

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Amityville Union Free School District, Amityville, NY 11701  
Regular Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2016

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Approved: 04/13/16

**OPEN MEETING**

The Special meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Park Avenue School, Art Room by President Moss who read the emergency statement and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ronald A. Moss, President  
Jeannette Santos, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Carolyn Dodd, Trustee  
Lisa Johnson, Trustee  
Juan Leon, Trustee

**ABSENT:** Terry Fulton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Kathleen Corbett, Trustee

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Mary T. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools  
Mary O’Meara, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Diane Castonguay, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Carlos Perez, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Gary Steffanetta, Esq., Guercio & Guercio LLP  
Oroma Reynolds, Esq., Guercio & Guercio LLP  
Christopher Mestecky, Esq., Guercio & Guercio LLP  
Christopher Shishko, Esq., Guercio & Guercio LLP  
Martin Geiger, Esq., Hawkins, Delafield & Wood LLP  
Dan Birmingham, Esq. Hawkins, Delafield & Wood LLP  
Beth Izzo, Syntax Communications

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion to move into Executive Session at 5:40 p.m. by President Moss; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos for the purpose of advice from Legal Counsel regarding the Bond Referendum. President Moss appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos as Clerk Pro Tem. Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Mr. Steffanetta and Ms. Reynolds arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Juan Leon arrived at 6:20 p.m.

Mr. Geiger, Mr. Birmingham and Ms. Izzo arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. by President Moss; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos. Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

No Action Taken.

**OPEN SESSION**

Motion to resume Open Session at 7:25 p.m. made by President Moss; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos. Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 No.

**ALSO PRSENT** Peter Paternostro, Administrator for PPS/Special Education  
Sandra Parmentier, Assistant Administrator for PPS/Special Education  
Dr. Clinton Grant, Principal AMHS  
Donna DeFreitas, Assistant Principal AMHS  
John Cardone, Dean of Students AMHS  
Ed Plaia, Principal EWMMS  
Earl Mitchell, Dean of Students EWMMS  
Scott Bullis, Principal PAMES  
Rose Hutcherson, Assistant Principal PAMES

Tim Hellmuth, Assistant Principal NW  
Dr. Pauline Collins, Principal NE  
Dr. Fran Fernandez, Director for Fine Arts Department  
Ted Tsigotis, Director for Athletics, Physical Education and Health  
Susanne Pena, District Coordinator for ESL  
Mike Butler, Director of Facilities  
Eileen Becker, District Clerk

COMMUNITY PRESENT: 10 members present

### PRESENTATIONS

President Moss turned the meeting over to Dr. Kelly.

Dr. Kelly introduced Mrs. O'Meara who gave an overview of 2011 Cohort Graduation Data. (Attachment #1)

Ms. Susanne Pena, Ms. Sandra Whitney and Ms. Elise Castro from the World Languages Department gave an overview of the success of the Avancemos textbook series. (Attachment #2)

Mr. Tim Hellmuth, Assistant Principal Northwest Elementary School, presented the Writers' Workshop success story. (Attachment #3)

Mrs. Diane Castonguay, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, gave a presentation on the Bond Referendum. (Attachment #4).

### COMMUNITY INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Kathleen Ward  
78 Ireland Place  
Amityville, NY

Q. Can you explain the decision to put the bond under a separate vote on a separate day rather than include with the trustee/budget vote?

A. *In terms of they are very separate entities. One is the budget is a yearly operational budget vote that occurs every year in may by statute and the other is a vote to do specific work that needs to be funded through bonds because we simply cannot incorporate the type of work that needs to be done in the district within an operational budget. District typically do not hold these votes on the same day they conduct a budget vote because it becomes confusing and we want to make sure that the people understand the difference among and between the two types of votes that we are asking the voters to consider. There is also different campaign work that needs to be done in order to inform the community regarding the different elements, characteristic and aspects of each of these items and to try and do that concurrently being out talking to the community about the operational budget and simultaneously having to explain all the issues that pertain to the referendum can become very unwinding and also can cause confusion or concern for the tax payer. So it's really for clarity sake that we do that and if you look around the island, most districts operate that way.*

Q. Do you enough time to do the outreach that is necessary for the March 8<sup>th</sup> vote?

A. *Yes we feel very confident that should the board choose to adopt this proposal that we will have plenty of time to get out to all the community groups to conduct tours and informational meetings in time to appropriately inform the community regarding all the characteristics of this referendum.*

Q. What is the other what is the cost associated with having a separate special election.

A. *I don't have the numbers off the top of my head for the special election but we can get that info to you.*

### MINUTES

Motion to approve Agenda Items 2A-1 through 2A-3 made by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos; seconded by Trustee Dodd. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Draft – Regular Meeting – December 9, 2015
2. Draft – Special Meeting – December 16, 2015

3. Draft – Special Meeting – December 21, 2015

**ACTION**

Motion to approve Agenda Item 2C-1 made by Trustee Dodd; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Motion to approve Agenda Item 2C-2 made by Trustee Dodd; seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Explanation to the audience regarding LIPA litigation. Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Attendance at Capital Conference, Albany, NY
2. Approval of Guercio & Guercio, LLP

**GENERAL**

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3A-1, 3A-2, 3A-3 and 3A-5 made by Trustee Dodd; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3A-4 made by Trustee Doss; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos. Discussion:

Trustee Leon: I just to want to try to weigh in and offer my opinion and discussion on this and I am going to speak from my heart because when I do that I know I can live with myself. I have studied the various designs that the architects have laid out for us. I have read through the bond committee reports several times from front to back. I have read everything on our website regarding the bond and with the info that I learned today about how it impacts particular residents and today we had the opportunity briefly meeting with the bond counsels which we requested for a couple of minutes that is a lot of important information to really to take in and turn on a dime. In all honesty I am trying very, very hard to get to yes, I am not saying no but what I am saying is this is the kind of decision that in my opinion I shouldn't make hastily. This is something that I need to go home, sleep on it, think about it and come back instead of making a hasty decision. I value expert advice, I am glad that they were here to give it to us and I know what's at stake, I do, I know that we need new buildings and infrastructure because we can't fit our students in that I am with it I'm all for it. I know we need to get out codes up in our buildings, I know we need to be ADA compliant. these are all things I am in favor of and I support but without knowing this information today in meeting with bond committee before it was just an unfinished equation now that I feel personally that i have all pieces to the equation this is something that I can think about and come back and now make an informed decision. Thank you Mr. President.

Trustee Dodd: Well I served on the bond committee and I have been working on this proposal with a number of other board members, administrators and community members and certainly it nothing was done in haste. It was months of preparation, it was months of communication, every board member got a weekly transmittal whether you read it or not I am not sure but I know the information was there and I am absolutely stunned Mr. Leon that you can sit here now and say that you do not have the information to vote on this bond referendum.

President Moss: I call for the vote - roll call vote.

Trustee Leon: I will reserve regrettably take abstention due to .... Trustee Johnson-eye; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos-eye; President Moss-eye; Trustee Dodd- eye. Motion Carries: 4 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain

Trustee Dodd: I would like our legal counsel to explain what it is to abstain from a vote. Usually my understanding it's a conflict of interest and if there is no conflict of interest then I believe Mr. Leon needs to vote no.

Gary Steffanetta, Guercio & Guercio, LLP: The Commissioner of Education has ruled and the Commissioner's decision that board members as public officers take an oath of office and have an obligation to vote on all matters before the Board of Education unless it's a conflict or the appearance of impropriety which prohibits them from voting. That being said most boards of education and I believe the Amityville Board of Education as well have adopted a policy that says that they follow Roberts Rules of Order which is a parliamentary procedure, it's not law, its parliamentary procedure that came from England and had to do with parliamentary groups as opposed to school board of governments here in the United States. I believe there is the ability in Roberts of Rules of Order to abstain from a vote one of the reasons would be if an individual member of the Parliament or the group did not have what they felt was sufficient information to make a vote so in this district based on the fact that you follow Roberts Rules of Order you have to balance Roberts Rules of Order with the Commissioner's decisions that say board members take an oath of office which requires them to actually vote on items. On cases I am familiar with for example, that went to the Commissioner that had to do with tenure whether or not a teacher or a couple of school district cases I

can think of where there was a vote on tenure and a particular board member had an objection to the whole concept of tenure and they abstain. There was another district where the bulk of the board abstained from the vote and there was a decision from the Commissioner that was you have an obligation to vote on issues before the board. So that's a long winded way of saying the general rule is that you have an obligation by your oath of office to vote on one way or another if you are present unless you have a conflict but there is some leeway in this sense that you have Roberts Rules of Order provision.

Trustee Johnson: I don't have a problem with him abstaining.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos: Same here.

Trustee Leon: Mr. President, Can I just offer this - listen I just want to speak from my heart - all these things we mentioned are things I want. We need to build we need to be compliant but we also need to know how much it's going to cost. If someone showed me something they showed me here you go we can have all this but you don't know, I didn't know until tonight how much this is going to cost me, I didn't know that. I understand and I ....

Trustee Dodd: In all due respect Mr. Leon if you did not know what it was going to cost you tonight, you did not do due diligence to your community members, to us and read everything that was sent out, everything that was prepared for you every week we get a transmittal. We sat here in November, we heard from every administrator go through this bond and you were not here for that presentation. You never called me to ask me what was presented, you never called Dr. Kelly, you never called anyone. Then you drop this bomb on us ten minutes before we walk in here? Shame on you.

Trustee Leon: I'm really...

President Moss: Moving forward

Trustee Leon: I would like to respond.

President Moss: I would like to move forward on this and we can take this into executive session.

Trustee Leon: All I know is that when talked about I was not the only person not to receive transmittals. I know that.

Trustee Johnson: I think we should move forward Mr. President.

Trustee Leon: We can move forward, I'm sorry.

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3A-4 made by Trustee Dodd; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos. Motion Carries: 4 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain.

1. Non Resident Request
2. Acceptance of SEQRA Report
3. Donation of Sick Days
4. Proposed Bond Referendum
5. Donation of Sick Days

#### **PERSONNEL**

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3B-1 through 3B-67 made by Trustee Dodd; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Rescind Appointment: JV Baseball Coach – Greiss, M.
2. Resignation for Retirement: Mathematics Teachers/MS – Allen, E., R.
3. Resignation: Permanent Substitute Teacher/MS – Culver, S.
4. Resignation: Permanent Substitute Teacher/HS – Ray, T.
5. Resignation: Activity Advisor – Yearbook Advisor/HS – Keaveny, N.
6. Revised FMLA Leave: Elementary Teacher/NW – Sipp, M.
7. Leave of Absence W/O Pay: Teacher Assistant/NE – Davis, A.
8. FMLA: Special Education Teacher/PA – Gandarillas, T.
9. FMLA: ESL Teacher/HS – Huremovic, L.
10. FMLA: English Teacher/HS – Wilsher, J.
11. FMLA: Cook/NE – Hernandez, M.
12. Revised Probationary Appointment: Elementary Teacher/NW – Skaliotis, X.
13. Probationary Appointment: Mathematics Teacher/MS – Newman, J.
14. Appointment: Mentor Teacher – Brooks, M.
15. Appointment: Mentor Teacher – Zomback, L.

16. Appointment: Security Guard – Steinberg, D.
17. Appointment: Security Guard – Sperandeo, T.
18. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Brooks, N.
19. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Brooks, M.
20. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Brown, S.
21. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Carey, L.
22. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Carrero, D.
23. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Cesiro, L.
24. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Dady, J.
25. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Ferguson, J.
26. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Gambella-Bloom, C.
27. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Herz, D.
28. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Karniewich, A.
29. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Lee, D.
30. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – McCabe, A.
31. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – McCormack, T.
32. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Meisser, P.
33. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Pariser, R.
34. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Quinn, T.
35. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Reddin, M.
36. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Robinson, L.
37. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Roman, J.
38. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Romanelli, C.
39. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Roslow, B.
40. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Seehof, C.
41. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Sicoli, B.
42. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Starkey, K.
43. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Tejada-Torres, R.
44. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Varas, L.
45. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Wahl, M.
46. Appointment: Winter Wonderland Activities/NW – Wittschiebe, J.
- 47-50. Appointment: NYS Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention Curriculum Writing:
  47. Guidance Counselor – Leon-Pineros, M.
  48. Guidance Counselor – Gross, K.
  49. Social Worker – Velez, R.
  50. Guidance Counselor – Balducci, K.
51. Appointment: ENL After School Academy Teacher/NE – Herz, D.
52. Appointment: ENL After School Academy Teacher/NE – Varas, L.
53. Appointment: ENL After School Academy Teacher/NW – Carrero, D.
54. Appointment: ENL After School Academy Teacher/NW – Murphy-Ferro, S.
55. Appointment: ENL After School Academy Teacher/NW – Reddin, M.
56. Appointment: Spring Coach – JV Baseball Coach – Kretz, G.
57. Appointment: Activity Advisor-Yearbook/HS – Scoca, N.
58. Appointment: Activity Advisor-Choir Director/HS – Dickson, K.
59. Appointment: Activity Advisor-Choir Director/MS – Ferrara, C.
60. Appointment: Activity Advisor-Drama Club/MS – Asbell, G.
61. Appointment: Activity Advisor-SUSS Club/MS – Kearney, K.
62. Appointment: Activity Advisor-Hispanic Club/HS – Bueno, R.
63. Appointment: Activity Advisor-GLTB Club/HS – Whitney, S.
64. Appointment: Chaperone – Eastwood, M.

65. Appointment: Substitute Food Service Worker – Pena, A.
66. Appointment: Substitute Monitor – Gordon, H.
67. Appointment: Permanent Substitute Teacher/MS – Garcia, C.

### **BUSINESS**

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3C-1 through 3C-14 made by Trustee Johnson; seconded by Trustee Dodd.

Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Budget Transfer
2. Fund Raising
3. Use of Facilities
4. Health Service Contracts – Other School
5. Increase 2015-16 Budget – water damage to gym floor at MS
6. Increase 2015-16 Budget – Energy Performance Contract
7. Fixed Assets
8. Stationery, Forms & Envelope Printing Bid #2016-025
9. Adoption of Amityville Public Schools 403(b) Retirement Plan
10. Rescind Managed Print Services
11. Donations
12. Establishment of District Mileage Rate to \$0.54 per mile
13. Late Transportation Applicant Request
14. Special Education Contracts – St. Martin of Tours

### **FINANCE**

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3D-1 made by Trustee Johnson; seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos.

Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. Report for November, 2015

### **SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

Motion to approve Agenda Items 3E-1 through 3E-6 made by Trustee Dodd; seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

1. A.C.L.D., Inc.
2. Marion K. Salomon
3. Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services
4. West Islip UFSD
5. United Cerebral Palsy of Suffolk
6. Wantagh PARISS Program

### **CURRICULUM**

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3F-1 made by Trustee Johnson; seconded by Trustee Dodd. Discussion: None.

Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

### **REPORTS**

Legal Counsel

Items were covered in Executive Session

Superintendent

Two of our HS AP Art Students will represent our school district in the annual regional exhibit, Advanced Visions 12: High School Artists of Excellence, which is sponsored by LIU Post.

Carmen Mori Millet – Grade 12 – Acrylic Painting

Katherine Eastwood – Grade 12 – Ceramics

The Amityville Memorial High School Jazz Band will perform at the Bethel AME Church on Monday, January 18, 2016 at 10 AM to commemorate the birthday of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Several members of the Amityville Memorial High School Jazz Band volunteered to perform at Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone's inauguration ceremony on December 30. The students were: Andrew Abate, Patrick Abate, Anthony Abate, Shiloh Bennett and Manny Oguntoye.

Art students who were recognize in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Amityville Community Art Contest received proclamations from the Mayor of Amityville this past Monday at the Monthly Amityville Village Trustee Meeting.

10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Carmen Mori Millet, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Gabriela Pacheco, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Jeoprey Delos Santos, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grades

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Samantha Lima, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Allisson Martinez, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

PAMES sixth grade student Kayla Marrero will rehearse and perform with the LISFA (Long Island String Festival Association) County Orchestra this coming weekend.

Northwest Elementary School will hold its annual Winter Wonderland event January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

The Middle School will hold its annual Science Fair on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Please consult the District's website and calendar for upcoming events – we have a number of events this month, including parent workshops and sporting events. Welcome Back!

Board of Education

No Report

**COMMUNITY INPUT REGARDING NON AGENDA ITEMS**

No Community Input

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn Open Session at 8:45 p.m. made by 2nd Vice President Santos; seconded by Trustee Dodd.

Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session was called to order at 8:50 p.m. by President Moss for the purpose of discussion of personnel of particular person(s). President Moss appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos as Clerk Pro Tem.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. made by President Moss seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Santos.

Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Respectfully submitted,

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Eileen Becker, District Clerk