

# MINUTES OF BABYLON SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

**DATE OF MEETING:** April 17, 2017

**PLACE:** Babylon Junior-Senior High School, 50 Railroad Avenue, Babylon, NY 11702

## Members Present

Mrs. Ann Donaldson, President

Ms. Tricia Pané, Vice President

Ms. Elizabeth Altbacker

Mr. Dominic P. Bencivenga

Mrs. Carol Ann Dell'Erba

Mrs. Linda Jurs

Mr. Dominick Montalto

## District Superintendent

Mrs. Linda J. Rozzi

## Central Office Administration

Dr. Peter Daly, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Daniel D'Amico, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

## District Clerk

Linda Pesce

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mrs. Donaldson, President. A motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of particular individuals, a confidential student matter and advice from counsel was made by C. Dell'Erba, seconded by E. Altbacker and approved. (7-0) Public session resumed at 7:35 p.m. at which time Mrs. Donaldson, President, led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of March 13, 2017, Work/Study Meeting of March 27, 2017 and Special Meeting of April 3, 2017 was approved on motion by C. Dell'Erba and seconded by L. Jurs. (7-0)

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mrs. Rozzi, Superintendent, joined by Mrs. Turk, Director of Fine Arts, recognized the SCMEA All-County Music Festival and SCMEA All-Eastern Music Festival participants. Student delegates reported that student council is starting to plan the annual Powder Puff game. Students will also be working with the PTSA on the Community Creek Clean Up Day on April 22. They also reported on events from the Science and Fine Arts Departments. They reported that many students volunteered at Babylon Ends Hunger on April 1<sup>st</sup> including students from the Interact Club, Art National Honor Society and the Leo Club. Babylon Buddies *Got Talent* Show will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Rowe Hall.

Mrs. Rozzi reported the following:

1. The eSchool parent portal gradebook went live before the vacation and I want to thank the teaching staff, as well as high school administration and technology department for getting the eSchool parent portal gradebook off the ground.
2. Congratulations to the National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society inductees.
3. The elementary school parent conferences will be held this coming week.
4. The Superintendent's Coffee Hour will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Daly, Deputy Superintendent, presented the proposed 2017-2018 school budget and addressed questions from visitors on the proposed 2017-2018 school budget.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

T. Pané, audit committee chair, reported that the committee met on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the development of a fixed assets policy based on the recommendation of our internal auditors. The next meeting will be on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> for further recommendations from our auditors regarding intangible assets and inventory frequency. When finished, the policy will be sent to the policy committee for further review. We have received correspondence from NYSTRS (New York State Teachers Retirement System) as to a 1-2 day audit of our payroll as part of their State Pension Annual Audit. Audits of district payrolls have occurred since 2014 and districts are chosen by lottery each year. We expect this to occur sometime in May, the date to be determined. L. Jurs, finance committee chair, reported that the committee met this evening to review the budget with the final aid numbers. We are proud that we are putting forward a budget that maintains programs. D. Bencivenga, buildings and grounds committee chair, reported that they met on March 27<sup>th</sup> and had an extensive discussion about the field project. The landscape architect from BBS brought some diagrams. Questions were posed by the Board and public about the details of the project. The consensus of the Board that evening is listed as Item 9 on the agenda. Also discussions about the Board exploring funding from local state and county government to possibly turf that field. C. Dell'Erba, curriculum committee chair, reported that the

committee will be meeting next week to review the mini grant applications. E. Altbacker, policy committee chair, reported that the next policy committee meeting is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup>.

As there were no other committee reports, Mrs. Donaldson turned the floor to Mrs. Rozzi.

**STATEMENT**

Mrs. Rozzi stated that we are 2/3 into the bond project. We are completing a lot of work this summer and finishing up next summer. Based on the history of how the bids have come in, they have come in a little higher than what the 2012 estimates that were originally provided by the school architects. With that said, there is a resolution tonight rejecting the grade school bid. This resolution formally has to be done because we had companies bid on that project. It does not mean that the Board of Education or District has decided to forego the project; in fact, it simply means that they are postponing it to a later date. We did look into this legally with bond counsel last August 2016 and asked legal counsel on the ability to postpone. Mr. Steffanetta, school attorney, was asked to share his opinion regarding this matter. Mr. Steffanetta stated that where there is a voter-approved bond project, it remains within the purview of the Board of Education to determine the priority and order of the work on the project, as long as such work is within the scope of the capital project approved by the voters. The Board of Education requested and received a written opinion from its bond counsel that crafted the capital project proposition that the voters approved. Bond counsel rendered an opinion that it is within the purview of the Board to determine the order of the work to be done on the project. The resolution to reject all bids with regard to some specific work within the scope of work authorized by the voters does not mean that the work is not being done. When there is a bid opening, the Board has to take action to either approve or reject the bid(s). The Board reserves the right to reject all bids, when they put the bid out. The opinion the Board received from their bond counsel which I share. That is, it is within the purview of the school board to determine what order work is done and reject all bids, as long as there is a rational basis for the Board's action. The Superintendent said that some of the earlier work done exceeded the cost estimates for that work. The Board wants to make sure there is a sufficient amount of money left for the project to get the work done that they believe to be a priority. Mrs. Donaldson stated that the information provided by Mrs. Rozzi and counsel clarified misinformation that is circulating.

New Business

**QUESTIONS FROM VISITORS ON AGENDA ITEM**

The Board of Education addressed questions from visitors on Resolutions 7, 9, and the capital construction project. The Board of Education discussed Resolution #9 and the capital construction project.

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Bencivenga motioned to have items 1, 9, 13 pulled from the omnibus motion, Mr. Montalto seconded. Before the vote was taken, there was discussion and during discussion Mr. Bencivenga withdrew his motion.

Discussion from the Board of Education was as follows: that the budget includes salary increases for central office administrators, thanked the PTA for their donation and the Babylon families who contribute very generously to the many fundraisers, thanked Ms. Chase and Ms. Lowe for their years of service to Babylon Schools and wished them a happy and healthy retirement.

As there was no further discussion, the Board moved to New Business

**OMNIBUS MOTION**

On motion by D. Bencivenga, seconded by C. Dell'Erba, a motion to omnibus Resolutions 1-13 were approved. (7-0).

On omnibus motion by L. Jurs, seconded by T. Pané an omnibus motion to move Resolutions 1-13 were approved (7-0) (\*see vote change noted at the end of the agenda )

**ANNUAL BUDGET**

1. **ANNUAL BUDGET: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the proposed tax levy-cap compliant budget for the 2017-2018 school year in the amount of \$51,670,849 and that such budget be submitted to the voters for approval. The proposed budget has been established at the allowable tax levy of 3.66%.

**PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD**

2. **PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD: BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the Property Tax Report Card as required by State Education Law Sections 1608, 1716(7) and 2601-a(3) for the 2017-2018 school year.



IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Agreement with the Participant shall be for a term of one (1) year as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant agrees to pay Eastern Suffolk BOCES an annual fee as determined annually by Eastern Suffolk BOCES to act as the lead agent for the Program.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION RECEIPT OF FEDERAL PART B FLOW-THROUGH ALLOCATIONS**

11. **SPECIAL EDUCATION RECEIPT OF FEDERAL PART B FLOW-THROUGH ALLOCATIONS: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Receipt of Federal Part B Flow-Through Allocations for the 2016-2017 school year between the Babylon UFSD and Adults and County of Suffolk, acting through its Constituted Suffolk County Department of Health Services. (SEDCAR2016.17-#12).

**COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION AND CPSE**

12. **COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION AND COMMITTEE ON PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education for cases dated January 2017 to April 2017.

**DONATION**

13. **DONATION: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the donation to the elementary and grade school teachers of 50 sets of Seville Classics UltraSlim 40 inch and 17 inch Oscillating Tower Fan combo packs, 25 for each school, valued at \$4,000.00 from the Babylon K-6 PTA, with appreciation for these generous gifts.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

As there was no other business, the Board moved to the next item.

**REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS**

Mrs. Silvestri, PTA President, thanked the Board for accepting their donation this evening. Mrs. Silvestri reported that end of year events coming up.

**QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS FROM VISITORS**

The Board of Education addressed comments and/or questions regarding central office raises and special education summer school program.

**NOTATION IN MINUTES**

Mr. Bencivenga requested it be noted in the minutes that he made a mistake by voting YES on Resolution #9, which was part of the omnibus motion, and wanted to vote NO on Resolution #9.

**FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board of Education will hold a Work/Study Meeting on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the library of the Babylon Junior-Senior High School followed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. A Special Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. for the WSB Budget Vote & Trustee Election. A Regular Business Meeting and Public Hearing on the Proposed 2017-2018 School Budget will be held on Monday, May 8, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the high school library.

**VOTE CHANGE**

A request was made by Mr. Bencivenga to the Board of Education for permission to change his vote on the omnibus motion covering Resolutions 1-13. Mr. Bencivenga originally voted “YES” when the omnibus motion was presented.

Mrs. Donaldson, President, polled the Board of Education regarding permission to allow Mr. Bencivenga to change his vote to “NO” on the omnibus motion covering Resolutions 1-13.

Voting Yes to allow Mr. Bencivenga to change his vote: L. Jurs, C. Dell’Erba, E. Altbacker, D. Bencivenga

Voting No to allow Mr. Bencivenga to change his vote: T. Pané, D. Montalto, A. Donaldson  
Motion carries 4-3

\*As a result of this vote, the minutes will now reflect that Resolutions 1-13 were approved. (6-1)

Voting Yes: L. Jurs, C. Dell’Erba, E. Altbacker, D. Montalto, T. Pane, A. Donaldson

Voting No: D. Bencivenga

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:04 p.m., there being no other items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned on motion by L. Jurs, seconded by C. Dell’Erba and approved (7-0)