

APPROVED MINUTES

HARBORFIELDS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT GREENLAWN, NEW YORK

Kind of Meeting	-	Special Meeting
Date of Meeting	-	April 9, 2008
Place of Meeting	-	OMS Cafeteria
Board Members Present	-	Mr. Mastroianni, Mrs. Boba, Dr. Chen, Mr. Giuliano, Mr. Schoer, Mr. Toles
Board Members Absent	-	Mr. Brennan
Others Present	-	Dr. Wilson, Ms. Todaro, Mr. Nimmo, Mr. Hartner, Building Principals, Community Members

Mr. Mastroianni called the special meeting to order at 7:56 p.m. He then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and instructed them where to exit the building in case of an emergency. He also instructed those in attendance to silence all cell phones and beepers.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this time.

2008-2009 Budget Discussions

Dr. Wilson advised the Board that there has been an increase in state aid of \$321,731. Dr. Wilson discussed different scenarios leading to the proposed budget with full-day kindergarten included. Mr. Hartner stated that he recommended we go with the BOCES projection for kindergarten enrollment. He continued that we currently expect 235 students which would mean 11 sections of kindergarten. He also stated that when we reach the 259th student the district would need to go to 13 sections of full-day kindergarten. Mrs. Boba asked if the district had enough lead time to prepare for full-day kindergarten. Dr. Wilson responded that it would be doable. Mr. Schoer asked if we could get information from BOCES regarding these kindergarten enrollment projections. Dr. Chen stated that we need two scenarios: what would be the most expensive, and what would be the least expensive including furniture, etc.

Mr. Mastroianni stated that the additional aid of \$321,731 is intended to reduce the tax levy. He continued that he did not think the intention of the state was for districts to spend more money. It was the consensus of the Board that the additional state aid be used to reduce the tax levy. Dr. Chen stated that we should make sure that we have 2% in an undesignated fund balance. Dr. Chen continued that there is a possibility that we could have a middle year cut in state aid. We need to take that into consideration.

It was the consensus of the Board that the additional state aid of \$321,731 be used as follows: \$250,000 to be returned to the taxpayers and \$70,000 to be placed in the capital reserve fund.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident asked if the district decides to go to full-day kindergarten and the budget fails, do we still have full day kindergarten. Dr. Wilson responded that the Board would have to review all programs in the budget. The Board could go with another vote, go to contingency, or put up the same budget.

Mr. Toles left the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

A resident asked if there is a way we could poll the community about full-day kindergarten or consider putting it on a referendum. Dr. Wilson replied that she was not sure if we could place this as a referendum and did not feel it was appropriate to place this on our website.

A resident stated that the community was not aware of the additional state aid. Mr. Mastroianni responded that the district just received the information today regarding the additional state aid.

A resident stated that we really don't know how the public feels about full-day kindergarten. The Board needs to present a sound budget to the community. Do not break up the budget. Do not break up the community by placing separate propositions on the ballot. The Board has never done that in the past.

A resident stated that the impact of a contingency budget would be devastating. Where would the cuts be? Dr. Wilson stated that activities would be cut, science research, school-to-career coordinator, late buses, all clubs, and the physical education budget.

A resident commended Dr. Wilson and Ms. Todaro for recommending full-day kindergarten. All day kindergarten far outweighs the potential financial risk. Most of the districts in New York State have full-day kindergarten and believe in academic excellence. Mr. Mastroianni responded that many homeowners cannot afford another increase in their taxes.

A resident asked if there would be a tax rate increase with a roll forward budget. Dr. Wilson advised that a roll forward budget would be over 4%. The resident continued that she appreciated the time and effort the Board and administration has spent, and stated that she felt that a 4% tax rate increase would be an extremely difficult budget to pass at this time with the Larry Reich issue. We need to keep what we have and get the budget passed and more importantly get back the public trust.

Dr. Chen stepped out at 10:15 p.m.

A resident stated that several years ago the district did not think full-day kindergarten was so beneficial and asked what the benefit is. It had nothing to do with dollars at that time. We are in difficult economic times and I feel this is not the time to go forward with full-day kindergarten. Dr. Wilson stated that she disagreed with past Superintendents.

A resident stated that recent data should tell you what you need to know about full-day kindergarten. It would be prudent to research this issue to see if anything new has come out.

A resident said that it was her understanding that we have not yet recovered from our last contingency budget. She continued that we should try to maintain and keep the tax levy down. All students are affected by contingency especially the high school students.

A resident stated that the Board has a real difficult job. She continued that she believes in full-day kindergarten. She asked how we can get people to buy into the program. Mrs. Boba responded that she was hearing from the community that it is not the way to go at this time.

Mr. Toles returned to the meeting at 10:18 p.m. Dr. Chen returned to the meeting at 10:18 p.m.

Mr. Mastroianni asked the Board what tax rate the Board would like to target. It was the consensus of the Board to try to get the tax rate under 4%.

Dr. Wilson stated that a revised budget with the changes would be available for the Board at the next meeting.

FINANCE CONSENT AGENDA

Call for removal of resolutions from the FINANCE consent agenda

There were no items removed from the Finance consent agenda.

Consent Agenda - Finance

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mrs. Boba, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resolution in the area of finance on the agenda of the April 9, 2008 Board of Education meeting was approved by consent.

4.1 School Service/Specialized Education Agreement

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mrs. Boba, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following School Service/Specialized Education Agreement for the 2007-2008 school year between the Harborfields Central School District and the contractor listed below, in accordance with Part 200 of the regulations of the Commissioner of Education for children with handicapping conditions was approved.

- **Dr. Harvey Mar** to provide a psychological evaluation and follow-up report in accordance with the IEP of a disabled student at a cost of \$950.00.

HUMAN RESOURCES RESOLUTIONS

Call for removal of resolutions from the HUMAN RESOURCES consent agenda

There were no items removed from the Human Resources consent agenda.

Consent Agenda – Human Resources

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resolution in the area of Human Resources on the agenda of the April 9, 2008 Board of Education meeting were approved by consent.

5.1 Resignations

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resignations were accepted:

- Catanzaro, Kerry, Part-time Teaching Assistant, WDPS, effective close of business March 13, 2008
- Mariano, Joy, Special Education Teacher, HHS, effective close of business August 31, 2008
- Tilden, Jeanne, Clerk Typist (10 months), HHS, effective close of business October 31, 2008 for the purpose of retirement
- Tyson, Karlene, Director of Guidance, Districtwide, effective close of business June 30, 2008
- Weiner, Bonnie, Reading Teacher, HHS, effective close of business August 31, 2008
- Wolfrom, Maria, Mathematics Teacher, HHS, effective close of business August 31, 2008
- Wyrick, Vivian, Part-time Teaching Assistant, WDPS, effective close of business May 2, 2008.

5.2 Evaluation of the Superintendent

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (6-0), the Board of Education hereby determined to utilize the evaluation instrument that has been developed in accordance with Board Policy 0320 and utilized in past evaluations of the Superintendent of Schools, for the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools for the 2007-08 school year, and as presented to the Board at this meeting. A copy of said evaluation instrument is incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

Dr. Wilson again objected to this resolution stating that it does not follow her contract.

5.3 Appointment of Legal and Special Labor Relations Counsel

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the firm of Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP as general and labor counsel for the Harborfields Central School District for the period of time from April 10, 2008 through June 30, 2008 at the hourly rate of \$180.00 in accordance with an engagement letter dated April 4, 2008, except for the completion of pending construction litigation and the pending Teaching Assistants negotiations which shall be concluded with the firm currently handling those matters also at an hourly rate of \$180.

5.4 Substitute List Addendum 2007-2008

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the substitute list addendum as attached to the official minutes of April 9, 2008 was approved.

5.5 District Board of Education Member to Attend Conference

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following Board of Education member was authorized to attend a conference and be reimbursed for expenses in accordance with policy file 2521.

- Dr. Judith A. Chen to attend N-SSBA conference "Working Effectively with our Critical Friends and Engendering Public Trust" April 7, 2008, Holiday Inn, Plainview, New York

5.6 Appointment of Board Member to Assist Vice President of Board

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby appoints Gary Schoer to assist the Superintendent of Schools and the Board Vice President in the preparation of Board agendas during the absence of the Board President.

INSTRUCTION CONSENT AGENDA

Call for removal of resolutions from the INSTRUCTION consent agenda

There were no items removed from the Instruction consent agenda.

Consent Agenda – Instruction

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Boba, seconded by Mr. Schoer, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resolution in the area

of Instruction on the agenda of the April 9, 2008 Board of Education meeting was approved by consent.

6.1 SCOPE Child Care License Agreement

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Boba, seconded by Mr. Schoer, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the proposed license agreement between SCOPE and Harborfields CSD, as attached to the official minutes of the meeting of April 9, 2008 was approved, and the President of the Board of Education was authorized and directed to execute the agreement.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

TJL PTAs proposal for renovation of TJL's courtyard garden

A memo from Lisa McCaffrey, TJL PTA, was included in the April 9 agenda regarding the renovation of TJL's courtyard garden. Included in the memo were the plans, removal of benches, landscaping, and plantings. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with this renovation.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

National School Boards Association Annual Conference, March 27-April 1, 2008, Orlando, Florida

Dr. Chen and Mr. Toles attended the NSBA Annual Conference, March 27-April 1, 2008. Mr. Toles stated that the conference was well-organized and there were some great workshops. The keynote speakers were Sidney Poitier and Justice O'Connor. Dr. Chen attended several workshops entitled: "Taking Charge in Changing Times," "Performance Based Superintendent Contracts," and "How to Engage Your Community."

Dr. Wilson advised the Board that she received an invitation from South Huntington School District in conjunction with the Suffolk County Police Department to participate in a workshop at Walt Whitman High School regarding handling intruders in school buildings.

Dr. Chen congratulated Greg Modelewski for receiving the Scholar Art Award.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Boba, seconded by Mr. Toles, and carried (6-0), the Board moved to Executive Session at 11:15 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations, student discipline and parent appeal of suspension, matters of confidential nature involving FERPA, employee discipline, to discuss employment history of a particular individual, to discuss pending litigation commenced by the Superintendent of Schools, and to discuss matters related to the employment of a particular individual.

Neil Block, Esq. joined executive session at 11:30 p.m. Mr. Block left the meeting at 12:10 a.m. Dr. Wilson, Mr. Nimmo, and Mr. Hartner left the meeting at 12:15 a.m. Ms. Todaro left the meeting at 12:45 a.m.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Schoer, seconded by Mrs. Boba, and carried (6-0), the Board returned to the special meeting of April 9, 2008 at 2:20 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Schoer, seconded by Mrs. Boba, and carried (6-0), the Board adjourned the special meeting of April 9, 2008 at 2:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Muller
District Clerk