

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2009

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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 Covert Avenue School on Tuesday, February 10, 2009.

ROLL CALL

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Frank Ragona, President  
Lorraine Ferrigno, Vice President  
Pamela Byer  
Michael A. Jaime  
Anthony S. Maffea Sr.  
Carol Parker-Duncanson  
Deniece Walker

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**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
Mrs. Kathy Safrey	Interim Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Colum P. Nugent,	School Attorney
Celestine L. Lloyd,	District Clerk

**ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ABSENT:**

Dr. Lynne Stucchio, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

On a motion by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Maffea, the Board convened in Executive Session at 6:30 PM.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Ms. Ferrigno, the Board convened in Public Session at 8:01 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION

Motion Carried Unanimously

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PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Ragona called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Mr. Maffea, the Board approved the agenda which was distributed to the audience.

APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA

Motion Carried Unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Ms. Ferrigno, the Board approved the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 11, 2008.

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES

Vote on approving the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 11, 2008:

Yes	-	7
No	-	0
Abstain	-	0

Motion Carried

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Ms. Ferrigno, the Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 16, 2008.

Vote on approving the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 16, 2008:

Yes	-	4
No	-	0
Abstain	-	3

(Pamela Byer, Anthony Maffea and Carol Parker-Duncanson)

Motion Carried

Mrs. Byer requested information on the identity of the Board member referenced in the correspondence labeled *Appendix I* for the meeting of December 16, 2008, paragraph 2.

Mr. Ragona gave an explanation of the distribution of the letter resulting from a notification received from Mr. Boyle, Director of Gateway Youth Outreach (GYO). The notification was the result of a phone message that had been distributed by a board member who identified them self as Pamela Byer, Board trustee which was heard by the recipients of the call.

Mrs. Byer denied the accusation of making any phone calls to disparage GYO and further explained her actions and voiced her objection to the statement made. She then requested that the letter be removed from the minutes. It was then explained by Mr. Jaime that Mrs.

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Byer could only abstain from the approval of the minutes. He also advised Mrs. Byer that the letter did not name the board member and referenced her reading a letter at the November Board meeting which has not been submitted to the Board.

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES

Discussion continued regarding the referenced material above. Mr. Ragona concluded that the letter was approved and will remain in the minutes. Mrs. Byer objected to the letter and requested an abstention. Discussion continued.

On a motion by Ms. Ferrigno, seconded by Mr. Jaime the Board approved the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 4, 2009.

Vote on approved the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 4, 2009:

Yes	-	6
No	-	0
Abstain	-	1

(Carol Parker-Duncanson)

INFORMATION REPORT - None

PRESIDENT'S/VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

PRESIDENT'S/VICE  
PRESIDENT'S  
REMARKS

President - Mr. Ragona welcomed and thanked everyone for coming out this evening. He extended his apology for the rescheduling of the January meeting as well as the absence of a quorum to conduct business which resulted in its cancellation of the January 22, 2009 meeting. Mr. Ragona made mention of his optimism with the new administration in Washington and expressed his expectation in public education as well as the appointment of Arne Duncan to Secretary of Education.

Mr. Ragona spoke of the many activities happening in the District. He mentioned the attendance of approximately 1500 students at the Winter ELA Academy conducted in all six of the school buildings. He thanked the teachers for volunteering to participate in this effort. Mr. Ragona commented on how well the District has been doing since the beginning of the year and thanked everyone again for coming out.

SEWANHAKA BOARD ITEMS

SEWANHAKA  
BOARD ITEMS

Mrs. Parker-Duncanson greeted everyone and began her report with an explanation of the abundance of college preparation courses being offered at both of the high schools. She noted some of the activities, such as college visits, tours and financial aid applications and ensuring the graduates or ready for college. Information on the student achievements when received from the principals will be provided at a future meeting.

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Activities for the Sewanhaka High School mentioned were:

SEWANHAKA  
BOARD ITEMS

- Beauty Culture students participated in the annual Long Island Metro Hair competition in which they were awarded 10 of the top 15 awards
- PPS held their annual 9<sup>th</sup> and 10 grade Parent Night Program
- Sewanhaka Varsity Basketball won the Conference V championship
- Two students had award winning short stories published in the High School Writer magazine
- Two teams of students participated in the Nassau County Math Team competition at SUNY Old Westbury
- Model UN competition held in Washington DC; students won a total of six awards

Activities for Elmont Memorial mentioned were:

- Model UN conference conducted in Chicago, students won a total of eight awards.
- 98% of the students passed the New York English Regents
- 54% achieved their mastery (85 and above)
- Performance of the Guys and Dolls musical to be held on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>
- Teen Driver Safety Education
- National Intel winner was Winston Waters a student of Elmont Memorial who has received attention from the elected officials.

Mrs. Parker-Duncanson noted that both high schools participated in the Inauguration Day events. She commended the District, high schools, principals and students for the recognition of such a historical event.

Mr. Jaime informed the audience of the 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math assessments which will take place the second week in March. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of the extra help classes that will be provided.

AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT CERTIFICATE

PRESENTATION OF  
CERTIFICATE TO  
RETIRED  
EMPLOYEE

Mr. Harper presented the retirement certificate to Mr. Douglas Garcia. He thanked him for his service to the District. Mr. Harper made mention of his experience and interaction with Mr. Garcia, which was always positive and performed solely for the well being of the District.

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DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVEMENT CITATIONS

SCHOOL BOARD  
RECOGNITION  
PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Harper presented Ms. Walker and Mr. Maffea with the Development Achievement Citations from the New York State School Boards Association.

Mr. Harper then read a letter received from Barry J. Entwistle, Director of Leadership and Development. He extended congratulations to Mr. Ragona on receiving the Leadership in Governance award.

TENURE PRESENTATION

TENURE  
PRESENTATION

Mr. Harper then presented and recommended Ms. Kristin Minuto for tenure.

Mr. Ragona congratulated his colleagues on their awards.

CORRESPONDENCE - The District Clerk read a thank you letter from New York State School Boards Association for the District's continued support of the association.

CORRESPONDENCE

REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY

REPORT OF THE  
ATTORNEY

Mr. Nugent stated that he had one item for Board action tonight.

Mr. Nugent stated that the District Clerk and the School Attorney conduct the annual election to be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. It is customary that, during each February Board of Education Regular meeting, the Board approves the Resolution to allow the District to conduct its budget vote and its Board elections.

ELECTION  
PROCEDURES

Budget workshops will be conducted on February 25, 2009 and March 9, 2009.

Voting will be held at all seven election districts from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM on May 20, 2008.

Three propositions will be voted upon: The Elmont District Budget, the Sewanhaka Central High School District Budget and the Elmont Public Library Budget.

Two Elmont Union Free School District Board of Education seats will be voted upon: one seat for a term of three years to succeed FRANK RAGONA, whose term expires June 30, 2009; and one seat to succeed PAMELA BYER whose term expires June 30, 2009.

Voters of the District will also vote for one member of the Board of Library Trustees; for a term of three years to succeed the vacated seat of JOY MADERA, whose term expires

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June 30, 2012, and one member for a term of five years to succeed the late JOSEPH MARZIOTTO, whose term expires June 30, 2009.

ELECTION  
PROCEDURES

A resident who wishes to be a candidate for a Board seat can obtain a petition in the District Clerk's office. A candidate will need signatures of 43 qualified voters of the Elmont District this year. Petitions must be returned to the District Clerk's office by 5:00 PM on Monday, April 20, 2009.

To be eligible to run for a seat, the candidate must be a citizen of the United States; 18 years of age and must have resided in the Elmont District for 30 days prior to the election.

In order to register to vote one needs to be 18 years of age, a resident of the District for more than 30 days, and a citizen of the United States. Registration to vote may take place at the office of the school within the resident's election district on any day that school is in session from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, up to Tuesday, May 12, 2009. There is one evening registration to be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at the Elmont Road School only, between the hours of 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM. That is the last day a resident can register to vote.

The District Clerk is directed to publish the election four times within seven weeks preceding such annual election, the first publication to be at least forty-five days before the said election. Said annual election is to be published in the Elmont Herald, published in Elmont, New York and circulated within said school district and in the Franklin Square/Elmont Herald published in Garden City, NY and circulated within the said school district. In the Resolution, Mr. Nugent named the official newspapers that the Board had voted on at its Reorganization meeting.

Absentee ballots will be available in the Office of the District Clerk in the Superintendent's Office at Elmont Road School. Applications for absentee ballots for voting must be returned to the District Clerk, completed, at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be picked up by the voter. The last day to contact the office for an absentee ballot is May 18, 2009, which is the day before the election. Absentee ballots can be returned up until 5:00 PM on May 19, 2009 which is the day of the election.

Absentee ballots for the permanently disabled will be forwarded via US Mail from the list the District has.

Complete boundaries for the seven election district are listed in the Resolution. This will be published in the newspapers, as required by law.

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Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Resolution indicate the qualified voters who are appointed as District Election Chairmen, Inspectors and Clerks.

ELECTION  
PROCEDURES

Section 8 indicates that the qualified voter Dolores Spagnola has been designated as the Coordinator for the annual district election.

The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to arrange with the county Board of Elections for use of voting machines at such annual district election.

The foregoing resolution for the Annual Election was put to a vote on a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Ms. Walker:

APPROVAL OF  
RESOLUTION FOR  
ANNUAL  
ELECTION

Yes	-	7
No	-	0
Abstain	-	0

Motion Carried Unanimously  
Resolution was Adopted

Mr. Nugent stated that this concludes this portion of the report, but requested a motion for an Executive Session to be held immediately following the Regular Meeting to discuss matters appropriate to Executive Session.

REQUEST AND  
APPROVAL OF  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Ms. Walker 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 this evenings' meeting and expressed that this was a very busy time of the year. The children are performing very well and involved in many things. Mr. Harper mentioned that the 4<sup>th</sup> grade children will begin their participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Model UN Academy and the conference will be in late March at the high school. He expressed how wonderful it is to see the children perform these high level research activities. It is a testament to our teachers, teachers that work the children and the Model UN program and the Board of Education's dedication to the commitment of our District. Mr. Ragona applauded Mr. Harper for the implementation of the program on an elementary level a few years ago.

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REPORT OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Harper mentioned that the 5 and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be conducting a Model UN conference in May under the direction of six district wide teachers with assistance from Mr. Lee Marcus at the Stewart Manor School. They will be demonstrating higher level research, debate and public speaking skills. Mr. Harper mentioned what a fantastic educational event. He also mentioned that this program is not only unique to our District as two elementary school Superintendents of Nassau County have expressed interest in the implementation of the program in their District.

Other activities mentioned by Mr. Harper were:

- April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the district-wide art work will be on display at the Long Island Children's Museum.
- Math Academy will be conducted on February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup>
- The Enrichment program is in full swing, with the return of Chef Charlie from the Long Island Cooking Institute. Previous demonstrations have been in Italian and French. On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Chef Charlie will be cooking a meal in Spanish. The demonstrations include lessons in mathematics, geography, history and English skills.
- World Language Academy is going strong. Many children are learning three different languages.

Mr. Harper encouraged everyone to take advantage and support the opportunities available through the enrichment programs at Clara H. Carlson and Gotham Avenue Schools.

On a motion by Ms. Ferrigno, seconded by Mr. Jaime, the Board approved the following professional leaves of absence:

PROFESSIONAL  
LEAVES OF  
ABSENCE

**BRANDER, DORIT**, School Psychologist at Clara H. Carlson School, effective 4/20/09, duration of leave 4/20/09 – 8/31/09, unpaid\*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; Service to District: 4 years, 5 months.

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 4/20/09 – 6/24/09.

**WARFIELD, SHAWNEE**, Elementary Teacher assigned as Principal's Assistant at Clara H. Carlson School, 3/30/09, duration of leave 3/30/09 – 5/31/09, unpaid, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; Service to District: 5 months.

**SAVAGE, TARA**, ESL teacher at Clara H. Carlson School, effective 1/20/09, duration of leave 1/20/09 – 8/31/09, unpaid\*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; Service to District: 10 years, 3 months.

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\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 1/20/09 – 4/29/09

**BASEL, MELISSA**, Speech Teacher at Clara H. Carlson School, effective 2/23/09, duration of leave 2/23/09 – 5/17/09, unpaid\*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; Service to District: 4 years, 5 months.

PROFESSIONAL  
LEAVES OF  
ABSENCE

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 2/23/09 – 5/17/09

**LENG, LAURA**, Library Media Specialist at Dutch Broadway School, effective 3/16/09, duration of leave 3/16/09 – 8/31/09, unpaid\*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; Service to District: 11 years, 5 months.

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 3/16/09 – 6/16/09

**PERRONE, MONICA**, Special Education Teacher at Clara H. Carlson School, effective 4/3/09, duration of leave 4/3/09 – 5/15/09, unpaid\*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; Service to District: 2 years, 5 months.

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 4/3/09 – 5/15/09

**WEISS, BETH**, Elementary Teacher at Clara H. Carlson School, effective 5/26/09, duration of leave 5/26/09 – 8/31/09, unpaid\*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; Service to District: 18 years.

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 5/26/09 – 6/24/09

**CALLIPARI, CHRISTINE**, Elementary Teacher at Gotham Avenue School, effective 3/30/09, duration of leave 3/30/09 – 8/31/09, unpaid\*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; Service to District: 7 years, 6 months.

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 3/30/09 – 6/24/09

The Board approved the following professional appointments:

PROFESSIONAL  
APPOINTMENTS

**FAIS, KATHLEEN**, Permanent Substitute (Library Media Specialist), initial assignment: Dutch Broadway School, at a salary of \$57,750 (pro-rated from start date) MA Step 1, effective 3/9/09 – 6/30/09 (pending medical approval), no probation and no tenure involved, certification: Library Media Specialist (Initial Pending).

**STERN, ATARA**, Long Term Substitute Teacher (Speech), initial assignment: Clara H. Carlson School, at a salary of \$57,750 (pro-rated from start date) MA Step 1, effective

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2/9/09 – 5/20/09, no probation and no tenure involved, certification: Speech and Language Disabilities (Initial Pending).

PROFESSIONAL  
APPOINTMENTS

**MUNGO, ROBERT**, 175 Day Substitute, initial assignment: Dutch Broadway, at a salary of \$25,000 (pro-rated from start date), effective 2/9/09 – 6/17/09, no probation and no tenure involved, certification: Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial Pending).

**TRGO, CHANCEE**, Permanent Substitute (ESL), initial assignment: Clara H. Carlson, at a salary of \$57,750 (pro-rated from start date) MA Step 1, effective 2/6/09 – 6/30/09, no probation and no tenure involved, certification: English to Speakers of Other Languages (Initial).

PROFESSIONAL  
PER DIEM  
SUBSTITUTES

The Board also approved the following teachers to be employed as per diem substitute teachers for the 2008-2009 school year. Not eligible for probation/tenure:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area of Certification</u>
Kain, Danielle	Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial)
*Weinrauch, Ashley	Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial)

\*Pending Medical approval

The Board further approved the following professional changes in status:

PROFESSIONAL  
CHANGES IN  
STATUS

**BRETTON, SANDRA**,

From: Permanent Substitute Teacher (Art)

To: 175 Day Substitute Teacher

Covert Avenue School at a salary of \$12,143 (pro-rated from \$25,000), effective 2/2/09 – 6/17/09. Not eligible for probation and/or tenure.

**RESOLVED**, that in compliance with the provisions of Section 3012 of the Education Law and Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, the Superintendent presents to the Board the following probationary teacher who has been appointed to such position by resolution of this Board, for tenure consideration. She holds a valid New York State Certificate to teach in the designated tenure area. It further having been shown that her probationary period to teach in this district will expire on the date specified, the Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education of the Elmont Union Free School District grant tenure and appoint this teacher to tenure, effective on the date indicated, to the position in the tenure area as defined.

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<u>PROBATIONER</u>	<u>DATES OF PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>TENURE AREA</u>	<u>TYPE OF CERT</u>	<u>TENURE DATE</u>
Minuto, Kristin	9/1/02 – 11/11/08	Elementary Education	Permanent	11/12/08

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Mr. Jaime, the Board approved the employment of the following Civil Service personnel:

CIVIL SERVICE  
APPOINTMENTS

**KASPER, JOSEPH**, Senior Maintainer, District-wide, at a salary of \$44,999 annual, effective 2/11/09 pending civil service, medical & fingerprint approval, probation: 26 weeks from civil service approval. Replacing: Kevin Brazill

**GILL, DAVID**, Custodian, District-wide, at a salary of \$33,607 annual, effective 2/11/09 pending civil service, medical & fingerprint approval, probation: 26 weeks from civil service approval. Replacing: Darryl Woods

The Board approved the employment of the following Civil Service part time personnel:

**RODGERS, SCOTT**, Maintainer Part-Time, District-wide, at a salary of \$18.90 hourly, effective 2/11/09 pending civil service, medical & fingerprint approval, probation: 26 weeks from civil service approval.

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

**WIDMAN, DANIEL**, Cleaner Part-time substitute, District-wide, at a salary of \$10.00 hourly, effective 2/11/09 pending civil service, medical & fingerprint approval.

**MEDINA, LUIS**, Cleaner Part-time substitute, District-wide, at a salary of \$10.00 hourly, effective 2/11/09 pending civil service, medical & fingerprint approval.

**VENEY JR., ERIC**, Cleaner Part-time substitute, District-wide, at a salary of \$10.00 hourly, effective 2/11/09 pending civil service, medical & fingerprint approval.

The Board further approved the extension of the conditional appointment for the following employees:

CIVIL SERVICE  
EXTENSION OF  
CONDITIONAL  
APPOINTMENTS

Renee Afflick

Teacher Aide Part-time substitute

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Baksh Swabera	Teacher Aide Part-time substitute
Carey Carretta	Teacher Aide Part-time substitute
Diane Hochenberger	Teacher Aide Part-time substitute
Donna Panico	Teacher Aide Part-time substitute

The Board approved the following Civil Service employees who will complete their probationary period and are recommended for permanent status on the dates indicated:

CIVIL SERVICE  
CHANGE OF  
STATUS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>End Probation</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Anthony Melia	Custodian	2/13/09	2/14/09
Christopher Ramos	Custodian	2/13/09	2/14/09
Carlos Carrasquillo	Maintainer	2/18/09	2/19/09

The Board also approved the following Civil Service Change in Status:

**STEBNER, JANET,**

From: Account Clerk

To: Account Clerk & Secretary to Director of Business & Facilities; Elmont Road, at a salary of \$40,969 annual, effective 2/11/09.

The Board further approved the following civil service termination:

CIVIL SERVICE  
TERMINATIONS

**BODDEN, GLEN,** Cleaner Part-time substitute, effective 12/19/08, service to District: 6 months.

The Board approved the termination of the following Civil Service employee effective 2/11/09 due to no service to the District:

Pamela Rojas                      Teacher Aide Part-time substitute

The Board also approved the following Civil Service resignation:

CIVIL SERVICE  
RESIGNATIONS

**TRUMPY, JOHN,** Teacher Aide, Covert Avenue School, effective 1/23/09, service to District 3 years 1 month, reason: Student teaching.

**THORNHILL, CAMILLE,** Teacher Aide, Clara H. Carlson School, effective 1/3/09, service to district 2 years 5 months, reason: personal.

The Board further approved the following Civil Service retirement:

CIVIL SERVICE  
RETIREMENT

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**GARCIA, DOUGLAS**, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 1/15/09, service to district 11 years, 4 months.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Maffea, 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 OF  
SPECIAL  
EDUCATION &  
PRE-SCHOOL  
SPECIAL  
EDUCATION

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Ms. Ferrigno, the Board approved a donation of \$500.00 from Exxon Mobil Corporation "Education Alliance Program" to the District for the Dutch Broadway School. Information pertaining to the donation can be found in the backup pages of the Board Book of February 10, 2009.

GIFTS TO THE  
DISTRICT

The Board approved the \$100.00 grant from FutureCorps to the District for the Alden Terrace School. Information pertaining to the grant can be found in the backup pages of the Board Book of February 10, 2009.

The Board also approved the Extension of Probationary Period for *Jason C. Lewis* as indicated in the letter contained in the backup pages of the Board Book of February 10, 2009.

EXTENSION OF  
PROBATIONARY  
PERIOD

The Board further approved the second reading of New Policy #4776, **Leave Time for Breast and Prostate Cancer Screening**. The policy is contained in the backup pages of the Board Book of February 10, 2009.

SECOND READING:  
NEW POLICY #4776 -  
LEAVE TIME FOR  
BREAST/PROSTATE  
CANCER SCREENING

In accordance with Policy #4900, Volunteers, the Board approved the application for a volunteer submitted by **Deborah Shifra Goldberger**, a Psychologist Intern. The intern has been interviewed.

VOLUNTEERS

Please note that the approval of Deborah Shifra Goldberger is contingent upon the completion of the necessary medical.

The Board also approved the adoption of the School calendar for the 2009-2010 school year. A copy of the calendar is contained in the backup pages of the Board Book of February 10, 2009.

ADOPTION OF  
2009-2010  
SCHOOL  
CALENDAR

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The Board approved the 2009-2010 work calendar for 12 month Classified Personnel. The calendar is contained in the backup pages of the Board Book of February 10, 2009 for clerical and custodial personnel for the 2009-2010 school year. The calendar contains those days on which no regular work will be scheduled. Each of these days is either a holiday or non-work day as agreed to by contract with the two units referenced. The foregoing motions were put to a roll call with the following results:

**WORK CALENDAR  
FOR 12 MONTH  
CLASSIFIED  
PERSONNEL**

Motion Carried Unanimously

ITEMS NOTED FOR THE MINUTES

**ITEMS NOTED FOR  
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 February 10, 2009.

Family and Medical Leave of Absence

**FAMILY AND  
MEDICAL LEAVE  
OF ABSENCE**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Edith McDicken	3 Weeks
Sarita Wyche	12 Weeks

Worker's Compensation

**WORKER'S  
COMPENSATION**

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

Christopher Chisolm                      Sub Cleaner

Budget Transfers Under \$5,000

**BUDGET  
TRANSFER UNDER  
\$5,000**

Requests for Budget Transfers under \$5,000 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 February 10, 2009.

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Mrs. Byer, the Board approved the backup booklet entitled "Schedule of Disbursements and Warrants," which is filed in the "bulky" document file.

**SCHEDULE OF  
DISBURSEMENTS  
AND WARRANTS**

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On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Ms. Walker, the Board received the Report of the Treasurer for the General Fund, Capital Fund, the Lunch Fund, the Trust and Agency Fund, Payroll, Special Aid Fund and Capital Bond Fund as of November and December 2008.

**TREASURER'S  
REPORT**

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Maffea, the Board approved the authorization to make budgetary transfers (over \$5,000) as per the backup pages in the Board Book of February 10, 2009.

**BUDGET  
TRANSFERS OVER  
\$5,000**

The Board approved the disposal of obsolete cafeteria table and Apple PC at Dutch Broadway as per the backup pages in the Board Book of February 10, 2009.

**DISPOSAL OF  
OBSOLETE  
EQUIPMENT**

The Board also approved the acceptance of a donation of a shade tree at a value of \$200 from Cornell University Cooperative Extension as per the backup pages in the Board Book of February 10, 2009.

**GIFT TO THE  
DISTRICT**

The Board approved the entering into a contract with a Parent to transport their child to an out of district school we do not currently transport to per backup pages in the Board Book of February 10, 2009.

**DISTRICT  
TRANSPORTATION  
CONTRACT**

Motion Carried Unanimously

**ITEMS NOTED FOR THE MINUTES**

**ITEMS NOTED FOR  
MINUTES**

Analysis of Revenue – for the month of November and December 2008.

General Fund Schedule of Receivables - General Fund Schedule of Receivables for the month of November and December, 2008 appears in the backup pages in the Board Book of February 10, 2009.

Monthly Budget Status Report

Monthly Budget Status Report – as of November 30, 2008 and December 31, 2008 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of February 10, 2009.

Various Fund Trial Balances

Trial Balance Reports General, Capital, School Lunch, Trust & Agency, Expendable Trust, Special Aid, Capital Bond and Non-Expendable Trust as of November 30, 2008 and December 31, 2008 appear in the backup pages in the Board Book of February 10, 2009.

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General Fund Cash Flow Statement

ITEMS NOTED FOR  
MINUTES

General Fund Cash Flow as of November 30, 2008 and December 31, 2009 and Cash Flow Projection as of December 31, 2008 and January 31, 2009 appear in the backup pages in the Board Book of February 10, 2009.

School Meals Profit and Loss Statement

School Lunch Profit and Loss Statement for the month of November and December, 2008 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of February 10, 2009.

Custodial/Transportation Overtime

Breakdown Custodial/Transportation Overtime:

Cust./Trans. Overtime – December, 2008	\$ 7,920.92
Overtime paid Year to Date	\$ 45,940.22
Cust./Trans.Overtime - July, 2007 - June, 2008	\$ 122,501.03
Cust./Trans. Overtime – January, 2009	\$ 19,371.88
Overtime paid Year to Date	\$ 65,312.10
Cust./Trans. Overtime – July, 2007 – June, 2008	\$122,501.03

VANDALISM TALLIES FOR DECEMBER 2008 - \$ 15

VANDALISM  
TALLIES

Year-to-Date \$ 165

Previous Year-to-Date \$ 186

VANDALISM TALLIES FOR JANUARY 2009 - \$ 34

Year-to-Date \$ 199

Previous Year-to-Date \$ 299

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMITTEE  
REPORTS AND  
INFORMATION  
ITEMS

Mrs. Byer commented on what a joy it was to attend the Science Fair at Clara H. Carlson School. In noting the joy of the children with the fair, Mrs. Byer recommended to Mr. Harper and the Board, the possibility of instituting a Science and Math Center for all students at the Old Library. She also noted the excitement of the ELA Rally at the Dutch

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Broadway School. Mrs. Byer mentioned the Black History Celebration program as well. She commended Mr. Zucker and Jason Lewis for their presentations. Mrs. Byer mentioned how proud she is of the Elmont School District and community.

COMMITTEE  
REPORTS AND  
INFORMATION  
ITEMS

Mr. Maffea mentioned his attendance at the Science Fair also and commended the teachers for a job well done. He along with Ms. Walker attended the food sampling demonstration at the Dutch Broadway School. The possibilities of new menu items were presented to some staff and students from the District. The focus of bringing nutrition to the children was a huge development and it will help benefit them in so many ways.

Mr. Harper commended Mrs. Cavalluzzo for her efforts of bringing the food sampling demonstration to the District. This is conducted yearly with the participation of children of the District, staff, administration and Board members.

Mr. Harper also mentioned the visitation from the State in January for an inspection of our cafeterias. Mr. Ragona read the letter received from the State and thanked Mrs. Cavalluzzo for the wonderful job of ensuring our children eat well.

Mrs. Byer mentioned her observation of teachers in professional development at Clara H. Carlson and her appreciation for the program. The program lets you see the development and what is happening within our District.

Ms. Walker commended all of the staff who worked on the Christmas presentations. She had the opportunity all the presentations except the Dutch Broadway. She however did attend the Greek Olympics at Dutch Broadway which was very fulfilling for her. The parents were just as excited as the children. Ms. Walker noted that we have a strong District of teachers and staff. She commended everyone for their participation in the activities. She mentioned her attendance at the Gotham Avenue School Election Process. Ms. Walker commended the Superintendent for his action to extend the series of books which were no longer in use to parents within the community. She expressed what an excellent way to have the books recycled and to observe the excitement of the parents.

Mr. Ragona gave a recap of the comments made and thanked the members of the Board for making time and an effort to get to the buildings to see what is happening with our children.

SCHOOL FACILITY REPORT CARD

SCHOOL FACILITY  
REPORT CARD

Mr. Geras presented the School Facility Report Card which is conducted annually which is required by the State Education Department. He mentioned the prescribed format and sections. The report is reviewed by a combination of the District Architect, Consulting Engineers, Fire Marshall, State and Code Enforcement Officer along with facility staff.

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The District received a rating of Satisfactory or better. Mr. Geras mentioned that the District intent of the facility is to cultivate an environment that is conducive to learning. He noted the public can feel secure with the knowledge that our facilities are in great condition, safe for the children and facilitate learning. Mr. Geras extended an opportunity for the audience to ask any questions and advised the audience that the report is available in the Facilities Office for review.

SCHOOL FACILITY  
REPORT CARD

Mr. Ragona applauded the staff for the great work done in keeping the buildings in the conditions they are kept in.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS - None

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS – Mr. Ragona mentioned that Ms. Walker will be going to Albany, March 1 - 3 to represent the District at the State Issues Conference and how helpful it will be to have her lobby for our District.

LEGISLATIVE  
ITEMS

ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION - None

AUDIENCE ITEMS

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Mr. John Smith expressed his concern about the status of occupancy at the Old Library. He made mention of the cost to the taxpayers and the building not being utilized.

Mr. Ragona responded that the District presently is entertaining requests for proposals for those interested. He mentioned that the District is in preliminary negotiations with two organizations. Mr. Ragona encouraged Mr. Smith to have anyone interested contact the District.

Mr. Nugent explained the constraints of the school district leasing property for only ten (10) years and cannot be renewed by this Board. Only the Commissioner would be able to renew the lease. This impacts the potential organizations that may be interested in the property.

Mrs. Colleen Mockenhaupt expressed that along with other residents of the community the concern if Mrs. Parker-Duncanson is an Elmont resident. In reading various news articles, that one of Mrs. Parker-Duncanson children no longer attends a school within the District however attends a school in Queens.

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AUDIENCE ITEMS

Mrs. Parker-Duncanson responded; that with this information, what does it have to do with her residency? Mrs. Mockenhaupt inquired if there was a residency requirement to be on the board? Mrs. Parker-Duncanson confirmed her residency.

Ms. Ferrigno stressed that she felt that the matter should have been addressed with the Board to alleviate the whisperings because of her status of an elected official representing the community.

Mrs. Parker-Duncanson responded by noting the requirements mentioned by Mr. Nugent of becoming a Board member which she has met. Discussion continued about the concern of representation on the Board and the child not attending a school within the District. Mr. Ragona mentioned the morality of Mrs. Parker-Duncanson's decision to have her child attend a school outside of the district she represents as a concern. Mrs. Parker-Duncanson responded by noting the requirements of becoming a Board member again.

Mr. Aubrey Phillips, an Elmont resident thanked the District administration for its participation in the Black History Month Celebration. He commended the children and Mr. Zucker for his musical performance. He mentioned the participation of Mr. Jason Lewis and the high school district chorus.

Mr. Phillips stated that the Black History Celebration committee chose to forward the invitations via email this year. In doing so, several members of the Elmont School District did not receive an invitation to the celebration. Mr. Phillips mentioned that he believed that it may be that the Elmont Administration has chosen to block incoming emails from elmont.org and email with his name in it. He explained the necessity for the ability to communicate with the school district. He stated that although he is not a member of the Board, his life in public education has not ceased. Mr. Phillips noted that he shares membership on a board with the Superintendent of Schools of the District which requires them to communicate primarily by email. He mentioned that when he forwards emails to his colleagues of the said Board, the Superintendent of this District cannot receive them. Mr. Phillips inquired if there was a policy of the District which selectively blocked emails. He questioned Mr. Harper if he blocked the receipt of emails from elmont.org? Mr. Harper responded that he did not. Mr. Phillips also inquired of the Board if there was any Board action in this matter.

Mr. Ragona noted the wonderful time at the Black History program. He then assured Mr. Phillips that he can contact anyone on the school board, the Superintendent and the attorney utilizing their email addresses.

Mr. Phillips explained that he did have in his possession information that the school district does use a blocking software product and proceeded to read the information. He

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mentioned how he, as well as others have been unable to get information to Mr. Harper and Mrs. DeBartolo the District Community Liaison. Mr. Phillips suggested to Mr. Harper that this be corrected immediately if there has been no Board action.

Mr. Maffea referenced a campaigning incident in the previous year. He stated that Mr. Phillips or someone assisting him had obtained his private email address. During such time Mr. Maffea received numerous emails from the "re-elect Aubrey group". Mr. Maffea remarked that this activity actually helped me in winning the election.

Mr. Maffea referenced another incident of a woman being found dead on Elmont Road, which he received emails from "telmont" requesting information and for it to be directed to Mr. Phillips. Mr. Phillips responded that he believed that the information was a flyer distributed by the police. Discussion continued about the distribution of the information and the inability of Mr. Phillips to forward an invitation to Mr. Maffea for the Black History Month Celebration. Mr. Maffea commented that this seemed odd since his email address is still in Mr. Phillips database.

Ms. Ferrigno expressed her disagreement to Mr. Phillips response. No one on the Board received an invitation by mail, district mail, word of mouth or phone calls. However Ms. Ferrigno commented that Mr. Harper did receive an invitation to the celebration at the "11<sup>th</sup> hour".

Mr. Phillips commented that he had the evidence in his hands and could forward it to the District Attorney. Ms. Ferrigno advised him to do so. Mr. Phillips commented to Mr. Nugent that he would forward to him the evidence he referenced the following day.

Mr. Nugent referenced that in May the Board did act by vote to prevent the link from Elmont.org and certain websites which contained campaign material. Discussion continued. Mr. Phillips stated that he would be in contact with Mr. Nugent.

Ms. Claudine Hall, resident of Elmont, applauded Mr. Ragona for his effort in changing the January Board meeting due to the Inauguration. She also commended Mrs. Parker-Duncanson for the outstanding work she is doing and urged her to continue to do what she is doing on the school board. In consideration of the performance demonstrated by Mrs. Parker-Duncanson, Ms. Hall expressed her opinion that it did not matter what school her child attended, but to continue to do her job well.

Mr. Ragona announced the next Regular Board meeting at Gotham Avenue School on March 17, 2009. He also mentioned the Budget Workshops which will take place February 25, 2009 and March 9, 2009.

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ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Mrs. Byer, the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:35 PM.

Motion Carried Unanimously

PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Mr. Maffea, the Board reconvened into Public Session at 9:55 PM.

Motion Carried Unanimously

APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL CONSULTANT

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Ms. Walker the Board appointed the firm of Sokoloff Stern LLP as a legal consultant in a pending legal matter.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:00 PM on a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Ms. Walker.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Submitted by,

March 17, 2009  
Date Approved

Celestine L. Lloyd  
District Clerk

ADJOURNMENT TO  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

PUBLIC SESSION

APPOINTMENT OF  
LEGAL  
CONSULTANT

ADJOURNMENT