

APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2008

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ELMONT, NEW YORK

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Elmont Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York, held at the Elmont Road School on Tuesday, January 15, 2008.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Pamela Byer, President
Elsy Mecklenbourg-Guibert, Vice President
Lorraine Ferrigno
Carol Parker-Duncanson
Aubrey Phillips
Frank Ragona

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael A. Jaime

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Mr. Albert Harper,	Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Robert Geras,	Director of Business and Facilities
Mrs. Barbara Schwartz,	Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education
Dr. Lynne Stucchio,	Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Colum P. Nugent,	School Attorney
Celestine L. Lloyd,	District Clerk

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ABSENT: None

CONSULTANT PRESENT: Mr. Thomas W. Galante

On a motion by Mrs. Parker Duncanson, seconded by Mr. Ragona, the Board convened in Executive Session at 6:30 PM.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Ragona, the Board convened in Public Session at 8: 20 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION

Motion Carried Unanimously

Mrs. Byer called the meeting to order at 8:28 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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On a motion by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, seconded by Mr. Ragona, the Board approved the agenda which was distributed to the audience.

APPROVAL OF
AGENDA

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, seconded by Mrs. Parker-Duncanson, the Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 18, 2007.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion Carried

INFORMATION REPORT - None

PRESIDENT'S/VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

PRESIDENT'S/
VICE
PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS

President - Mrs. Byer greeted and welcomed every one, she expressed good wishes for a prosperous New Year. She complimented the many staff members and teachers that worked in the ELA Academy during the holiday break. The students came out in large numbers. Mrs. Byer noted that parents were taking every opportunity to support their children in the ELA Program. Mrs. Byer informed the audience of the number of students in attendance; on December 27th, there were 264 students; December 28th there were 340 students in attendance. On January 5th, there were 307 students and January 12th there were 129 sixth graders district-wide in attendance. She thanked Mr. Harper and all those who gave of their time.

Mr. Harper expressed his thanks to all the teachers for their dedication and for going the extra mile in providing the additional instruction to assist the students in preparation for the ELA testing. Mr. Harper mentioned the additional effort the District has provided to help the students be successful on these assessment exams, by providing opportunities for direct instruction rather than just sending home a review packet. He thanked the teachers, administrators and building principals for coming out to help the students in the district. Mr. Harper stated we are moving forward in the preparation for the math exams. He expressed his admiration for the very strong individuals who work and continue to work within the Elmont School district.

Mrs. Byer reported on the Saturday Enrichment Program. The invitation of Chef Charlie Walsh Jr. by Mrs. Haigh was very well received. Students expressed their desire to keep this program going. Some of the dishes prepared were french onion soup and crème puffs.

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Mrs. Byer thanked Mr. Geras for escorting her through the Old Library; it is a work in progress. She noted the safe environment for the workers, free of clutter and debris.

PRESIDENT'S/
VICE
PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS

Mrs. Byer mentioned her attendance at the press conference on Saturday, along with many other community members. The concern was about hazardous materials being transported via freight through the community by the Long Island Railroad. This was held by Assemblyman Thomas Alfano along with State Senator Kemp Hannon of Garden City. Mrs. Byer shared the correspondence received regarding hazardous waste or radio active material and how it jeopardizes First Responders as well as residents who may live near the train tracks.

Vice President - Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert greeted everyone. She concurred with Mrs. Byer on the Saturday Enrichment program. Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert noted that the children were very interested and energized during the program. Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert wished everyone a healthy and successful new year. With anticipation she looks forward to the positive feedback to be received during the upcoming year.

SEWANHAKA BOARD ITEMS – Mrs. Parker-Duncanson reported that the 7th and 8th graders participated in the New York State ELA assessments. The High School District provided many opportunities for students to prepare for these tests.

SEWANHAKA
BOARD ITEMS

Mrs. Parker-Duncanson shared the information received from the principals of the High School District. The Elmont Memorial High School Girl Varsity Basketball team participated in a tournament at Freeport High School and they were recipients of the championship.

Mrs. Parker-Duncanson commended the elementary principals for reaching out to the High Schools in an effort to establish a connection. She also mentioned her observation of the Pep Rally conducted at Dutch Broadway for the ELA. Several of the members of the sports team and other students from Elmont Memorial High School attended the Pep Rally. Mrs. Parker-Duncanson commended Mr. Aksionoff for utilizing the high school students to motivate the elementary students who were taking the ELA exams.

It was also noted that the Sewanhaka High School District is using performing groups from the High Schools to visit some of the Elmont Elementary Schools. The Jazz Band and Voices of Harmony Group of Sewanhaka will visit Clara H. Carlson on January 31, 2008. The Voices of Harmony Group and the String Ensemble will visit Stewart Manor on April 17, 2008. Mrs. Parker-Duncanson noted that this opportunity was a good marketing tool for the High School District in its endeavor to establish and maintain a relationship with the elementary schools.

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SEWANHAKA
BOARD ITEMS

Mrs. Parker-Duncanson also reported that six music students from Elmont Memorial High School performed at the All County Jazz Concert. Twelve students from Sewanhaka High School were selected for the All County Music Festival. As reported previously, the Petro Classic, a large fundraiser, was held at Elmont Memorial High School in memory of Coach Gregg Petrocelli.

Bilal Butt from the Sewanhaka High School Football team made the All County Football Team which is an honor. He was also selected as one of the elite eleven top academic football players.

Mrs. Parker-Duncanson reported on the Robotic Club which is a new program. It involves building of a robot for competition to take place at Hofstra University on March 28, 2008. The students have 42 days to build a robot and perform several tasks. Mrs. Parker-Duncanson shared her thoughts of this as a good thing to know as robotics is becoming a science that's of interest to many people. Mrs. Parker-Duncanson stated that as the information is received, she will keep the audience informed. One hundred fifty 7th and 8th grade students from Sewanhaka are participating in the New Hyde Park essay writing contest of "What America Means to Me". Mrs. Parker Duncanson stated the students are writing very well.

Mrs. Parker-Duncanson mentioned that the student activities in both of the High Schools have been very good and the students are very much involved. She expressed her gratification for the link being made to maintain the relationship between the High School and Elementary Schools.

Mr. Harper then referenced a visit to one of the elementary schools where he engaged in a conversation with a parent who is an employee of the District regarding the college acceptance for her son. He proceeded to congratulate Mrs. Judy Rocco, whose son, an Alden Terrace graduate was selected by Northeastern, Princeton and Cornell Universities. This acceptance demonstrated how successful the Elmont District schools are.

AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

CORRESPONDENCE - None

REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY

REPORT OF THE
ATTORNEY

Mr. Nugent had one item for the public session. He read the following resolution:

RESOLVED, THAT THE Board of Education designate the building principal and the school psychologist as the District representatives with authority to initiate referrals to the Committee on Special Education pursuant to NYS Education Law 4401.a(1). All other

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professional staff shall be authorized to submit a request for a referral to the building principal or school psychologist which shall be made on the form provided by the Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

**REPORT OF THE
ATTORNEY**

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Ragona the Board approved the resolution for the designation of District representative to initiate referrals to the Committee on Special Education.

Motion Carried

Mr. Nugent then requested a motion for an Executive Session to be held immediately following the Regular Meeting to discuss matters appropriate to Executive Session.

**REQUEST FOR
APPROVAL OF
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

On a motion by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert seconded by Ms. Ferrigno the Board approved an Executive Session, as per Mr. Nugent's request, to be held immediately following the Regular Meeting to discuss matters appropriate to Executive Session.

Motion Carried Unanimously

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

**REPORT OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Harper thanked everyone for attending the Board meeting tonight.

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Ragona, the Board approved the following professional leaves of absence:

**PROFESSIONAL
LEAVES OF
ABSENCE**

JACOB, STANEY, Elementary Teacher at Dutch Broadway School, effective 4/01/08, duration of leave 4/1/08 – 8/31/08, unpaid*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; Service to District: 4 years, 7 months.

* Includes Family and Medical Leave from 4/01/08 – 6/24/08.

FLETE, ANDREA, Elementary Teacher at Alden Terrace School, effective 4/10/08, duration of leave 4/10/08 – 8/31/08, unpaid*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; Service to District: 11 years, 8 months.

*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 4/10/08 – 6/24/08.

ITALIANO, LISA, Special Education Teacher at Alden Terrace School, effective 4/28/08, duration of leave 4/28/08 – 8/31/08, unpaid*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; Service to District: 2 years, 7 months.

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*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 4/28/08 – 6/24/08.

**PROFESSIONAL
LEAVES OF
ABSENCE**

GASPAR, NANCY, Elementary Teacher at Alden Terrace School, effective 3/26/08, duration of leave 3/26/08 – 8/31/08, unpaid*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; Service to District: 4 years, 7 months.

*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 3/26/08 – 6/24/08.

The Board also approved the following employees' requests for changes in their District Child Rearing Leave:

**PROFESSIONAL
CHANGES IN
DISTRICT CHILD
REARING LEAVE**

ALEXANDER-WALFALL, STACIA, Principal's Assistant at Clara H. Carlson School, effective:

From: 11/28/07 – 1/17/08, unpaid

To: 11/28/07 – 1/10/08, unpaid*

Reason: District Child Rearing Leave

*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 11/28/07 – 1/10/08

Note: Leave of Absence was originally approved by the Board on 10/16/07.

KOCH, IRENE, Special Education Teacher at Dutch Broadway School effective:

From: 1/14/08 – 8/31/08, unpaid

To: 1/7/08 – 8/31/08, unpaid*

Reason: District Child Rearing Leave

*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 1/7/08 – 4/4/08.

Note: Leave of Absence was originally approved by the Board on 11/20/07.

CONSTANT, KENYA, Elementary Teacher at Dutch Broadway School, effective:

From: 1/22/08 – 3/28/08, unpaid

To: 1/2/08 – 3/28/08, unpaid*

Reason: District Child Rearing Leave

*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 1/2/08 – 3/28/08.

Note: Leave of Absence was originally approved by the Board on 11/20/07.

The Board also approved the following employee's request for an extension in her District Child Rearing Leave:

**PROFESSIONAL
EXTENSION IN
DISTRICT CHILD
REARING LEAVE**

HELLER, JENNIFER, Speech Teacher at Clara H. Carlson School, effective:

From: 9/4/07 – 1/31/08, unpaid*

To: 9/4/07 – 8/31/09, unpaid

Reason: District Child Rearing Leave

Note: Leave of Absence was originally approved by the Board on 8/7/07; a change was approved on 9/18/07.

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The Board further approved the following professional appointments:

**PROFESSIONAL
APPOINTMENTS**

MARANGONI, JILLIAN, Long Term Substitute (Special Education), Initial Assignment: Covert Avenue School at a salary of \$29,084.64 (pro-rated from \$55,932 MA Step 1), effective 1/28/08 – 6/30/08 (pending medical approval), no probation and no tenure involved. Certification: Students With Disabilities B-2 (Initial).

GIANDRANDE, ELISA, Long Term Substitute (Elementary Education), Initial Assignment: Clara H. Carlson School at a salary of \$27,686.34 (pro-rated from \$55,932 MA Step 1), effective 2/4/08 – 6/30/08 (pending medical approval), no probation and no tenure involved. Certification: Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial).

LEWANDOSKI, JESSICA, Permanent Substitute (Speech), Initial Assignment: Gotham Avenue School at a salary of \$27,966.00 (pro-rated from \$55,932 MA Step 1), effective 2/1/08 – 6/30/08 (pending medical approval), no probation and no tenure involved. Certification: Speech and Language Disabilities (Initial).

The Board also approved the following teachers to be employed as per diem substitute teachers for the 2007-2008 school year: Not eligible for probation/tenure.

**PROFESSIONAL
PER DIEM
SUBSTITUTES**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area of Certification</u>
Rolla, Marc	Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial Pending)
*Fazzolare, Melissa	Childhood Education (Initial)
Belsham, Jessica	Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial Pending)
*Alas, Carolyn	Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial Pending)

*Pending medical approval

The Board further approved the following conditional appointment per diem substitute teachers for the 2007-2008 school year. Not eligible for probation/tenure.

**PROFESSIONAL
CONDITIONAL
PER DIEM
SUBSTITUTES**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area of Certification</u>
*Rozen, Mindy	Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial Pending)
*Conneely, Jaclyn	Early Childhood Education B-2 (Initial Pending)

*Pending medical approval

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The Board also approved the following change in compensation:

CHANGE IN
COMPENSATION

SINNREICH, ARIELLA, .4 School Psychologist

From: \$59,852 MA+30 Step 1

To: \$61,342 MA+30 Step 2

Gotham Avenue School, effective 2/1/08.

The Board further approved the following professional changes in status:

PROFESSIONAL
CHANGES IN
STATUS

DR. PATRICIA BENSTOCK, approved by the Board on 9/18/07 for assignment as a Permanent Substitute Teacher (Music) effective 9/1/07 be placed on probation from 1/18/08 to 8/31/10 and that she also be granted Jarema credit for prior service to the Elmont Union Free School District.

ROLLA, MARC,

From: Per Diem Substitute Teacher

To: 175 Day Substitute Teacher

Gotham Avenue School at a salary of \$13,000.26 (pro-rated from \$25,000) effective 1/22/08 – 6/17/08; no probation and no tenure involved.

The foregoing motions were put to a roll call with the following results:

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Ms. Ferrigno, seconded by Mrs. Mecklenbourg-Guibert, the Board approved the following civil service leaves of absence:

CIVIL SERVICE
LEAVES OF
ABSENCE

QUAIL, JOSEPH, Maintainer, District wide, effective 12/3/07, duration of leave: 8 weeks, reason: Medical.

The Board also approved the employment of the following Civil Service personnel:

CIVIL SERVICE
APPOINTMENTS

SMITH, LEESHE, Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute, at a salary of \$12.00/hourly, effective 1/16/08 pending civil service, medical and fingerprint approval.

AGUILAR, MARY, Bus Attendant Part-time Substitute, at a salary of \$11.00/hourly, effective 1/16/08 pending civil service, medical and fingerprint approval.

AGUILAR, MARY, Food Service Helper Part-time Substitute, at a salary of \$10.90/hourly, effective 1/16/08 pending civil service medical and fingerprint approval.

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The Board further approved the following Civil Service changes in status:

**CIVIL SERVICE
CHANGES IN
STATUS**

MUJTABAH, ROKIATU,

From: Food Service Helper
To: Assistant Cook

at the Alden Terrace School, at a salary of \$18.42 hourly, effective 1/16/08 pending Civil Service approval.

GALLONE, PASQUALINA,

From: Food Service Helper
To: Assistant Cook

at the Gotham Avenue School, at a salary of \$17.27 hourly, effective 1/16/08 pending Civil Service approval.

PAYNE, VICTOR,

From: Bus Driver 10-month
To: Bus Driver Part-time substitute

District wide, at a salary of \$16.00 hourly, effective 1/16/08 pending Civil Service approval.

The Board also approved the extension of conditional appointments for the following employees:

**CIVIL SERVICE
EXTENSION OF
CONDITIONAL
APPOINTMENTS**

Lucia Asaro-	Food Service Helper Part-time substitute
Devlon Caldwell-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Eon Pilgrim-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Roberto Rios-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Freddie Ricks-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Gerald Seltzer-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Issac Cameron-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Sheyla Estevez-	Teacher Aide Part-time substitute
Salvatore Conte-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Peggy Regis-	Bus Attendant Part-time substitute
Annamaria Caputo-	Food Service Helper Part-time substitute
Alejandrina Cordova-	Food Service Helper Part-time substitute
Lauria Durogene-	Food Service Helper Part-time substitute
Christina Massotto	Food Service Helper Part-time substitute
Ingrid Garrido-	Food Service Helper Part-time substitute
Candace Simmons-	Food Service Helper Part-time substitute
Marie Villareal-	Food Service Helper Part-time substitute
Shameka Whitehead-	Food Service Helper Part-time substitute

The foregoing motions were put to a roll call with the following results:

Motion Carried Unanimously

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On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Ragona, the Board received the Committee on Special Education and Preschool Special Education designations and program placements for the Evaluation Placements, Reviews of Program and I.E.P. Modifications of students.

COMMITTEE ON
SPECIAL
EDUCATION AND
PRE-SCHOOL
SPECIAL
EDUCATION

The following items were **TABLED**:

Second Reading - Revised Policy

Policy # 3600 - Staff Use of Cellular Phones

Gift to the District

A donation of \$700 from two Futurecorps grants to Gotham Avenue School. See backup pages in the Board Book of January 15, 2008 for more specific information.

On a motion by Mrs. Parker-Duncanson, seconded by Ms. Ferrigno, the Board approved the below listed gifts:

GIFTS TO THE
DISTRICT

The donation of \$100 from Peter Austin Vlachos. This is a donation by the employer of a Dutch Broadway parent. The company wishes to make the donation to the School Library to purchase books from Barnes & Noble in conjunction with the Dutch Broadway PTA PARP. Additional information is contained in the backup pages of the Board Book of January 15, 2008.

The donation of \$109.52 from Target "Take Charge of Education" School Fundraising Program to the Clara H. Carlson School. Information for this donation is contained in the backup pages of the Board Book of January 15, 2008.

In accordance with Policy #4900, Volunteers, the Board also approved a volunteer to work as a Psychology Intern at the Clara H. Carlson School, pending medical approval. See backup pages in the Board Book of January 15, 2008 for more specific information.

VOLUNTEERS

The Board also approved the employment of the following teacher for the Saturday Enrichment Academy at Gotham Avenue School at the rate of \$100.00 per day for a maximum 5 days (to replace Noella Suzzi-Zalli).

SATURDAY
ENRICHMENT
ACADEMY
EMPLOYMENT

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME SCHOOL</u>	<u>COURSE</u>	
Roseanna Martellaccio	DB	Italian	

The Board further approved the proposed amended Administrative Circular #1 - Re: Substitute Salaries. See backup pages in the Board Book of January 15, 2008.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
CIRCULAR #1 -
SUBSTITUTE
SALARIES**

The Board also approved the employment of the following consultant to work the Model UN Program, at a rate of \$50.00 per hour for a maximum 6 hours, and \$100.00 for the March 29, 2008, Saturday session.

**MODEL UN
PROGRAM
CONSULTANT**

NKENGE GILLIAM, consultant, Model United Nations Program 2007-2008.

The foregoing motions were put to a roll call with the following results:

Motion Carried Unanimously

The Board had a First Reading for the New Policies listed below:

New Policy - Fixed Asset Inventory & Control.

New Policy - Computer Control

**FIRST READING:
NEW POLICIES
FIXED ASSET &
INVENTORY
CONTROL
&
COMPUTER
CONTROL**

These policies are contained in the backup pages of the Board Book of January 15, 2008. (There are Regulations with these policies for your reference, which are also contained in the backup pages as noted above).

ITEMS NOTED FOR THE MINUTES

**ITEMS NOTED
FOR THE
MINUTES**

Use of Facilities

**USE OF
FACILITIES**

Requests for Use of the Facilities that have been approved by the Superintendent of Schools since the last Board Meeting are enclosed in the backup pages in the back of the Board Book of January 15, 2008

Worker's Compensation

**WORKER'S
COMPENSATION**

The following employees are on a leave of absence due to Worker's Compensation case still pending:

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School Meals Profit and Loss Statement

ITEMS NOTED
FOR MINUTES

School Lunch Profit and Loss Statement for the month of November, 2007 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of January 15, 2008.

Custodial/Transportation Overtime

Breakdown Custodial/Transportation Overtime:

Cust./Trans. Overtime – December, 2007	\$ 11,381.17
Overtime paid Year to Date	\$ 61,995.32
Cust./Trans.Overtime - July, 2006 - June 2007	\$ 88,018.79

VANDALISM TALLIES FOR DECEMBER 2007 - \$ 75

VANDALISM
TALLIES

Year-to-Date \$ 186

Previous Year-to-Date \$ 386

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMITTEE
REPORTS AND
INFORMATION
ITEMS

Mr. Phillips stated that he attended the Sub-Committee on Legislation Meeting of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association which he is a member of. This meeting is the most important of the year because of the forming of the Legislative agenda for the upcoming year. This year they met prior to the Governors' remarks to the State and budget presentation. They were cautious in what was included in the Legislative agenda for the year. One of the items that were included in this report for the State was to increase the State share of funding for education as to alleviate the burden placed on the local property tax. The New York School Board and Nassau Suffolk School Board associations share this concern and it was placed high on the agenda. He noted additional items from the 2007 program because only a few had been updated. He stated when the revised information is received, he will be happy to share it with everyone.

Mr. Phillips reported on the Nassau Suffolk School Board Association Executive Committee meeting which was held the previous week, Thursday. One of the items discussed was to find ways to dispel some of the misconceptions about Long Island's wealth to the rest of the State. Mr. Phillips also gave a review of the presentation for expenditures per child on Long Island. He stressed the importance of the local discussion regarding property taxes not to be contained within the Elmont or the Sewanhaka District

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COMMITTEE
REPORTS AND
INFORMATION
ITEMS

only, but it needs to be shared with Albany to ensure that along with the debates for Upstate and Downstate, Long Islanders get what they need.

Mr. Phillips made mention of his appointment to the BOCES Budget Advisory Committee. This is the first time that the Elmont Union Free School District participated in this committee and he feels it is important that this happens. Mr. Phillips mentioned his anticipation for the upcoming year, would be for another Board Member to be selected so that all the members can gain awareness from this type of committee participation.

Mr. Phillips discussed the Nassau BOCES Budget Line in the Elmont School District, a mandated cost of well over \$425K in administrative costs. Mr. Phillips expressed his contemplation after being asked by the Board President to be a member of this committee that it would be a good way to work vigorously on some of the costs mandated by Nassau BOCES.

Mr. Phillips was pleased to learn at the meeting that Nassau BOCES is implementing that its employees contribute 20% to their health insurance. Mr. Phillips mentioned that this was an aggressive step as well as interesting. It reflects that Nassau BOCES are listening to those school districts that participate in their budget process. Mr. Phillips stated that the District does not have control and cannot opt out of this administrative cost which accounts for 1.7% of the Nassau BOCES administrative budget.

Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert congratulated Mr. Phillips on his selection to the BOCES Budget Review Advisory committee.

Ms. Ferrigno greeted everyone. In addition to the information communicated regarding the Sub-Committee on Legislation she clarified to the audience that just like NYSSBA Legislative representation, this does not mean that the proposed laws or recommendations are going to pass, however we would like to support them. Ultimately the Sub Committee can only do lobbying.

Ms. Ferrigno also stated her inability to perceive how the nomination was conducted for Mr. Phillips selection to the BOCES Budget Advisory Committee. Mrs. Ferrigno questioned Mrs. Byer how the position came about and how the Board Member was chosen. Mrs. Byer clarified that it was not a nomination and it was a pending item. Ms. Ferrigno requested that all members should be informed when such choices are made. Mrs. Byer stated that she did not have all the information in front of her but will bring it forth at a later date. Mr. Ragona stressed the importance that in the future if such an opportunity arises in which a Board Member can be utilized to represent our district; it should be presented to the entire Board. Mr. Ragona stated that this will give all the Board Members an equal opportunity to do their jobs.

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OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Phillips reviewed some information that the community should be pleased with. \$2.5M was designated for the improvement of ARGO Community Theatre area. He stated that this was administered by Senator Skelos, Senator Johnson and Assemblyman Alfano.

The Black History Month Celebration will take place on February 10, 2008 at the Elmont Library commencing with a roundtable discussion at 2:00 PM followed by a ceremony at 3:45 PM. Mr. Phillips announced the nominees for the 21st Assembly District Martin Luther King award, Mr. Walter Aksionff and Mr. Ken Rosner to be presented by Mr. Alfano.

Ms. Ferrigno, as a follow-up to Mr. Phillips announcement of the monies designated for the ARGO Theatre district, related it to a previous incident. The money went to the Town. She urged the audience to be vigilant to ensure that the community receives its fair share.

Mr. Phillips stated that he was not sure if the monies would be going to the Town.

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS - None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION - None

AUDIENCE ITEMS

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Ms. Wilma Rodgers, Ms. Lois Saltarella and Ms. Louis DiNiso expressed their grievance regarding the transportation of their children to Saint Anne's Catholic School. Ms. Rodgers disagreed with how the notice of change for transportation was communicated. Ms. Rodgers stated that issues have been addressed since September and requested the status. Mr. Harper reiterated the constraints of the law and State regulations. He also apologized for this inconvenience.

Mr. Nugent also expressed that this issue cannot be resolved with the local Board of Education, it is the Commissioner's decision. He also related how disheartening some of the cases he has read are. They stated that a Child Safety Zone Study had been previously conducted; however Ms. Rodgers and Ms. Saltarella requested that a new one be conducted. It was resolved that Mrs. Rodgers will submit paperwork to Mr. Harper.

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Mrs. Kathy Ferrigno questioned the occupancy status of the “Old Library”. Mr. Harper responded that anticipated occupancy is projected to take place during the February break. She also inquired if there had been any requests for occupancy for the pending unoccupied space. Mr. Harper did not have any information to share.

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Mrs. Ferrigno questioned Mr. Phillips, if there were discussion regarding the Referendum BOCES vote scheduled for the February 12, 2008 for the renovation of one of their buildings. Mr. Phillips stated that it was an information item at the meeting. She also requested clarification on what percentage of the BOCES budget can be legally withheld. Mr. Phillips stated that the percentage has been raised by the Governor. The BOCES budget consists of three sections and his understanding is that the amount is inclusive in the amount they can put in reserve.

Mrs. Ferrigno further commented on the \$2.5M. Per her conversation with Mr. Cushing the money will be going to the Town of Hempstead and “earmarked” for the ARGO project, however she stated that the community must be vigilant that the funds are appropriately obtained.

Mr. John Sullivan spoke as a follow up to Mr. Phillips information report regarding cutting costs at the BOCES level. Mr. John Sullivan made reference to “Business Week” (1/21/08, pg. 66) which cited the record current U.S. household debt (mortgage-exclusive) of \$2.5 trillion and (mortgage-inclusive) \$13.6 trillion, equivalent to averages of \$33,000 and \$190,000 per U.S. household, respectively. He suggested that the foregoing numbers are generally applicable to local area households and said that it is appropriate that the School Board direct the administration to limit the annual budget increase for 2008-2009 to 2.5%. He commented that typical year-to-year school budget increases of five to six percent are inappropriate since we are now in an economic recession.

Mr. Phillips responded that the Governor has proposed in his budget a 4% cap on year-to-year increases for school districts which is very interesting. Mr. Phillips stated that Mr. Sullivan’s concept will be taken under consideration.

Mr. Patrick Nicolosi thanked Mr. Sullivan for the very informative report given. He expressed his discontent and urged further review of the expenditures per child cost quoted by Mr. Phillips. Mr. Nicolosi recommended that the Board extend themselves to other area Board Members in an information gathering process for purchasing items cumulatively. He also reiterated the need for the community to be alert in an effort not to be shortchanged.

APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education

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Mr. Phillips in response further clarified how the expenditures per child costs were developed and stated that the information quoted did not include the regional cost factor adjustment.

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Mr. Ragona, as a follow up to Mrs. Ferrignos' comment regarding the BOCES Referendum Vote informed the audience of literature available for those who were interested.

NEXT MEETING

NEXT MEETING

Mrs. Byer announced that the next Regular Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at the Elmont Road School at 8:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT
TO EXECUTIVE
SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:34 PM.

Motion Carried Unanimously

PUBLIC SESSION

PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Ragona, seconded by Mr. Phillips the Board reconvened into Public Session at 10:15 PM.

Motion Carried Unanimously

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:20 PM on a motion by Mrs. Parker-Duncanson, seconded by Mr. Ragona.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Submitted by,

February 27, 2008
Date Approved

Celestine L. Lloyd
District Clerk