

**ROSLYN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Meeting of the Board of Education**

Thursday, February 3, 2011

8:30 p.m.

Held in the Administration Building Board Room

MINUTES

Meryl W. Ben-Levy, President
Adam Haber
Dani E. Kline
David Seinfeld
Stanley D. Stern
Bruce G. Valauri

ALSO PRESENT

Dan Brenner, Ph.D
Allison Brown

Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum &
Instruction
Assistant Superintendent for Business
Assistant Superintendent for Administration
District Clerk
Student Delegate

Joseph C. Dragone
Edward A. Salina, Jr., Ed.D
Cathie L. Britt
Nicole Berman

ABSENT

Clifford Saffron, Vice President

7:30 p.m.-Executive Session

Pursuant to Public Officers Law, Section 105, it was duly moved, seconded and carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Saffron absent) that the Board of Education adjourns to Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

The Executive Session adjourned at 8:40 p.m. and the Board reconvened in Public Session in the Administration Building Board Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

8:30 p.m.-Board of Education Meeting

Preliminary Announcements
Emergency Procedures
Cell Phones

Pledge of Allegiance

Student Performance

The following students, who performed at the Tri-M Music Honor Society, performed for the Board and the public a vocal and musical performance led by their teacher Mr. Brad Frey, high school Choral & Theatre Director.

Julia Edelman
Justin Tepper
Jenna Kahane
Sam Hoffman

Student Recognition

Dr. Brenner introduced high school principal Kevin Scanlon who presented a Certificate of Recognition to Gilad Fefer, who was named 2010-11 Scholar Artist "Award of Excellence" winner by the Long Island Arts Alliance's Scholar Artist Committee.

Recommendation to accept check warrants for December 2010 (reviewed by Ms. Ben-Levy).
[TABLED]

Recommendation to accept the Claims Auditor's Report(s) for: October 2010, November 2010 and December 2010

Ms. Sheffield presented and discussed with the Board the Claims Auditor's Reports for October 2010, November 2010 and December 2010.

Mr. Stern moved, seconded by Ms. Kline and it was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Saffron absent) to accept the Claims Auditor's Report for October 2010, November 2010 and December 2010.

Recommendation to accept the minutes from the following meeting(s):
January 6, 2011

Mr. Stern moved, seconded by Ms. Kline and it was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Saffron absent) to accept the January 6, 2011 meeting minutes.

Board President's Comments

Ms. Ben-Levy praised the students from the East Hills School for the artwork adorning the walls of the Board Room and she thanked Dr. Brenner for sharing it with us. She spoke about the Governor's presentation of his version of the tax cap and how she and Ms. Kline have been participating with a group of local board members with the goal to influence the outcome of a hard-cap tax levy. She explained that although a tax cap may be necessary the issue is, you cannot cap something you cannot control.

Mr. Stern spoke about the sad passing of Norma Perlman, a dedicated and very beloved member of the community, who will be sorely missed.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Brenner read a letter drafted by approximately ten (10) school districts and their board members discussing the legislative action needed and urging all concerned to contact to their local and state officials. He asked whether the Board of Education wishes to endorse and support this letter. A copy of the letter as amended by the Board can be found on the district's website.

A discussion ensued among the Board and the following comments were shared.

- Mr. Seinfeld agreed with the premise of the letter for the most part, however, he was confused by some of the items discussed. His concerns that focused on tenure and seniority, and he noted there is a vast difference between them. He felt he couldn't support it because he feels it is filled with holes.
- Dr. Valauri suggested minor wording changes to address Mr. Seinfeld's concerns.
- Ms. Ben-Levy thought it was important to collectively speak with one voice and suggested if the Board doesn't support the letter as written that a separate letter be drafted by the Board.
- Mr. Stern spoke there are people advocating actions where they do not fully understand the impact of such actions. His concern is the letter gives the wrong impression, because we do support some of the items discussed but not as presented in this letter.
- Mr. Haber spoke about the unrealistic expectations of some of the reforms proposed, and gave the example that in our district 91% of our budget is salary and benefits and if they pass a tax cap, then salaries would have to come down.
- Ms. Kline noted the idea is not against the tax cap, but rather to look for reform of unfunded mandates that are viable and that are ultimately not destructive or irresponsible.

Ms. Ben-Levy asked who would be in favor of adopting the letter as presented. **By a vote of 0-6, the Board voted NOT to endorse and support the letter as written.**

Dr. Brenner explained the purpose of a coalition is to speak with one voice and he feared that the effort to speak and be heard as one would be lost if each district opted to write and present a different opinion letter.

After further discussion, the Board agreed to minor wording changes and the question was again asked whether the Board would be in favor of endorsing and supporting the letter as amended. **By a vote of 5-0 (Mr. Seinfeld was out of the room during the vote), the Board voted to support the letter as amended.**

Student Delegate's Comments

Ms. Berman reported the Valentine's Day roses sale started today. The OCC will sell roses all day in each lunch period next Tuesday and Wednesday and she reported preparations for the Clash of the Classes is under way.

Mr. Haber reported on his visit to the Hilltop Academy and he praised Mr. Jay Pilnick and said what a treasure he is to the district. It is clear that the kids in this program would have fallen through the cracks without this phenomenal program. When Mr. Haber asked what they needed they had one request for a refrigerator and stove to make breakfast. Mr. Haber praised Ms. Janotte and thanked Mr. Pilnick for their efforts and for making the Hilltop Academy a wonderful place.

Discussion Item(s):

1. DASNY Grants Impact on Projects

Dr. Brenner explained the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) is the procuring agent for the grant money promised to the district last year and represents money the district counted on for the \$1.5 million high school cafeteria renovation. Based on the latest information available, Dr. Brenner reported the \$150,000 grant is off the table, \$100,000 is believed to be secured and the remaining \$100,000 remains in the pipeline and could also possibly be eliminated. As a result, this will leave the district with a potential shortfall of \$250,000 for this project. The district has secured the necessary State Education Department (SED) approval and, to date, the project remains on schedule.

Dr. Brenner asked the Board if they are committed to moving forward with this project at a total cost of \$1.85 million, and thereby acknowledges that it will be necessary to fund the project with an additional \$250,000.

Mr. Haber asked how much money has been invested on this project to date. Dr. Brenner responded slightly over \$100,000 for architectural fees and approximately \$10,000 - \$12,000 for printing and advertising costs.

Mr. Stern inquired as to whether there are any phases that could be postponed for a year in order to proceed with the project as scheduled. Dr. Brenner advised if the bids come in low the Board will have the authority to eliminate or postpone the add-alternate items. Mr. Stern commented that a determination would have to be made as to where this money will come from and, therefore, suggested that the field house should be included in this discussion.

Dr. Brenner spoke about the impact of losing potentially \$250,000 for this project and he discussed with the Board that further analysis and direction is required to determine where the money will come from. He explained the money is there, but direction would have to be provided as to which line items will need to be reduced. Mr. Haber recommended that a letter to the community explaining why this is necessary be published in the Roslyn News and posted on the district's website. Dr. Brenner will draft a

letter and will present to the Board during the budget discussion regarding capital projects the options to consider.

The question was asked whether the Board authorizes the high school cafeteria renovation project to proceed as scheduled and at a total cost of \$1.85 million. By a consensus of the Board, the Board agreed to authorize the continuation of this project as planned.

2. MSG Varsity – **TABLED**
3. Unfunded Mandates – **POSTPONED**
4. Superintendent's Presentation of the Budget

Dr. Brenner gave a PowerPoint presentation of the 2011-12 budget timeline and proposed budget. A complete copy of his presentation can be found on the district's website.

The timeline:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| ➤ 2/1 | Transmittal of draft budget to BOE |
| ➤ 2/3, 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 3/31 | Discussion at BOE public meetings |
| ➤ 4/2 | First legal notice published |
| ➤ 4/14 | BOE adoption of proposed budget (state deadline 4/24) |
| ➤ 4/25 | Property tax report card due to SED |
| ➤ 5/5 | Budget Hearing |
| ➤ 5/17 | Annual Meeting and Budget Vote |

Dr. Brenner explained the proposed budget represents a budget to budget increase of 3.8%, of which 1.3% is for a one-time payment to TRS of \$1,251,000 for last year's incentive which has no impact to the levy (money coming from reserves). From a program perspective, the "real" budget to budget increase excluding the 1.3% one-time TRS payment is 2.5% and reflects a \$130,000 decrease in technology year over year. He explained this is a direct result of budgeting close to actuals.

The real question is how much below 2% do you want to go. A 2% levy is going to make us cut into the bone and will have a clear impact to programs, whereas a 2.5% budget will have no impact to programs. Dr. Brenner stressed it is important this year to talk about the tax levy and not budget to budget, because the district may be misrepresented and take an unfair hit due to the one-time 1.3% TRS payment.

Mr. Haber commented that you almost want a higher tax levy because of the impact of the tax cap and this could potentially be the tipping year for the district. He spoke he would be against cutting this budget anymore out of fear of additional mandates and he thanked Mr. Dragone for a great job in preparing the budget to actuals.

Mr. Dragone discussed with the Board the key is where to apply the reserves, how much

more do you want to give back and how to balance it against the final tax levy. We have been funding capital projects from the leftover money as authorized by the voters, however, the concern is that in the future the district will not be a position such as we are today and future capital projects may require the issuance of a bond.

A discussion ensued between the Board and Administration regarding the impact of a tax cap to our budget.

a. Special Education

Dr. Brenner praised Dr. Grossman for presenting a consistently lower year over year budget for the past five years, while continuing to maintain better and more cohesive programs. Dr. Grossman thanked Dr. Brenner for his comments and he gave a Special Education presentation for the 2010-2011 school year. The total number of classified students is 330, with 309 in district and 21 out of district. He explained the 611arra (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) and 619arra stimulus money is currently in its final year, and therefore, will not be included in next year's budget. He noted the loss of the 611arra grant in the amount of \$350,691 is another drain on revenue.

A discussion ensued among the Board and Dr. Grossman regarding the special education student population, the amount of 611 and 619 grants and the end of the 611arra and 619arra stimulus money this year. Dr. Grossman said he is very proud of the work he and Marnie Cohen have accomplished over the years and he believes they have created a true continuum for students to achieve.

PUBLIC COMMENT #1 Limited to Agenda Items ONLY

(Will be limited to ½ hour, no more than 2 minutes per speaker).

Though not required by law, the Roslyn Board of Education invites public comment during its meetings. Citizens will be recognized by the presiding officer. Please state your name and address before speaking and direct all comments to the Board. This is not a time for citizen to citizen exchanges. We ask that comments not include the names of students or staff members, and comments are not permitted with respect to confidential matters. Please also be reminded that Board meetings are designed by law to facilitate the school district's business and provide for public Board deliberations. Thank you

The following items were discussed during public comments: a resident spoke about the letter to the community and how best to explain how the additional money would be used for the high school cafeteria renovation; a resident suggested that it would be advisable to put together a historical snapshot of the tax rates over the past four years.

ACTION ITEMS

Action may be taken for each individual resolution or by the titled subgroups. Bracketed information following resolutions is not part of the Board's official action and does not become part of the official record.

PERSONNEL:

ALL PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS LISTED ARE FUNDED IN THE CURRENT BUDGET UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Dr. Salina moved from the floor to amend the following items on Personnel P.1 Professional as follows:

- Item #11: Nancy Muller, Childcare Leave – Revise ‘To’ Date from 6/6/11 to 6/3/11
Items #12 – 15: AIDS Instruction/MS – Revise dates from 1/31/11 to 3/11/11 to 2/4/11 to 3/18/11.
Item #18: Iris Molina, Foreign Language Intramurals – From 10 weeks to 5 weeks

He further moved from the floor to add items numbered 26 through 48, Personnel P.1 Professional (ADDENDUM).

- P.1. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the following resolution be adopted:
RESOLVED, that the Roslyn Board of Education approves the appointments, resignations, terminations, elimination of positions, transfers, and leaves of absence as detailed in the Personnel Action Reports attached as **(Attachment P.1 Professional)**
- P.2. **Recommendation** to approve the Adult Education Instructor Salaries for the Spring 2011 session attached as **(Attachment P.2)**.

Dr. Salina moved from the floor to add Personnel Agenda Item number P.3 as follows.

- P.3 **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, pursuant to Education Law Section 913, that a tenured employee is directed to report for a psychiatric examination in order to determine the mental capacity of such person to perform her duties; the said psychiatric examination will be conducted by Dr. Allen Reichman at his office located at 190 Willis Avenue, Suite 114, Mineola, New York 11501 on a date and time to be determined by the District, and on any subsequent days that Dr. Allen Reichman may require.

Mr. Stern moved, seconded by Mr. Seinfeld and it was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Saffron absent) to approve Agenda Item numbered P.1 as amended, P.2 and the addition of P.3.

BUSINESS/FINANCE:

ALL ITEMS ON THE BUSINESS/FINANCE PORTION OF THE AGENDA ARE WITHIN THE BUDGET UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

- B.1. Recommendation to approve the following contracts and to authorize the Board of Education President to execute (those contracts marked with an asterisk have been prepared pursuant to a previous award of an RFP.)
- (i) Contractor: Syosset CSD
Services: Health and Welfare services for 3 Roslyn residents attending private school in Syosset for 2010-11 school year
Fees: \$ 817.88 per student
Total estimated to be \$ 2,453.64
 - (ii) Contractor: Hempstead UFSD
Services: Health and Welfare services for 2 Roslyn residents attending private school in Hempstead for 2010-11 school year
Fees: \$ 864.00 per student

Total estimated to be \$ 1,728.00

- (iii) Contractor: Hofstra University
- Services: Rental of Hofstra University David S. Mack Sports Complex for the June 23, 2011 Middle School Graduation
- Fees: \$ 8,130.00 plus related costs
- Total estimated to be \$ 8,500.00

- B.2.** Recommendation to approve a payment in the amount of \$21,644.99 to Ingerman Smith, L.L.P. for legal services rendered to the district for the period ending 12/31/10.
- B.3.** Recommendation that, pursuant to receipt of a gift in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the American Dairy Association, the board of education hereby, accepts the gift, approves the expenditure of funds for the purpose of contributing to the cost of the purchase of a milk vending machine for the high school, and increases the appropriation in C2860-526-03 (Milk – School Lunch Progr) by \$2,000.00 with the understanding that this increase in appropriations is the result of unanticipated revenue and therefore will result in no impact on the tax levy. [Tabled 1/20/10 – Item B.10]
- B.4.** Recommendation to approve a payment of \$11,473.59 to BBS Architects for professional services rendered for preparation of the District Wide Building Condition Survey Reports, Five Year Capital Plan, and School Facility Report Cards. [Funds will be deducted from Budget Code A1621-443-03-9000-310]

On the advice of counsel, Mr. Dragone moved from the floor to amend agenda item B.5 as follows.

- B.5.** Recommendation to approve a Change Order to Arrow Steel Window Corp. In the amount of \$0.00 pertaining to the High School Door and Window Replacement Project. This Change Order is for the completion of phase II of the window project: it is for the extension of time and the allocation of allowance monies, **including credits of \$25,580 and deductions of \$82,037 leaving \$11,043 from the original allowance amount of \$67,500.** This Change Order revises the Substantial Completion of the project to June 15, 2011 with the Final Completion of the project to be June 30, 2011.
- B.6.** BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes an Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement between the District and North Shore Central School District pursuant to General Municipal Law § 119-o for the purposes of vehicle inspection, maintenance and repair services in accordance with the terms and provisions contained therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute said Agreement.

- B.7.** Recommendation to accept the following Extraclassroom activity fund reports:
(Attachment B.7)
Middle School: December 2010

High School: December 2010

Mr. Dragone moved from the floor to add Business agenda item B.8 as follows.

B.8 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the Grant Disbursement Agreement between the School District and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York in connection with Community Capital Assistance Program Grant;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the necessary documents to effectuate said Agreement.

Mr. Stern moved, seconded by Dr. Valauri and it was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Saffron) to approve Agenda Items numbered B.1, B.2, B.3, B.4, B.5 as amended, B.6, B.7 and the addition of B.8.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

C&I.1 Recommendation to accept the confidential stipulations of the CPSE for the dates listed below as well as the implementation plans for the corresponding special education programs, services and parent notification as previously approved by the Committee on January 19, 2011.

C&I.2 Recommendation to accept the confidential stipulations of the CSE for the dates listed below as well as the implementation plans for the corresponding special education programs, services and parent notification as previously approved by the Committee on January 5, 2011, January 11, 2011 and January 14, 2011.

C&I.3 Recommendation to approve Dawn Cerrone to attend the New York State Athletic Administrators Association's 2011 Conference in Saratoga Springs, New York from March 15 through March 18, 2011 at an estimated cost to the district of \$1,059.63.

C&I.4 Recommendation to approve Denise Romanello to attend the New York State Athletic Administrators Association's 2011 Conference in Saratoga Springs, New York from March 15 through March 18, 2011 at an estimated cost to the district of \$1,446.29.

C&I.5 Recommendation to approve the Roslyn High School Marching Band (100 students) along with 8 chaperones and a nurse to attend Camp Taconic Band Camp in Hinsdale, Massachusetts from August 15 through August 21, 2011 at an estimated cost to the district of \$28,700.00 [Total cost of trip is \$86,200.00, 67% is student contribution = \$57,500.00, 33% is school contribution = \$28,700.00.]

C&I.6 Recommendation to approve the 10 students from the Model Congress Club and 1 chaperone to attend the University of Pennsylvania Model Congress annual high school conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from March 31 through April 3, 2011 at an estimated cost to the district of \$6,683.00 [Total cost of trip is \$7,908.00, 15% is student contribution = \$1,225.00, 85% is school contribution = \$6,683.00.]

Ms. Brown moved from the floor to add Curriculum & Instruction agenda item number C&I.7 as follows (ADDENDUM).

C&I.7 Recommendation to approve Art Mandel to attend college visits at the University of Michigan and the University of Wisconsin from February 7 through February 8, 2011 at an estimated cost to the district of \$1,731.44.

Mr. Stern moved, seconded by Mr. Haber and it was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Saffron) to approve Agenda Item numbered C&I.1, C&I.2, C&I.3, C&I.4, C&I.5, C&I.6 and the addition of C&I.7.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOE.1 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Amendment to the Agreement between the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Amendment attached hereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute said Amendment on behalf of the Board of Education.

Ms. Kline moved, seconded by Mr. Stern and it was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Saffron absent) to approve Agenda Item numbered BOE.1.

Public Comments #2

The following items were discussed during public comments: Nancy Goldman, CCPA co-president, extended her thanks to Mr. Mohrman and his staff for the outstanding job they have done clearing the snow. And she thanked Mr. Shoob for clean, warm and running buses. A resident spoke about the need to have online access to homework and grades.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Mr. Seinfeld moved, seconded by Ms. Kline and it was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Saffron absent) to adjourn at 11:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathie L. Britt

**Cathie L. Britt
District Clerk**