

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 18, 2008

VOLUME XXVIII, PAGE 97  
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, November 18, 2008.

ROLL CALL

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Carol Parker-Duncanson

**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. Kathleen Safrey,	Interim Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Colum P. Nugent,	School Attorney
Celestine L. Lloyd,	District Clerk

**ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ABSENT:**

Dr. Lynne Stucchio,	Director of Curriculum and Instruction
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**CONSULTANT PRESENT:** Mr. Thomas W. Galante

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Mr. Jaime, the Board convened in Public Session at 8:07 PM.

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Motion Carried Unanimously

Mr. Ragona called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Ms. Walker, 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 Mr. Maffea, the Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2008.

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES

Vote on approving the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2008:

Yes	-	6
No	-	0
Abstain	-	0

Motion Carried

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Ms. Walker, the Board approved the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 25, 2008.

Vote on approving the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 25, 2008:

Yes	-	6
No	-	0
Abstain	-	0

Motion Carried

On a motion by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Maffea, the Board approved the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 30, 2008.

Vote on approving the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 30, 2008:

Yes	-	6
No	-	0
Abstain	-	0

Motion Carried

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INFORMATION REPORT - None

PRESIDENT'S/VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

PRESIDENT'S/VICE  
PRESIDENT'S  
REMARKS

President - Mr. Ragona stated that his remarks would be brief this evening. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight and expressed the pleasure of seeing the meeting so well attended. This display of attendance demonstrates your concern for the school district and its children. Mr. Ragona extended a special thanks and recognition to the Veterans in attendance this evening.

Vice President - Ms. Ferrigno greeted and thanked everyone in the audience for coming out this evening. She also thanked the Veterans for their service to our country and community. Ms. Ferrigno mentioned how honored it was to have the Veterans present at the Board meeting this evening.

RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT

RECOGNITION FOR  
SERVICE TO THE  
DISTRICT

At this point the meeting was turned over to Mr. Harper.

Mr. Harper greeted everyone. He then presented *Ms. Ella Hall* with a certificate of recognition for service to the District for 39.4 years. Ms. Walker expressed what an honor it is to participate in presenting Ms. Hall with the certificate of retirement and spoke on Ms. Hall's character when Ms. Walker was a student of the District.

Ms. Hall thanked everyone in the District. She expressed her mixed emotions about retiring, however the time has come and she stated how she has enjoyed her time with the Elmont District. Ms. Hall also thanked many staff members in attendance at the meeting.

PRESENTATION TO THE VETERANS

VETERAN'S  
PRESENTATION

Mr. Harper requested Commander Steve McManus; Post 1033, Commander Michael Vanordeck; Post 455 and Commander Ralph Esposito; Disabled Veterans to come forth for acceptance of the presentations from each of the schools in the District.

Mr. Harper made mention of the District's participation in the Elmont Veterans Day Parade. Mr. Harper spoke of his father who was a Veteran also and recited a story his father told him. He thanked them for standing tall, the sacrificing of life and the time spent away from their families to protect our country. Mr. Harper also thanked the Veterans for always being there to protect the community. On behalf of the school Board, Teachers Association, Administration, all employees and children of the District, Mr. Harper thanked the Veterans for what they do for us in Elmont.

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Children from each of the elementary schools presented the Veterans in attendance with handcrafted cards.

VETERAN'S  
PRESENTATION

Commander Steve Manus thanked everyone for coming out to the Veterans Day affair the previous weekend. He thanked the school Board, teachers and each one of those in the audience and noted that the participation of everyone gives them a reason to be proud of our country.

2007-2008 CURRICULUM ASSESSMENTS

2007-2008  
CURRICULUM  
ASSESSMENTS

Mr. Harper and Mrs. Safrey began the presentation of the 2007-2008 Assessments. Some of the initiatives put in place this year, presented by Mr. Harper, were as follows:

- goals to improve the assessment scores
- focus on good teaching and sound instructional practices
- teachers taking ownership
- use of strategies of leadership to build a school climate that improves achievement
- before and after school instruction components
- peer coaching for teachers
- completion of the ELA Action plans

Mr. Harper explained the difference between Level 1, 2, 3 and 4. He reviewed the performance of the assessment scores for ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies district wide. Mr. Harper stated that the District works continuously and hard to improve the test scores. He is proud to see that our schools are continuing to move forward.

Mrs. Safrey presented some of the major initiatives that have been implemented throughout out all of our schools.

- ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies learning standards
- Curriculum mapping implemented in 2001 is organized into five (5) phases and is revised annually
- Extensive in-service training provided to teachers, as well as the new teachers coming on board each year
- Establishment of a cycle of adopting new textbooks and programs
- Focus on literacy across all content areas, i.e., Storytown, Level Readers
- Implemented Wilson Reading System; multi-sensory application which requires the use of touch

Mrs. Safrey explained the Academic Support services, which are offered:

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- Morning and After school tutorials
- Holiday ELA Academy
- Winter Math Academy
- Hofstra Literacy Program
- Adelphi Literacy Program
- Academic Summer School

CURRICULUM  
PRESENTATION

Followed by Academic Enrichment:

- Saturday Enrichment Program
- Saturday World Language Academy
- Model United Nations Program
- Elmont Robotics Team
- NYS Science Olympiad Team
- Science Research
- Math Olympiad

Mrs. Safrey also presented information for Data Analysis which assists in setting the District's improvement goals. This information is distributed so that instructional plans are developed by Administrators and teachers to meet the needs of the students.

DEMONSTRATION OF SMARTBOARD AND SENTEO

SMART BOARD  
AND SENTEO  
PRESENTATION

At this time Ms. Josephine DeNicola of Clara H. Carlson and Mr. Peter Crescitelli of Alden Terrace presented a demonstration of the Smartboard and Senteo technology.

Mr. Ragona thanked everyone for the presentations and mentioned how thorough they were in providing the information.

Mr. Ragona called for a five (5) minute recess at 9:10 PM.

The meeting resumed at 9:20 PM.

SEWANHAKA BOARD ITEMS

SEWANHAKA  
BOARD ITEMS

Mr. Jaime noted the dates to remember. For the next five (5) consecutive Saturdays (excluding the Thanksgiving holiday weekend) there will be Assessment Test Skills workshop for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 PM at Sewanhaka High School the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders there will be a Grade Career Orientation Open House. He also mentioned the offerings in a technology program at Sewanhaka, as well.

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Some items of interest were as follows:

SEWANHAKA  
BOARD ITEMS

- Sewanhaka High School hosted the first induction ceremony for their Music Honor Society
- Sewanhaka High School had there “Epic Proportions” production on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>
- Elmont Memorial High School had the production of “ A Midsummer Night’s Dream”
- November 10<sup>th</sup> Honoring of Veterans Ceremony
- Regents review classes have begun at Elmont Memorial High School
- Additional regents review classes and ELA classes for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will begin on Saturdays shortly
- Elmont Memorial High School has made it to the Nassau County Conference championship and will be playing Saturday, November 22, 2008 at Hofstra against Hewlett.

AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Lloyd read thank you letters from the Stewart Manor School Teacher Aides and the Jamaica Square Civic Association.

CORRESPONDENCE

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 Ms. Ferrigno, 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

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

PROFESSIONAL  
LEAVES OF  
ABSENCE

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**RACIOPPO, ELISSA**, Elementary Teacher at Clara H. Carlson School, effective 1/5/09, duration of leave 1/5/09 – 4/3/09, unpaid\*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; Service to District: 7 years, 3 months.

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 1/5/09 – 4/3/09

PROFESSIONAL  
LEAVES OF  
ABSENCE

**VARDOUNIOTIS, RENEE**, Speech Teacher at Stewart Manor School, effective 12/1/08, duration of leave 12/1/08 – 8/31/09, unpaid\*, reason: District Child Rearing leave; Service to District: 6 years, 3 months

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 12/1/08 – 3/11/09

The Board approved the following professional appointments:

PROFESSIONAL  
APPOINTMENTS

**JABLONSKI, JENNIFER**, Permanent Substitute (General Special Education) Alden Terrace, at a salary of \$38,292 (pro-rated from \$50,055) BA Step 1, effective 11/14/08 – 6/30/09 (pending medical approval), no probation and no tenure involved. Certification: Students with Disabilities B-2 (Initial).

**BAEZ, LISETTE**, 175 Day Substitute Teacher Covert Avenue, at a salary of \$18,143 (pro-rated from \$25,000), effective 11/19/08 – 6/17/09 (pending medical approval), not eligible for probation and/or tenure. Certification: Childhood Education 1-6 (Professional).

**SMITH, DEBORAH**, Permanent Substitute (Speech) Stewart Manor, at a salary of \$43,399 (prorated from \$59,450) MA Step 2 (pending official documentation of Master's Degree), effective 11/19/08 – 6/30/09 (pending medical approval) not eligible for probation and/or tenure. Certification: Speech and Hearing Handicapped (Permanent).

**SMITH, CHRISTINE**, 175 Day Substitute Teacher Dutch Broadway, at a salary of \$18,143 (pro-rated from \$25,000), effective 11/19/08 – 6/17/09 (pending medical approval), not eligible for probation and/or tenure. Certification PreK-6 (Provisional), SWD 1-6 (Professional)

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

PROFESSIONAL  
PER DIEM  
SUBSTITUTES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification</u>
*Ricca, Amy	Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial)
Sullivan, Frances	Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial Pending)
Santina, Kerry	Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial)
Young, Geoffrey	Early Childhood Education B-2 (Initial)

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\*Pending medical approval

The foregoing motion was put to a roll call with the following results:

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Ms. Ferrigno, seconded by Mr. Maffea the Board approved the following Civil Service leave of absence:

CIVIL SERVICE  
LEAVES OF  
ABSENCE

**SMITH-EDWARDS, JACQUELINE**, Teacher Aide, Alden Terrace, effective November 12, 2008. Reason: Medical, duration: 5 weeks 3 days

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

CIVIL SERVICE  
APPOINTMENTS

**AFFLICK, RENEE**, Teacher Aide Part-time substitute, at a salary of \$12.00 hourly, District wide, effective 11/19/08, pending civil service, medical and fingerprint approval.

**SWABERA, BAKSH**, Teacher Aide Part-time substitute, at a salary of \$12.00 hourly, District wide, effective 11/19/08 pending civil service, medical and fingerprint approval.

**CARRETTA, CAREY**, Teacher Aide Part-time substitute, at a salary of \$12.00 hourly, District wide, effective 11/19/08 pending civil service, medical and fingerprint approval.

**HOCHENBERGER, DIANE**, Teacher Aide Part-time substitute, at a salary of \$12.00 hourly, District wide, effective 11/19/08 pending civil service, medical and fingerprint approval.

**LUDY, ALEXIS**, Teacher Aide Part-time substitute, at a salary of \$12.00 hourly, District wide, effective 11/19/08 pending civil service, medical and fingerprint approval.

**MURPHY, KAREN**, Teacher Aide Part-time substitute, at a salary of \$12.00 hourly, District wide, effective 11/19/08 pending civil service, medical and fingerprint approval.

**PANICO, DONNA**, Teacher Aide Part-time substitute, at a salary of \$12.00 hourly, District wide, effective 11/19/08 pending civil service, medical and fingerprint approval.

**ROJAS, PAMELA**, Teacher Aide Part-time substitute, at a salary of \$12.00 hourly, District wide, effective 11/19/08 pending civil service, medical and fingerprint approval.

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**BERYL, HALL**, Bus Driver Part-time substitute, at a salary of \$16.00 hourly, Transportation, effective 11/19/08 pending civil service, medical and fingerprint approval.

The Board also approved the following Civil Service employees who will complete their probationary period and are recommended 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>
Joanne Manetta	Sr. Typist Clerk	11/10/08	11/11/08

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

**MICKENS, HERBIE**

From: Cleaner Part-Time substitute

To: Security Aide

Pupil Personnel Services, at a salary of \$14.06 hourly, effective 11/19/08 pending civil service approval, probation: 26 weeks from civil service approval.

**BOEHM, IRENE**

From: Provisional Stenographic Secretary

To: Stenographic Secretary

Elmont Road, at a salary of \$39,303 annual, effective 10/30/08 pending civil service approval, probation: 26 weeks from civil service approval.

The Board approved the termination of the following Civil Service employees effective 11/19/08 due to no recent service to the District:

CIVIL SERVICE  
TERMINATIONS

Joseph Pierre – Bus Driver Part-time substitute  
Darlene Rodriguez – Food Service Helper Part-time substitute  
Karin Viola – Food Service Helper Part-time substitute  
Yolanda Gallego – Food Service Helper Part-time substitute  
William Duffy – Security Aide Part-time

The Board approved the following Civil Service resignation:

CIVIL SERVICE  
RESIGNATION

**CELELLA, PAUL**, Bus-Driver 10-month, Transportation, effective 10/28/08, service to District: none, reason: personal.

The foregoing motion was put to a roll call with the following results:

CIVIL SERVICE  
RETIREMENTS

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Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Ms. Ferrigno, seconded by Ms. Walker, the Board approved the following Civil Service retirements:

**VERCELLETTO, ARTHUR**, Security Aide, District wide, effective 10/28/08, service to District: 8 years

CIVIL SERVICE  
RETIREMENTS

**HALL, ELLA**, Bus-Driver 10-month, Transportation, effective 12/31/08, service to District: 39 years 4 months

Motion Carried

On a motion by Mrs. Byer, seconded by Mr. Jaime, 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. Walker, the Board approved a donation of \$77.96 from Target Stores "Take Charge of Education Program" to the District for the Clara H. Carlson School. Information pertaining to this donation can be found in the backup pages of the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

GIFT TO THE  
DISTRICT

The Board approved a donation of \$500.00 from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program to the District for the Gotham Avenue School. Information pertaining to this donation can be found in the backup pages of the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

The Board also approved a donation of \$51.77 from Target Stores "Take Charge of Education Program" to the District for the Dutch Broadway School. Information pertaining to this donation can be found in the backup pages of the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

The Board further approved the request for a fundraiser to be conducted at the Covert Avenue School. Information pertaining to this fundraiser can be found in the backup pages of the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

COVERT AVENUE  
FUNDRAISER

The Board approved ***Maria Valenzuela***, an ABA Teacher Aide at Clara Carlson to provide at home behavior intervention services at a rate of \$20.00 per hour.

AT-HOME  
BEHAVIOR  
INTERVENTION  
SERVICES

The Board also approved an Extension of Probationary Period for ***Donielle Orsano-Welti*** as indicated in the letter contained in the backup pages of the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

EXTENSION OF  
PROBATIONARY  
PERIOD

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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 November 18, 2008.

Family and Medical Leave of Absence

FAMILY AND  
MEDICAL LEAVE  
OF ABSENCE

Name

Dates

Comerford, Elisa	6 to 8 weeks
Hollwedel, Gena	Intermittent Leave 12 weeks
Moody, Gary	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
Emily Matos	Bus Driver

Budget Transfers Under \$5,000

BUDGET  
TRANSFERS 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 November 18, 2008.

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Ms. Ferrigno, 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

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 2008.

TREASURER'S  
REPORT

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**Motion Carried Unanimously**

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Ms. Walker, the Board approved the authorization to make budgetary transfers (over \$5,000) as per the backup pages in the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

**BUDGET  
TRANSFER'S OVER  
\$5000**

The Board approved the disposal of obsolete/beyond repair cafeteria table at Dutch Broadway School, as per the backup pages in the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

**DISPOSAL OF  
OBSOLETE/BEYOND  
REPAIR CAFETERIA  
TABLE**

The Board also approved Change Order No. 2 from James M. Campbell Architects PC regarding the Auditorium Renovations project at Clara H. Carlson School. The change order represents a credit (reduction in charges) of \$600.00 due to the District for valance rods and tracks, as per backup pages in the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

**CHANGE ORDER  
NO. 2 FROM  
JAMES M.  
CAMPBELL  
ARCHITECTS PC**

The Board further approved the award of Intra-District transportation contracts to Sewanhaka CHSD, as per backup pages in the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

**INTRA-DISTRICT  
TRANSPORTATION  
CONTRACTS**

**ITEMS NOTED FOR THE MINUTES**

**ITEMS NOTED FOR  
THE MINUTES**

Analysis of Revenue – for the month of September, 2008 as per the backup pages in the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

General Fund Schedule of Receivables - General Fund Schedule of Receivables for the month of September, 2008 appears in the backup pages in the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

**Monthly Budget Status Report**

Monthly Budget Status Report – as of September 30, 2008 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

**Various Fund Trial Balances**

Trial Balance Reports General, Capital; Trust & Agency, Expendable Trust, Special Aid, Capital Bond and Non-Expendable Trust as of September 30, 2008 appear in the backup pages in the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

**General Fund Cash Flow Statement**

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General Fund Cash Flow as of September 30, 2008 and Cash Flow Projection as of October 31, 2008 appear in the backup pages in the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

School Meals Profit and Loss Statement

ITEMS NOTED FOR  
THE MINUTES

School Lunch Profit and Loss Statement for the month of September, 2008 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of November 18, 2008.

Custodial/Transportation Overtime

Breakdown Custodial/Transportation Overtime:

Cust./Trans. Overtime – October, 2008	\$ 8,389.99
Overtime paid Year to Date	\$ 28,261.74
Cust./Trans.Overtime - September, 2007 - June, 2008	\$122,501.03

VANDALISM TALLIES FOR OCTOBER 2008 - \$ 20

VANDALISM  
TALLIES

Year-to-Date \$ 135

Previous Year-to-Date \$ 111

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMITTEE  
REPORTS AND  
INFORMATION  
ITEMS

The implementation of a Mentoring program began at Gotham Avenue and Clara H. Carlson Schools last Saturday, which involves some of the teachers of the District.

Mr. Harper explained the process of assigning the students and how the program will work. The teachers are assigned and will support the child in any way they can. The District is looking forward to extending the program to the other four (4) schools by next September. The participating teachers and Mr. Harper are excited about the program and he thanked all those who will participate in the program.

Mrs. Byer mentioned how happy and excited she is to see that the mentoring program has been implemented as this was in process for several years.

OLD BUSINESS – Mrs. Byer presented a letter she received from a concerned resident/parent which she wanted to bring to the Board. It described a concern of material downloaded from the internet of a GYO video. The material has disappeared from the internet. It is unknown how many copies were distributed, but the

OLD BUSINESS

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resident/parent does have one in their possession. She proceeded to read the letter and noted her concern as well. Mrs. Byer referenced previous incidents with the after school program and stated that the District should not be taken advantage of by “substandard after school care on the cheap”. She recalled the approval of the program and questioned Mr. Harper on his awareness of the issue.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Ragona questioned Mrs. Byer if the information provided was factual and Mrs. Byer replied that it was. She stated that she will give the name of the parent later to the Board.

Mrs. Byer expressed the concern about the ratio of counselor to students. She continued to describe what she observed on her visit to the GYO program. Mrs. Byer stressed that she is aware that it is a needed program; however the program needs to be improved.

NEW BUSINESS - Board members, Mr. Ragona, Ms. Ferrigno, Mr. Jaime, Mr. Maffea and Ms. Walker along with many of the children of the District participated in the Veterans Day Parade. It was an honor to be there. Mr. Ragona thanked the Administration, Board Members and Mr. Harper for the opportunity to participate.

NEW BUSINESS

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS - None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION - None

AUDIENCE ITEMS

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Mrs. Colleen Mockenhaupt inquired when Mrs. Byer was in receipt of the letter she read this evening. Mrs. Byer stated that she received the letter today. Mrs. Mockenhaupt questioned the action of Mrs. Byer after her visit to the school and Mrs. Byer stated that she did not want to mention her action at this time.

Mr. Ragona stated that if the information is brought to the Board, it will be addressed with GYO. Further discussion continued.

Ms. Clara Echevarria, grandparent of a child who attends GYO at Dutch Broadway, stated that she does not have any problems. Ms. Echevarria says she loves GYO and thanked the program staff as well.

Mr. Ragona responded that he has not seen anything wrong with the program, but will look into the issue raised.

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Mrs. Byer responded to Ms. Echevarria that she was happy her child was being taken care of. What disturbs her was that other parents have to go through problems as noted in the letter raised this evening.

Mr. Maffea requested that the parent of the letter come to the next Board meeting and inform the Board of the problem.

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Mrs. Byer stated that the letter is anonymous.

Ms. Annette Denihee, a Covert Avenue parent, expressed her concern about the class size at Covert Avenue School. She thinks something should be done to reduce the class sizes. Mrs. Denihee gave a review of the student enrollment received from New York State.

Mr. Harper reassured Ms. Denihee of the District's concern and awareness of the class sizes. He also referenced the meeting that was held with her. Mr. Harper also gave a report on the status of what is currently being done as a resolution to the problem. He thanked Ms. Denihee for her input and noted that the District is looking at ways to ease the situation. He also stated that the Board is actively looking at methods to resolve the issue. Mr. Ragona and Ms. Ferrigno also made mention of the Board's awareness of the issue.

Mr. Aubrey Phillips, concerned resident, thanked the Administration, Mr. Harper and Mrs. Safrey for what the District has done in the Curriculum area. He commended them for the thorough presentation.

Mr. Phillips then inquired about the District's consideration to the government's proposal and State Aid issue. He inquired what the community should expect with the budget cuts. Mr. Ragona responded that the Board has been very aggressive in preparing for the budget cuts and thanked Mr. Phillips for his concern. He extended thanks to Mr. Galante for his expertise as well.

Mrs. Cathy Ferrigno, Editor of the Elmont Herald inquired about the maximum class size. Kindergarten thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> grade thru 6<sup>th</sup> is a total of 29.

Mrs. Ferrigno questioned Mrs. Byer if this concern was expressed to the GYO Board so that they could address the issue. Mrs. Byer responded that she did not.

Mr. Patrick Nicolosi, a concerned Elmont resident expressed that class sizes within the District is a major problem. This is due to the illegal housing in Elmont and wished that the Town of Hempstead could do more.

Mr. Ragona noted that the District has an obligation to educate the children.

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 18, 2008

VOLUME XXVIII, PAGE 112  
ELMONT, NEW YORK

Mr. Walter Aksionoff, Principal of Dutch Broadway School; mentioned that this is one of the locations for the GYO program. Problems have been addressed with Mr. Patrick Boyle, Executive Director of GYO. Mr. Aksionoff mentioned that weekly meetings are conducted to work out issues. He noted that the community needs the program, the price is right and gave information on the enrollment. Mr. Aksionoff reiterated that issues are being addressed.

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Mr. Ragona wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJORNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJORNMENT TO  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Mr. Jaime, the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 10:07 PM.

Motion Carried Unanimously

PUBLIC SESSION

PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion by Ms. Walker, seconded by Ms. Ferrigno, the Board reconvened into Public Session at 11:10 PM.

Motion Carried Unanimously

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:15 PM on a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Mr. Maffea.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Submitted by,

December 16, 2008  
Date Approved

Celestine L. Lloyd  
District Clerk