

APPROVED MINUTES

**HARBORFIELDS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
GREENLAWN, NEW YORK**

Kind of Meeting	-	Special Meeting
Date of Meeting	-	December 5, 2012
Place of Meeting	-	OMS Board Room
Board Members Present	-	Mr. Giuliano, Mr. Banks, Mr. Mastroianni, Dr. McDonagh, Mr. Schoer and Mr. Toles
Board Members Absent	-	Ms. Boba
Others Present	-	Ms. Todaro, Mr. Sallie, Ms. Whelan and Greg Guercio, Esq.

Mr. Giuliano called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. He led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and provided instructions on where to exit the building in the event of an emergency.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Mr. Banks, and carried (6-0), the Board, district office administrators, and Greg Guercio of Guercio & Guercio, LLP, moved to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining negotiations.

The Board reconvened the special meeting at 8:05 p.m.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Advertising in the Schools

The Board members and administrators discussed the Booster Club's intent to display banners in the gymnasium, which contained the logos of various local vendors. Ms. Todaro noted that the district's Athletic Director, John Valente, had informed her that the Booster Club receives donations from the local vendors to create these signs. Several Board members expressed concern over both the placement of the banners as well as the content. A few Board members recalled this issue being previously addressed several years back when Frank Carasiti was Superintendent. At that time, a determination was made that banners were permissible as long as they did not endorse a specific product or company but simply listed the company's name; similar to the manner in which a company's name is displayed on a scoreboard.

Ms. Todaro informed the Board that she and Bill Nimmo had attended the Booster Club's executive officers meeting last evening, and reinforced with them the necessity for any banners to be reviewed by the district prior to their being displayed in order to make sure they conform to Board policy and are not commercial advertisements. Ms. Todaro shared with the Board members the memo prepared by John Valente to memorialize what points were addressed at the meeting, and noted that this memo would also be included in the agenda packet for December 12, 2012.

Ms. Todaro indicated that the Booster Club presently has four (4) banners they would like to display in the gymnasium during the winter basketball season. She noted that Mr. Valente has put forth a plan to modify the banners using "stick on messages" that would be added to the top of the banners to reflect, "*We Support Harborfields Athletics*" with just the company's name or logo listed, thereby removing the appearance of any commercial endorsement of a company or product. Ms. Todaro further noted that Mr. Valente would be discussing with the Booster Club the possibility of creating a large vinyl banner that would incorporate the names of all the businesses/sponsorships under the heading, "*Harborfields Boosters Thanks the Following Sponsors for Supporting our Programs.*" The Board expressed their satisfaction with Mr. Valente's recommendations to modify the banners and to develop a standardized format for content.

Turf Field Survey

Ms. Todaro announced that she was advised by John Valente that at a recent Booster Club meeting, a parent in the district initiated a discussion about generating a survey to the community to assess the possibility of constructing a turf field. The parent has decided to conduct the survey on his own via social media. Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of turf fields vs. grass fields with Mr. Banks noting that Harborfields is one of only a few districts that are still playing on grass fields; most districts are now playing on turf fields. Ms. Todaro noted that there are many questions to address regarding this matter and the impact it would have on the district's budget. The Board commended the resident's initiative to undertake the survey and expressed their interest in seeing the results of the survey, if possible.

Budget Planning

Ms. Todaro announced that the budget preparation timeline indicates the Board is scheduled to meet with the principals and directors on January 30, 2013. There was discussion as to whether it would be more appropriate to hold the meetings in Executive Session or Public Session with the Board exchanging ideas on the merits of both. Executive Session would be appropriate in the event certain confidential information was to be discussed and/or disclosed; however, the Board also recognized that holding the sessions in public would allow the community to hear first hand the challenges and concerns the administrators may be facing in the budget development process. The Board discussed the need to give the administrators specific direction on what is expected of them when preparing to meet with the Board. Toward that end, Ms. Todaro shared with the Board members a copy of the budget planning sheet she developed for the administrators' use. She indicated that it was modeled after a similar format she came across at the NYSSBA annual convention. The Board members complimented the sheet's design and indicated that it would prove quite useful in narrowing down which specific areas would necessitate further review and discussion with the Board. Each administrator will submit their budget sheets, and upon review by central office administration and the Board, a determination will then be made on which administrators need to meet with the Board to discuss their budgets in more detail.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (6-0), the Board and Ms. Todaro moved to Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss the candidates for the position of Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. Mr. Sallie was excused from the meeting.

Mr. Giuliano left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Toles, and carried (5-0), the Board adjourned the special meeting of December 5, 2012 at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Whelan
District Clerk