

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2009

VOLUME XXIX, PAGE 111  
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 Dutch Broadway School on Tuesday, December 8, 2009.

ROLL CALL

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lorraine Ferrigno  
Patrick O. Emeagwali  
Michael A. Jaime  
Anthony S. Maffea Sr.  
Deniece Walker

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Colleen Mockenhaupt

**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

**CONSULTANT PRESENT:** Mr. Thomas W. Galante

On a motion by Mr. Emeagwali, seconded by Mr. Jaime, the Board convened in Executive Session at 6:30 PM.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Mr. Maffea, the Board convened in Public Session at 7:33 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION

Motion Carried Unanimously

Ms. Ferrigno called the meeting to order and deferred to Mr. Aksionoff to proceed with the meeting.

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2009

VOLUME XXIX, PAGE 112  
ELMONT, NEW YORK

Mr. Aksionoff welcomed everyone and introduced the students who then led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the Star Spangled Banner.

PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Ferrigno requested a moment of silence due to the passing of Mr. Frank Ragona, Board President, on November 18, 2009 from an apparent heart attack.

PRESIDENT'S  
REMARKS

Ms. Ferrigno spoke of the fond memories each one of us had of Mr. Ragona along with the fun stories that we relate to. Grasping of the reality of this lost will be accomplished in everyone's own way. Ms. Ferrigno encouraged that we will move forward together as a Board and a District.

Ms. Ferrigno spoke of Mr. Ragona's unwavering dedication to his family, faith, community and friends. He lived his life with joy, gusto and a perpetual smile. He loved the children; his job on the Board of Education and Mr. Ragona loved and enjoyed his life everyday. He will be truly, deeply and profoundly missed. Our entire school community and the Elmont community have been enriched by the services of Mr. Ragona to the District. Ms. Ferrigno spoke of how she herself had been enriched by Mr. Ragona's camaraderie while being a member on the Board and his friendship in life.

Ms. Ferrigno noted the difficulty of the decision to proceed with the scheduled Holiday Concert for the December meeting. In the end and truth be told, performance by the children brought Mr. Ragona so much joy and he would want to hear the beautiful holiday music this evening. Therefore, the holiday concert was dedicated to the memory of Mr. Frank Ragona. "May he rest in peace and smile on us always."

DISTRICTWIDE CHORUS PRESENTATION

HOLIDAY  
MUSICAL  
PRESENTATION

After the introduction of the musical staff, the children performed holiday musical selections: The Heart and Soul of Hanukkah, Christmas Bells, Kuwa Na Krismasi Njema and Visions of Peace.

Ms. Ferrigno called for a five minute recess at 7:51 PM.

The meeting was resumed at 8:14 PM.

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

APPROVAL OF THE  
AGENDA

Motion Carried Unanimously.

***APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education***

REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2009

VOLUME XXIX, PAGE 113  
ELMONT, NEW YORK

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Mr. Maffea, the Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 10, 2009.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

Vote on approving the minutes of the Regular Meeting of:

Yes	-	4
No	-	0
Abstain	-	1 (Ms. Walker)

Motion Carried

On a motion by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Jaime, the Board approved the minutes of the Special Meeting of November 21, 2009.

Vote on approving the minutes of the Special Meeting of:

Yes	-	5
No	-	0
Abstain	-	0

Motion Carried

INFORMATION REPORT - None

SEWANHAKA BOARD ITEMS

**SEWANHAKA  
BOARD ITEMS**

On behalf of the Sewanhaka Central High School Board Trustees, Mr. Jaime wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a safe 2010. He deferred his report to the January meeting.

AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

CORRESPONDENCE - None

REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY

**REPORT OF THE  
ATTORNEY**

Mr. Nugent did not have a report for the public session this evening. Mr. Nugent expressed his deep sadness at the loss of Mr. Ragona. He seconded all the remarks which were made by Ms. Ferrigno. The comments were beautiful. The one comment Mr. Nugent did have was, "Mr. Ragona was very happy and enjoyed everything he did." Mr. Nugent expressed how he got to know Mr. Ragona better as Board President, as they

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2009

VOLUME XXIX, PAGE 114  
ELMONT, NEW YORK

spoke daily. This was often necessary between the attorney and the Board President. Mr. Ragona loved his wife and children. He enjoyed his job and enjoyed the work he did. Mr. Ragona enjoyed his role on the school board, loved the children and his commitment to the welfare of them was genuine. He loved the community and his role within the community was not confined to the school board. Mr. Nugent spoke of how Mr. Ragona was generous in spirit, more often than people knew.

REPORT OF THE  
ATTORNEY

Mr. Nugent spoke of the opposition within the political arena. However, Mr. Ragona was more generous to them than one knew. Mr. Nugent was aware of this fact because of the things that Mr. Ragona would say and do and would not do. Mr. Nugent commented that the loss to the community and the school District is massive. We are fortunate to have an excellent Board of Education and excellent Superintendent of Schools. With this leadership the District will prevail and the mission of the District will be achieved.

Mr. Nugent stated that there will not be an Executive Session this evening.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

REPORT OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT

LONG ISLAND MATH AWARD PRESENTATION

Mr. Aksionoff, Principal the Dutch Broadway School requested Mr. Andre Clark and his son Lerone Clark to come forth for the presentation of the special academic award for outstanding achievement. Lerone Clark was presented with a certificate of recognition by SUNY College at Old Westbury as a Long Island Young Scholar of Mathematics.

LONG ISLAND  
YOUNG SCHOLAR  
OF MATHEMATICS  
AWARD  
PRESENTATION

Mr. Harper noted the thousands of students across the county who apply to participate in the program and what a tremendous honor it was for Lerone to be selected as an achiever of the top 25 math scholars on Long Island. This is a great academic accomplishment and Mr. Harper congratulated him. He commended his parents, Lerone, teachers and Administrative staff of Dutch Broadway for the outstanding job done for such an achievement.

Mr. Harper apologized for his absence during the remarks made by Ms. Ferrigno. He mentioned how close he worked with Mr. Ragona and the one thing that he will take from each conversation Mr. Harper had with him was his love of life and the joy that was in his heart. Mr. Harper spoke of how Mr. Ragona adored and enjoyed his family. He adored the community of Elmont. Mr. Harper spoke of Mr. Ragona's calendar obligations, he was always happy about doing his work in the community. With Mr. Ragona as a role model, our children can grow up in life and be that type of person. Mr. Harper noted that he will always feel the emptiness when he looks to his left at the Board Meetings. Mr. Harper echoed the comments of Mr. Nugent. The mission of the District

***APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education***

REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2009

VOLUME XXIX, PAGE 115  
ELMONT, NEW YORK

will always continue and the educational program will continue to soar under the leadership of the Board and the Superintendent.

REPORT OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

PROFESSIONAL  
LEAVES OF  
ABSENCE

**LUCE, DR. JODI**, School Psychologist at Dutch Broadway, effective 1/13/10, duration of leave 1/13/10 – 3/10/10, unpaid\*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; service to District: 7 years, 9 months.

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 1/31/10 – 3/10/10.

**SAGNELLI, AMANDA**, Elementary Teacher at Clara H. Carlson, effective 2/22/10, duration of leave 2/22/10 – 8/31/10, unpaid\*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; service to District: 8 years, 1 month.

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 2/22/10 – 5/25/10.

**LEMITE, DARA**, Music Teacher at Alden Terrace/Gotham Avenue, effective 1/25/10, duration of leave 1/25/10 – 8/31/10, unpaid\*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave; service to District: 10 years.

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 1/25/10 – 5/4/10.

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

**HANSON, MARGARET**, Remedial Reading Teacher, Covert Avenue School

From: 12/9/09 – 3/18/10, unpaid

To: 11/5/09 – 2/3/10, unpaid\*

Reason: District Child Rearing Leave

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 11/5/09 – 2/3/10.

Note: Leave of Absence was originally approved by the Board on 9/15/09.

**SCHAEDLER, MAURA**, Special Education Teacher, Clara H. Carlson School

From: 11/16/09 – 1/3/10, unpaid

To: 11/5/09 – 12/13/09, unpaid\*

Reason: District Child Rearing Leave

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 11/5/09 – 12/13/09.

***APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education***

REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2009

VOLUME XXIX, PAGE 116  
ELMONT, NEW YORK

Notes: Leave of Absence was originally approved by the Board on 10/13/09.

PROFESSIONAL  
LEAVES OF  
ABSENCE

The Board further approved the extension in District Child Rearing Leave for the following employee:

**MCMANUS, KIMBERLY**, Elementary Teacher, Currently on Child Rearing Leave

From: 9/1/09 – 1/31/10, unpaid

To: 9/1/09 – 8/31/10, unpaid\*

Reason: District Child Rearing Leave

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 9/1/09 – 11/30/09.

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

The Board approved the additional Leave of Absence for the following employee:

**MURRAY, LAURA**, Elementary Teacher, Currently on District Child Rearing Leave, effective 1/3/10, duration of leave: 1/3/10 – 1/2/12, unpaid, reason: District Child Rearing Leave.

Note: Currently on Leave of Absence from 1/2/08 – 1/31/10 originally approved by the Board on 2/27/08; extensions were approved on 5/13/08 and on 4/21/09.

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

PROFESSIONAL  
SUBSTITUTE  
APPOINTMENT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification</u>
Tritschler, Jacqueline	Early Childhood Education B-2 (Initial) Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial)

The Board approved the following Professional change in status:

PROFESSIONAL  
CHANGE IN  
STATUS

**WILLIAMS, SHARON**, approved by the Board on 6/17/08 for assignment as a Permanent Substitute Teacher (Speech) effective 9/1/08 be placed on probation from 9/1/09 to 8/31/11 and that she be granted Jarema credit for prior service to the Elmont Union Free School District.

Reason: Availability of probationary line

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

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2009

VOLUME XXIX, PAGE 117  
ELMONT, NEW YORK

Yes	-	4
No	-	0
Abstain	-	1 (Ms. Walker)

Motion Carried

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Mr. Jaime, the Board approved the following Civil Service change in status:

CIVIL SERVICE  
CHANGE IN  
STATUS

**BRUCIA-SURLIS, BARBARA,**

From: Teacher Aide

To: Teacher Aide Nurse's Office

Gotham Avenue School, at a salary of \$19.50 hour (based on 2008-2009 salary schedule), effective 11/30/09, probation: N/A.

The Board also approved the following Civil Service resignations:

CIVIL SERVICE  
RESIGNATIONS

**CHICHI, DELORES,** Senior Typist Clerk, Elmont Road, effective 12/1/09, service to District: 4 years 3 months; reason: personal.

**ALLEN, ANA,** Teacher Aide Nurse's Office, Gotham Avenue School, effective 11/25/09, service to District: 13 years 9 months; reason: personal.

**CHALMERS, THOMAS,** Custodian, Stewart Manor School, effective 12/31/09, service to District: 2 years 5 months; reason: personal.

**SINGH, VIDYA,** Teacher Aide, Gotham Avenue School, effective 12/2/09, service to District: 8 years 10 months; reason: personal.

**KASPER, JOSEPH,** Senior Maintainer, District wide, effective 11/6/09, service to District: 9 months; reason: personal.

**WALKER, DODIE,** Teacher Aide, Covert Avenue School, effective 4/29/09, service to District: 3 years 7 months; reason: personal.

**BODRICK, RICHARD,** Security Aide, Pupil Personnel Building, effective 12/11/09, service to District 4 months; reason: personal.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2009

VOLUME XXIX, PAGE 118  
ELMONT, NEW YORK

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Ms. Walker, 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

CONSULTANTS FOR ENRICHMENT

CONSULTANTS  
FOR ENRICHMENT

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Ms. Walker, the Board approved the following consultants to work with our children and professional staff during the 2009-2010 school year.

**Mr. John Hinton** of Math Matters, Inc. – will work with students in the six (6) elementary schools to strengthen math problem solving skills.

Fee - \$800 per day, 10 days

**Mr. David Spinnato** will do science research with students in the six (6) elementary schools.

Fee - \$100 per day, 6 days

**Ms. Nkenge Gilliam** will do Model UN with 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in the six (6) elementary schools.

Fee = \$40 per hour, 6 hours  
+\$100 for Model UN Conference

FIRST READING – POLICY #2130 – LINE OF RESPONSIBILITY

FIRST READING –  
POLICY #2130 –  
LINE OF  
RESPONSIBILITY

The Superintendent 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 December 8, 2009.

ITEMS NOTED FOR THE MINUTES

ITEMS NOTED FOR  
THE MINUTES

Use of Facilities

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2009

VOLUME XXIX, PAGE 119  
ELMONT, NEW YORK

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 December 8, 2009.

USE OF FACILITIES

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 Madonna	Bus Driver
Barbara Nimmo	Food Service Worker

On a motion by Ms. Walker, 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 Unanimously

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Mr. Jaime, 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 October, 2009.

TREASURER'S  
REPORT

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Mr. Emeagwali, the Board approved the authorization to make budgetary transfers (over \$5,000) as per the backup pages in the Board Book of December 8, 2009.

BUDGET  
TRANSFERS OVER  
\$5,000

The Board approved the Change Order #1 indicating a credit and add to the District for Dutch Broadway Window Project as per backup pages in the Board Book of December 8, 2009.

CHANGE ORDER  
#1 – DUTCH  
BROADWAY  
SCHOOL WINDOW  
PROJECT

The Board also approved the disposal of one 1997 Ford Pickup, one 1996 Fisher 8' Sander and one Rockwell Band Saw which are Obsolete/Beyond Repair as per backup pages in the Board Book of December 8, 2009.

DISPOSAL OF  
EQUIPMENT

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2009

VOLUME XXIX, PAGE 120  
ELMONT, NEW YORK

ITEMS NOTED FOR THE MINUTES

ITEMS NOTED FOR  
MINUTES

Analysis of Revenue – for the month of October, 2009.

General Fund Schedule of Receivables - General Fund Schedule of Receivables for the month of October, 2009 appears in the backup pages of the Board Book of December 8, 2009.

Monthly Budget Status Report

Monthly Budget Status Report – as of October 31, 2009 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of December 8, 2009.

Various Fund Trial Balances

Trial Balance Reports General, Capital, , Trust & Agency, Expendable Trust, Expendable Trust, Special Aid, Capital Bond and Non-Expendable Trust as of October 31, 2009 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of December 8, 2009.

General Fund Cash Flow Statement

General Fund Cash Flow as of October 31, 2009 and Cash Flow Projection as of November 30, 2009 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of December 8, 2009.

General Fund – Fund Balance Estimate

Estimated General Fund Balance as of November 30, 2009 appears in the backup pages of the Board Book of December 8, 2009.

School Meals Profit and Loss Statement

School Lunch Profit and Loss Statement for the month of October, 2009 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of December 8, 2009.

Custodial/Transportation Overtime

Breakdown Custodial/Transportation Overtime:

Cust./Trans. Overtime – November, 2009	\$ 7,777.40
Overtime paid Year to Date	\$ 41,547.86
Cust./Trans.Overtime - July, 2008 - June, 2009	\$107,308.32

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2009

VOLUME XXIX, PAGE 121  
ELMONT, NEW YORK

VANDALISM TALLIES FOR NOVEMBER 2009 - \$ 0  
Year-to-Date \$ 0  
Previous Year-to-Date \$ 150

ITEMS NOTED FOR  
MINUTES

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS - None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS - None

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS – None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION - None

AUDIENCE ITEMS

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Mr. Patrick Nicolosi inquired if the Board, in honor of Mr. Ragona would have a garden planted or room named after him at the Covert Avenue School for the work he has done in the community as well as the school district. He mentioned the conversation he had with Mr. Ragona on the morning of his passing. Mr. Nicolosi expressed that Covert Avenue was where Mr. Ragona's children attended and he participated in PTA and this would be a good location for a memorial.

Ms. Ferrigno responded that the Board will take his comments into consideration.

The second item which Mr. Nicolosi commented on was in reference to the current election process for the Elmont School District. He expressed his concern about our current process and recommends that we should conduct an "at large election" rather than "by seat". Mr. Nicolosi noted that he does not understand why we campaign against each other. He also noted that he has made this inquiry previously. Mr. Nicolosi also expressed his concern of the lesson to be learned from the loss of Mr. Ragona.

NEXT MEETING

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Ferrigno announced the next meeting of the Board of Education will take place January 12, 2010 at 8:00 PM, at the Stewart Manor School. She wished everyone a happy holiday and a bright and healthy New Year. Ms. Ferrigno thanked everyone for coming.

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2009

VOLUME XXIX, PAGE 122  
ELMONT, NEW YORK

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM on a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Ms. Walker.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Submitted by,

January 13, 2010  
Date Approved

Celestine L. Lloyd  
District Clerk