

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 15, 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 Elmont Road School on Tuesday, September 15, 2009.

ROLL CALL

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Frank Ragona, President  
Lorraine Ferrigno, Vice President  
Patrick O. Emeagwali  
Michael A. Jaime  
Anthony S. Maffea Sr.  
Colleen Mockenhaupt  
Deniece Walker

**ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT:**

Mr. Albert Harper,	Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Barbara Schwartz,	Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education
Mrs. Kathleen Safrey	Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Colum P. Nugent,	School Attorney
Celestine L. Lloyd,	District Clerk

**ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ABSENT:**

Mr. Robert Geras,	Director of Business and Facilities
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**CONSULTANT ABSENT:** Mr. Thomas W. Galante

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

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Ms. Walker, seconded by Ms. Ferrigno, the Board convened in Public Session at 8:04 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION

Motion Carried Unanimously

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Mr. Ragona called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then requested a moment of silence for the victims lost on September 11, 2001.

PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF THE  
AGENDA

Motion Carried Unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Ms. Walker, the Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 11, 2009.

APPROVAL OF THE  
MINUTES

Vote on approving the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 11, 2009:

Yes	-	6
No	-	0
Abstain	-	1 (Mr. Maffea)

Motion Carried

INFORMATION REPORT - None

PRESIDENT'S/VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

PRESIDENT'S/VICE  
PRESIDENT'S  
REMARKS

President – Mr. Ragona greeted and welcomed everyone to the first Board meeting of the new school year. He reported on the activities which took place in August and mentioned that the summer was very productive.

- Academic Summer School of which there was an enrollment of over 444 students. The program allows students to get the extra help they need for the upcoming school year. The program was very well received and attended.
- The District's Enrichment Summer program had an enrollment of 282 students.
- The Model UN program which Mr. Ragona would like to credit Mr. Harper for introducing to the District. Some of the programs noted were French, Spanish, Italian, Science Research, Archeology, Computers, Advanced Math, Band, Jazz, Chorus, Robotics and many other activities.
- In our Extended School ABA Program, twenty-seven (27) children participated in this program. The program was very beneficial for children that need the type of consistency it offers all year long. Mr. Ragona mentioned that the District is ahead of the curve in helping these children.
- The introduction of the Harcourt Science curriculum has been well received by teachers in the District. This program with its tools and method of learning will be very exciting for our children.

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Mr. Ragona gave a brief report of the buildings and grounds in the District. He commended Dutch Broadway School, on the masonry work which looks great and was completed in a timely fashion. The playground equipment at the Covert Avenue School has been replaced. Mr. Ragona complimented the District on its clean buildings and well kept grounds.

PRESIDENT'S/VICE  
PRESIDENT'S  
REMARKS

Vice President – Ms. Ferrigno echoed the sentiments of Mr. Ragona. She welcomed everyone back to the start of the 2009-2010 school year and mentioned her anticipation for a productive, happy and wonderful school year. Ms. Ferrigno referenced Mr. Harper's report on the opening of the schools and also thanked everyone for attending the evenings meeting.

Mr. Ragona thanked Ms. Ferrigno for her report. He mentioned the enrollment for September 10<sup>th</sup> was 3,684. The first day of school was uneventful. Also, the installation of Smart Boards has been completed in every classroom from kindergarten through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

SEWANHAKA BOARD ITEMS

SEWANHAKA  
BOARD ITEMS

Mr. Jaime mentioned the 81<sup>st</sup> opening of the Sewanhaka High School went well. Reports received from Mr. Cappozzi and Mrs. Lidowsky confirmed that there were no problems on the first day of school.

Some of the information items mentioned by Mr. Jaime were:

- The Tribal Grounds dedication will occur on October 17, 2009 at 10:30; this is also Homecoming day for Sewanhaka High School.
- Mr. Jaime encouraged long time alumni and residents to come out and see the bricks that were purchased for the Tribal Grounds to be placed in the back of the school.
- The District's College Fair will be hosted on October 7, 2009 at New Hyde Park at 7:00 PM. The SUNY College Fair is September 23, 2009 at Nassau Community College from 6:30PM to 9:00PM.

Mr. Jaime informed the parents of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, beginning in January, there will be testing on core subjects conducted. He encouraged parents to seek what assistance will be provided by the Elmont and Sewanhaka high schools.

Mr. Jaime mentioned the start of the football season. Both Sewanhaka and Elmont high schools have had victorious wins over Long Beach and Hewlett.

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Ms. Ferrigno reported that upon speaking with Mr. Meierdiercks, everything went smooth. She informed the audience that Elmont Memorial's Homecoming is September 26, 2009. Ms. Ferrigno also mentioned that there is still time to purchase bricks for the Tribal Grounds dedication.

SEWANHAKA  
BOARD ITEMS

Mr. Ragona inquired on the use of the bricks. Ms. Ferrigno gave a description of how they will be used.

AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

CORRESPONDENCE - None

REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY

REPORT OF THE  
ATTORNEY

Mr. Nugent did not have a report however, he requested a motion for an Executive Session to be held immediately following the Regular Meeting to discuss matters appropriate to Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Mr. Jaime, 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 greeted everyone and echoed the sentiments of the Board President and Vice President. He expressed how pleased he was of the success of the opening of schools. Mr. Harper gave a report of his visit to the each school classroom as he traveled throughout the District. He thanked everyone who is involved in the process of educating our children. The children are safe, learning and doing very well. A deserving round of applaud was requested for those stepping forward for the District's children.

Mr. Harper announced the receipt of confirmation in late May, early June from the Federal Government of additional funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These are stimulus funds that came down from the Government. The funds have not been received yet. He noted the guidelines on the use of the money. Mr. Harper gave some of the ways the money can be used.

The District's Administration, in cooperation with the Board of Education, researched numerous avenues to utilize this government funding to assist our most needy of children. Upon review of a detailed presentation from Scholastic the District has chosen to pilot the

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*Read 180* program. Mr. Harper spoke of other Harcourt programs that have been adopted and implemented as comprehensive core programs within the District. The District is excited about the opportunity that the *Read 180* program will bring to our children. Mr. Harper gave a review of the *Read 180* program and how it will help students using technology, print and professional development. It is a proven program to meet the needs of struggling readers whose reading achievement is below proficient level. He spoke on how *Read 180* will meet the needs through differentiated instruction, adaptive and instructional software, high interest literature and direct instruction in reading, writing and vocabulary skills.

REPORT OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Harper referenced that there are over 40 districts on the Island that have implemented the *Read 180* program, Sewanhaka District being one of them. The District is excited about bringing the opportunity to our children. He recently met with a representative from Scholastic and the program is expected to be implemented in mid-October. This program has been in the High School District for three years with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Mr. Ragona spoke on the *Read 180* program in the high school district and how the Elmont Union Free School District children will benefit from it prior to their entrance into the high school district.

Mr. Harper thanked everyone again for coming out and proceeded with his report.

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Mr. Maffea, the Board approved the following professional leave of absence:

PROFESSIONAL  
LEAVES OF  
ABSENCE

**HANSON, MARGARET**, Remedial Reading Teacher at Covert Avenue School, effective 12/9/09, duration of leave 12/9/09 – 3/18/10, unpaid\*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; Service to District: 8 years.

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 12/9/09-3/18/10.

The Board also approved the following employee requesting a change in District Child Rearing and/or Family and Medical Leave of Absence:

**KOCH, IRENE**, Special Education Teacher, Dutch Broadway School

From: 9/24/09 – 1/31/10, unpaid

To: 9/23/09 – 1/31/10, unpaid\*

Reason: District Child Rearing Leave

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 9/23/09 – 12/15/09.

Note: Leave of Absence was originally approved by the Board on 6/16/09.

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The Board also approved the following professional appointments:

**PROFESSIONAL  
APPOINTMENTS**

**MARTIN, MICHELLE**, 175 Day Substitute Teacher, Gotham Avenue School, at a salary of \$25,000, effective 9/1/09 – 6/18/10, no probation and no tenure involved. Certification: Childhood Education B-2 & 1-6 (Initial), SWD B-2 & 1-6 (Initial), Literacy B-6

**FINLEY, SHERYL**, Teaching Assistant, Dutch Broadway School, at a salary of \$25,000, effective 10/1/09 (pending approval of Grant), probation: 2/1/10 – 1/31/13. Certification: Teaching Assistant (Level I)

**CHARTIER, STEPHEN**, Elementary Education, Alden Terrace School, at a salary of \$92,025 MA Step 12 (based on 2008-09 Teachers' Salary Schedule), effective 9/1/09, probation: 9/1/09 – 8/31/12. Certification: Childhood Education 1-6 (Professional), School Administrator/Supervisor (Provisional)

The Board approved the employment of the following PreK teacher for the 2009-2010 school year. She will work her assigned schedule and will be paid \$25,000 per year. Not eligible for probation/tenure. (Pending medical approval).

Initial

Assignment

Name

Certification

SM

Puzantyan, Cigdem

Early Childhood Education B-2  
(Initial)

The Board also approved the following teachers to be employed as per diem substitute teachers for the 2009-2010 school year. Not eligible for probation/tenure.

**PROFESSIONAL  
SUBSTITUTE  
APPOINTMENTS**

Name

Certification

Cunneen-Sullivan, Frances  
Santina, Kerry

N-6 (Permanent)  
Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial)

The Board approved the following Teacher Salary differential for the 2009-2010 school year.

**PROFESSIONAL  
OTHER  
APPOINTMENT**

Name

Stipend

Position

Chartier, Stephen

\$1,500

Assistant to the Principal

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The Board also approved the following professional resignations:

PROFESSIONAL  
RESIGNATIONS

**JABLONSKI, JENNIFER**, 175 Day Substitute Teacher, at the Alden Terrace School, effective 9/1/09, service to District: 7 months, reason: Accepted a position elsewhere.

**HOLLIDAY, JEANA**, 175 Day Substitute Teacher, building assignment: Not assigned, effective 9/1/09, service to District: None, reason: Accepted a position elsewhere.

**COMBS, MAUREEN**, PreK Teacher, building assignment: Not assigned, effective 9/1/09, service to District: None, reason: Accepted a position elsewhere.

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

Yes	-	6
No	-	0
Abstain	-	1 (Mr. Emeagwali)

Motion Carried

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Ms. Ferrigno, the Board approved the following Civil Service appointments:

CIVIL SERVICE  
APPOINTMENTS

**LEONARDI, JOHN PAUL**, Special Education Teacher Aide, at a salary of \$18.15/hourly (based on 2008/2009 salary schedule), effective 9/10/09 pending Civil Service approval, probation: 26 weeks from Civil Service approval. Replacing: New position.

**PATTERSON, YASMIN**, Registered Professional Nurse Part-time, at a salary of \$19,678/annual (based on 2008/2009 salary schedule), effective 9/1/09 pending Civil Service approval, probation: 26 weeks from Civil Service approval. Replacing: Lisa Welch-Gairey (changing status to full time Nurse).

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

CIVIL SERVICE  
CHANGES IN  
STATUS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>End Probation</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Joseph Quail	Senior Maintainer	9/14/09	9/15/09
Judith Rocco	Principal Clerk	9/16/09	9/17/09
Carey Carretta	Teacher Aide	10/21/09	10/22/09
Freddie Ricks	Cleaner	10/21/09	10/22/09
James Petro	Senior Maintainer	10/26/09	10/27/09

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The Board approved the following Civil Service changes in status:

CIVIL SERVICE  
CHANGES IN  
STATUS

**SALZARULO, JEANNINE**

From: Teacher Aide Part-time substitute

To: Teacher Aide

at the Covert Avenue School, at a salary of \$15.30 hourly (based on 2008/2009 salary schedule), effective 9/16/09 pending Civil Service approval.

**ORLANDO, MARIANNA**

From: Teacher Aide Part-time substitute

To: Teacher Aide

at the Dutch Broadway School, at a salary of \$15.30 hourly (based on 2008/2009 salary schedule), effective 9/16/09 pending Civil Service approval.

**BAKASH, SWABERA**

From: Teacher Aide Part-time substitute

To: Teacher Aide

at the Dutch Broadway School, at a salary of \$15.30 hourly )Based on 2008/2009 salary schedule), effective 9/16/09 pending Civil Service approval.

**WELCH-GAIREY, LISA**

From: .5 Registered Professional Nurse

To: Registered Professional Nurse Full Time

at the Alden Terrace School, at a salary of \$38,964 annual (based on 2008/2009 salary schedule), effective 9/1/09, probation: N/A.

The Board also approved the following Civil Service resignations:

CIVIL SERVICE  
RESIGNATIONS

**GRUNIN, CATHERINE**, Registered Professional Nurse, at the Alden Terrace School, effective 8/7/09, service to District: 4 years 3 months, reason: personal.

**BAPTISTE, LOUIS**, Security Aide, District wide, effective 7/26/09, service to District: 2 years 4 months, reason: personal.

**LANDSBERG, ADAM**, Typist Clerk Part-time substitute, District wide, effective 8/25/09, service to District 3 months, reason: personal.

**RUSSO, KATHERINE**, Automotive Servicer/Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 8/31/09, service to District 10 years 1 month, reason: personal.

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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 ON  
SPECIAL  
EDUCATION AND  
PRE-SCHOOL  
SPECIAL  
EDUCATION

Motion Carried Unanimously

CPSE/CSE MEETING STAFF PARTICIPATION

On a motion by Ms. Walker, seconded by Ms. Ferrigno, the Board approved the employees listed below to participate in the CPSE/CSE meetings from June 25, 2009 through September 4, 2009, at a rate of \$50.00 per hour on an as needed basis.

CPSE/CSE  
MEETING STAFF  
PARTICIPATION

Enza Grimaudo – Special Education Teacher  
Kirsten Reyes – Speech/Language Teacher  
Cheryl Goldstein – Social Worker

PREPARATION OF  
NURSING OFFICE

PREPARATION OF NURSING OFFICE

The Board approved three additional days of service for Colleen Foley and Jean Madonia to prepare for the opening of school. Also, one additional day of service for Lisa Welch-Gairey. They would be compensated at their regular rate of pay.

GIFT TO THE DISTRICT

GIFT TO THE  
DISTRICT

The Board also approved a donation of shrubbery to the District for Alden Terrace School grounds enhancement. Information pertaining to this donation can be found in the backup pages of the Board Book of September 15, 2009.

SUMMER SCHOOL – SCHOOL LUNCH MANAGER

SUMMER SCHOOL  
- SCHOOL LUNCH  
MANAGER

The Board further approved an additional thirty (30) hours to be added to the summer work schedule of the School Lunch Manager, *Uliana Cavalluzzo*. Compensation will be at the regular hourly rate of pay. Additional information is contained in the backup pages of the Board Book of September 15, 2009.

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SECOND READING – ABSENCES, LEAVES AND VACATIONS – LEAVE TIME FOR BREAST OR PROSTATE SCREENING POLICY #4776

SECOND READING:  
LEAVE TIME FOR  
BREAST OR  
PROSTATE  
SCREENING  
POLICY #4776

The Board further approved the second reading of the **Leave Time for Breast or Prostate Screening Policy #4776**. A copy of the policy can be found in the backup pages of the Board Book of September 15, 2009.

FIRST READING – POLICY #2130 – LINE OF RESPONSIBILITY

FIRST READING:  
POLICY #2130 –  
LINE OF  
RESPONSIBILITY

The Board was presented for a first reading, policy #2130 – **Line of Responsibility**. A copy of the policy (changes are noted in italics) is contained in the backup pages of the Board Book of September 15, 2009.

ITEMS NOTED FOR THE MINUTES

ITEMS NOTED FOR  
THE MINUTES

Use of Facilities

USE OF FACILITIES

Requests for Use of Facilities that have been approved by the Superintendent of Schools since the last Board Meeting are enclosed in the backup pages of the Board Book of September 15, 2009.

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
Cathy Ann Madona	Bus Driver
Barbara Nimmo	Food Service Worker

Family and Medical Leave of Absence

FAMILY AND  
MEDICAL LEAVE  
OF ABSENCE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Joseph Quail	12 weeks

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

SCHEDULE OF  
DISBURSEMENTS  
AND WARRANTS

Motion Carried

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On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Mr. Jaime, the Board also 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 July, 2009.

TREASURER'S  
REPORT

Motion Carried

On a motion by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Emeagwali, the Board approved the removal and disposal of Bus #98 which is considered a Total Loss to fire damage sustained 7/23/09 as per the backup pages of the Board Book of September 15, 2009.

DISPOSAL OF  
EQUIPMENT

The Board also approved the award of Intra-District transportation contracts to Sewanhaka CHSD, as per the backup pages in the Board Book of September 15, 2009.

AWARD OF INTRA-  
DISTRICT  
TRANSPORTATION  
CONTRACTS

ITEMS NOTED FOR THE MINUTES

ITEMS NOTED FOR  
THE MINUTES

Analysis of Revenue – for the month of July 2009.

General Fund Schedule of Receivables - General Fund Schedule of Receivables for the month of July, 2009 appears in the backup pages in the Board Book of September 15, 2009.

Monthly Budget Status Report

Monthly Budget Status Report – as of July 31, 2009 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of September 15, 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 July 31, 2009 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of September 15, 2009.

General Fund Cash Flow Statement

General Fund Cash Flow as of July 31, 2009 and Cash Flow Projection as of August 31, 2009 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of September 15, 2009.

General Fund – Fund Balance Estimate

Estimated General Fund Balance as of June 30, 2009 appears in the backup pages of the Board Book of September 15, 2009.

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School Meals Profit and Loss Statement

ITEMS NOTED FOR  
THE MINUTES

School Lunch Profit and Loss Statement for the month of June, 2009 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of September 15, 2009.

Custodial/Transportation Overtime

Breakdown Custodial/Transportation Overtime:

Cust./Trans. Overtime – August, 2009	\$ 3,730.21
Overtime paid Year to Date	\$ 12,997.14
Cust./Trans.Overtime - July, 2008 - June, 2009	\$107,308.32

School Facilities Report – Noted for the Minutes

VANDALISM TALLIES FOR AUGUST 2009 - \$ 0

Year-to-Date \$ 0

Previous Year-to-Date \$ 115

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS - None

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS - None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

ITEMS FOR  
FUTURE  
CONSIDERATION

Mr. Ragona mentioned the Board's effort to bring a different topic to each meeting. At next months meeting, discussion will be about additional curriculum items. The Board is interested in the input from the audience. He encouraged anyone with an item for consideration, to please contact the Board of Education.

AUDIENCE ITEMS

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Mr. Patrick Boyle of Gateway Youth Outreach presented information items related to the afterschool program. Registration was conducted the previous Saturday and a new time record had been set for the first person on line. The time for the first person on line was 10:00 PM the night before. Registration was scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM. There were

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seventy (70) people in line at 2:00 AM in the morning. There were over 200 people in line for the program registration when Mr. Boyle arrived at 5:30 AM in the morning. Mr. Boyle complimented the Board and expressed his appreciation.

AUDIENCE ITEMS

The program at the Dutch Broadway School is full, as well as Clara H. Carlson School. The program at the Gotham Avenue School is just about full, and will be full as of Monday. The Covert Avenue School has about 130 youngsters and there is still availability at this school.

Mr. Boyle will be meeting with the Principals of the various schools. Slots have been saved for the Principals for youngsters with special needs. The program is ready to start on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month. Mr. Boyle anticipates that there are funds available through the end of the school year. He does not know what will happen with the County budget.

Mr. Ragona and several others were at the Dutch Broadway School on the Saturday for registration. Mr. Ragona applauded Mr. Boyle for the organization and work he has done. The Chamber of Commerce conducted a Blood Drive during the registration. There were 40 pints of blood collected. Mr. Ragona extended his thanks.

NEXT MEETING

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Ragona announced the next Board of Education meeting will be held Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at the Alden Terrace School.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Ms. Walker, the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:32 PM.

Motion Carried Unanimously

PUBLIC SESSION

PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Ms. Walker, the Board reconvened into Public Session at 10:15 PM.

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Mr. Maffea, the Board approved the salary increases for non-contract personnel, non-contract certified staff and non-contract consultants for the 2009-2010 school year.

**2009-2010  
SCHOOL YEAR  
NON-CONTRACT  
PERSONNEL,  
CERTIFIED STAFF  
& CONSULTANT  
SALARIES**

Vote on approval of the salary increases:

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Yes	7
No	0
Abstain	0

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:20 PM on a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Mrs. Mockenhaupt.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Submitted by,

October 13, 2009

Date Approved

Celestine L. Lloyd

District Clerk