

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

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ELMONT, NEW YORK

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Elmont Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York, held at the Elmont Road School on Tuesday, September 18, 2007.

**ROLL CALL**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pamela Byer, President  
Elsy Mecklenbourg-Guibert, Vice President  
Lorraine Ferrigno  
Michael 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
Celestine L. Lloyd,	District Clerk

**ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ABSENT:** None

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

On a motion by Mr. Jaime, seconded by Mr. Phillips, 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 convened in Public Session at 8:20 PM.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Motion Carried Unanimously

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Mrs. Byer called the meeting to order at 8:20 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Byer called for a moment of silence in memory of the victims and their families of 9/11.

**MINUTE OF  
SILENCE**

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, 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 Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Mecklenbourg-Guibert, the Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 7, 2007 and the Special Meeting of August 14, 2007.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

Vote on approving the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 7, 2007:

Yes	-	7
No	-	0
Abstain	-	0

Vote on approving the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 14, 2007:

Yes	-	6
No	-	0
Abstain	-	1

(Ms. Ferrigno abstained from the minutes of August 14, 2007 because she was absent.)

Motion Carried

INFORMATION REPORT - None

PRESIDENT'S/VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

**PRESIDENT'S/  
VICE  
PRESIDENT'S  
REMARKS**

President - Mrs. Byer greeted everyone and welcomed everyone back. Mrs. Byer hoped that everyone enjoyed their vacation and had a nice rest as she herself enjoyed her vacation and had a rest. Mrs. Byer emphasized the return to school. School is a serious business, and with anticipation we look forward to a great year. Mrs. Byer thanked the teachers and our principals and all the family members that work within the schools and extended her wishes for a great year. Mrs. Byer expressed how our children will need our assistance with homework as she is part of the homework team. The children will

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need assistance especially if they are entering into a new grade because everything is foreign. Mrs. Byer welcomed everyone and thanked them for being at the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S/  
VICE  
PRESIDENT'S  
REMARKS

Vice President - Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert stated in lieu of a tedious speech she would refrain herself to a few sentences just to welcome everyone back to a new academic year 2007-2008. Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert expressed how she noticed the high intensity of energy and enthusiasm coming from everyone in the district. She was immensely pleased with that. Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert stated that there will be challenges ahead and we have to work very hard at every level. Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert promised that the board will do its best. Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert stated that it is doable and we have the competence, talent and the will and can meet the upcoming challenges.

SEWANHAKA BOARD ITEMS – Mr. Phillips stated that Sewanhaka High School has hired their new Assistant Principal, Ms. Nicole Williams. Ms. Williams presented very well and seems to be a very good fit. Mr. Phillips stated that he and Mrs. Parker-Duncanson look forward to seeing some of her work. The hope is that this new addition will be an answer to some of the issues that have been presented by many people whose children attend Sewanhaka High School.

SEWANHAKA  
BOARD ITEMS

Mr. Phillips stated that the September 7, 2007 enrollment of students is 9,868. Mr. Phillips further reported the enrollment of two schools, Elmont Memorial with 1,902 students and Sewanhaka High School with 1,594 students and there is some further breakdown which he will share for those who are interested.

Mr. Phillips stated that we are in receipt of the organizational charts for Sewanhaka Central High School District. The organizational charts assist in the understanding of who does what in a District. Mr. Phillips expressed his commendation for the charts and how important it is to have within the District. The charts can be instructive not only to the employees of the District, but very often to the Board members as well. Mr. Phillips stated that he looks forward to bringing the first month's review at the next meeting.

AUDIENCE ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

CORRESPONDENCE - None

REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY

Mr. Nugent stated that he had no report for the Public Session tonight, but requested a motion for an Executive Session to be held immediately following the Regular Meeting to discuss matters appropriate to Executive Session.

REPORT OF THE  
ATTORNEY

REQUEST AND  
APPROVAL OF  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

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On a motion by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, seconded by Mr. Ragona, the Board approved an Executive Session, as per Mr. Nugent's request, to be held immediately following the Regular Meeting to discuss matters appropriate to Executive Session.

Motion Carried Unanimously

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

REPORT OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Harper welcomed everyone and proceeded to discuss items of business which are extremely pleasurable. Mr. Harper extended his welcome to Ms. Lloyd, to the first Board Meeting as the new District Clerk. He expressed his confidence in the assignment being a successful one for the District Clerk as well as the District.

Mr. Harper went on to say how there are occasions as an educator when you get to see some of the fruits of your labor. You get to see children progress through school and through the educational process. You get to see them go through college and be successful. Sometimes they come back and say thank you, most of the time they do not; they go on with their lives. Mr. Harper stated that through one working very hard and perseverance this occasion is just one of those times. Mr. Harper expressed how proud he is of Fernando DeBartolo who is being recommended to the Board of Education for tenure. Mr. Harper mentioned the athletic ability and hard work of Mr. DeBartolo which he learned at Elmont Memorial. Mr. Harper requested Mr. DeBartolo to stand and then read the resolution for tenure consideration. Mr. Harper thanked Mr. DeBartolo for his hard work and diligence and congratulated Mr. DeBartolo.

The last order of business, but not the least; through an extensive and exhaustive search, Mr. Harper introduced and extended a welcome to Mrs. Stephanie Muller as the new Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Prior to beginning his report, Mr. Harper expressed the excitement of the opportunities and the good shape we have at each of our school buildings. He had the opportunity to visit each building and greet the teachers and welcome them back. Mr. Harper thanked Mr. Geras and his custodial staff for all their efforts. Mr. Harper reported our buildings are in pristine shape; our teachers are back and excited. Mr. Harper noted that the District has added twenty-six new faculty members to the District who went through an exhaustive and very extensive screening process and they bring a wealth of knowledge and excitement to our district.

Our children are back and working very hard. The process started on the first day, within the first two minutes that the children entered the doors. "Education is our top priority and one minute of instructional time wasted is a minute of instructional time we can't get back." Mr. Harper stated that we pride ourselves on making sure the educational process

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

REPORT OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT

continues and continues in the direction it is going, and to make sure that every second of instructional time is utilized.

Mr. Harper spoke of the implementation of the new reading series from Harcourt. The feedback from our teachers is very good. Mr. Harper stated that all of our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms are integrated with SMART Board technology which is a necessary instructional tool. Mr. Harper further reiterated how not every school has this technology and how we should pride ourselves in making sure our children are on the cutting edge of technology.

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Ms. Ferrigno, the Board approved the following professional leaves of absence:

PROFESSIONAL  
LEAVES OF  
ABSENSE

**SPITALETTA, AMY**, Elementary Teacher at the Alden Terrace School, effective 11/12/07, duration of leave 11/12/07 – 8/31/08, unpaid\*, reason: District Child Rearing Leave, service to District: 6 years.

\* Includes Family and Medical Leave from 11/12/07 – 2/12/08.

**RODRIGUEZ, XAVIER**, Music Teacher at the Gotham Avenue School, effective 9/1/07, duration of leave 9/1/07 – 8/31/08, unpaid, reason: Personal, service to District: 5 years.

The Board also approved the following employee request of change to their Family and Medical/District Child Rearing Leave:

FAMILY AND  
MEDICAL LEAVE  
CHANGES

**HELLER, JENNIFER**, Speech Teacher at the Clara H. Carlson School, effective:

From: 10/1/07 – 1/31/08, unpaid

To: 9/4/07 – 1/31/08, unpaid\*

Reason: District Child Rearing Leave.

\*Includes Family and Medical Leave from 9/4/07 – 11/26/07.

Note: Leave of Absence was originally approved by the Board on 8/7/07.

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

The Board further approved the following professional appointments:

PROFESSIONAL  
APPOINTMENTS

**MULLER, STEPHANIE**, Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services, initial assignment: Elmont Road, at a salary of \$64,625 (pro-rated from \$82,500), effective 9/19/07 (pending medical approval), probation period 2/1/08 – 1/31/11, certification: School District Administrator (Permanent).

**KOLAKOWSKI, CARROLL ANNE**, Permanent Substitute (Elementary), initial assignment: Clara H. Carlson, at a salary of \$50,194 BA Step 2, effective 9/1/07 – 6/30/08, no probation and no tenure involved, certification: Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial).

**BENSTOCK, PATRICIA**, Permanent Substitute (Music), initial assignment: Alden Terrace/Gotham Avenue, at a salary of \$66,764 Doctorate Step 2, effective 9/1/07 – 6/30/08, no probation and no tenure involved, certification: Music (Permanent).

**DJELALIJA, JENNIFER**, Permanent Substitute (General Special Education), initial assignment: Covert Avenue, at a salary of \$55,932 MA Step 1 (pending official documentation of Master's Degree), effective 9/1/06 – 6/30/08, no probation and no tenure involved, certification: Students with Disabilities B-2 (Initial).

**TULLY, CAROLYN**, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, initial assignment: Clara H. Carlson/Covert Avenue/Stewart Manor, at a salary of \$55,932 MA Step 1, effective 9/1/07, probation 9/1/07 – 8/31/10, certification: Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Initial).

**WENDLING, HEATHER**, Permanent Substitute (General Special Education), initial assignment at Clara H. Carlson at a salary of \$57,579 MA Step 2 (pending official documentation of Master's Degree), effective 9/1/07 – 6/30/08, no probation and no tenure involved, certification: Students with Disabilities 1-6 (Initial Pending).

**CASTALDO, CARMELLA**, 175 Day Substitute, initial assignment at Covert Avenue at a salary of \$25,000, effective 9/1/07 – 6/17/08, no probation and no tenure involved, certification: Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial).

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

The Board approved the employment of the following PreK teachers for the 2007-2008 school year. They will work their assigned schedule and will be paid \$25,000 per year. Not eligible for probation/tenure.

**PRE-K TEACHER  
EMPLOYMENT**

Initial

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification</u>
Dutch Broadway	Haley, Christina	Early Childhood Education B-2 (Initial)
Stewart Manor	Koerber, Jillian	Early Childhood Education B-2 (Initial)

The Board also approved the following extension of the conditional professional appointment for the following employee:

**CONDITIONAL  
PROFESSIONAL  
APPOINTMENT**

**FIDUCCIA, JACQUELINE**, Long Term Substitute (Speech)

The Board further approved the following Teacher Salary differentials for the 2007-08 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Stipend</u>	<u>Position</u>
Fusaro, Annmarie	\$1,500	Principal's Assistant

The Board further approved the following professional changes in status:

**PROFESSIONAL  
CHANGES IN  
STATUS**

**PERRONE, MELISSA**,

From: Long Term Substitute (Elementary)

To: Permanent Substitute (Elementary)

Initial assignment: Clara H. Carlson School, at a salary of \$55,932 MA Step 1, effective 9/1/07 through 6/30/08. No probation and no tenure involved. certification: Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial).

**KORS, CATHERINE**,

From: Long Term Substitute (Elementary)

To: Permanent Substitute (Elementary)

Initial assignment: Alden Terrace School at a salary of \$48,479 BA Step 1, effective 9/1/07 through 6/30/08. No probation and no tenure involved. certification: Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial).

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

**RODRIGUEZ, DANIELLA,**

From: 175 Day Substitute  
To: PreK Teacher

Initial assignment: Stewart Manor School at a salary of \$25,000, effective 9/1/07 through 6/30/08. No probation and no tenure involved. certification: Childhood Education 1-6 (Initial).

PROFESSIONAL  
CHANGES IN  
STATUS

The Board also approves the appointment to tenure for the following employees:

APPOINTMENTS  
OF TENURE

<u>PROBATIONER</u>	<u>DATES</u> <u>PROBATIONARY</u> <u>APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>TENURE AREA</u>	<u>TYPE</u> <u>OF</u> <u>CERT</u>	<u>TENURE</u> <u>DATE</u>
DeBartolo, Fernando	11/1/04 – 10/31/07	Administrative Assistant for General Support & Technology	Permanent	11/1/07

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Ms. Ferrigno, seconded by Mrs. Mecklenbourg-Guibert, the Board approved the following professional resignations:

PROFESSIONAL  
RESIGNATIONS

**WHITE, KERENA,** PreK Teacher, undetermined assignment, effective 9/1/07, service to District: none, reason: Declined position.

**ELZNIC, LYND SAY,** 175 Day Substitute, undetermined assignment, effective 9/1/07, service to District: 6 months, reason: Personal.

**DOWD, JACQUELINE,** 175 Day Substitute, undetermined assignment, effective 9/1/07, service to District: 6 months, reason: Personal.

**GONZALEZ, JEANEE,** 175 Day Substitute at the Gotham Avenue School, effective 9/1/07, service to District: none, reason: Declined position.

**DURAND, CHRISTINE,** 175 Day Substitute at the Covert Avenue School, effective 9/1/07, service to District: none, reason: Declined position.

Motion Carried Unanimously

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Ragona, the Board approved the following civil service personnel leaves of absences:

**CIVIL SERVICE  
LEAVES OF  
ABSENCES**

**ACKERMANN, KATHLEEN**, Senior Account Clerk/School District Treasurer at the Elmont Road School, effective 8/4/07, duration of leave 8/4/07 – 9/29/07, reason: Medical (continuation of leave after FMLA).

The Board also approved the employment of the following civil service personnel:

**GALANTE, MICHEL**, Senior Typist Clerk, at a salary of \$27,341 annual, effective 9/4/07 (pending civil service and medical approval), probation 26 weeks from civil service approval, replacing Maria Gilbert.

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

**CIVIL SERVICE  
APPOINTMENTS**

Bradford Corwin	-	Maintainer
Adrian Atanasiu	-	Custodian
Alan Noss	-	Custodian
Dwight Jones	-	Maintainer

The Board further approved the employment of the following substitute civil service personnel:

**CIVIL SERVICE  
SUBSTITUTE  
APPOINTMENT**

**ESTEVEZ, SHEYLA**, Teacher Aide Part-time substitute, District-wide, at a salary of \$12.00 hourly, effective 9/19/07 pending civil service, medical and fingerprint approval.

The Board approved the extension of conditional appointments for the following civil service employees:

**EXTENSION OF  
CONDITIONAL  
APPOINTMENTS**

Milagros Maldonado-	Bus Driver Part-time substitute
Marie Taylor-	Teacher Aide Part-time substitute
Denise Isaacs-	Teacher Aide Part-time substitute
Chini Carney-	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

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EXTENSION OF  
CONDITIONAL  
APPOINTMENTS

Rosalba Agostino-	Food Service Helper Part-time substitute
Guadalupe Lucia Huertas-	Food Service Helper Part-time substitute
Salvatore Conte-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Peggy Regis-	Bus Attendant Part-time substitute
Michael Garcia-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Michael O'Brien-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Stanley Zapasnik-	Cleaner Part-time substitute

The Board also approved the following civil service change in status:

CIVIL SERVICE  
CHANGE IN  
STATUS

**SUTTON, PAUL,**

From: Bus Driver Part-time substitute  
To: Bus Driver 10-month

Transportation, at a salary of \$20.95 hourly, effective 9/19/07 pending civil service approval, probation: 26 weeks from civil service approval.

**VICK, ZULEMA,**

From: Bus Driver 10-month  
To: Assistant Bus Dispatcher

Transportation, at a salary of \$37,000 annual, effective 9/19/07 pending civil service approval, probation: 26 weeks from civil service approval.

**PROBST, BRYAN**

From: Assistant Bus Dispatcher  
To: Bus Dispatcher

Transportation, at a salary of \$45,000 annual, effective 7/01/07 pending civil service approval, probation: 26 weeks from civil service approval.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

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

CIVIL SERVICE  
TERMINATIONS

**PICCOLO, DOMINIC,** Bus Driver 10 month, Transportation, effective 8/14/07, service to District: 23 year 11 months, reason: Deceased.

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

The Board further approved the terminations of the following civil service employees effective 9/19/07 due to no recent service to the District:

**CIVIL SERVICE  
TERMINATIONS**

Greg Adams-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Dennis Adipietro-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Paul Gabriele-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Brian Grant-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Anthony Platania-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Ronald Purcell-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
George Ryan-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Michael O'Brien-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Terrence Sawyer-	Cleaner Part-time substitute
Maria Amador-	Teacher Aide Part-time substitute

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mrs. Carol Parker-Duncanson, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the Board approved the resignation of the following civil service employees:

**CIVIL SERVICE  
RESIGNATIONS**

**JACKSON-NATER, ELIZABETH**, Teacher Aide at the Clara Carlson School, effective 8/27/07, service to the District: 3 years 6 months.

**MORALES, KATARZYNA**, Teacher Aide at the Covert Avenue School, effective 8/31/07, service to the District: 1 year.

**GONZALEZ, DIANA**, Teacher Aide at the Alden Terrace School, effective 8/14/07, service to the District: 2 years 6 months.

The Board also approved the retirement of the following civil service employees:

**CIVIL SERVICE  
RETIREMENTS**

**ACKERMANN, KATHLEEN**, Senior Account Clerk/School District Treasurer, at the Elmont Road School, effective 9/30/07, service to District 25.3 years.

**SPICER, LEONARD**, Custodian, at the Elmont Road School, effective 5/4/06, service to District: 25 years 9 months.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Ragona, 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

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Carol Parker-Duncanson, the Board approved the following items:

NYSSBA CONVENTION: ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATE

Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert stated for the record that she would like to volunteer for the alternate voting delegate for the New York State School Boards Association Convention which will take place in New York, New York from October 25-28, 2007.

NYSSBA  
CONVENTION  
ALTERNATE  
VOTING  
DELEGATE

CPSE/CSE CHAIRPERSON

The Board also approved the appointment of Stephanie Muller as the Chairperson for the Committee on Preschool Special Education and an alternate Chairperson for the Committed on Special Education.

APPOINTMENT OF  
CPSE/CSE  
CHAIRPERSON

NON-CONTRACT CERTIFIED STAFF SALARY

The Board approved the salary increases for Non-Contract Certified staff for 2007-2008 school year, which are under separate cover.

NON-CONTRACT  
CERTIFIED STAFF  
SALARY

NON-CONTRACT CONSULTANTS SALARY

The Board approved the salary increases for the Non-Contract Consultants for the 2007-2008 school year, which are under separate cover.

NON-CONTRACT  
CONSULTANTS  
SALARY

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

SECOND READING: REVISION OF AUDIT COMMITTEE POLICY ARTICLE III

Ms. Ferrigno stated she is aware that this item will pass, however would like to express her opinion. The request of Mr. Phillips to amend this policy with the inclusion of the

SECOND  
READING OF  
REVISION OF  
AUDIT  
COMMITTEE  
POLICY ARTICLE  
III

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entire board is not the most efficient way to run a board. Ms. Ferrigno referenced the example of the Board being late this evening due to conducting other business. Ms. Ferrigno stated that it does not utilize to the best of our advantage the skills and abilities of all its members.

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Ragona, the Board approved the revision of the Audit Committee Policy Article III Membership. The revision would contain: "The Committee shall be comprised of the seven members of the Board of Education who shall serve for the duration of their term of office and may be expanded by up to three (3) additional non-board members in accordance with the provisions subsequently set forth herein."

Yes - 6  
Opposed - 1

SATURDAY ENRICHMENT ACADEMY

On a motion by Mrs. Mecklenbourg-Guibert, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the Board approved the following teachers for Saturday Enrichment Academy at Clara H. Carlson School and Gotham Avenue School at the rate of \$100 per day for 15 days each. (Pending enrollment)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME SCHOOL</u>	<u>COURSE</u>
Alexandre, Dario	GA	French
Bugeia, Filomena	DB	Parent Meeting
Cavaliere, Robert	CHC	Science
Delahanty, Mary	CHC	Sports
DiRe, Rina	CHC	Book Club
Dooley, Josphe	DB	Advanced Math
Gaddes, Amy	GA	ESL
Lemite, Dara	AT/GA	Spanish
LoCastro, Kristina	DB	Sports
Nolan, Jennifer	DB	Drama
Pereira, Susana	AT	Spanish
Pino, Anthony	GA	Drum Set
Rodriguez, Daniella	SM	Spanish
Rodriguez, Xavier		Strings
Wendling, Heather	CHC	Archaeology

SECOND  
READING OF  
REVISION OF  
AUDIT  
COMMITTEE  
POLICY ARTICLE  
III

SATURDAY  
ENRICHMENT  
ACADEMY

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CONSULTANTS FOR ENRICHMENT ACADEMY

CONSULTANTS  
FOR THE  
ENRICHMENT  
ACADEMY

The Board approved the employment of the following consultants for the Enrichment Academy at Gotham Avenue School for a maximum of 15 days, at a rate of \$100 per day, as needed (pending enrollment).

<u>CONSULTANT</u>	<u>COURSE</u>
Paulette White	Spanish
Rosemary Haigh	French
Noella Suzzi-Zalli	Italian
Mario Toggia	Spanish
Gladys Rodriguez	Spanish
Joann Esrick	French

MEDICAL ADVISORS

MEDICAL  
ADVISORS

The Board also approved the selection of **PremierCare** as the District's medical advisor.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

ITEMS NOTED FOR THE MINUTES

ITEMS NOTED  
FOR THE  
MINUTES

Use of Facilities

USE OF  
FACILITIES

Requests for Use of the Facilities that have been approved by the Superintendent of Schools since the last Board Meeting are enclosed in the backup pages in the back of the Board Book of September 18, 2007.

Worker's Compensation

WORKER'S  
COMPENSATION

The following employees are on a leave of absence due to Worker's Compensation case still pending:

Leonard Spicer, Custodian  
Debra Jackson, Bus Driver

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ITEMS NOTED FOR THE MINUTES (continued)

Budget Transfers Under \$5000

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

Request 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 September 18, 2007.

Family and Medical Leave of Absence

**FAMILY AND  
MEDICAL LEAVE  
OF ABSENCE**

The following employee is on a leave of absence under the Family and Medical Leave Act:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Dawn Venturi	9/10/07 – 11/26/07 12 weeks
Doris Mammone	9/5/07 – 11/28/07 12 weeks

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Ragona, the Board received the backup booklet entitled “Schedule of Disbursements and Warrants,” which is filed in the “bulky” document file.

**SCHEDULE OF  
DISBURSEMENTS  
AND WARRANTS**

The Board also received the Report of the Treasurer for the General Fund, Capital Fund, the Lunch Fund, the Trust and Agency Fund, Payroll, Special Aid Fund and Capital Bond Fund as of July 2007.

**TREASURER'S  
REPORT**

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert, seconded by Mrs. Carol Parker-Duncanson, the Board gave authorization to make budgetary transfers (over \$5,000) as per the backup pages in the Board Book of September 18, 2007.

**BUDGET  
TRANSFER'S  
OVER \$5,000**

The Board also gave authorization for the award of transportation contracts to the lowest responsible bidders listed as per the backup pages in the Board Book of September 18, 2007.

**TRANSPORTATION  
CONTRACT  
AWARD**

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ITEMS NOTED FOR THE MINUTES (continued)

The Board gave authorization for the award of heating, ventilation and air conditioning system installation, for the section of the old library that is currently being renovated, to Diam-N-Blu Mechanical Corp., the lowest bidder, as per the backup pages in the Board Book of September 18, 2007.

**HVAC SYSTEM  
INSTALLATION  
AWARD**

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

Analysis of Revenue – for the month of July 2007

**ITEMS NOTED  
FOR THE MINUTES**

General Fund Schedule of Receivables - General Fund Schedule of Receivables for the month of July 2007 appears in the backup pages in the Board Book of September 18, 2007.

Monthly Budget Status Report

Monthly Budget Status Report – as of June 30, 2007 and July 31, 2007 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of September 18, 2007.

School Meals Profit and Loss Statement

School Lunch Profit and Loss Statement for the month of July, 2007 appear in the backup pages of the Board Book of September 18, 2007.

Custodial/Transportation Overtime

Breakdown Custodial/Transportation Overtime:

Cust./Trans. Overtime – August 2007	\$ 12,825.14**
Overtime paid Year to Date	\$ 16,128.89
Cust./Trans. Overtime – July 2006 – June 2007	\$ 88,018.79

\*\*3 Payrolls in August

<u>VANDALISM TALLIES FOR JULY 2007</u> -	\$ 0
Year-to-Date	\$ 0
Previous Year-to-Date	\$ 64

**VANDALISM  
TALLIES**

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ITEMS NOTED FOR THE MINUTES (continued)

<u>VANDALISM TALLIES FOR AUGUST 2007</u>	-	\$ 26
Year-to-Date		\$ 26
Previous Year-to-Date		\$102

VANDALISM  
TALLIES

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE

PRESENTATION  
OF PLAQUE

Mr. Harper along with the Board Members conducted the presentation of a plaque for Kathleen Ackermann. Mr. Harper reminisced about the collations on Fridays in the Business Office that Mrs. Ackermann invited him to partake in. Mr. Harper thanked Mrs. Ackermann for 24 years of devoted service to the District.

Mr. Harper concluded his report. Mrs. Byer expressed her thank you to Mrs. Ackermann along with well wishes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

LEGISLATIVE  
ITEMS

Mr. Phillips stated that the Legislative and Finance Committee of the Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association met on September 4, 2007 for review of the resolutions recommended for adoption at the upcoming State School Boards Association Meeting. There are some twenty-two resolutions at this year's State conference which the Board Members are aware of. It is customary that the NYSSBA would review these items and make recommendations to the local education district. Mr. Phillips stated that they have met and the committee agreed with the recommendation which came from the State on the resolutions. Mr. Phillips mentioned the upcoming dinner which some of the Board members will be attending where there will be a review. He then suggested the Board get together and review the recommendations if by chance the Board would want to oppose or support a resolution that may have been accepted or rejected. Mr. Phillips also stated that some of the resolutions are interesting. Mr. Phillips suggested that within Executive Session the Board could schedule time in the future for this review.

Mrs. Byer thanked Mr. Phillips for his report.

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LEGISLATIVE ITEMS (continued)

LEGISLATIVE  
ITEMS

Ms. Ferrigno commented that if the Board was unable to get together, an alternative method which has been done in the past would be for the votes to be submitted to the District Clerk and tallied. With this information the District representative would be instructed to vote. Ms. Ferrigno emphasized that the Board is “not obligated to agree with Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association, we are our own group, with our own minds and can vote however our conscious allows us”.

Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert added that based on her previous experience last year as a delegate, and based on Ms. Ferrigno’s comments; it does not mean that the vote of the Board will be taken into consideration. It is just that the Board participates in the process and the voices of the Board have been heard and taken into consideration.

AUDIENCE ITEMS

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Tom Madera, a local resident, stated that he would like to speak on behalf of himself and his family and no one else. Mr. Madera stated that this was a particular issue which he believed had a connection to a broader disease that affects our District and the Board’s ability to do its job properly. Mr. Madera proceeded to read an excerpt from U.S.A. Today, this related to the recently ended Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA. The article made reference to Federal Privacy Guidelines.

Mr. Madera expressed his satisfaction that the rights in this country were granted to a child even though that child has no legal rights in this country. Mr. Madera is ashamed that one of our own was not afforded that right.

Mr. Madera attempted to distribute documents and was directed to give the items to the District Clerk. Mr. Madera then was advised by Mr. Nugent that the Board does not accept any documents of any kind, neither can it be distributed.

Mr. Madera stated that the person in question was his son. Mr. Madera proceeded to read a letter from his son which was addressed to Mrs. Pamela Byer, Mr. Colum Nugent, and the Elmont Union Free School District Board. Mr. Madera gave a description and explanation of the document that was not allowed to be distributed, relating to the 10-hour surgery performed on his son as of June 7, 2007.

Mr. Madera stated that it was reported to him by numerous credible individuals that a member of the Board has publicly commented that the surgery was not that serious and the parents were using this as a sympathy ploy. Additional comments were heard stating that the surgery was serious; however, the parents were negligent for putting the surgery off for one year.

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AUDIENCE ITEMS (continued)

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Mr. Madera also expressed that during a non-denomination prayer session for his son on the day of his surgery, the CEO of his company where he is employed, made an inquiry if he was misleading the company. Mr. Madera was pleased that “truth” was on his side. He stated that his son’s privacy was violated and he is very upset. “This has to stop, no matter who it is affecting. Distorting of the truth is appalling. We harm them and ourselves when we invade one’s privacy.”

Mr. Madera then quoted from an article from the Federal Register, dated December 28, 2000 from the Department of Health and Human Services; Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information. Mr. Madera stated that this goes beyond one incident.

Mr. Madera directed that the Board has the opportunity to do the right thing. Mr. Madera recommended that the Board go through a re-education process of responsibilities and be conscious of the impact how their words affect others when they speak. He stated that if he hears this again, he would take legal action, which is his right. Again, Mr. Madera reiterated the opportunity for the Board to do the right thing.

Mr. Madera directed a statement to the board; “that upon becoming Board members, you think you are different from others.” Mr. Madera’s first reaction was a desire to have the person in question removed from the Board and feels the life of the individual is hollow. He hopes this person can stay on the Board and do the right thing. Mr. Madera further advised the Board to keep their energy to Board business and out of other people’s lives.

Mrs. Byer responded with empathy, expressing the sensitivity of the matter as well as how disturbing it is. Mrs. Byer apologized for any disrespect on behalf of Mr. Madera’s son. Mrs. Byer also found it unimaginable as to why someone would want to hurt a parent through their child. Mrs. Byer stated that she will request Mr. Nugent to meet with all of the Board to discuss this matter.

Connie Ciavarella, a resident of 34 plus years, presented petitions to the District Clerk from residents of Elmont requesting the reinstatement of the *Elmont Herald* as one of the official papers for the school district.

Sy Wexler, a long time volunteer of the Boy Scouts, requested permission from the Board to post a sign on the school lawns for the Cub Scout Rally.

Mrs. Byer expressed her thanks and stated that the Board will take Mr. Wexler’s request under advisement.

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AUDIENCE ITEMS (continued)

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Mr. Wexler stated he would be attending the next Library Board meeting to make the request for placing the signage in front of the library as well.

Colleen Mockenhaupt, questioned Mr. Phillips on the amount of part-time students enrolled in Sewanhaka High School, as Mr. Phillips had only given the enrollment for the full-time students.

Mrs. Mockenhaupt referenced Mr. Phillips statement, “answers to questions are very important.” Mrs. Mockenhaupt requested an explanation of Mr. Phillips’ statement referencing “weekly attacks on students and people of the Elmont Herald.”

Prior to responding to Mrs. Mockenhaupt, Mr. Phillips referenced the previous discussion about Mr. Madera’s son and his medical condition. Mr. Phillips stated that the impact this issue has had on the family as a result of someone on the Board, was repulsive. Mr. Phillips commented for the record, “beginning in the spring of ‘06, this revelation does not surprise him. On several occasions subsequent to that, Mr. Phillips on occasion has had to call the District’s Attorney and make it known that community residents, district employees, etc. have called him relating to issues very similar to this and it is imperative that as a Board, we speak out on behalf of this community’s right to exist without intimidation.” Mr. Phillips stated that the information heard, calls for the Board to come together for some retraining.

Upon addressing Mrs. Mockenhaupt, Mr. Phillips stated that he promised publicly, that he would address the issue she brought forth in Executive Session with the Board colleagues. In the attempt to address the issue, Mr. Phillips brought in every *Elmont Herald* from 1999, in response to the six months worth that were brought in by the publisher of the paper. Mr. Phillips made mention of his surprise, when Board Members who are advocates for the paper did not attend the meeting. Mr. Phillips stated he had addressed the issue and suggested that Mrs. Mockenhaupt review the previous minutes, as he will no longer address this issue.

Mr. Ragona stated that during eight out of the nine sessions that he attended, the issue was not discussed and no explanation was received. Mr. Ragona stated that he understood that there was a box of the *Elmont Herald* papers brought to the meeting, however he cannot confirm this. He stated that he was unable to be at the meeting referenced by Mr. Phillips.

Mr. Ragona directed his inquiry to Mrs. Byer if the box of papers were brought in. Mrs. Byer confirmed that the box of papers were brought in, however, Mrs. Byer responded that she could not discuss this matter as it was conducted within Executive Session.

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AUDIENCE ITEMS (continued)

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Mrs. Mockenhaupt requested further clarification to the directive to read the previous minutes of the Board Meetings for the last two months to get the answer.

Mr. Ragona stated that Mrs. Mockenhaupt should not have the responsibility researching the explanation; the individual who made the statement is responsible for providing you the facts. Mr. Ragona stated that when a statement is made, the Board has to backup the statements made. Mrs. Mockenhaupt stated that she has presented this question for three months and would like an answer; or here again, are we being told "no".

Ms. Ferrigno, stated that he could not answer the question and has never seen a publisher or the editor make an attack on this district or its children. Ms. Ferrigno, in her opinion, felt the paper presented the most amount of information than any other newspaper and in the most favorable manner, with frequent photographs which the children enjoy. She also would like an answer and expressed her apology to the public.

Mr. Ragona likewise stated that he could not answer Mrs. Mockenhaupt's question.

Mrs. Mockenhaupt then questioned Mr. Phillips, was his statement a lie or did he change his mind?

Mr. Nugent then stated that Mrs. Mockenhaupt had exceeded the allotted time. Mr. Ragona shared his disagreement with the time allotment in question.

Mr. Jaime suggested a recess, which also was agreed upon by Mr. Phillips; the meeting was called for a two minute recess for discussion at 9:31PM.

The meeting resumed at 9:46PM

Mrs. Byer advised Mrs. Mockenhaupt that minutes from the last two meetings can be obtained from the District Clerk. Information regarding the Reorganization meeting and comments from each trustee here can be gotten from the minutes. Mrs. Byer expressed that she hoped someone would be able to give an answer; however, she did not have an answer.

Mrs. Byer stated that very often some things are better not said. Mrs. Byer assured Mrs. Mockenhaupt she was not being rude. Mrs. Byer stated that the Board represents all of the children of this District. The Board wants to see something positive happening every month. We need time to touch each issue that comes to the Board.

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AUDIENCE ITEMS (continued)

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Mrs. Mockenhaupt stressed the right for an answer of a question that was posed to the Board three months ago. Mrs. Mockenhaupt was in agreement with Mrs. Byer in seeing positive things always for the children of the District. Mrs. Mockenhaupt stated that the parents of the children and the people in the community deserve an answer to a question that they were told would receive an answer. Mrs. Mockenhaupt stated that the answer should not be "read your Board minutes and you will figure it out." She also expressed that the effect of the response does not appear to offend the board.

Mrs. Mockenhaupt referenced how we teach the children to play well in the sand box. The children are taught to work well together. We praise them when the children do something good and we correct them when they do something wrong. Mrs. Mockenhaupt questioned, what is the difference if our teachers did not answer questions for our children? Mrs. Mockenhaupt stated that the Board is voted in to the best interest for our children and District.

Mrs. Byer refused to answer the question and expressed her dislike of being categorized as a student. Mrs. Byer stated that she respected Mrs. Mockenhaupt as an adult and upon further questioning Mrs. Byer declined to answer.

Mr. Nugent stated that Mrs. Mockenhaupt's time had expired.

Mrs. Byer asked the audience if there were anymore questions not relating to the above issue.

Cathy Ferrigno, editor of the *Elmont Herald* referenced Mr. Mezzapelle's comments from last month about Mr. Phillips' statement regarding the weekly attacks of the *Elmont Herald* on the children of Elmont. Mrs. Ferrigno stated that if Mr. Phillips could not prove his statement, it is in fact slander. Mrs. Ferrigno questioned Mr. Harper, if he found the statement to be true. Mr. Harper responded, he is unaware of any attacks on the children of the District. Mrs. Ferrigno then made her inquiry to Mr. Phillips if the papers brought forth to the Executive Board Meeting, were the attacks highlighted, were they shared with other Board Members and would he share the information with her?

Mr. Phillips responded by directing Mrs. Ferrigno to anyone conducting the archiving. Mrs. Ferrigno stated that she did not want to be directed, however she would like to be shown the attacks. Mr. Phillips stated that he did not bring along numerous years of the *Elmont Herald* this evening. Mrs. Ferrigno questioned if Mr. Phillips had one to show her. Mr. Phillips stated that he was in attendance as a Board Member interested in conducting business of the District. Mrs. Ferrigno, repeated her questioning of Mr. Phillips, stating that it resulted in the legals being taken away from the paper. Mr.

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AUDIENCE ITEMS (continued)

AUDIENCE ITEMS

Phillips responded that Mrs. Ferrigno should not be misguided into believing that when she speaks it is so, and Mrs. Ferrigno's response was; that the same comment applies to Mr. Phillips.

Dr. Suzanne Jones stated, having attended the Board Meeting for the last few months, she is disgusted with them and the meetings were becoming a Town Hall meeting. She stated that the issues should be taken up at a Town Hall meeting. Dr. Jones requested that all bias and egos be put aside and address the issues that concern education.

Pat Boyle, from Gateway Outreach, gave a report of the registration for the after-school program at three school buildings. Mr. Boyle stated that people were lined up since 2:00 PM at Clara H. Carlson and 3:00 PM at Gotham Avenue. Mr. Boyle stated that there are pictures which they are going to try to get in the newspapers. The current registrations are as follows:

175	-	Gotham Avenue School
175	-	Clara H. Carlson School
160	-	Covert Avenue School

Mr. Boyle stated there are 25 slots saved for Principals to place the Special Needs children.

He also stated that the bad news at both Clara H. Carlson and Gotham Avenue is that we have a waiting list of about one-hundred students.

Mr. Boyle requested the help of the Board as well as people in education. Mr. Boyle made mention of a problem within the community and not having a place for the children to go. In addition to this, there is an immediate problem. Mr. Boyle stated that he is reaching out and looking for help. There is a proposal pending. Mr. Boyle would like to be informed of anyone who is aware of getting funding for the expansion of the program. Also he stated that he is also seeking help from community as well.

Mr. Harper responded that this is a glaring issue not only in our community but county wide. He himself has gone and spoke to the County Legislators at the suggestion of Mr. Boyle who provide services that are valuable to the community and district. Mr. Harper will do whatever he can to get the services to the children of our District.

Mr. Boyle stated that \$400,000 for the youth board is not being reinstated as per an article in the newspaper. With that being noted, some of this funding would have been available

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AUDIENCE ITEMS (continued)

AUDIENCE ITEMS

for the after-school program. Therefore Gateway Outreach is working at a bit of a deficit. He is working hard to get funding for the children of this community.

Mrs. Mecklenbourg-Guibert applauded Mr. Boyle of the work he is doing. Mrs. Byer requested what type of resources are needed and volunteered her children to assist. This is a way we can reach out and assist this service. Mrs. Mecklenbourg spoke about new families who may have moved into the district and they are lost. They take the children to work with them. Mrs. Mecklenbourg-Guibert thanked Mr. Boyle for the services that are being provided.

Mr. Boyle stated that volunteers are great; however they do not count into the ratio that New York State requires. They must be paid employees. The ratio is one to ten.

Mrs. Carol Parker-Duncanson offered her card for the purpose of referrals of private foundations.

Ms. Lee Pallisco, parent of a Stewart Manor School student questioned why the most recent minutes posted on the EUFSD website were from April. Ms. Pallisco stated that this is beneficial to those who cannot make the meetings. Mr. Harper responded that he will look into getting the material updated immediately.

Mr. Clement Byfield, resident of Elmont, stated that he was pleased to see that business is focused on the children, not whose going to war or who's selling or publishing the paper. Mr. Byfield referenced comments from a previous speaker stating that this is a school board meeting, not a public meeting. We should discuss the children's interest.

Mr. Byfield then referenced the last meeting he attended. He stated that someone spoke about going to war and defending this country. Mr. Byfield stated that "when there is war everyone is at war, manpower, the farm worker and the old man in the factory, everybody is at war; because the soldier alone cannot fight the war." Mr. Byfield also expressed that "no country attacked America; America goes into other countries and attacks."

Mr. Byfield concluded his comments by suggesting that our desire for the School Board should be about the kids not about the paper. He stated that the paper's license does not suspend and they can go on and publish.

Jeff Weisbrot, a resident of New Hyde Park, referenced the "Audience on Agenda Items", section of the agenda. Mr. Weisbrot expressed his concern about the tax deferral addressed at the end of the last meeting. He stated that there was no way in advance that

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AUDIENCE ITEMS (continued)

AUDIENCE ITEMS

he could address the item. Mr. Weisbrot suggested, when such an item comes up for a vote that isn't clearly delineated that may have impact on the district, it be brought forth separately and apart. This would allow comment on it before the vote takes place.

Mr. Weisbrot inquired what would have been the alternative if the money was not given back? Mr. Galante advised Mr. Weisbrot of the two options; one was to reduce the tax levy by the additional amount that the County had advised. The other option was not to revise the budget and, what that would have done is at the end of the following year, the \$73K would have been available to offset tax levy the year after or help support spending the year after. As the budget is presented to you in May and this information came afterwards, the addition of \$73K in revenue, it was decided instead of waiting until the revenue came in and give it to you the year after, we gave it to you now by reducing taxes.

NEXT MEETING

NEXT MEETING

Mrs. Byer announced that the next Regular Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at the Alden Terrace School at 8:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT  
TO EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Carol Parker-Duncanson, the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 10:10 PM.

Motion Carried Unanimously

PUBLIC SESSION

PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Ragona, seconded by Mrs. Mecklembourg-Guibert the Board reconvened into Public Session at 11:15 PM.

Motion Carried Unanimously

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

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Submitted by,

October 16, 2007  
Date Approved

Celestine L. Lloyd  
District Clerk