

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

Kind of Meeting	-	Regular Meeting
Date of Meeting	-	October 7, 2015
Place of Meeting	-	OMS Auditorium
Board Members Present	-	Dr. McDonagh, Mr. Mastroianni, Ms. Gaughan, Mr. Giuliano, Mr. Lee, Ms. Lustig and Mr. Steinberg
Board Members Absent	-	None
Others Present	-	Ms. Todaro, Dr. Ianni, Mr. Nimmo, Mr. Cox Ms. Whelan, and Community Members

Dr. McDonagh called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**BOARD WORK SESSION**

The Board of Education and district office administrators met with several of the district's Key Communicators to review the proposed capital bond project.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Lee, and carried unanimously (7-0), the board and central office administrators moved to Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining negotiations.

The board reconvened the regular meeting at 7:10 p.m., and Dr. McDonagh led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMUNITY FORUM – CAPITAL BOND PROJECT**

Dr. McDonagh and Ms. Todaro welcomed everyone to tonight's community forum. Ms. Todaro noted that this is the final community forum with regard to the proposed capital bond, and she reminded everyone that the vote will take place on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Oldfield Middle School.

Ms. Todaro showed a video presentation that highlighted all the projects contained in the proposed capital bond. At the conclusion, Ms. Todaro explained that one item included in the proposed capital bond was accidentally omitted from the video. That item is the upgrading of the playground equipment and creation of an ADA-compliant playground on the district's property located behind Harborfields Public Library. Ms. Todaro reminded everyone that all information regarding the proposed capital bond is available on the district's website.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – COMMUNITY FORUM**

A resident stated that he couldn't support Proposition 2 primarily due to the health issues that have been raised concerning synthetic turf fields. He appreciated the report prepared by the school physician and believes that we should err on the side of caution when it comes to the health of our kids. Additionally, he believes Proposition 2 does not pass the "wants vs. needs" test. He further commented that in addition to the tax increase imposed by the bond, as state taxpayers, residents will also inevitably bear the cost of the 51% in state aid the district receives.

A resident commented that it's like the Yogi Berra quote, "*It's déjà vu all over again.*" We've been through this before with the turf field, and the only thing different he's hearing this time is the use of a new infill. Will it really make a significant difference? He thinks not, and he doesn't believe it enhances the educational value for our students. He finds it somewhat egregious to be taking up the community's time with this again, and he's pleased that the propositions are being presented to voters separately.

A resident commented that he appreciates the video on the capital bond; it's very informative. He believes that the district is long overdue for improvements to our schools. While he voted against the turf field referendum in 2013, he will vote in favor of the turf field this time around. It's important to invest in our schools and community, and he is of the opinion that this capital bond does just that. He hopes that this is a turning point for the district.

A resident stated that there are so many things in the capital bond that are very much needed, and she appreciates that the board listened to the community's concerns with regard to possible health issues connected to turf fields and decided to use an alternative infill other than the crumb rubber.

A resident noted that he's attended most all of the board meetings on the capital bond and has heard the board members voice their opinions, both collectively and individually, on the two propositions. It's his understanding that the board members support both propositions despite the decision to separate them. Since this is the last community forum on the matter, he inquired if the board members would once again reiterate their position on the two propositions. Each board member affirmed their support of both Proposition 1 and Proposition 2. Below is a summary of their statements:

Dr. McDonagh stated that he fully supports all the projects contained in both Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 of the capital bond. His vote at the August meeting was against separating the capital bond into two propositions; he believed the two should be united. His vote was in no way an indication that any of the projects were unnecessary.

Mr. Lee stated that he supports both Proposition 1 and Proposition 2, and he encouraged everyone to come out and vote.

Mr. Giuliano stated that he supports both Proposition 1 and Proposition 2. He noted that, historically, the Harborfields Board of Education has been very careful about how money is spent in our district. This capital bond takes a much more conservative approach in comparison to the voter-proposed referendum in 2013. He voted in favor of splitting the capital bond into two propositions so as to give the public a sense that they had a fair chance, that we listened to the results of the 2013 vote, and that we weren't ignoring them. He fully supports both propositions in their entirety.

Mr. Mastroianni stated that he fully supports both Proposition 1 and Proposition 2. His comments throughout this process have always been to keep things unified which is why he voted at the August meeting against splitting the capital bond into two separate propositions. Proposition 2 is an integral piece of the overall enhancements of our district, as are the projects included in Proposition 1. Speaking as a parent, he recalled a statement made by a coach at a recent field hockey meeting stating that if students have aspirations of playing in college, they need to be observed by college coaches playing on a turf field. His own children will not benefit from having a turf field, should the proposition pass, since they will have graduated by that time, but he felt this was important information to share for future athletes.

Ms. Gaughan stated that she supports both Proposition 1 and Proposition 2. She noted that she wasn't in attendance at the August board meeting when the decision was made to split the bond, so she read the statement she had planned to read at that meeting. She stated that the items contained in the capital bond meet the needs of our students and community and support the mission of the district. Noting that each project in the capital bond has merit, she supports an all-inclusive bond referendum. While some aspects of the bond have been labeled as "wants vs. needs" she finds that's a relative term depending on where your particular interests or passions lie. The capital bond offers a wide range of enhancements to facilities, academics and instruction, as well as physical education, wellness and athletics, and she supports both propositions in their entirety.

Mr. Steinberg stated that he supports both Proposition 1 and Proposition 2. He acknowledged that his decision in August to vote in favor of splitting the bond was not an easy one because philosophically he believes that it's important for us to keep the items together and not separate one item from another. Despite that philosophy, he could not ignore the history in our district with regard to the results of the previous turf field referendum. As a board member, his role is to represent the entire community when making decisions, and out of respect to the entire community, he felt it necessary to pay heed to the history and split the propositions, thereby allowing the community to decide. He is in support of all the projects in the capital bond and supports both propositions.

Ms. Lustig stated that she supports both Proposition 1 and Proposition 2. She also supports how it was structured because we listened to the community and are giving them a choice. She pointed out another option that could have been considered was to not include a turf field at all in the list of capital bond projects, but because the board believes there's merit to having a turf field, it's important to provide that option to our community. She's very committed to the use of the Nike infill and is very impressed with the amount of information available on their website and their commitment to making a clean product. She's hopeful the community will review the considerable amount of information the district has provided about the bond. The end goal is for a united community, not a divided one, and she hopes that there will be a vote of yes for Proposition 1 and Proposition 2.

A resident asked if the playground behind the public library had been redone only a few years ago. Dr. McDonagh responded that some of the playground equipment is relatively new; however, the district is in the midst of discussions with the Town of Huntington on a joint venture whereby, if negotiations are successful, the town would take over maintenance and security and the district and town would contribute funds from separate budgets to allow that space to be converted to an adaptive playground which would also meet the needs of children with special physical needs.

A resident advocated for on-site occupational and physical therapy for students with special needs. This kind of a resource is incredibly valuable, and she urged the board to look into incorporating a way to put that in place. Dr. McDonagh noted that the proposed capital bond includes two specific projects that address incorporating multi-sensory and adaptive equipment for students; one at TJL and the other is part of the high school wellness center expansion.

A resident questioned why the cost of the one turf field at \$1.985 million is more than half the cost of the two fields proposed back in 2013 at \$3 million? Mr. Nimmo responded that there's been a fairly large escalation in the cost of synthetic turf fields over the past two years. Recent bids for turf fields have been coming in around \$1.5 million or so and then you would add in costs for architectural and contingency fees. A field using the Nike infill would come in slightly higher. The resident also questioned if that would impact the maintenance and life expectancy costs. Dr. McDonagh noted that the life expectancy can average anywhere from 8 – 12 years, with some fields getting as much as 12 – 15 years. He deferred to the architect for cost information, who stated that in today's dollars it would be around \$450,000.

A resident stated that he had voted against the two turf fields in 2013, but in terms of this bond, he is in support of the turf field, in support of the totality of the bond. He is disappointed that the decision was made to split the bond since the turf is just as important a project as the remainder of the bond.

A resident stated that several school districts that have recently passed bond referendums that include a turf field, and the costs associated with these projects have come in much cheaper than our projected \$1.985 million. Dr. McDonagh acknowledged that the \$1.985

million is an upper limit, and he deferred to the architect, Mr. Seeba, for further comment. Mr. Seeba stated that the original number given to the board for the turf field was less, however, after reviewing bids done by three other districts using crumb rubber infill, they concluded that an adjustment in cost was necessary, especially since Harborfields was electing to go with the Nike infill. The bids for crumb rubber infill came in between \$1.3 and \$1.5 million. In addition, contingency fees were added (design, construction, escalation and owner soft costs) to the project, bringing it up to the \$1.985 million. Mr. Mastroianni asked if we bid out projects grouped together, would it be possible to get a better cost savings. Mr. Seeba responded that it was a good probability; they hope for an economy of scale, but they must allocate funds just in case.

A brief recess was taken, and the board continued with the regular meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Dr. McDonagh read a prepared statement on behalf of the Board of Education providing an overview of the components of a board meeting and the protocol for such meetings as provided under New York State Education Law and the Open Meetings Law. The complete statement from the Board of Education is on file in the District Clerk's office.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

### **Student Representative's Report**

Trevor Jones, student representative from HHS, gave the following report:

- Homecoming was a fantastic time; a great community event that really showcases what Harborfields is all about: family. Congratulations to the entire sophomore class for taking first prize on the best float. Congratulations go out also to our football team for their win against Amityville, 27-0.
- The homecoming dance sold out for the first time in the past five years, raising over \$1,500 for the senior class.
- The National Merit Scholarship Program has named ten Harborfields seniors as Commended Students, scoring in the top 5% of the nation on their PSAT.
- Seventeen high school musicians have achieved regional honors for their outstanding musical talent with nine of them receiving an invitation to the All State Music Festival.
- Our sports teams are off to a great season. The soccer team is currently in first place and thirteenth place across the state. Additionally, the football team is playing fantastic this year. The next home game is next week, so please come out and cheer them on.
- The high school has become increasingly immersed in technology under the guidance of Dr. Manning. Students have access and experience with the many tools of the future.

- Harborfields has the distinction of being a top tier public education facility. The district provides an amazing educational experience, both inside and outside the classroom and can continue to offer even more for our students. As the representative of over 1,100 students in Harborfields High School, Mr. Jones urged everyone to come out and vote on the capital bond on October 27, 2015.

### Superintendent's Report

Ms. Todaro thanked Mr. Jones for an outstanding report. She noted that many of the students that Mr. Jones referenced in his report this evening and in his report at last month's meeting will be recognized by the Board of Education for their various accomplishments at the November 18, 2015 board meeting.

Ms. Todaro announced that the district's Full-Day Kindergarten Committee has been working tirelessly on their research in preparation for their report to the Board of Education, and she reminded everyone that this initiative is one of the board goals for 2015-2016. The initial timeline called for the committee to make their presentation to the board at the December meeting; however, after carefully reviewing numerous requests by community members to consider moving up the timeline, the decision was made to schedule the committee's presentation for the November 18, 2015 meeting. Subsequent to that presentation, a community forum to address full day kindergarten will be held in January 2016.

Ms. Todaro further reported that another of the board goals for 2015-2016 was to conduct an assessment of several programs at our district. The program that will be highlighted this evening is the district's guidance program. Restructured as part of the 2015-2016 budget, Ms. Todaro noted that the program is progressing very nicely.

### Update on Guidance Plan

Dr. Ianni gave an overview of the newly restructured guidance program. During the 2015-2016 budget process, the decision was made to eliminate the director of guidance position. Based on community feedback, additional guidance counselors were added at OMS and HHS with the primary objective being to provide increased counseling support to our students and parents. Additionally, the overall program was enhanced. Some of the enhancements focused on:

- Summer Planning
- Enhancing Communication with Students and Parents
- Use of Technology in Guidance
- College Awareness

Letters advising students of their assigned counselor for 2015-2016 were sent out over the summer. Additionally, a guidance counselor was available on a daily basis throughout the summer, which resulted in more efficient communication with parents. The restructuring has provided for reduced caseloads for each counselor, which has allowed

for more one-to-one meetings with students. Counselors will meet at least three times per year. Additional parent meetings will be scheduled, as will a Naviance workshop and a college essay workshop. In an effort to boost the visibility of Harborfields among colleges, counselors will increase the number of college visits and meetings with admission counselors, as well as participation in off-campus college events. Harborfields will also host hundreds of colleges this fall at their mini-college day. The use of technology in the guidance program will also continue to expand.

Dr. Ianni acknowledged the efforts of several administrators in the development of the new guidance structure, and he thanked Dr. Manning, Ms. Giordano, Mr. McCabe, and Mr. Cox for their assistance throughout the process.

Ms. Gaughan left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Ms. Lustig excused herself briefly from the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

The Board of Education accepted the following minutes:

- Regular Meeting, September 16, 2015

### **FINANCE**

#### **4.1 Treasurer's Report**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Lee, and carried (5-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Treasurer's Report for August 2015 was accepted.

#### **4.2 Schedule of Bills**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, and carried (5-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the schedule of bills attached to the agenda of October 7, 2015 was accepted.

#### **4.3 Financial Status Report**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (5-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Financial Status Report for August 2015 was accepted.

#### **4.4 Surplus Books and Equipment**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (5-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following books and equipment, as listed in the attachments to the agenda of October 7, 2015, were declared surplus and will be disposed of accordingly:

- Library books (29) from Washington Drive Primary School
- Whirlpool Washing Machine (1) at OMS, Serial #BBY0826812

#### **4.5 Acceptance of Scholarship Fund Donation**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Mr. Lee, and carried (5-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following donation to the respective Scholarship Fund was accepted:

- Gifts totaling \$1,235.00 from various donors for credit to the Evan (Edo) Gillies Memorial Scholarship Fund within the Expendable Trust Account

#### **4.6 Acceptance of Gifts/Grants and Increase in Appropriations**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, and carried (5-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following gifts/grants were accepted with the board's appreciation:

- Grant from HACEF in the amount of \$686.79 to be administered under the guidance and direction of the Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Human Resources for the purposes outlined in the memorandum attached to the agenda of October 7, 2015.
- Gift in the amount of \$10,000 from the Harborfields Booster Club to be administered under the guidance and direction of the Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics for the purposes outlined in the memorandum attached to the agenda of October 7, 2015

Further, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, pursuant to the anticipated receipt of the gifts/grants to reimburse our expenses, appropriations for 2015-2016 will be increased as follows:

A 2112.5140.34.2400	\$ 686.79
A 2855.4200.36.2855	\$10,000.00

with the understanding that this increase in appropriations is matched by unanticipated revenue and will, therefore, result in no impact on the tax levy.

#### **4.7 Establishment of Tax Levy for the 2015-2016 School Year**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, and carried (5-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approved the following resolution establishing the tax levy for the 2015-2016 school year:



<b>Resolved</b> , that the General Fund Budget Appropriations for 2015-2016 be set as follows:	\$80,473,955	
<b>And be it further resolved</b> , that pursuant to subd. 1, Sec. 138 of the Real Property Tax Law the district apply to the 2015-2016 tax levy surplus fund balance as follows: <b>Fund Balance to be applied:</b>	\$ 3,200,000	
<b>And be it further resolved</b> , that the estimate of state aid for 2015-2016 is as follows: <b>Estimated State Aid for 2015-2016:</b>	\$14,513,561	
<b>And be it further resolved</b> , that the estimate of revenue from all other sources is as follows: <b>Estimated Miscellaneous Revenue:</b>	\$ 1,529,114	
<b>And be it further resolved</b> , that pursuant to subd. 12 of Sec. 1604 of Education Law, after subtracting the estimated receipts and the application of the Fund Balance determined above, the required levy of taxes for school district purposes be established as follows: <b>Tax Levy for General Budget:</b>	\$61,231,280	
And be it further resolved, that pursuant to Sec. 259 and/or subd. 5(1), Sec. 1804 of Education Law, the following additional tax levies also be established: <b>For the School District Public Library, as requested by the Library Trustees:</b>	\$ 4,780,914	
<b>ESTIMATED TAX RATES</b>		
	<b>Amount to be Levied</b>	<b>Estimated Tax Rate/\$100</b>
For Regular School Purposes	\$61,231,280	\$242.135 (+2.31%)
School District Public Library	\$ 4,780,914	\$ 18.906 (+1.99%)

Ms. Lustig returned to the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **5.1 Resignations**

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

- Irene Contopoulos, Clerk, HHS, for the purpose of retirement, effective the close of business February 29, 2016
- Melissa Goscinski, Part-Time Art Teacher, OMS, effective the close of business September 4, 2015

- Christina Munno, Part-Time Teaching Assistant, TJJ, effective the close of business October 7, 2015
- Sara Tivner, Food Service Worker, TJJ, effective the close of business September 8, 2015

**5.2 Leaves of Absence**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following leaves of absence were approved:

Name	Assignment	School	Dates Paid	Dates Unpaid
Carrieanne Miller	Physical Education Teacher	WDPS	01/11/16 - 04/18/16	N/A
Kalliope Viegas	Part Time Teaching Assistant	HHS	N/A	09/02/15 - 02/07/15

**5.3 Revision of Leave of Absence**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following revision of a leave of absence was approved:

Name	Assignment	School	Dates Paid
Elizabeth Tucci	Director of Pupil Personnel Services	District	From: 09/07/15 - 11/27/15 To: 08/27/15 - 11/18/15

**5.4 Professional Appointment**

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Lustig, seconded by Mr. Lee, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following professional appointment in accordance with the schedule attached to the official minutes of October 7, 2015, be approved. 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 of the four preceding years, and if the individual receives a rating of I in the final year of the probationary period, he or she will not be eligible for tenure at that time.

Part-Time		
Name	School	Assignment
Carlos Taveras	OMS	Part-Time (0.4) Art Teacher

**5.5 Substitute List Addendum**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried unanimously (7-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the substitute list addendum as attached to the official minutes of October 7, 2015 were approved for the maximum period through June 30, 2016 to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

**5.6 Extracompensation Appointment Schedule**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the appointees specified on the Extracompensation Appointment Schedule attached to the official minutes of October 7, 2015 were approved.

**5.7 Professional Appointment - Teaching Assistant**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following professional appointment in accordance with the schedules attached to the official minutes of October 7, 2015 was approved.

<b>Part Time</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
James Williams	OMS	Part-Time Teaching Assistant

**5.8 Lahey Lions Program at TJL**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Ms. Lustig, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following personnel were granted an increase in hours for the “Lahey Lions” reading/mathematics program at TJL:

<b>ELA Teaching Assistants: 46 one hour sessions from October 19, 2015 - April 27, 2016</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Hourly Rate of Pay</b>
Nancy Aliperti	3	\$17.84
Pamela Fakatselis	3	\$19.12
Carolyn Girard	4	\$19.12
Sandra Lellis	4	\$17.84
Ellen Blair	5	\$19.12
Diane Sargent	5	\$17.32

<b>Math Teaching Assistants: 24 one hour sessions from October 15, 2015 - April 28, 2016</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Hourly Rate of Pay</b>
Nancy Aliperti	3	\$17.84
Pamela Fakatselis	3	\$19.12
Carolyn Girard	4	\$19.12
Sandra Lellis	4	\$17.84
Ellen Blair	5	\$19.12
Diane Sargent	5	\$17.32

**5.9 Civil Service Appointment**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following civil service appointment in accordance with the schedule attached to the official minutes of October 7, 2015 was approved.

<b>Temporary</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Sean Fitzpatrick	OMS	Temporary School Monitor

**5.10 Separation Payment**

Whereas the District's Corrective Action Plan pursuant to the New York State Comptroller's audit of 2007 requires that the Board of Education approve separation payment for unused sick and vacation accruals for the individual separating from the district; and,

Whereas the administration has prepared calculations for retirees and/or individuals separating from district service in accordance with existing collective bargaining agreements and/or Board of Education policy as per the separation payment agenda enclosures; and,

Whereas the separation payment agenda enclosures and collective bargaining agreements and/or Board of Education Policies have been reviewed by district counsel; and,

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Lee, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education authorized said separation payment as described in the separation payment agenda enclosure attached to the official minutes of October 7, 2015.

- Buissereth, Bernard, Custodial Worker I, Oldfield Middle School

**5.11 Compensation to Election Inspectors from the Board of Elections for Attendance to Carillon House for Residents to Vote by Absentee Ballot**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, pursuant to Education Law §1501-c and Election Law §8-407, the following Inspectors from the Board of Elections will participate at the Carillon House in order for residents to vote by absentee ballot with regard to the Harborfields Special District Meeting to be held on October 27, 2015. The Inspectors will receive \$10.00 per hour or a minimum per diem rate of \$50.00 for their service.

- Rose Gangi, Mary MacDonnell, and Gerald Schehr

**5.12 Appointment of Election Inspectors for the Special District Meeting**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Lee, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following people were appointed to serve as Inspectors of Election for the Harborfields Special District Meeting of Qualified Voters to be held on October 27, 2015. The Chief Inspector and Chairperson will be compensated at a rate of \$15.00 per hour and the Inspectors of Election at a rate of \$12.50 per hour.

Further, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the District Clerk was authorized to hire additional Inspectors of Election, if necessary.

Kathleen Riker, Chief Inspector		
Laura Antonison	Lottie Bennett	Joan Caldarella
Theresa Damm	Barbara Endres	Helen Gillen Flanders
Shelly Feinman	Rose Gangi	Joann Guido
Barbara Hanna	Claire Intemann	Irene Levee
Mary MacDonnell	Dena Maldon	Marie McConnell
Carol O'Hea	Lorri O'Malley	Janet Palacios
Jane Pressman	Carol Ann Queally	Gerald Schehr
Kate Shreck	Irene Smith	Carol Solimando
Barbara Sperber	Marilyn Valeo	

**INSTRUCTION**

**6.1 Review of IEP Recommendations and Authorization for Placement and Services**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, after reviewing the IEP recommendations, the Board of Education granted authorization to provide for the placement and services contained in the following recommendations of the CSE and CPSE.

- Committee on Special Education meetings dated September 16, 2015, September 18, 2015, September 21, 2015, September 22, 2015, September 24, 2015, September 25, 2015 and September 30, 2015
- Committee on Preschool Special Education meetings dated September 24, 2015

## **6.2 Overnight Field Trip**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, an overnight field trip to Rochester, New York to attend the 2015 NYSSMA All State Musicians festival for approximately six high school NYSSMA All State students from December 3-6, 2015 was approved.

## **6.3 Ratification of Submission of APPR Hardship Waiver Application**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Ms. Lustig, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approved the submission of an APPR Hardship Waiver application to the State Education Department and hereby ratified the execution and submission of such application on October 7, 2015 by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board President.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident inquired about whether there were any updates on the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) and any potential refund. Mr. Nimmo responded that typically this discussion is part of the state budget development process, so we probably won't hear any new information until around March 2016.

A resident wanted to make it clear that she supports both propositions on the bond. She also thanked the board and administration for moving up the timeline on the full-day kindergarten presentation. She further commented that she recently received a check from the state in connection with the tax freeze legislation. For her, the rebate is bittersweet since she feels it pits the taxpayers against programs that we need for our kids. She would gladly give her check back to the district if it would help to achieve a full-day kindergarten program for our children.

A resident thanked the board and administration for moving up timeline on the full-day kindergarten presentation. She inquired if the community forum would also be moved up as well. Ms. Todaro responded that the community forum remains on target to be held in January 2016.

A resident stated that she, like everyone, doesn't enjoy paying more in taxes, but she fully supports a full-day kindergarten program, and if the district can find a way to make it happen, she thinks the taxpayers could handle it.

A resident stated that she's in agreement with having a full-day kindergarten program. She is also hoping that the board will consider lowering class size. Her children (kindergarten and third grade) are both in classes of 25, and bringing it down to 22 students in a class would make a drastic difference.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **NYSSBA 2015 Annual Business Meeting - Proposed Resolutions & Voting Delegate Guide**

Dr. McDonagh reported that in years past, members of the Board of Education have attended this meeting where various resolutions are voted on by representatives of each school district who has a voting member attending. Harborfields will not have any board members in attendance this year, so there is no need to appoint a voting delegate from the district.

Mr. Mastroianni offered a quick summary of what takes place at the conference, and he explained that he generally likes to look at the resolutions supported by New York State School Boards in comparison to Nassau-Suffolk School Boards because you tend to see slight differences of opinion on a few of the items. This year, there's one item in particular that has New York State and Nassau-Suffolk on opposing sides. It involves the resolution to incorporate Pre-K funding into operational state aid formulas. New York State supports this resolution and Nassau-Suffolk does not. The argument from Nassau-Suffolk against the resolution involves the manner in which state aid is disbursed. Typically, when they attempt to give money around the state, they tend to take it out of Long Island's aid first, so the concern is if you're funding Pre-K through state aid formulas, Long Island districts will be impacted the most in comparison to upstate districts or New York City schools.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

#### **Board of Education School Visitations, October 6, 2015**

Dr. Thomas McDonagh, President  
Donald W. Mastroianni, Vice President  
Irene Gaughan, Board Trustee  
Nicholas P. Giuliano, Board Trustee  
Hansen Lee, Board Trustee  
Suzie Lustig, Board Trustee  
David Steinberg, Board Trustee  
Diana Todaro, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Francesco Ianni, Assistant Superintendent for Administration & Human Resources  
Jordan Cox, Exec. Director for Instructional Services  
Andrew Cacciola, Plant Facilities Administrator

Dr. McDonagh explained that New York State law requires school boards to make annual visits to the schools within their district. Traditionally, the board conducts their site visits

while school is in session, thereby giving them an “up close and personal” view of what’s happening in our schools. The board members expressed their appreciation to the building administrators for being gracious hosts during the school visitations.

Mr. Steinberg commented that the visits provide insight to what is happening around the buildings, particularly those areas that would benefit from passage of the bond referendum and also as the budget development process gets underway.

Mr. Giuliano pointed out that up until 5 years ago, the board accomplished this legal obligation by holding board meetings at each of the buildings so the board could conduct its school visits prior to a meeting. The decision to visit the buildings during the school day required that every board member has to attend during the workday, and he thanked his fellow board members for supporting and continuing this tradition so they can observe what happens when the kids are present.

Dr. McDonagh agreed with his fellow board members. In addition to viewing the structural conditions of the buildings, the visits provide important face time with the building administrators and the opportunity to hear about goals, plans, curriculum, technology, etc. It plants seeds in the mind of board members when they begin budget deliberations.

Ms. Lustig stated that it’s important to be accessible and support our administrators and listen to their “wish lists.” While fiscal constraints prevent granting every request, it allows the board to observe what happens during the school day and see first-hand what needs exist in each building.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Ms. Lustig, and carried (6-0), the board and district office administrators moved to Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular individual.

The board reconvened the regular meeting at 10:45 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (6-0), the board adjourned the regular meeting of October 7, 2015 at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Whelan  
District Clerk