

**BUSINESS MEETING PAGE 016 AUGUST 6, 2014
SOUTH COUNTRY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Chris Picini, called Board President Chris Picini called a Business Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting took place at the District Office, 189 Dunton Ave, E. Patchogue, NY.

Board of Education Members Present

Rocco DeVito	Chris Picini
Lisa Di Santo Grossman (<i>arrived 6:40 pm</i>)	Rob Powell
Carol Herrmann	Danielle Skelly
Antoinette Huffine	Allison Stines

Board of Education Members Absent: Julio Morales.

Others Present: Superintendent Dr. Joseph Giani, Nelson Briggs, Charles Delargy, Margaret Evers, Robert McIntyre, Brian Ginty.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion (Herrmann / Huffine) to convene to Executive Session to discuss the Head Start lease agreement, capital project legal negotiations update, CSEA negotiations, and central office employee salary and contract negotiations at 6:30 pm.

VOTE: *Motion carries unanimously* . 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Morales).

Public session reconvened at 7:50 pm. Trustee Grossman led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES / SMOKE FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board President Picini discussed the exits to be used in the event of an emergency and reminded all present that the South Country School District is a smoke-free District, with smoking prohibited in all buildings and on school grounds.

C. BOARD CONSENT AGENDA – APPROVALS

A motion (Herrmann / Powell) to approve the following:

1. Minutes- Business Meeting of June 18, 2014

VOTE: *Motion carries unanimously* . 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Morales).

A motion (Herrmann / Powell) to approve the following:

2. Minutes- Annual Reorganization Meeting of July 2, 2014

VOTE: *Motion carries* . 7-Yes, 0-No, 1-Abstain (DeVito), Absent (Morales).

A motion (Powell / Herrmann) to approve the following:

3. Minutes- Business Meeting of July 2, 2014

VOTE: *Motion carries* . 6-Yes, 0-No, 2-Abstain (DeVito, Huffine), Absent (Morales).

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A motion (Herrmann / DeVito) to approve the following:

4. NYSSBA New School Board Member Academy
5. Treasurer's Report- June, 2014
6. Claims Report- January, April, May & June, 2014

VOTE: *Motion carries unanimously.* 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Morales).

D. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Giani

- Thanks to Maintenance and Custodial staff for their work in preparing the Board meeting room.
- Congratulations to Hailey Wagner – 2014 US Lacrosse, High School, Academic, All American student.
- Thanks to the South Country Education Foundation Fundraiser for their wonderful support of our schools.
- Many staff training programs were held over the summer, including the RTI Model, Reading Resources and Credit Recovery Training.
- The Elementary Summer Reading Intervention Program has 82 students attending and will run for 3 weeks.
- Sixth Grade Orientation will be held on August 28th at the Middle School.

Board of Education

- Thanked the South Country Education Foundation for sponsoring a wide array of wonderful programs.
- Thanks to all on the Health and Safety Committee for their hard work on the Discipline / Eligibility Policy.
- Plans being made to solicit HS students involved as peer tutors with the Boys and Girls Club.
- Thanks to Trustee Huffine for her work with the Boys and Girls Club

E. PUBLIC COMMENTARY (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

John Rogers(resident): Commented on the Bellport Land Use Plan, of which he was a part of.

F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

7. Greater Bellport Land Use Plan

A Public Hearing was recently held at the Town of Brookhaven. Board members discussed their concerns of the possible impact the plan could have on our District and directed a letter be sent to the Town requesting that the District be informed and included in the process.

A motion (DeVito / Grossman) to approve the following:

1. 2014-15 School Calendar Amendment

VOTE: *Motion carries unanimously.* 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Morales).

2. Board Advisory Committee Membership

A motion (DeVito / Stines) to approve the following:

3. Resolution in Support of Berger Commission Approach to Reforming Allocation of School Aid in NYS
Whereas, all New York State public school students have a state constitutional right, upheld by the Court of Appeals in its 2006 ruling on the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) suit, to a "sound, basic education", and

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Whereas, the State of New York has "frozen" implementation of the Foundation Aid formula it agreed to execute to satisfy the Court of Appeals decision rendered in the CFE suit, and

Whereas, a comparative study of our nation's fifty state school funding systems ranks New York State second nationally, with a letter grade of A for *Funding Adequacy*, but condemns our state's flawed and inequitable approach to allocation of school aid with a letter grade of F, and a bottom-tier national ranking of 42nd in *Funding Distribution*, and

Whereas, the State of New York has shifted a significantly larger share of the costs of PK -12 education back onto local tax payers over the past decade, thus disproportionately hurting low property wealth school districts, and the students attending those districts, and

Whereas, New York State has enacted Local Property Tax Levy Cap legislation that virtually assures that existing per pupil funding disparities will widen each year, and

Whereas, the costs of resolving New York's school funding equity problem are, based on past state legislative performance, highly likely to continue to increase in every year that school funding allocation decisions remain in the hands of the state legislature, and

Whereas, New York's highly politicized system for allocating school funds places great pressure upon even the most conscientious state legislator to act in a selfish manner for the benefit of residents of their own legislative district even in violation of the state constitution's guarantee, upheld by the Court of Appeals, that ALL children receive a "sound, basic education" with the consequence being that students of other legislative districts and regions have their educational opportunities curtailed,

Therefore, the School Board of the South Country Central School District, calls for the immediate establishment of a non-political *School Funding Equity Commission* that follows the model used by New York State when it established the Berger Commission to resolve the politically sensitive issue of hospital closure and repurposing,

Specifically, our Board of Education endorses the plan calling for the following actions to occur:

1. Education funding allocation decisions be de-coupled from the legislature by empowering a team of nationally recognized school finance experts to design a new school finance system that is research based and fair to all New York students and school districts,
2. That this team of nationally recognized school finance experts be charged to operate independently of political influence, and design a system for allocating school funds that is equitable, predictable, sufficient, transparent and readily comprehensible by New York residents,
3. That the recommendation of this *School Funding Equity Commission* become law at a date certain unless that recommendation were to be specifically turned down by a vote of both houses of the legislature,
4. That the *School Funding Equity Commission* be charged to develop a plan with a three year phase-in to cushion districts from any dislocation a new funding system might impose, and
5. That after six years (three year phase-in and three years operation) a similar *Commission* be charged to review the impact of the new funding approach and make recommendations for improvements.

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4. Elimination of GEA in NYS 2015-16 Budget Adoption

Whereas: The NY State Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) was implemented in 2010 as a one-time reduction in education aid to help NY State balance its budget and the GEA has continued in every budget since then:

Whereas: The GEA since its inception has reduced state aid to the South Country Central School District by \$26,386,043

Whereas: The reduction in aid associated with the GEA has resulted in a cost shift to the local property tax payer in the South Country Central School District; and

Whereas: This cost shift has resulted in unsustainable measures being implemented to balance the South Country Central Schools budget, including the reduction and elimination of school programs, personnel, and services, and the reductions of school district reserve funds;

Whereas: Efforts by the South Country Central Schools to sustain programs and services and contain budgets are simultaneously constrained by Property Tax Cap Legislation, unfunded and underfunded mandates, state mandated increases in pension costs, and mandated implementation of Common Core Learning Standards and teacher/principal performance reviews; and

Whereas: State Funding is constitutionally mandated and essential to meet all mandates and obligations to maintain the quality of education in the South Country Central Schools; and

Whereas: New York State touts recent aid increases as generous support to schools, although overall, school districts are receiving very little additional aid when compared to 2008-09; and

Whereas: Some school districts have even experienced state aid decreases from 2008-09 to 2014-15;

Resolved, That the South Country Central Schools Board of Education calls upon the New York State Legislature to end Gap Elimination Adjustments when they adopt New York State's 2015-16 Annual Budget

VOTE: *Motion carries unanimously.* 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Morales).

5. **A motion (Herrmann / DeVito) to adopt the Progressive Discipline, Standards of Intervention and Code of Conduct Policy, with the amendments recommended by Trustee Stines:**

VOTE: *Motion carries unanimously.* 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Morales).

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6. **A motion (DeVito / Huffine) to adopt the Co-Curricular & Extra-Curricular Eligibility Policy:**
VOTE: Motion carries unanimously. 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Morales).

G. BOARD CONSENT AGENDA – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A motion (Herrmann / DeVito) to approve the following:

1. CSE/SCSE Minutes
2. CPSE Minutes

VOTE: *Motion carries unanimously.* 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Morales).

H. BOARD CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

A motion (DeVito/Herrmann) to approve the following personnel agenda items, H1, H2, H3, H5, H6 and H8:

1. Resignations
2. New Instructional Appointments
3. Non-Instructional New Appointments
5. Extra Duty Assignments
6. Salary Schedule Change/Adjustments
8. Appointment Instructional Stipend

VOTE: *Motion carries unanimously.* 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Morales).

A motion (DeVito / Herrmann) to approve the following personnel agenda items, H9.1 to 9.6 and 9.10 to 9.12:

9. Salary Schedule Changes/Adjustments

VOTE: *Motion carries unanimously.* 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Morales).

A motion (Herrmann / Skelly) to approve the following personnel agenda items, H1 to 10.161 and H10.163 to H10.237:

10. Substitutes.

VOTE: *Motion carries unanimously.* 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Morales).

A motion (Herrmann / Skelly) to approve the personnel agenda item, H10.162:

10. Substitutes.

VOTE: *Motion carries.* 7-Yes, 0-No, 1-Abstain (Powell), Absent (Morales).

Personnel agenda itemH7 will be discussed in Executive Session.

I. BOARD CONSENT AGENDA – BUSINESS

A motion (DeVito / Herrmann) to approve the following:

1. Budget Transfer
2. Agreement with Frontline Technologies (Aesop)
3. MOA with CSEA re: School Health Aide- 12 Month to 10 Month
4. Consultant Service Agreements with:
 - a. Reddy Consulting Services, Inc.
 - b. South Oaks Comprehensive Behavioral Health Continuum
 - c. Therapy Center for Children
 - d. New York Therapy Placement Services, Inc.
 - e. All About Kids

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- 5. Education Services Contracts with:
 - a. Patchogue-Medford UFSD
 - b. Cleary School for the Deaf
- 6. Contracts with Syntax for Website Maintenance and Webhosting
- 7. Bid winner from RFP #2014-03 – Managed Print Services
- 8. Discards from:
 - a. Frank P. Long Intermediate
 - b. Technology (FPL)
 - c. Brookhaven Elementary
 - d. Bellport High School
 - e. Special Education Department

9. Meal Program Pricing Resolution

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the prices of the 2014-2015 school breakfast and lunch program as follows:

	<u>K-5 Buildings</u>		<u>Middle School & High School</u>
Breakfast	\$.75	Breakfast	\$.75
Lunch	\$1.85	Lunch	\$2.00
Reduced Breakfast & Lunch	\$.25	Reduced Breakfast & Lunch	\$.25
Milk	\$.50	Milk	\$.50

10. Universal Pre-Kindergarten Provider for 2014-2015 School Year

WHEREAS, on July 7th, 2014 the South Country Central School District solicited proposals from qualified provider(s) for the operation of the District’s Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program for the 2014-2015 school year;

WHEREAS, three (3) proposals were received by the District in response to its request for proposals and opened on the 25th day of July, 2014;

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Bellport Methodist Church proposal with respect to the provision of Universal Pre- Kindergarten services for the 2014-2015 school year to a maximum of 32 students in an amount not to exceed \$62,400, calculated at a per pupil rate of \$1,950.00 per enrolled student.

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the contract with Bellport Methodist Church with respect to the provision of Universal Pre-Kindergarten services for the 2014-2015 school year and authorizes the President of said Board to execute the same on behalf of the District.

VOTE: *Motion carries unanimously.* 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Morales).

A motion was made (Huffine / Grossman) to rescind the appointment of Personnel Agenda Item #H3.1, approved at the July 2, 2014 Business Meeting, noting that the reason for doing so was lack of information provided to the Board:

VOTE: *Motion fails.* 1-Yes (Huffine), 6-No, 1-Abstain (Grossman), Absent (Morales).

J. PUBLIC COMMENTARY (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

None.

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K. CLOSING REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS

- Concerns that Board adheres to Open Meeting Law.
- Request for District Organizational Chart
- Process for evaluation of Superintendent.
- South Haven School plan.
- Improving communication - Connect Ed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion (Herrmann / DeVito) to convene to Executive Session to discuss central office employee salaries and personnel matters at 10:15 pm.

VOTE: *Motion carries unanimously* . 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Morales).

Public session reconvened at 11:20 pm.

Trustee Huffine left the meeting at 11:20 pm.

A motion (Stines / DeVito) to approve Personnel Agenda Item # H7:

7. Extra Duty Assignments.

VOTE: *Motion carries unanimously* . 7-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Huffine, Morales).

L. ADJOURNMENT

A motion (Skelly / Stines) to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 pm.

VOTE: *Motion carries unanimously* . 7-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Huffine, Morales).

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Poulos

Nancy Poulos
District Clerk

Attachments