

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

REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 3, 2007

VOLUME XXVII, PAGE 29  
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, July 3, 2007.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pamela Byer, President ROLL CALL  
Elsy Mecklenbourg-Guibert, Vice President  
Lorraine Ferrigno  
Michael A. Jaime  
Carol Parker-Duncanson  
Aubrey Phillips  
Frank Ragona

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT:**

Mr. Albert Harper,	Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Robert Geras,	Director of Business and Finance
Mrs. Barbara Schwartz,	Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education
Dr. Lynne Stucchio,	Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Colum P. Nugent,	School Attorney
Annette T. Sullivan,	Acting District Clerk

**ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ABSENT:** None

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

Mrs. Byers convened everyone to the Regular Meeting at 10:15 PM.

On a motion by Ms. Ferrigno, seconded by Mrs. Parker-Duncanson, the Board approved the agenda, which was distributed to the audience. APPROVAL  
OF AGENDA

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mrs. Mecklenbourg-Guibert, seconded by Mr. Jaime, the Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 19, 2007. APPROVAL  
OF MINUTES

Motion Carried Unanimously

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INFORMATION REPORT - None

PRESIDENT'S / VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

PRESIDENT'S /  
VICE PRESI-  
DENT'S REMARKS

President - Mrs. Byers stated that she has already spoken.

Vice President - Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert stated that she is very pleased to be elected Vice President of the Board of Education, congratulated Mrs. Byers on her election as President and thanks all her colleagues on trusting her. Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert gave Mrs. Byers her assurance that she will collaborate with her and stand by her. Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert stated that she looks up to Mrs. Byers because she is a person with a vision in addition to her professionalism, she is a registered nurse, a mother and a grandmother, a person with passion, nurture, love for this community. Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert stated that she has been on many committees and is a member of many associations. She believes that the obstacles are surmountable because we have one focus: to help all our children achieve and reach their level of excellence. Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert stated that she will be instrumental in helping forge real collaboration with members of the Board, the Superintendent, the School Attorney and the community to insure that our children get the best education.

SEWANHAKA BOARD ITEMS

SEWANHAKA  
BOARD ITEMS

Mr. Phillips reported that the high school graduations went extremely well. It was the first time graduations were held at Hofstra University. Ten thousand family members witnessed graduations of more than 1,300 students graduated. Ninety-eight percent of Sewanhaka Central High School District twelfth-grade students graduated.

Mr. Phillips stated that a replacement was appointed for Janet Zwyciewicz, who is leaving the high school district. Her replacement will be Gerald Waldman. Mr. Phillips stated that he spoke to Mr. Waldman about pro-activity and he looks forward to renewed vigor at Sewanhaka High School. Mr. Phillips stated that he will have a more substantial high school report at the August meeting.

AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS

AUDIENCE ON  
AGENDA ITEMS

Carol Pane stated that she is here tonight standing with disappointment with the Board's decision in not reappointing her and she is here to ask the question why. She realizes that this ventures into personnel issues. Mrs. Pane stated that she believes that some members of the Board have had issues with some of the minutes.

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AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS (continued)

AUDIENCE ON  
AGENDA ITEMS

There have been corrections to the minutes on occasion and the corrections centered on Mr. Phillips' comments. The law states that a District Clerk is only required to record the motions of the Board, not even the discussions. However, she had been directed to put in most discussions, primarily Mr. Phillips' discussions, and comments. On occasions she did not record exactly what Mr. Phillips said word for word in an effort to consolidate and summarize. Mr. Phillip took umbrage with that and in public made changes to the minutes. On other occasions, Mr. Phillips requested to have minutes changed to reflect statements he said he had made and, in actuality, he had not made them. Mrs. Pane wanted to say to the new District Clerk that she hopes she is an expert minute-taker and that you can elaborate on Mr. Phillips' comments. One cautionary word – there is a law and you cannot disregard the law. Mrs. Pane stated that she had been apprised of not being reappointed tonight on Monday and she was told of the controlling members of the Board, four votes. However, she believes that the only way Mr. Phillips would know that he had four controlling votes would be to have spoken to Mrs. Parker-Duncanson about personnel matters that really should not be discussed in public and in particular with a Board member who had not been sworn in at that time. Therefore, Mrs. Pane believes that that was an illegal move. Mrs. Pane stated that she has discussed with counsel and she believes that she will be exploring all options. Mrs. Pane stated that she hopes this Board can pull together; it should not be a Board of one. She hopes Mrs. Parker-Duncanson can think independently, Mrs. Byers can lead effectively and she and Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert can think for themselves. She feels that Mr. Jaime already thinks independently, Ms. Ferrigno does a great job, and she believes that Mr. Ragona is 110% for the children and whatever he says tonight in her defense and wanting her to remain on the Board is for that reason.

Madaline Hornberg, resident for 57 years in the district. Mrs. Horberg stated that she enjoys seeing the *Elmont Herald* every weekend. She reads the articles about the schools. Mrs. Hornberg stated that the original owner of the *Elmont Herald*, Rita Mezzapelle, fought for this district like no one else. Mrs. Hornberg was appalled at what she heard tonight.

Colleen Mockenhaupt stated that nothing has been answered tonight. The Board spoke tonight about working together and respect, but we don't see it. If you were working together and had respect as a unit, everyone would know what was going on. Mrs. Mockenhaupt said she wondered what else is going on? Mrs. Mockenhaupt asked if the seven members are going to work united for this school district and do what needs to be done. If there are seven people on the Board who are supposed to

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AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS (continued)

AUDIENCE ON  
AGENDA ITEMS

be working together to make decisions that will better our District; how is it that four people are allowed to make decisions without having the respect, the obligation to inform everyone on this Board to make decisions together? Mrs. Mockenhaupt believes that we deserve an answer to this question. You were voted into the position to work as a unit. We teach our children to work together, but the adults are not working together. Mrs. Mockenhaupt stated that she does not understand why a new Board member who did not know anything about Mrs. Pane and her work could vote no. Mrs. Mockenhaupt again requested an answer on how this could be done. Mrs. Mockenhaupt asked if four Board members could meet without notifying the other three members of the Board and make decisions?

Mr. Nugent responded that a Board of Education can only act as a Board; they can't act individually. One Board member can't make a decision and take an action for the rest of the Board. The Board can meet on a day's notice because the business of the District must go forward. The District is required to publish notice if there is time. When an issue comes up that needs to be addressed, the Board can chose to meet. The rule is that you can only meet if every Board member has been notified that a meeting is to take place and they have been given the date, time and place of the meeting and an opportunity to attend that meeting. At that time, if that Board meets, under those circumstances, the Board can take action. On a seven-member Board, you must have four votes in order to convene the meeting and you must have four votes to take action.

Mrs. Mockenhaupt stated that we as parents and as community are in trouble when we have a Board that is not working well together and four of them meet and make these decisions without even contacting the other three people on the Board.

Andrea Ryan asked Mr. Harper if he found Mrs. Pane to be a good employee; Mr. Harper responded correct. Mr. Nugent interrupted indicating that these are personnel questions. Mrs. Ryan asked Mr. Harper if he had any vote as to Mrs. Pane's dismissal; Mr. Haper responded that it is a Board's decision. Mr. Ragona stated that it is a Board's decision, but it was not carried out as a Board decision; it was carried out independently by a Board member and then followed through as per his request to you to do. It was an individual person who contacted the Superintendent and requested him to do this without Board approval. Mr. Ragona stated that Mr. Harper was told on Sunday to not reappoint Mrs. Pane. Mrs. Ryan asked Mr. Phillips if he has said that the minutes weren't accurate. Mr. Phillips responded, if you were to review the tapes of meetings held beginning August 2006 and ending May 2007, you

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AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS (continued)

AUDIENCE ON  
AGENDA ITEMS

will have your answer to what I had to do with minutes; it is public record. Mr. Phillips stated that he cannot describe at a public meeting his thoughts about the competency of any District employee.

Cathy McManus, immediate past President of the Clara H. Carlson PTA and current Treasurer of the Elmont Interschool Council of PTAs, welcomed Mrs. Parker-Duncanson and Mr. Jaime to the Board of Education and wished them good luck. Mrs. McManus stated that she is saddened to see such a divided Board as a parent in this community. Mrs. McManus spoke against the redacting of the *Elmont Herald* and stated that the District will not get the coverage about our children in the other newspapers. Children get joy and excitement when they see themselves in the local newspapers. All six schools in our District are well covered in the *Elmont Herald*. Mrs. McManus stated that she has never seen that coverage in any of the other newspapers.

Peter Foltmer, husband of Lorraine Ferrigno, stated that he wished Commissioner Mills would have made a decision, a ruling, on the law suit against a sitting School Board member and we might not have had what went on tonight. Whatever happens, it is not a reflection on what the community wants, and he hopes Commissioner Mills rules in the proper direction with the facts before him. Mr. Foltmer stated that he is very sad to hear what developed with a phone call and believes that Mr. Nugent or Mr. Harper could have said "No" and reviewed this issue. Mr. Foltmer wished Mrs. Parker-Duncanson and Mr. Jaime luck and urged them to please get information from more than one person. The community wants to move forward. Mr. Foltmer asked if there was a meeting among four Board members, one of which wasn't sworn in until tonight.

Mr. Nugent responded that, to his knowledge, there was no meeting. Board members can discuss items with each other by telephone and the assumption is that is what occurred.

Mr. Foltmer feels that Commissioner Mills let Elmont down by not making a decision before the Reorganization Meeting. Mr. Foltmer believes that the *Elmont Herald* is a wonderful paper and he remembers as a child getting his photo in the newspaper and reading about all the positive things that go on in this community.

Marianne Anderson, a resident of Elmont for 40 years, stated that she did not see what happened tonight as democracy in action. Mrs. Anderson was upset with the redacting of the *Elmont Herald*.

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AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS (continued)

AUDIENCE ON  
AGENDA ITEMS

Doreen Walker stated that this is the first Board Meeting she has attended. Ms. Walker asked if anyone interviewed or reviewed a resume of the person being offered the position of the District Clerk. Mr. Ragona responded that he was not privy of any knowledge about Ms. Yates, nor Ms. Ferrigno and Mr. Jaime. Ms. Walker stated that community members do not have any say in the decision to remove Mrs. Pane. It is just those members that were in agreement to remove her. Mr. Ragona responded that that is not the way normal practice should be. What took place in this particular incident is the exception to the rule. Ms. Walker asked, what prevents this exception to the rule from happening again? Mr. Ragona responded that that is why he is angry. We were robbed of our rights to make a decision that could help benefit the children in our community. Mr. Ragona stated that he is appalled that this took place, as is Ms. Walker.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

CORRESPONDENCE

REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY

REPORT OF THE  
ATTORNEY

Mr. Nugent stated that he has one action item for the Public Session tonight. Mr. Nugent asked for a motion to appoint James Campbell Architects to do certain renovations at the Clara H. Carlson School auditorium.

On a motion by Ms. Ferrigno, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the Board approved the appointment of James Campbell Architects to do certain renovations at the Clara H. Carlson School auditorium.

APPOINTMENT  
OF ARCHITECTS  
FOR RENOVATIONS AT CHC  
AUDITORIUM

Motion Carried Unanimously

Mr. Nugent 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 Mrs. Mecklenbourg-Guibert, seconded by Mrs. Parker-Duncanson, 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

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**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

REPORT OF  
THE SUPT

Mr. Harper welcomed everyone and congratulated the two new Board members, the President and the Vice President. Mr. Harper wanted to say to the young people in the audience that he apologizes for some of the language the young people may have heard in the back of the room because the language was inappropriate. All adults do not do that, said Mr. Harper, and stated that we teach students to be socially conscious as well as academically excellent in this District. Mr. Harper assured the young people the same vow he made the day he started in the District: "I will take care of you and make sure that you have the best education possible in this country." Mr. Harper also thanked the members of the community for attending, which shows that you care about this community, about education and the children.

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, the Board approved the following professional leave of absence extension:

PROFESSIONAL  
LEAVE OF  
ABSENCE  
EXTENSION

**JAZWINSKI, JILL**, Elementary Teacher, currently on Family and Medical/District Child Rearing Leave, duration of leave:

From: 4/16/07 - 8/31/07, unpaid

To : 4/16/07 - 1/31/08, unpaid\*

reason: District Child Rearing Leave.

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 4/16/07 - 6/22/07 and from 9/4/07 - 9/17/07.

Note: Leave of Absence was originally approved by the Board on 3/20/07; a change was approved on 4/17/07.

The Board also approved the following professional appointments:

PROFESSIONAL  
APPOINTMENTS

**DURAND, CHRISTINE**, 175 Day Substitute Teacher, initial assignment to be determined, at a salary of \$22,640, effective 9/1/07 - 6/17/08 (pending medical approval), not eligible for probation and/or tenure.

**LOCASTRO, KRISTINA**, 175 Day Substitute Teacher, initial assignment to be determined, at a salary of \$22,640, effective 9/1/07 - 6/17/08 (pending medical approval), not eligible for probation and/or tenure.

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

The Board further approved the continuation of employment of the following teachers for the 2007-08 school year:

PROFESSIONAL  
CONTINUATION  
OF EMPLOYMENT

**GOODENOUGH, HEATHER**, 175 Day Substitute Teacher, initial assignment to be determined, at a salary of \$22,640, effective 9/1/07 - 6/17/08, no probation and no tenure involved.

**MICKLER, KRISTEN**, 175 Day Substitute Teacher, initial assignment to be determined, at a salary of \$22,640, effective 9/1/07 - 6/17/08, no probation and no tenure involved.

The Board approved the employment of the following Pre-K substitute teacher for the 2007-08 school year. She will work her assigned schedule and will be paid on a per diem basis at a rate of \$125/day. Not eligible for probation/tenure.

EMPLOYMENT  
OF PRE-K  
SUBSTITUTE  
TEACHER

<u>Initial Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification</u>
District-wide	Vezi, Rose Marie	Common Branches (Permanent)

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

[It is noted that Mrs. Parker-Duncanson left the meeting at 11:10 PM.]

On a motion by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the Board approved the following extension of conditional appointments for the following regular civil service employees:

EXTENSION OF  
CONDITIONAL  
APPOINTMENTS

Bradford Corwin	-	Maintainer
Kevin Brazill	-	Senior Maintainer
Adrian Atanasiu	-	Custodian
Alan Noss	-	Custodian

The Board also approved the extension of conditional appointment for the following substitute civil service employees:

Milagros Maldonado	-	Bus Driver Part-time Substitute
Marie Taylor	-	Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute
Denise Isaacs	-	Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Chini Carney	-	Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute	EXTENSION OF CONDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS
Lisa LaMontanaro	-	Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute	
Lisa Johnston	-	Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute	
Debora Herring	-	Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute	
Sabrina Jean-Gilles	-	Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute	
Marie LaMotta	-	Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute	
Johanna Rondon	-	Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute	
Joanne Latimer	-	Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute	
Rosemary Ciampa	-	Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute	
Henry Ficarra	-	Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute	
Tina Orlando	-	Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute	
Vedi Ramdhanie	-	Teacher Aide Part-time Substitute	
Edward Roach	-	Cleaner Part-time Substitute	
Rosalba Agostino	-	Food Service Helper Part-time Substitute	
Guadalupe Lucia Huertas	-	Food Service Helper Part-time Substitute	
Lucy Calomathi	-	Cleaner Part-time Substitute	
Salvatore Conte	-	Cleaner Part-time Substitute	
Rahmel Harris	-	Cleaner Part-time Substitute	
Michael Garcia	-	Cleaner Part-time Substitute	
Lisa Silvestri-Bleeker	-	Food Service Helper Part-time Substitute	
Richard Geed	-	Cleaner Part-time Substitute	
Christopher Hargrove	-	Cleaner Part-time Substitute	
Michael O'Brien	-	Cleaner Part-time Substitute	
Terrence Sawyer	-	Cleaner Part-time Substitute	
Stanley Zapasnik	-	Cleaner Part-time Substitute	

The Board further approved the following civil service employee who will complete her probationary period and will receive permanent status on the date indicated:

CIVIL SERVICE  
PERMANENT  
STATUS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>End Probation</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Carla Musacchia	Typist Clerk - 10 month	8/27/07	8/28/07

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

The Board approved the following civil service changes in status:

CIVIL SERVICE  
CHANGES IN  
STATUS

**MALONE, MARGARET**

From: Assistant Cook

To : Cook

at the Clara H. Carlson School, at a salary of \$21.20 hourly, effective 9/5/07 pending civil service approval, probation: 26 weeks from civil service approval.

**POLIZZI, DAVID**

From: Head Custodian I

To : Provisional Assistant Director of School Facilities and Operations I  
District-wide, at a salary of \$80,000 annual, effective 7/5/07 pending civil service approval, probation: 26 weeks from civil service approval.

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

Yes	-	6
No	-	0
Absent	-	1

(Mrs. Parker-Duncanson)

Motion Carried

[It is noted that Mrs. Parker-Duncanson returned to the meeting at 11:13 PM.]

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

COMMITTEE ON  
SPECIAL EDUCA-  
TION AND PRE-  
SCHOOL SPECIAL  
EDUCATION

Yes	-	6
No	-	0
Abstain	-	1

(Mrs. Parker-Duncanson)

Motion Carried

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

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

AT HOME  
BEHAVIOR  
INTERVENTION  
SERVICES

AT HOME BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SERVICES

Jodie Marano to provide at-home behavior intervention services, pending signed contract, at a rate of \$42 per hour, not to exceed \$4,000, for the 2007-08 school year.

GIFTS TO THE DISTRICT

GIFTS TO THE  
DISTRICT

A gift of \$100 from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 455 to the Gotham Avenue School.

A gift of \$330 from the Dutch Broadway 6th Grade Class of 2007 for the purchase of books.

A \$1,000 check from Wal-Mart to the Dutch Broadway School.

CONSULTANT, SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

SUMMER  
ENRICHMENT  
PROGRAM  
CONSULTANT

Employment of the following consultant for the purpose of conducting a one-day art / sculpture class for students:

<u>Consultant</u>	<u>Affiliation / Agency</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>Fee</u>
John Dinaro	Nassau BOCES	Art / Sculpture	\$300.00

VOLUNTEERS, SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

SUMMER  
ENRICHMENT  
PROGRAM  
VOLUNTEERS

The following volunteers for the purpose of conducting art classes during the implementation of the Summer Enrichment Program:

<u>Volunteer</u>	<u>Affiliation / Agency</u>	<u>Field Activity</u>	<u>Number of Sessions</u>
Christopher Yee	Art Chairperson, EMHS	Art Mural	2 Days
Heather Gottfried	LI Children's Museum	Sculpture	1 Day
Janet Costello	LI Children's Museum	Sculpture	1 Day
Cindy Swabsin	Lehman Brothers	Cartooning	1 Day

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

CONSULTANTS FOR TEACHER IN-SERVICE\*

CONSULTANTS  
FOR TEACHER  
IN-SERVICE

Authorization for the following consultants to work with our professional staff during the 2007-08 school year:

**Ms. Lynn Burke**, Wilson Language Consultant, will work with staff and parents to develop reading / decoding strategies.

Fee: \$500 per day, 6 days

**Mr. Richard Davis** will conduct Technology in-service for staff.

Fee: \$400 per day, 12 days

**Mr. John Hinton** of Math Matters, Inc. Will work with teachers in strengthening math problem-solving skills, developing math concepts, and differentiating instruction.

Fee: \$625 per day, 6 days

**Dr. Andrea Honigsfeld** - Professor at Molloy College - ESL Consultant.

Fee: \$700 per day, 6 days

\*Partially supported by Title I, IIA, IID, III

PUPIL PERSONNEL BID AWARD

PUPIL PERSONNEL  
BID AWARD

The award of a bid to LightSPEED Technologies, Inc. For Infrared Sound Field System, \$1,112.00 per unit, including shipping. The quantity to be ordered will be twenty units for a total cost of \$22,240.00.

SUMMER CURRICULUM MAPPING

SUMMER  
CURRICULUM  
MAPPING

Authorization for the following to update the Foreign Language Curriculum for the 2007-08 school year.

**Mario Toglia**  
**Rosemary Haigh**  
**Noella Suzzi-Valli**

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SUMMER CURRICULUM MAPPING - SUBSTITUTES

SUBSTITUTES  
FOR SUMMER  
CURRICULUM  
MAPPING

Authorization for the following consultants to update the Foreign Language Curriculum for the 2007-08 school year:

**Myriam Belotte  
Victoria Rodriguez  
Paulette White  
Gladys Rodriguez**

Compensation: As per contract (Curriculum Writing - \$235.00 per day).  
Scheduled Days: July 16, 17, 18 (maximum of three days).

SUMMER SCHOOL TEACHER AIDE

SUMMER SCHOOL  
TEACHER AIDE

The employment of the following personnel as teacher aide for Gotham Avenue Summer School at the rate of \$12.00 per hour, maximum 5 hours per day; maximum 16 days, as needed.

NAME

SCHOOL

Nicole Termini

Stewart Manor

SUMMER SCHOOL TEACHER AIDE ENRICHMENT

SUMMER SCHOOL  
TEACHER AIDE  
ENRICHMENT  
PROGRAM

The employment of the following personnel as teacher aide for Clara H. Carlson Enrichment Program at the rate of \$12.00 per hour, maximum 5 hours per day; maximum 12 days, as needed.

NAME

SCHOOL

Kimberly Termini

Clara H. Carlson

Motion Carried Unanimously

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

ITEMS NOTED FOR THE MINUTES

**ITEMS NOTED  
FOR 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 in the Board Book of July 3, 2007.

Workers' Compensation

**WORKER'S  
COMPENSATION**

The following employee is on a leave of absence due to Workers' Compensation case still pending:

Leonard Spicer, Custodian

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 Board Book of July 3, 2007.

On a motion by Mrs. Mecklenbourg-Guibert, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the Board received the backup booklet entitled "Schedule of Disbursements and Warrants," May 2007, 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, the School Lunch Fund, Special Aid, the Trust and Agency Fund, Expendable Trust, and Capital and Bond Issue as of May 2007.

**TREASURER'S  
REPORT**

Motion Carried Unanimously

OTHER APPROVALS AND AUTHORIZATIONS

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Mecklenbourg-Guibert, the Board gave authorization to make budgetary transfers over \$5,000, as per backup pages in the Board Book of July 3, 2007.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

ITEMS NOTED FOR MINUTES

ITEMS NOTED  
FOR MINUTES

Analysis of Revenue - for the month of May 2007.

General Fund Schedule of Receivables - General Fund Schedule of Receivables for the month of May 2007, appears in the backup pages of the Board Book of July 3, 2007.

Monthly Budget Status Report

Monthly Budget Status Report as of May 31, 2007, appears in the backup pages of the Board Book of July 3, 2007.

School Meals Profit and Loss Statement

School Lunch Profit and Loss Statement for the month of May 2007, appears in the backup pages of the Board Book of July 3, 2007.

Custodial / Transportation Overtime

Breakdown Custodial / Transportation Overtime:

Cust./Trans. Overtime - June, 2007	\$6,637.35
Overtime Paid Year to Date	\$88,018.79
Cust./Trans. Overtime - July 2005 - June 2006	\$134,729.04

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ragona reported that he was able to attend all six graduations and stated they were all beautiful. The three schools that held their graduations in the new Elmont Public Library were nicely done, plus the theater had air conditioning and comfortable seats. Mr. Ragona thanked all the Principals and Assistants for making him feel welcome at the graduations.

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NEW BUSINESS (continued)

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Ferrigno spoke about the removal of the *Elmont Herald* as an official newspaper. Ms. Ferrigno asked what kind of a message does this send to our community, to our students. It is censorship because Mr. Phillips does not like the newspaper. What does it say to the other newspapers? It is a systematic control of all the information coming in and going out of the District, and misinformation, and for one person to have control of that is a frightening, scary thing. Ms. Ferrigno stated that tonight she is embarrassed to be a Board member.

Mr. Phillips stated that he wanted to mention three things. We pride ourselves as an Elmont community of having residents from 102 countries who speak 72 languages and dialects. Our school district educates everyone of those students.

Mr. Phillips stated that his personal thought is very simple regarding the *Elmont Herald*. When one turns the pages of the *Elmont Herald* and sees weekly assaults on those children that we educate daily, people like Mr. Aksionoff and our principals, one has to ask the question, how could a community, a school district, allow the printing of the following language, a paper that represents the official paper of the Elmont School District when almost on a weekly basis there is an assault on one or the other of those children or their parents? Mr. Phillips added that our students and parents come from New Hyde Park, Stewart Manor, South Floral Park, North Valley Stream and Elmont. All the newspapers listed reach all those communities, including Elmont.

Regarding the position of the District Clerk, Mr. Phillips stated that the District Clerk serves at the pleasure of the Board and advice given contrary to that by any member of the Board is subject to review. According to State Education Law, should the District Clerk not be reappointed, the term expires. The District Clerk has to be totally centered. Mr. Phillips stated that he doesn't believe that any action taken by this Board is illegal in any way. No one got fired; someone was appointed to a position for a year and that position expired.

Mr. Ragona responded that there has never been any question or concern about the position of District Clerk expiring after one year and reappointment taking place. The concern and issue was that the District Clerk was fired or removed prior to the Reorganization Meeting and someone was appointed without knowledge of the full Board. The concern is how it was done.

Mr. Phillips asked the School Attorney if someone was appointed beside the Acting District Clerk tonight? Mr. Nugent responded, no.

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NEW BUSINESS (continued)

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ragona responded that there was no official appointment, but someone was interviewed by the Superintendent, as per Mr. Phillips' request, handed in a resume and salary was discussed.

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS - None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION - None

AUDIENCE ITEMS

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Claudine Hall, a 41-year resident of the community. She is the former NAACP President for the Elmont, South Floral Park and North Valley Stream areas and currently is the President of the Jamaica Square Improvement League in Elmont. Ms. Hall congratulated Mrs. Parker-Duncanson and Mr. Jaime and thanked the members of the Board for their continued support of the Jamaica Square area. Ms. Hall thanked Mr. Harper for his great leadership and thanked Mr. Rosner, Principal of Clara H. Carlson, for always attending the Jamaica Square Civic Association meetings. Ms. Hall also thanked Mr. Phillips, Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert and Mrs. Byer for their support. Ms. Hall thanked Mr. Jaime for attending the services at the Emanuel Baptist Church in the Jamaica Square area, to support the Elmont community. Ms. Hall stated that she looks forward to working closely with everyone next year.

Peter Foltmer asked how much did it cost the District to send legals to the *Elmont Herald* this past year? Mr. Harper stated that an answer is not available at this time. Mr. Foltmer suggested that perhaps less money could be spent on trips by Board members and money be spent on the publication of the *Elmont Herald*.

Colleen Mockenhaupt asked what Mr. Phillips meant when he said that children and parents are attacked in the *Elmont Herald*. She receives it every week. Mr. Phillips responded that you may be stating that the views of that paper may be consistent with your own views and therefore it is not offensive to you. Mrs. Mockenhaupt stated that she is very confused by this and asked Mr. Phillips if he could explain what is offensive to him. Many parents see all the good things going on in the schools that are in the *Elmont Herald*. Mr. Phillips responded that he doesn't see any action taken by the Board tonight prohibits the *Elmont Herald* from continuing to report on community items. The *Elmont Herald* is free to publish any news.

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AUDIENCE ITEMS (continued)

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Cathy Ferrigno, editor of the *Elmont Herald*, stated that the Board action tonight would not impact the news that the *Elmont Herald* would provide to the community. What they have taken away are the legal notices and the income produced from the legal notices. The *Elmont Herald* has published since 1976. Both Rita and myself put it out together and then Rita's son took over after Rita's death as the publisher. Neither Roy, nor I, take any money to publish the *Elmont Herald* to get the news out to the community. We feel it is very important that there is a voice in this community and we welcome everyone's letters. It should be made clear that you are against what some people submit as letters, not the articles in the newspaper. If someone does not like the letters that are written, he or she is welcome to write in response. Mr. Phillips has been given that opportunity many times. Mr. Mezzapelle has called him and Mr. Phillips has chosen not to respond. Regarding your concerns that I am Lorraine's mother and therefore have a vested interest or contrary interest, I question, how come you do not have a concern that Mr. Phillips' son works for the school district? Regarding the job for the District Clerk, Mrs. Ferrigno asked if this is an advertised position? And, if not, why not?

Ms. Lorraine Ferrigno responded that it was not advertised; it was planned and sneaked, orchestrated by Mr. Phillips. It was never advertised and nobody knows about it and now we have a new person here.

Mrs. Ferrigno asked why isn't it an advertised position? Mr. Nugent responded that there wouldn't be a requirement to advertise for an appointment of an officer of the Board. Mrs. Ferrigno asked what the qualifications are for this position and how did Mr. Phillips decide who should get it? Mr. Nugent responded the person would need some clerical skills and some knowledge of the education laws that pertains to the running of the district. Mr. Ragona stated that the District has a very detailed job description regarding the District Clerk's position which would be available to anyone to see in the District Office.

Ms. Lorraine Ferrigno stated that the hiring of the last District Clerk, it was first advertised in the District; it was in the District as a civil service position because it had always been a civil service position and then it went out after that. Mrs. Ferrigno asked if it is no longer a civil secretary position. Mr. Nugent stated that the person who had the job had two positions, one of which was a civil service secretarial position. Connie Cicio was the Superintendent's Secretary and at the same time the District Clerk. Mrs. Pane was hired exclusively as District Clerk.

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AUDIENCE ITEMS (continued)

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Mrs. Ferrigno asked Mr. Harper if he received a phone call from Mr. Phillips telling him to tell Mrs. Pane that she would no longer have this position? Mr. Harper responded, no. Mrs. Ferrigno asked how Mrs. Pane was advised that she would no longer have the position of District Clerk? Mr. Harper responded that this is a personnel issue and he cannot respond in public. Mrs. Ferrigno asked how it came about that you have this other person that none of the other Board members knew about? Mr. Harper stated that it is a personnel issue. Mrs. Ferrigno asked what is the procedure when you don't retain the District Clerk? Mr. Harper stated that there is no formal procedure in place. Mrs. Ferrigno strongly suggested that a procedure be put in place. Mrs. Ferrigno stated that she watched Mr. Phillips make corrections to the minutes every meeting in public. She went back in her own notes and Mr. Phillips made corrections that were not correct and he publicly did it to embarrass Mrs. Pane all year.

NEXT MEETING

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Byer announced that the next Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2007, at the Elmont Road School at 8:00 PM.

Mr. Ragona asked everyone to please remember everything that went on tonight. It is very important to evaluate what went on tonight.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT  
TO EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

On a motion by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, seconded by Mrs. Parker-Duncanson, the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 11:45 PM.

Motion Carried Unanimously

PUBLIC SESSION

PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Ragona, the Board reconvened in Public Session at 12:05 AM.

Motion Carried Unanimously

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM on a motion by Ms. Ferrigno, seconded by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Submitted by,

*Annette J. Sullivan*

Annette T. Sullivan  
Acting District Clerk

August 7, 2007

Date Approved