

APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education

REORGANIZATION MEETING
JULY 3, 2007

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ELMONT, NEW YORK

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REORGANIZATION MEETING

Minutes of the Reorganization 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
Lorraine Ferrigno
Michael Jaime
Elsy Mecklembourg-Guibert
Carol Parker-Duncanson
Aubrey Phillips
Frank Ragona

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Mr. Albert Harper,	Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Robert Geras,	Director of Business and Facilities
Mrs. Barbara Schwartz,	Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education
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

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, the Board convened in Executive Session at 6:30 PM.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Ms. Ferrigno, seconded by Mr. Ragona, the Board reconvened in Public Session at 8:00 PM.

**PUBLIC
SESSION**

Motion Carried Unanimously

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Mr. Nugent called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM and led the salute to the flag.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRUSTEE TERMS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF
TRUSTEE TERMS

Mr. Nugent announced that three Board members were elected in May to fulfill three-year terms. Each term begins July 1, 2007 and ends June 30, 2010. Lorraine Ferrigno returns as a Board member and Michael A. Jaime and Carol Parker-Duncanson are new Board members.

ADMINISTER OATH TO NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

OATH TO NEWLY
ELECTED BOARD
MEMBERS

Mr. Nugent administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Ferrigno, Mr. Jaime and Mrs. Parker-Duncanson.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DISTRICT CLERK

APPOINTMENT OF
ACTING
DISTRICT CLERK

Mr. Nugent asked for a motion to take the following Board action. Mr. Nugent asked that the Board appoint Annette Sullivan Acting District Clerk commencing immediately and for the duration of the month of July, until July 31.

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, the Board appointed Annette Sullivan Acting District Clerk commencing immediately until July 31, 2007.

Mr. Ragona stated that he is very, very concerned how Mr. Phillips was able to contact our Superintendent over the weekend, giving him the directive to fire our District Clerk, reappointing someone named Hillary Yates at a salary of \$50,000 a year without speaking to all the members of the School Board. Mr. Ragona stated that we have all been elected to do a job here and have responsibility to this community, to the children and to all the taxpayers and members of the Elmont community. We were not given that opportunity to fulfill our obligation to each and every one of you. I would like someone to give me an answer how you could have done such a thing without speaking to the Board members.

Mr. Phillips responded that he doesn't know that the Board has taken an action in hiring anyone at this time. Mr. Ragona responded that, not only was Ms. Yates offered a position, she actually met with the Superintendent and was given a salary, so she has already put things in place to be hired. "Are you saying, Mr. Phillips that you did not direct Mr. Harper in this way?" Mr. Ragona demanded an answer: as School Board members we are entitled to know why decisions were made without

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APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DISTRICT CLERK (continued)

APPOINTMENT OF
ACTING
DISTRICT CLERK

all of us being part of this decision process. Mr. Phillips responded that he will not speak to this issue at this time. Mr. Ragona stated that we are all elected officials here on this Board. We are all here to do a job for our children in this community. We are entrusted with this responsibility. When someone has the nerve to take this away from us and, on his own, speaks to our Superintendent and tells him to do something without speaking to all of us, not only do I think it is illegal, but it is certainly immoral at best. Mr. Ragona asked, "What gives you the right to make decisions on your own without speaking to each and every one of us? I think you owe this whole community an answer and if anyone else in the audience agrees with me, you should all come to the microphone tonight and insist that Mr. Phillips gives an answer as to how Mr. Phillips was able to make a decision on his own regarding an employee in this District without speaking to any of us. Can any of us do this? We want answers – we all deserve answers here. You have no right to do what you have done, Mr. Phillips." Mr. Ragona stated that he doesn't know why the Board is appointing an Acting District Clerk when the Board's District Clerk is still employed here. Why is she not employed because Mr. Phillips had her fired? How can this be the case? How can we appoint Annette Sullivan when we have someone else presently in this position? Mr. Ragona asked, who removed her, Mr. Phillips on his own? Mr. Nugent responded that the appointment is a one-year appointment. Mr. Ragona responded that he is well aware of the appointment schedule and he knows that it is only one year. Mr. Ragona added that this person was removed of her one-year appointment, without any of us being made aware of it, on his own, and hired Ms. Yates at a salary of \$50,000.00. Who approved this?

Mr. Nugent called for a vote at this time.

Mr. Ragona stated that the discussion is not over. There will be no vote on this until we have a completed discussion. There has been a question posed and it has not been answered. We should not continue until the question is answered. How does one individual on this School Board get to make a decision for seven people; one cannot speak for seven; we are a party of seven; we have to speak together; he cannot speak for all of us and he did.

Mr. Nugent stated that appointments are made by the Board at the Reorganization Meeting. Mr. Ragona stated, "Not over the weekend. Ms. Yates has already met with the Superintendent, had an interview and handed in her resume. It should have happened tonight and if it did happen tonight, protocol would have been followed; protocol has been broken; it was done before the Reorganization Meeting." Mr. Nugent stated that the appointments are made by the Board, by a majority of the Board, on the night of the Reorganization Meeting. No one has been appointed.

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APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DISTRICT CLERK (continued)

APPOINTMENT OF
ACTING
DISTRICT CLERK

Mr. Ragona asked why was the woman offered a \$50,000 salary, met with the Superintendent who received her resume and who was instructed by Mr. Phillips to fire the existing District Clerk. A great injustice has been made this evening and I think some legal matters might have to be addressed to you, Mr. Nugent, regarding what Mr. Phillips has done.

Mr. Nugent responded, to his knowledge, no illegal meeting took place. The Board cannot have a meeting. Mr. Ragona responded that no meeting took place, but a phone call was made and was acted upon by one person. Can I call the Superintendent tomorrow and fire Mrs. Barbara Schwartz? Can I randomly have people terminated without speaking to all my colleagues? I have a responsibility to speak to all my colleagues before a decision is made.

Mr. Nugent stated that the protocol followed was a protocol chosen by a member or members of the Board. I have reviewed the actions; they are not illegal.

Mr. Ragona encouraged any member of the audience to come to the microphone at the appropriate time to ask questions about this. Mr. Ragona stated to please remember to keep in mind what happened tonight. There is an election next year and there are seats coming up. Please keep in mind who is representing you on this Board.

Ms. Ferrigno read a definition of totalitarian rule. Ms. Ferrigno stated that the totalitarian decided on his own, without discussion with other Board members, the Superintendent nor our counsel, to fire Carol Pane, our District Clerk, while simultaneously hiring another in absolute secrecy. Ms. Ferrigno stated that one may hear the term "failing to reappoint Mrs. Pane," but this is a fancy way of saying "fired." It was Mr. Phillips and Mrs. Madera who brought Mrs. Pane to the District three years ago, and now he wants to fire her with no reason. Ms. Ferrigno stated that she believes that the actions tonight by the totalitarian to be scheming, retaliatory, unsettling and most likely illegal. Ms. Ferrigno asked, "How can we uproot this District in this manner? How can a totalitarian do this to our Superintendent? Call him on Sunday, give him orders, and place a stranger outside his door to whom he is compelled to work with on a daily basis. Does this uphold our oath? Is this what is best for our children? What about the morale of the District employees? This will destroy the morale of the District employees. Is this what is best for the children of the District? Somehow three Board members were able to hire a new District Clerk before firing the old one and without informing any other

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APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DISTRICT CLERK (continued)

APPOINTMENT OF
ACTING
DISTRICT CLERK

Board members -- remember Mr. Nori and Mrs. Monteverde were Board members up until Saturday evening, June 30th, which is why Mr. Phillips called Mr. Harper on Sunday. Ms. Ferrigno stated we have two new Board members sworn in tonight. How can they possibly have the background knowledge of Mrs. Pane's job performance to make such an important decision as to fire her? I believe it is not possible for these new Board members to vote to dismiss the District Clerk for no cause as they have no knowledge as to her job or her performance thereof. Ms. Ferrigno asked Mrs. Parker-Duncanson and Mr. Jaime to think seriously on this matter and either recuse yourselves or vote to continue the status quo until such a time as you can make an informed and educated decision as to this woman's employment. Ms. Ferrigno stated that, as far as Mrs. Sullivan, whom they are asking to be an interim District Clerk, she is a dedicated, organized, wonderful key player and I love her. Ms. Ferrigno added that she will not allow this Board to use Mrs. Sullivan as a means to its own end, so they could fire Mrs. Pane and simultaneously accommodate their new choice who does not want to start until August. Ms. Ferrigno stated that she will not be a party to that.

Mr. Ragona asked why Mrs. Byer and Ms. Mecklembourg-Guibert are firing Mrs. Pane. Are there good reasons or have they good cause? Mr. Ragona believes that the only reason why they are doing so is because Mr. Phillips instructed them to do so. Mr. Ragona asked both women the reason why. At this point Mr. Nugent directed Mrs. Byer and Ms. Mecklembourg-Guibert not to answer this if it deals with any performance issues of Mrs. Pane. We do not permit discussions of personnel matters in public. Mr. Ragona responded it is something for everyone to think about if there is any reason why they are terminating this woman's position other than being told to do so.

Mr. Phillips stated that it is his understanding that the District Clerk's position based on State Education Law is an appointment for one year in a union free school district and terminates at the end of the school year.

Mr. Nugent said, yes. Mr. Phillips asked Mr. Nugent if he found any actions that this Board will take this evening to be outside the parameters of New York State Law regarding the appointment or non-appointment of the District Clerk?

Mr. Nugent responded that he reviewed the actions of individual Board members prior to tonight and he does not find any violation of the law.

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APPOINTMENT OF THE ACTING DISTRICT CLERK (continued)

**APPOINTMENT OF
ACTING
DISTRICT CLERK**

Mr. Jaime stated that we all know that Mrs. Pane's appointment is for one year and ended on June 30th. Why would Mr. Harper need to be instructed to fire her when we all know that her appointment ends on June 30th?

Mr. Nugent stated that the norm would be for the District Clerk to continue unless the Board changes the District Clerk; it is the option of the Board.

Mr. Ragona added, the Board is to make that decision tonight, not over the weekend. Mr. Ragona asked, why is Mrs. Pane not sitting in her position until we make a decision?

(Vote Taken to Appoint Annette Sullivan Acting District Clerk as previously stated.)

Yes - 4
No - 3

Motion Carried

Mr. Nugent stated that Mrs. Sullivan is appointed Acting District Clerk. She will commence immediately and therefore she will, as the District Clerk would normally do, conduct this meeting until the newly elected President takes over.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**ELECTION OF
OFFICERS**

Mrs. Sullivan called for nominations for the office of President of the Board.

Mr. Phillips made a motion to nominate Pamela Byer President of the Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ragona.

Mrs. Sullivan asked if there were any other nominations. There were none.

Yes - 6
No - 1

Motion Carried

Mrs. Sullivan declared Pamela Byer President of the Board of Education.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS (continued)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mrs. Sullivan asked for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board.

Mrs. Byers nominated Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert as Vice President of the Board.
Mr. Phillips seconded the motion.

Mrs. Sullivan asked if there were any other nominations. There were none.

Yes	-	4
No	-	1
Abstain	-	2

(Mr. Ragona and Mr. Jaime)

Motion Carried

Mrs. Sullivan declared Elsy Mecklembourg-Guibert Vice President of the Elmont Board of Education.

Mrs. Sullivan administered the Oath of Office to Mrs. Byers and Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert.

Mrs. Byers assumed the chair as President of the Board and asked for a five-minute recess.

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, the Board voted to take a five-minute recess.

FIVE-MINUTE RECESS

Yes	-	5
No	-	0
Abstained	-	2

(Mr. Ragona and Ms. Ferrigno)

Motion Carried

The meeting was reopened at 8:52 PM.

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Mrs. Byers welcomed Mr. Jaime and Mrs. Parker-Duncanson to the Board. Mrs. Byers thanked everyone for entrusting her with the enormous task of President of the Board of Education, stating everyone will be a part of this task, and for recognizing her capabilities. Mrs. Byers stated that she has been a part of this community for many years and has visited all the schools in the District many times. She has seen wonderful work going on and students are well prepared in the elementary schools to go on to high school and are prepared well in the high schools to go on to college. Mrs. Byers stated that those people who know her, know how she feels about learning, about trust and about respect. Mrs. Byers stated that last year when she became a Board member, she was given a copy of a book entitled, "Becoming a Better Board Member" and hopes someone will give Mrs. Parker-Duncanson and Mr. Jaime copies of this book to read because it has important factors. The book states that one of the qualities of a Board President is maintaining leadership, organizing, planning and being a confident and she feels strongly about this. Mrs. Byers hopes that, with everyone's help, she will be able to do this job. Mrs. Byers thanked Mr. Nugent for his direction this evening.

**REMARKS BY
NEW PRESIDENT**

SEWANHAKA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

**SEWANHAKA CHSD
BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. Phillips made a motion nominating Carol Parker-Duncanson as a representative to the Sewanhaka Central High School District Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert.

Mr. Jaime made a motion nominating Lorraine Ferrigno as a representative to the Sewanhaka Central High School District Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ragona because he feels that Ms. Ferrigno has much more experience and knowledge regarding the School Board, the District, and Sewanhaka in particular, as a former student from the schools in our District and she would be the ideal candidate and most experienced to represent the elementary schools in this position.

There were no further nominations.

Ms. Ferrigno thanked Mr. Jaime and Mr. Ragona for the nomination and stated that, as the second most senior member of the Board, she is the most qualified to be a High School representative. She is a graduate of Sewanhaka High School. Ms. Ferrigno feels it is important to have a representative from our Board from the Sewanhaka High School area. With the exception of Mrs. Monteverde last year, there hasn't been such a representative for five years - both representatives were from the Elmont Memorial High School area. Ms. Ferrigno believes it is important to have both schools represented because they haven't been for years and stated that it would be her pleasure to serve on the High School Board of Education.

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SEWANHAKA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES (continued)

SEWANHAKA CHSD
BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Phillips stated that he nominated Mrs. Parker-Duncanson because of her wealth of experience in education, her length of stay in the community and because she is a very active parent with children in the high school.

Mr. Ragona stated a concern of his is that someone who is a Board member and who has children, but who does not let their children attend the public schools in the District.

Vote taken for the Sewanhaka Central High School District Board Representative. There were four votes for Mrs. Parker-Duncanson and three votes for Ms. Ferrigno.

Mrs. Parker-Duncanson was appointed to be the Sewanhaka Central High School District Board Representative.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

APPOINTMENT
OF OFFICERS

Clerk of the Board

Mrs. Byer announced Hillary Yates as District Clerk. Ms. Ferrigno stated that the Board Book indicated Carol Pane. Mr. Ragona asked if the Board has voted on this yet? The response was, no.

Mrs. Byer asked for a motion on having separate votes on the Board appointments.

Mr. Jaime thanked the Board and Mrs. Byers for her kind words. Mr. Jaime stated that in Mrs. Byers speech earlier tonight, she mentioned trust and respect. As a newly elected Board member, Mr. Jaime asked why he was not afforded trust and respect with regard to the issue of the appointment of the Clerk of the Board. Mrs. Byers responded that the decision is now being made by the Board. Mr. Ragona stated that the job was appointed by Mr. Phillips. He appointed the position to Mr. Harper over the weekend. Mr. Phillips spoke to Mr. Harper and had Mrs. Pane fired, and hired Mrs. Yates at \$50,000, without consulting the rest of the Board. Mr. Ragona stated that his only agenda is for the betterment of the community for our children and this community. Mr. Jaime wanted to know, where was the trust and respect that was supposed to be entrusted to him as a newly elected School Board Trustee? Mr. Jaime stated that not only do I represent the 984 people who elected

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APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

**APPOINTMENT
OF OFFICERS**

Clerk of the Board (continued)

me, I represent the entire community. Mr. Jaime stated that Mrs. Byers made mention of the book "How to Become a Better Board Member" and stated that he already read that book from cover to cover on the advice of Carol Pane. Mrs. Byers responded that his respect started when all the people in this neighborhood voted for him to be on the Board. The respect continues tonight. Mr. Jaime asked when Mr. Phillips will begin to trust and respect him enough to make an informed decision on whether Carol Pane should stay, be reappointed, or be fired and whether Mrs. Yates, whom I have yet to be apprised as to what qualities she has that we should consider appointing her to this position. Mr. Phillips stated that he agrees with part of what Mr. Jaime says and stated that if Mr. Jaime would like to be part of some discussion involving Mrs. Yates, that we table the appointment of the District Clerk, so that Mr. Jaime could be properly presented with some information. Mr. Ragona asked, what about Ms. Ferrigno and myself? Why were we not allowed the opportunity to meet the person you already hired and offered a salary to? This should be something the entire Board should have had the opportunity to do prior to her being told she has a position. We have a right to meet Mrs. Yates, interview her and find out if she is qualified for this position.

Ms. Ferrigno made a motion to nominate Carol Pane as Clerk of the Board. Mr. Ragona seconded the motion.

Mr. Phillips made a motion that Mrs. Yates be the Clerk of the Board.

Ms. Ferrigno welcomed the two new members to the Board of Education and asked if they plan to vote on the Clerk of the Board? Mrs. Parker-Duncanson responded that she hasn't heard all the information yet. Ms. Ferrigno asked if they have any information regarding Carol Pane working as an employee for the District. Ms. Ferrigno asked Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert if she has ever seen Mrs. Pane's personnel file?

Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert asked that we move the meeting on, stating that she would like to call the question. Ms. Ferrigno stated that she has more questions; this is a very important decision. Mr. Jaime stated that Mr. Phillips told Ms. Ferrigno, Mr. Ragona and myself that he would be happy to apprise the three of us of Mrs. Yates qualifications. Mr. Ragona responded that Mr. Phillips only extended the invitation to Mr. Jaime, not to Ms. Ferrigno and myself. Based on Mr. Phillips intent, Mr. Jaime said that at this time we cannot vote either way or take any kind of motions until all of us feel comfortable enough to vote yes, no or abstain.

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APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

APPOINTMENT
OF OFFICERS

Clerk of the Board (continued)

Mr. Nugent stated that the motion on the floor to appoint Carol Pane as District Clerk is an appropriate motion. The offer from Mr. Phillips to share information with regard to the other candidate proposed for the position, that motion is properly brought to the floor.

Ms. Ferrigno stated that she is trying to ascertain answers as to how this came about. She is asking her fellow Board members, who appear to be the ones who made this decision in secret, what happened.

Mrs. Mecklenbourg-Guibert stated for the second time that she is calling the question. She will not answer any other questions.

Ms. Ferrigno stated to Mr. Phillips that he made a unilateral decision to fire the District Clerk and she is trying to ascertain some answers, trying to learn how this could possibly have happened.

Mr. Phillips responded that he doesn't know if he is intrigued or humored, one or the other. Mr. Phillips stated that it appears that Mrs. Pane was advised by Ms. Ferrigno that she could not be removed as District Clerk. At this point it is obvious that that is inappropriate because State Ed Law dictates that the position of the District Clerk and the Treasurer are one-year appointments served at the pleasure of the Board. Mr. Phillips made a motion to call the question.

Ms. Ferrigno asked if it is because Mrs. Pane's skin color is any other color but black. Mr. Phillips responded that his support for Mrs. Pane being hired was with vigor and I vigorously defended her hiring over the objections of Ms. Ferrigno. Mr. Phillips stated that if Mrs. Pane's pigmentation was not an issue then, I don't see why it would be an issue now.

Ms. Ferrigno asked for a Roll Call Vote to appoint Carol Pane as Clerk of the Board.

Carol Parker-Duncanson - Against

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APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

**APPOINTMENT
OF OFFICERS**

Clerk of the Board (continued)

Frank Ragona - In Favor

(Mr. Ragona in favor because she has served this District in an unbelievable capacity, professionally, personally and in every way possible. As a one-year Board member, Mrs. Pane has guided me through some very difficult times getting acclimated with this position. Mrs. Pane has always maintained professionalism in her job. She almost always had an answer and if she did not have one, she got back to him with one. Her record shows what a wonderful employee she is, stellar evaluations. This is a person who would be a great loss to our District if we should lose her as a District Clerk as a secretary for the members for this Board. Mr. Ragona said that if we so lose her, we are in a lot of trouble.)

Aubrey Phillips - Against

(He votes no for reasons he can share in Executive Session.)

Elsy Meckleberg-Guibert - Against

(Ms. Meckleberg-Guibert believes that we need some neutrality here; we need some mending. What she heard was shocking. We will return to Executive Session and discuss that further. Ms. Meckleberg-Guibert believes that there is a lot of healing that is going to have to be done here comparatively with the work that we need to do that has to be done.)

Lorraine Ferrigno - In Favor

(Ms. Ferrigno concurred with Mr. Ragona. She thinks that Mrs. Pane was always professional, always nice to everyone, treated everyone fairly, every Board member the same. Mrs. Ferrigno stated that it is a miscarriage of justice for this to be going on as it happened.)

Michael Jaime - In Favor

(Mr. Jaime stated that his interactions with her have been of the utmost professional. Mrs. Pane has been of enormous help to him within his campaign and he feels that she would be a continued asset, not only to the Board but also to each individual Board member.)

Pamela Byer - Against

(Ms. Byer stated that Mrs. Pane is a decent lady and she has guided her also.)

Motion Defeated

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APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

**APPOINTMENT
OF OFFICERS**

Clerk of the Board (continued)

Mr. Phillips made a motion to **TABLE** the appointment of the Clerk of the Board.
Mrs. Parker-Duncanson seconded the motion.

Yes	-	5
No	-	1
(Ms. Ferrigno)		
Abstain	-	1
(Frank Ragona)		

Motion Carried

On a motion by Mr. Ragona, seconded by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, the Board approved the following appointments:

District Treasurer	-	Kathleen Ackermann
Central Registrar	-	Sharon Voitko
Deputy District Treasurer	-	Joseph Guadagno
Acting Deputy District Treasurer (as needed)	-	Diane Tool

Motion Carried Unanimously

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

**OTHER
APPOINTMENTS**

On a motion by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the Board approved the following appointment:

L.E.A.'s Asbestos Designee	-	Robert Geras
Workers Compensation Third Party Administrator	-	Wright Risk Management
Financial Advisory Advisor	-	NYMAC
District Medical Advisor	-	To Be Announced
School Attorney	-	Colum P. Nugent

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OTHER APPOINTMENTS (continued)

**OTHER
APPOINTMENTS**

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Unemployment Insurance Consultants | - Barnett Associates |
| Consulting Architect Engineer | - To Be Determined on a Project
to Project Basis |
| Capital Projects Owner's Representative/
Clerk of the Works | - Frank Marino |
| Environmental Consultant | - J.C. Broderick & Associates |
| Roof Consultants | - Watsky Associates |
| Business Consultant | - Thomas W. Galante |
| Board of Code of Ethics | - To Be Determined |
| Records Management Office | - Fernando DeBartolo |
| Bond Counsel | - Hawkins, Delafield & Wood |
| 403(B) Advisor Third Party Administrator | - The Omni Group |

Independent Auditors

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Callaghan Nawrocki LLP | - To do the audit of the 2006/07 fiscal year. |
| Internal Auditor | - R.S. Abrams |
| Claims Auditor | - William Madden, CPA |
| GASB 45 Actuarial Consultant | - Milliman Consultants & Actuaries |

District Negotiations

Colum Nugent to be the District negotiator at an hourly rate to be determined.

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OTHER APPOINTMENTS (continued)

**OTHER
APPOINTMENTS**

Impartial Hearing Officers

To be selected in accordance with applicable statutes.

Others to be selected by project subject to Board approval.

Yes	-	7
No	-	0
Abstain	-	0

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, the Board approved the following:

**OFFICIAL BANK
DEPOSITORIES**

Official Bank Depositories

- Bank of America Authorized for Expendable Trust Account
- MBIA Class Authorized for all investment funds
- Citibank (Franklin Square) Scholarship Accounts
- Commerce Bank* Authorized for all funds
- J. P. Morgan Chase Authorized for scholarship & payroll accounts

Banks shall be required to provide necessary collateral statements.

*This depository is also designated for the wire transfer of Tax Anticipation Notes and Certificates of Deposit.

Yes	-	7
No	-	0
Abstain	-	0

Motion Carried Unanimously

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Regular Monthly Meetings 2007-08 School Year

REGULAR
MONTHLY
MEETINGS
2007-08
SCHOOL YEAR

On a motion by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, seconded by Mrs. Parker-Duncanson, the Board approved the following schedule of meetings:

3rd Tuesday	September 18, 2007	8 PM	Elmont Road School
3rd Tuesday	October 16, 2007	8 PM	Alden Terrace School
3rd Tuesday	November 20, 2007	8 PM	Gotham Avenue School
3rd Tuesday	December 18, 2007	7:30 PM	Dutch Broadway School
3rd Tuesday	January 15, 2008	8 PM	Elmont Road School
2nd Tuesday	February 12, 2008	8 PM	Covert Avenue School
3rd Tuesday	March 18, 2008	8 PM	Stewart Manor School
3rd Tuesday	April 15, 2008	8 PM	Clara H. Carlson School
3rd Wednesday	April 16, 2008	6:30 PM	Elmont Road School
	(BOCES Budget Vote)		
2nd Tuesday	May 13, 2008	8 PM	Clara H. Carlson School
3rd Tuesday	May 20, 2008	9 PM	Elmont Road School
	(Annual Budget Vote)		
3rd Tuesday	June 17, 2008	7:30 PM	Dutch Broadway School
1st Tuesday	July 1, 2008	8 PM	Elmont Road School
	(Reorganization)		
2nd Tuesday	August 12, 2008	8 PM	Elmont Road

Mr. Phillips stated that during Mr. Jaime's campaign, Mr. Jaime suggested adding two meetings to accommodate people who work and cannot attend our other meetings and that he suggested some Saturday meetings. Mr. Jaime responded that he does not have any recommendations for Saturday meetings at this point; it can be discussed at a future time.

Yes	-	7
No	-	0
Abstain	-	0

Motion Carried Unanimously

Official Newspapers

OFFICIAL
NEWSPAPERS

The Board is requested to name the official newspapers for 2007-08 for the District and the newspapers which may receive our legals in 2007-08.

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Official Newspapers (continued)

OFFICIAL
NEWSPAPERS

Recommended newspapers are:

The Herald (formerly Elmont Life)	Three Village Times
Elmont Herald	Gateway
Newsday	New Hyde Park Herald Courier
	Illustrated News

Mrs. Parker-Duncanson asked for an explanation of what an official newspaper is for the District. Mr. Nugent responded that the District needs to have official newspapers designated in order to advertise various legals for the school budget vote three times before the election, and to advertise when the District issues notes, and advertise for meetings, and also to award contracts and seek bids. The District designates local newspapers because the cost is lower. However, sometimes the District is under time constraints and it needs to use *Newsday*.

Mrs. Parker-Duncanson stated that she would like to remove the *Elmont Herald* from the suggested list. She sees the editor being a family member of a Board member as a conflict of interest. Ms. Parker-Duncanson stated that she is extremely disappointed many times in much of the contents of the *Elmont Herald*. It is one of the newspapers where she has had family members visiting her looking at our local newspapers and being appalled that this is a newspaper that is representing our community. She feels very uncomfortable appointing the *Elmont Herald* as an official newspaper for the Elmont School District.

Ms. Ferrigno stated that this is a direct retaliation at me; it is my mother who is the editor of the *Elmont Herald*. Ms. Ferrigno stated that she is not upset. They are not going to lose money and they are not going to stop writing. Ms. Ferrigno stated that she has never had any measure of control whatsoever over any part of the newspaper; there is no conflict of interest, none whatsoever.

Mr. Ragona stated that most of the civic associations in Elmont give their members subscriptions to the *Elmont Herald* when they join. This is why this newspaper is very well circulated in the community. It is also one of the free papers that can be obtained in stores in the community. The amount of people this newspaper reaches is very great and he encourages the Board to keep it as an official newspaper. As a reader of the newspaper for 15 years, he has never seen anything in the paper except for knowledgeable, informed articles regarding the community.

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Official Newspapers (continued)

OFFICIAL
NEWSPAPERS

Mrs. Parker-Duncanson made a motion to redact the *Elmont Herald* from the suggested list of official newspaper. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion.

Mr. Ragona stated that the other newspapers on the list never have articles about Elmont, except for *The Three Village Times*. The *Three Village Times* covers three different towns, whereas the *Elmont Herald* is very specific, geared to Elmont and this District. It is readily available at no cost at many locations. Mr. Ragona wanted it to be on record why this newspaper should be continued and considered as an official newspaper.

Mrs. Byers stated that the Board is not stopping the distribution of the *Elmont Herald*. Mr. Ragona stated that it is being stopped with having information about our schools.

Mr. Jaime asked if we had assurances from the other newspapers that they will now carry articles relating to Elmont, Elmont's children on a continuous basis, and the good things that are going on in the Elmont School District.

Mr. Nugent responded that we have no such assurances from any of the other newspapers. Mr. Jaime asked, how can we clearly redact a newspaper that is named after our town that publishes articles about Elmont and our children? Mr. Jaime suggested that if anyone has a problem with the content of the *Elmont Herald*, they should contact the editor or the owner of the newspaper, write letters opposing the views that are written as editorials.

The Board took a vote to redact the *Elmont Herald* from the suggested list of official newspapers. Ms. Ferrigno asked for a Roll Call Vote.

Carol Parker-Duncanson	-	Remove the <i>Elmont Herald</i>
Frank Ragona	-	Keep the <i>Elmont Herald</i>
Aubrey Phillips	-	Remove the <i>Elmont Herald</i>
Elsy Mecklembourg-Guibert	-	Remove the <i>Elmont Herald</i>
Lorraine Ferrigno	-	Keep the <i>Elmont Herald</i>
Michael Jaime	-	Keep the <i>Elmont Herald</i>
Pamela Byer	-	No

Yes	-	3
No	-	4

Motion Fails

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Official Newspapers (continued)

OFFICIAL
NEWSPAPERS

Mr. Nugent announced that the *Elmont Herald* remains an official newspaper of the Elmont School District.

Mrs. Byers asked for clarification on the vote. Mr. Nugent stated that a yes vote removes the *Elmont Herald* from the list; a no vote does not remove it. Mrs. Byers told Mr. Nugent that her no vote was not what she intended.

Mrs. Byers stated that she is not voting for the *Elmont Herald* to be on the list of official newspapers.

The vote is now:

Yes	-	4
No	-	3

Motion Carried

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Parker-Duncanson, the Board approved the following list as Official Newspapers for the District:

The Herald (formerly Elmont Life)	Three Village Times
Newsday	Gateway
New Hyde Park Herald Courier	Illustrated News

Yes	-	4
No	-	2
Abstain	-	1

(Lorraine Ferrigno)

Motion Carried

[It is noted that Ms. Ferrigno temporarily left the meeting at 9:58 PM.]

COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION - 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR

COMMITTEE
ON SPECIAL
EDUCATION
2007-08
SCHOOL YEAR

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, the Board approved the following:

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COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION - 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR (continued)

**COMMITTEE
ON SPECIAL
EDUCATION
2007-08
SCHOOL YEAR**

Membership - Special Education

Barbara Schwartz	Chairperson
TBA	Medical Advisor
Resource Room Teachers	Special Education Teacher Alternates
Dr. Karen Green	Psychologist/Chairperson Alternate
Dr. Jodi Luce	Psychologist/Chairperson Alternate
Mrs. Nina O'Neill	Chairperson Alternate
Parent of the child being reviewed	
Regular Education Teacher of the child being reviewed	
Special Education Teacher of the child being reviewed	
Dr. Janet Kilian	Psychologist-Alternate
Ms. Dana Kizner	Psychologist-Alternate
Dr. John Ozehosky	Psychologist-Alternate
Mrs. Theresa Sullivan	Psychologist-Alternate
Mrs. Ruby Uliss-Pieri	Psychologist-Alternate
Ms. Ariella Sinnreich	Psychologist-Alternate
Mrs. Dorit Brander	Psychologist-Alternate
Mr. Maradesa Adegbola	Parent Member
Mrs. Ann Ashemeade	Parent Member
Mrs. Judith Bolden	Parent Member
Mrs. Claudine Deverson	Parent Member
Mrs. Josephine Fogarty	Parent Member
Mrs. Kisha Nembhard	Parent Member
Mrs. Christine Putre	Parent Member
Mrs. Joyce Stoner	Parent Member
Mrs. Rocio Talero	Parent Member
Mrs. Nayibe Venegas	Parent Member

COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEES

**COMMITTEE
ON SPECIAL
EDUCATION SUB-
COMMITTEES**

<u>School</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Alternate(s)</u>
Alden Terrace	Dana Kizner	Barbara Schwartz Amy Buchanan
Clara H. Carlson	Theresa Sullivan Dorit Brander	Barbara Schwartz Kenneth Rosner Nancy McLaughlin

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COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEES (continued)

**COMMITTEE
ON SPECIAL
EDUCATION SUB-
COMMITTEES**

Covert Avenue

John Ozehosky
Jen Perri

Barbara Schwartz
Margaret Pleta
Saundra Lennon

Dutch Broadway

Janet Kilian
Judi Luce

Barbara Schwartz
Walter Aksionoff
Christine Mastroianni

Gotham Avenue

Joanne Malhas
Patricia Bambino

Barbara Schwartz
Marshall Zucker
Ruby Uliss-Pieri
Joy Kaye

Stewart Manor

Karen Green

Barbara Schwartz
Hope Kranidis
Christina DeCastro

Elmont Road

Barbara Schwartz

Nina O'Neill
Karen Green
Jodi Luce

COMMITTEE ON PRE-SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION - 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR

**COMMITTEE ON
PRE-SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCA-
TION - 2007-08
SCHOOL YEAR**

Membership

TBA

Mrs. Barbara Schwartz

Ms. Nina O'Neill

Dr. Karen Green

To be determined

Mrs. Rose Vezzi

Mr. Maradesa Adegbola

Mrs. Ann Ashemeade

Mrs. Judith Bolden

Mrs. Claudine Deverson

Mrs. Josephine Fogarty

Mrs. N. Kessler

Mrs. Christine Maffea

Mrs. Kisha Nembhard

Chairperson

Alternate Chairperson

Alternate Chairperson

Alternate Chairperson

Special Education Teacher

General Education Teacher

Parent Member

Parent Member

Parent Member

Parent Member

Parent Member

Parent Member

Parent Member

Parent Member

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COMMITTEE ON PRE-SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION - 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR

COMMITTEE ON
PRE-SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION - 2007-08
SCHOOL YEAR

Membership (continued)

Mrs. Christine Putre	Parent Member
Mrs. Joyce Stoner	Parent Member
Mrs. Rocio Talero	Parent Member
Mrs. Nayibe Venegas	Parent Member

A Representative from the evaluation agency must attend.

A Representative of the Nassau County Department of Mental Health, Office of Children with Special Needs may attend.

A Representative from Nassau County Early Intervention must attend for Eligibility Transition Meeting.

Use of Long Island Jewish-Hillside Medical Center for the following services for the 2007-08 school year:

1. Otological Examination - annual
2. Audiological Assessment (aided and unaided) - semi-annual
3. Hearing Aid evaluation (fitting for a new aid) - every two or three years. This does not include the purchase of the hearing aid, batteries, or repairs to hearing aid.
4. Hearing Aid Analysis (recheck of aid) - as needed.
5. Post calibration testing. Auditory trainer calibrated to his/her hearing loss with ear molds (including the cost of ear molds).

Cost: Approximately \$450.00 per child per examination (15 students)

Yes	-	6
No	-	0
Absent	-	1

(Ms. Ferrigno)

Motion Carried

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Consultants

CONSULTANTS

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, the Board approved the following Consultants for the 2007-08 school year:

Institute for Children with Autism (ICS), formerly the Autism Help Center, is a consultant to the District. The fee is \$115.00 per hour, with a maximum of \$80,000.00.

Lynn Burke as a Special Education Consultant for the 2007-08 school year at a rate of \$500.00 per day with a maximum of \$20,000.00. Mrs. Burke would provide courses in multi-sensory reading programs and she will be available to support the program as a mentor during the school year.

A consultant from the **Eden II School for Autistic Children, Inc.** (Genesis School) for the 2007-08 school year. There are students in Clara H. Carlson School who are learning to use the Picture Exchange Communication System. It is felt that additional staff training is needed on PECS. The consulting fee is \$140.00 per hour and will not exceed \$20,000.

The Board also approved the following professional agencies to conduct mandated evaluations and services recommended by the Committee on Special Education, as prescribed by both Federal and State law.

Pediatric Physical and Occupational Therapies and **Institute for Children with Autism** provide evaluations and occupational therapy and physical therapy to students within the District. Upon examination, it is more cost effective to have an agency provide these services.

Faculty Tutoring and **Creative Tutoring** provide instruction at home for students who are unable to attend school due to temporary medical conditions.

Nathaniel H. Kornreich Technology Center at National Center for Disabilities (d/b/a Abilities!) to conduct specialized evaluations of students referred to the Committee on Special Education.

Bilinguals, Inc., Quality Evaluation & Consulting Services, and **School Consulting** conduct bilingual evaluations of students referred to the Committee on Special Education. New York State requires bilingual evaluations be conducted on students who have not achieved proficiency on the NYSESLAT.

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Consultants (continued)

Horizon Healthcare Staffing provides nursing services for a student with severe multiple physical handicaps who attends an out-of-district special education school. They also provide a substitute nurse in the absence of one of the school nurses.

CONSULTANTS

St. Mary's Community Care Professionals, Inc. Provides various specialized evaluations and services for physically handicapped students.

The **Center Group** provides an on-line program to write IEPs and maintains a website for Directors of Pupil Personnel Services.

The **Millneck Manor Interpreter Service** provides a sign language interpreter as needed.

The following agencies are utilized to provide a variety of mandated services to Elmont students:

AGENCIES
PROVIDING
MANDATED
SERVICES

All About Kids
Access 7 Consulting, Inc.
Corinthian Therapy Management Services, Inc.
Dove Rehabilitation
Gayle Kligman Therapeutic Resources
Kids First
Kidz Therapy
Metro Therapy
New York Therapy Placement Services, Inc.
Rothman Therapeutic Services
Theracare
Therapy Services of Greater New York

Yes	-	6
No	-	0
Absent	-	1

(Ms. Ferrigno)

Motion Carried

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Authorizations

AUTHORIZATIONS

On a motion by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the Board approved the following:

School Purchasing Agent

**SCHOOL
PURCHASING
AGENT**

- a. Robert Geras, Director of Business and Facilities
- b. To participate in all cooperative contracts of the Nassau County Director of Facilities purchasing consortiums.
- c. To participate in the Southwest Nassau County Student Transportation consortium.
- d. To participate in those Nassau BOCES cooperative purchasing agreements when deemed beneficial to the Elmont School District.
- e. To participate in the Educational Data Services, Inc., cooperative bidding program. This regional school district cooperative is used predominantly for general classroom supplies and maintenance services.

Budget Transfers Under \$5,000

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

The Superintendent is authorized to approve budget transfers under \$5,000 with subsequent reporting to the Board of Education.

Investment Policy

**INVESTMENT
POLICY**

In accordance with provisions of Chapter 708 of the Laws of 1992, Investment Policy #3700, originally adopted by the Board of Education on August 7, 1985, and amended on July 5, 2005, shall be in effect for the 2007-08 school year.

Approval of Staff Conferences

**APPROVAL
OF STAFF
CONFERENCES**

The Superintendent or his designee is authorized to approve the attendance of staff at conferences.

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Authorization to Employ Retroactively

**AUTHORIZATION
TO EMPLOY
RETROACTIVELY**

The Board also gave authority to the Superintendent to employ, in exceptional situations, any personnel essential to the operation of the school system subject to final approval of the Board of Education.

Yes	-	6
No	-	0
Absent	-	1

(Ms. Ferrigno)

Motion Carried

Other Items

OTHER ITEMS

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, the Board approved the following:

- a. Readoption of all Board policies in effect in 2006-07.
- b. Mileage Reimbursement Rate - The reimbursement rate to be the standard mileage rate as established by the Internal Revenue Service.
- c. The District Clerk (or in her absence the Superintendent's Secretary) be officially designated to receive summonses, petitions, and all process.

Board Committees - To Be Determined.

**BOARD
COMMITTEES**

Board Membership

**BOARD
MEMBERSHIP**

The Board also approved membership in the following organizations for the 2007-08 school year at the costs shown:

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| 1. | National School Boards Association | - | \$3,700.00 |
| 2. | New York State School Boards Association | - | \$8,605.00 * |
| 3. | Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association | - | \$2,670.00 |
| 4. | African-American School Board Member Conference | - | No Cost Yet |

* Costs for January to December 2007.

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R.E.F.I.T.

**MEMBERSHIP
IN R.E.F.I.T.**

The Board further approved membership in R.E.F.I.T. for the 2007-08 school year for \$600.00.

RESOLVED, that members of the Board of Education, the Superintendent, the Attorney, and when requested by the Board, members of the administration, may upon request attend the National School Boards Association Convention, New York State School Boards Association Convention and the American Association of School Administrators Convention, with appropriate expenses incurred paid by the District.

**ATTENDANCE
AT VARIOUS
CONVENTIONS**

FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the Board of Education, the Superintendent, the Attorney, and when requested by the Board, members of the administration may upon request be permitted to attend meetings of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association and the New York State School Boards Association with appropriate expenses incurred paid by the District.

**ATTENDANCE
AT N-SSBA
AND NYSSBA
MEETINGS**

Yes	-	6
No	-	0
Absent	-	1

(Ms. Ferrigno)

Motion Carried

Volunteer for Impartial Hearing Cases

**VOLUNTEER FOR
IMPARTIAL
HEARING CASES**

Mr. Nugent asked the Board to designate a Board member to act as a committee of one when the Board receives an application for an Impartial Hearing, whether the application comes from the District or from a parent; we are under a severe time constraint and it has to be approved by the Board. When the Board receives a request from a parent, we have to respond. If we do not, we are in default. A Board member must review the case. Because of time constraints, there isn't time to wait for a Board meeting. In the past the Board has designated a person to act as a committee of the whole. That Board member is authorized to cast seven votes for just this action, solely and alone. Mr. Nugent stated that last year the volunteers were Ms. Ferrigno and Mr. Ragona who served in this capacity. One or more Board members may be designated. The Board member will be called to come in when the file needs to be reviewed. This will give that person the authority to cast seven votes on this issue.

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Volunteer for Impartial Hearing Cases (continued)

VOLUNTEER FOR
IMPARTIAL
HEARING CASES

[It is noted that Ms. Ferrigno rejoined the meeting at 10:05 PM.]

Mr. Nugent asked for any volunteers. Mr. Jaime volunteered.

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Ms. Ferrigno, the Board appointed Mr. Jaime to be the Board member to act as a committee of the whole Board to review with authorization Impartial Hearing applications.

Yes	-	7
No	-	0

Motion Carried Unanimously

The Reorganization Meeting was concluded at 10:10 PM.

CONCLUSION OF
REORGANIZATION
MEETING

A five-minute break was announced.

Submitted by,

Annette T. Sullivan

Annette T. Sullivan
Acting District Clerk

August 7, 2007

Date Approved