re-Convene from Executive Session

Waiver of Policy # 2342

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education waives policy #2342 requiring the agenda, together with supporting background materials to be distributed to Board members seven (7) days in advance of a Board meeting, and the

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Board shall permit the consideration of the hand carry resolutions presented at the November 27, 2023, meeting of the Board; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the waiver of policy #2342 is effective only for the hand carry resolutions considered at the November 27, 2023, meeting.

Moved by Brown Young, seconded by Trustee Pratt, to waive policy #2342.

MOTION

YES 4

MOTION CARRIED

To waive policy #2342.

**RESOLUTION
Board Trustee Violation**

WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Hempstead Union Free School District (“Board”) is the duly constituted governance body of the School District; and

WHEREAS Trustee Randy Stith is a member of the Board and bound by the District Policy and legal requirements that confidential information acquired as a Board Member, and more particularly personal and confidential student information containing identification numbers and the date of birth of students shall not be disclosed to the public. The disclosure of same is a violation of General Municipal Law Section 805-a(1)(b), Education Law Section 2-d, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Hempstead Union Free School District Code of Ethics and policies, and the Commissioner of Education decisions, orders, rules, regulations and directives; and

WHEREAS, the Board has been advised that there is reasonable suspicion that Trustee Randy Stith violated General Municipal Law Section 805-a(1)(b); Education Law Section 2-d, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Hempstead Union Free School District Code of Ethics and policies; and the Commissioner of Education decisions, orders, rules, regulations and directives and his duty of confidentiality, and disclosed private and confidential information containing identification numbers and date of births of special needs students to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Board has been advised that there is reasonable suspicion that Trustee Stith disclosed said confidential information of special needs students to the public even though he was warned in writing not to disclose the information contained in the agenda; and

WHEREAS, that there is reasonable suspicion that Trustee Stith disclosed this private and confidential student information to the public and engaged in a willful violation and/or neglect of duty under Educational Law and Commissioner of Education decisions, rules, regulations, orders, and directives; and

WHEREAS the remaining members of the Board of Education have consulted with Special Counsel or has had an opportunity to have consulted with Special Counsel on the legal options available to address this serious concern;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, that:

1. The Board authorizes an action to seek removal of Trustee Randy Stith from the Hempstead Union Free School District Board of Education pursuant to Education Law 1709(18) and District Policy of his official misconduct.
2. The written charges dated November 27, 2023, are hereby approved, and preferred against Trustee Randy Stith and the Board is authorized to conduct a hearing on January 4, 2024, at 6:00 pm and to continue on January 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm, if necessary.

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3. Pursuant to its authority, on November 15, 2023, the Board of Education designated James Clark, Esq., as hearing officer for said removal proceedings and authorized him to report to the Board of Education such findings and conclusions of law for a final determination by the Board of Education.

Trustee Pratt moved, seconded by Trustee Brown Young, to accept the resolution.

MOTION **YES 4** **MOTION CARRIED**
To accept the resolution

Trustee Brown Young moved, seconded by Trustee Pratt, to go into Executive Session to seek legal advice from counsel at 7:32 pm.

MOTION **YES 4** **MOTION CARRIED**
To go into Executive Session

Trustee Pratt moved, seconded by Trustee Brown Young, to Re-Convene from Executive Session at 7:36 pm.

MOTION **YES 4** **MOTION CARRIED**
To Re-Convene from Executive Session

Trustee Brown Young moved, seconded by Trustee Pratt, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm.

MOTION **YES 4** **MOTION CARRIED**
To adjourn the meeting

Respectfully submitted by:

Mrs. April Keys, District Clerk

You may watch this meeting at: <https://livestream.com/hufsd/events/11030704>