

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Amityville Union Free School District, Amityville, NY 11701  
Regular Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2022

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**1. Meeting Called to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Ms. Lisa Johnson at Park Avenue North, 1st floor conference room.

**A. Emergency Exit, No Smoking Statement**

**APPROVED**  
September 14, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisa Johnson, President  
Jeannette Santos, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Carol Seehof, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
David Heller, Trustee  
Dr. Terry Fulton, Trustee  
Leslie Kretz, Trustee - **ABSENT**  
Juan Leon, Trustee - **ZOOM IN FOR FIRST EXECUTIVE SESSION**

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Edward Fale, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Joan Lange, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Bridgette Waite, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Olivia Buatsi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
John Sheehan, Esq., Guercio & Guercio, LLP - **ARRIVED AT 6:30pm**

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 5:04 p.m. for the purpose of interviewing the Director of World Languages and advice from counselor; motion made by Ms. Jeannette Santos; seconded by Mr. David Heller. Motion Carries: 5 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain. **MS. LESLIE KRETZ - ABSENT and MR. JUAN LEON JOINED BY ZOOM AT 5:07pm**

Motion to exit Executive Session and return to the Public Meeting at 7:31 p.m.; motion made by Ms. Jeannette Santos; seconded by Mr. David Heller. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**B.** President Lisa Johnson led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C.** Presentations - **NONE**

**D.** Community Input Regarding Board Agenda Items Only

- Wendy Canestro wanted to know about the grant funded programs and if the grants were going towards programs.
- Dr. Lange explained that they ranged from the American Rescue Plan to the Standard Consolidated grant. Some are title grants from the Federal Government which are used for student programs.

**2. Board Action Recommended by the Board of Education**

**A. Approval of Board Minutes**

**1. Draft – July 20, 2022 – Special Meeting**

Motion to approve Agenda Item 2A1 made by Mr. David Heller seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**2. Draft – July 6, 2022 – Annual Reorganization Meeting**

Motion to approve Agenda Item 2A2 made by Ms. Jeanette Santos seconded by Dr. Terry Fulton. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain. - **MOTION TO TABLE (Minutes to be revised)**

**3. Draft – July 6, 2022 – Regular Meeting**

Motion to approve Agenda Item A23 made by Ms. Jeanette Santos seconded by Dr. Terry Fulton. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.- **MOTION TO TABLE (Minutes to be revised)**

**B. Board Action Recommended by Board Policy Committee**

Ms. Lisa Johnson, Ms. Jeanette Santos, Ms. Carol Seehof, Central Administrators

**1. 5100 Student Attendance**

Motion to approve Agenda Item made by Ms. Carol Seehof seconded by Mr. David Heller. Discussion: **No changes recommended.** Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**2. 5300 Code of Conduct**

Motion to approve Agenda Item made by Ms. Carol Seehof seconded by Mr. David Heller. Discussion: **Minor changes, update BOE, Central Administration, Districtwide Personnel**  
Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**3. 6240 Investments**

Motion to approve Agenda Item made by Ms. Carol Seehof seconded by Mr. David Heller. Discussion: **No changes recommended.** Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**4. 6700 Purchasing**

Motion to approve Agenda Item made by Ms. Carol Seehof seconded by Mr. David Heller. Discussion: **No changes recommended.** Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**5. 5252 Purchasing**

Motion to approve Agenda Item made by Ms. Carol Seehof seconded by Mr. David Heller. Discussion: **No changes recommended.** Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**Policies were reviewed by John Sheehan**

**3. Board Action Recommended by the Superintendent of Schools**

**A. General**

**B. Personnel**

**1. Personnel Action Report**

Motion to approve Agenda Item 3B1 made by Ms. Carol Seehof; seconded by Ms. Jeanette Santos  
Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**Exception of C3 & C7 TBD Amending C5**

**C. Business**

**1. Motion to Dispose Fixed Assets**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Mr. David Heller; seconded by Dr. Terry Fulton.  
Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**2. District Printing Service Bid**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Mr. David Heller; seconded by Dr. Terry Fulton.  
Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**3. Financial Advisory Services- Capital Market Advisors, LLC.**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Mr. David Heller; seconded by Dr. Terry Fulton.  
Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**4. Certification of Acceptance- School Lunch 2022-23**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Mr. David Heller; seconded by Dr. Terry Fulton.  
Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**D. Finance**

**1. Treasurer's Report for June 2022**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Mr. David Heller; seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof.  
Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No.

**E. Contracts for Special Education Services**

**1. United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Suffolk**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Ms. Jeanette Santos; seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No.

**2. Mid Island Therapy**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Ms. Jeanette Santos; seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof.. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No.

**3. Soliant Health LLC**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Ms. Jeanette Santos; seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof.. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No.

**4. Mill Neck Interpreter Services**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Ms. Jeanette Santos; seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof.. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No.

**5. Martin De Porres**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Ms. Jeanette Santos; seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof.. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No..

**6. Dr. Donna Geffner**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Ms. Jeanette Santos seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof.. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No..

**7. Little Flower Union Free School District**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Ms. Jeanette Santos seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof.. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**8. Da Vinci Education & Research**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Ms. Jeanette Santos seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof.. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**F. Curriculum and Instruction**

**Conferences**

**1. WSB:Wilson Reading System 3-day Introductory Workshop**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Ms. Jeanette Santos seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**2. Wilson Level 1 Certification - Virtual Start-Up Day**

Motion to approve Agenda Items made by Ms. Jeanette Santos seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof. . Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**3. Teachers College: Supporting & Observing Teachers K-5**

Motion to approve Agenda Items Ms. Jeanette Santos seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**4. Crisis Prevention Institute: Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training**

Motion to approve Agenda Items Ms. Jeanette Santos seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**5. Crisis Prevention Institute: Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training**

Motion to approve Agenda Items Ms. Jeanette Santos seconded by Ms. Carol Seehof. Discussion: None. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**4. Reports**

A. Legal Counsel for the District - No reports

B. Superintendent of Schools -

- Syntax preparing website, to improve the quality of the sound we will be ordering a new sound system

- Summer School is a success, close to 1,000 students were enrolled in summer school. This year the summer school included enrichment programs, such as:
  - Beach Volleyball
  - Swimming, which lead to having a swimming team that we hope to continue in the fall
- Facilities Department team is taking care of maintenance to prepare for reopening
  - Painting
- This year the theme is going to be changing mindsets
- Introduction of the Ruler Program
- A new reading and math program called SAVVAS, will be introduced.

1. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
2. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
3. Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

### **C. Board of Education**

- Lisa Johnson reviewed questions from the prior meeting. Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations responded to questions regarding the Corrective Action Plan.
- Counsel mentioned that there are no requirements for Board members to recuse themselves from the appointment of family members.
- The Superintendent responded to the question that the district does not keep records of employees who are residents of the Amityville Union Free School District.
- 34 responses were received for the position of district clerk
- The resolution for Dr. Fale's three year contract was on May 4, 2022.

COMMUNITY: 20 members

### **2. Community Input Regarding Non Board Agenda Items Only**

- Wendy Canestro noted that Dr. Fale was not the Superintendent when the stipulation was agreed to. She also wanted to know if the children were safe with this person as a coach?
- Amanda O' Connor asked if the Board of Education has no legal moral ground to speak up if there is a particular person who stole money coming up for a position. Counsel responded that it was an inappropriate personnel discussion. She wanted Mr. Juan Leon, Dr. Terry Fulton and Jeanette Santos to resign.
- Barbara Chef the Board has not responded to her requests. The School Board is not inclusive. Email and contacts should be on the District Website for easier access by the community.
- Joann Rodriguez, the administrator in the building where her child attended the Academic Success Program did not respond to her email. All future unanswered emails should be referred to Dr. Fale.
- Eric O' Connor he would like for the Board of Education to track employees for residency. He also wants the Board to recuse themselves when there is an appointment of family members. The Board president said that there is no law requiring Board of Education members to recuse themselves.
- Pat Hobson is concerned about test scores and graduation rates. She would like to see more programs, committees and intervention for students. She wants to see students attend four year colleges.

- Rose Mary Tejada-Torres wants to know whether or not there will be a sixth grade orientation. President Lisa Johnson explained that all the orientations are on the calendar. Ms. Torres wanted to know when the calendars were being distributed.
- Pat Hobson said prior administration and Board members had their email addresses on the Amityville UFSD website.
- Michael Canestro said he wanted clarification about the Summer Academic Success Program. He wanted to know if the Summer Academic Success Programs were for students who were failing. Dr. Lange clarified that the Summer Academic Success Programs were enrichment programs and not a typical summer school. She added that the secondary programs were the traditional summer school programs
- Wendy Canestro wants the Board to be more transparent and not reactive.

Motion to adjourn into 2nd Executive Session at 8:35p.m. for the purpose of grievance hearing. Motion made by Ms. Carol Seehof and seconded by Mr. Juan Leon. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

### **3. Adjournment**

Motion to come out of 2nd Executive Session at 9:55pm made by Dr. Terry Fulton; and seconded by Ms. Jeanette Santos. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Motion to adjourn at 9:57pm made by Dr. Terry Fulton and seconded by Mr. David Heller. Motion Carries: 6 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain