

School Board Meeting – December 1, 2014

Board Room - Administration Building – Mattlin Middle School

Present: Mr. Bettan, Mrs. Schulman, Mrs. Lieberman, Mrs. Rothman,
Mrs. Bernstein, Mrs. Pierno, Mr. Greenberg.

Also Present: Dr. Lewis, Ms. Gierasch, Mr. Ruf, Dr. Mulieri Mr. Guercio.
Ms. Aloe, Mrs. Tyler.

Mr. Bettan called the meeting to order.

Executive Session

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Pierno, seconded by Mr. Greenberg that the Board of Education recess to Executive Session to discuss matters regarding negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Tyler
District Clerk

Approved: _____
Gary Bettan, President

There were approximately 30 district residents and staff members present.

Mr. Bettan called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Bettan asked for a moment of silence for former Superintendent Bob Savitt.

Mrs. Schulman mentioned that Mr. Savitt signed her diploma.

High School Update

Anthony Chen, our high school representative, updated the Board of Education of events that occurred and events that will happen at the high school.

- High School winter sports
- Parent's night out
- Report cards posted
- SAAD Blood Drive
- Fall Play
- DECA Financial Literacy Day
- World Language Honor Inductions
- Holiday Concerts
- Metmunc Conference

Board Announcements

Mrs. Schulman stated how wonderful it is that the district hosts College Fairs and Activity Fairs. She just learned that they will be having a Community Service Fair for students to look at different volunteer opportunities. She feels that this a great and creative idea.

Mrs. Pierno mentioned that the PTA was hosting a blood drive at POBMS until 9:30 tonight. Mrs. Pierno had the opportunity to see the High School fall play. She said, as always, Dr. Lewis and Ms. Gierasch were in attendance. She noted that musicals are always wonderful, but how there is something so raw in watching a drama. Kudos to Mr. Olivari and all of the students.

Mrs. Rothman attended the POBMS PTA meeting for the Bond presentation. She said that she had the opportunity to see a presentation by Laura Bernhardt on the "Hour of Coding". She stated that it was a wonderful presentation and that it ties in with the Board's STEAM initiative, and can be used through all of the curricular. She said that they are starting with K-6 and will expand to the 7&8 grades.

Superintendent's Announcements

Dr. Lewis had the opportunity to see the High School Chorus perform at both the Inter-Faith service and the Christmas tree lighting. She said that the performances were magnificent! She said that teachers were not present and it was the students who were the conductors. She stated how well these performances spoke of our program. Dr. Lewis stated how disappointing it was that there was a very small audience present at the production of "Twentieth Century". She said that the play was truly amazing and done to perfection.

Dr. Lewis stated that they will be doing a district-wide Code Week next week. She stated that she has entered the District into a global competition, K through 12, and has every faith in how well the district will do. Dr. Lewis wanted to thank the Board for their initiative and Ms. Bernhardt for bring this to us.

Ms. Gierasch said that she will have an update for the Board at the December 15, meeting.

Voting Security Plan

Mr. Ruf gave an overview of the many components involved in the security updates, especially those to Old Bethpage as well as POBMS and Jamaica Ave. He highlighted some of the areas for change including location of the vote, increased security inside and out, and the training that has been done in emergency procedures. He stated that a lot of time went into this planning and one of the big differences is that the poll workers work for the district, not for the Board of Elections.

Mrs. Pierno asked about parking spaces for the staff members. She questioned the training of the security guards and whether the Old Bethpage parents have been notified that the students will not have use of the lunchroom.

Mr. Ruf said that the parking issue has been addressed and that the security guards are trained in the district's security procedures. He said that they will follow up on the issue of the lunchroom, but that lunch will be served.

Bond Referendum Update

Mr. Ruf updated the Board on the progress of the Bond.

Reports

Digital Citizenship Presentation

Ms. Gierasch introduced Ms. Laurie Lynn.

Ms. Lynn explained the First Annual "Digital Citizenship". She spoke of how the initiative came about with a conversation with Dr. Lewis. She stated that Digital Citizen Week is part of an initiative to educate students and continue the dialogue in our community surrounding responsible and informed internet usage. She said from there, the excitement and enthusiasm took off. She introduced Mr. Jason Miller and Ms. Jodi Kudler from

POBJFKHS, who gave an overview of the events that took place at POBJFKHS. Ms. Erica Gray, Ms. Carolyn Tellone and Ms. Joanna Gentile gave an overview on the themes used at POBMS. Ms. Andrea Luzzi and Mr. David Goldberg gave an overview of the themes used at Mattlin. High School students, Samantha Goldberg, Marlee Cohen and Matthew Salkin, spoke of their experiences as peer mentors to the middle school students.

Introduced were the winners of the first annual Digital Citizenship video contest, Emma and Julia Sprung. The video they made will be available for viewing on the districts website.

Ms. Gierasch applauded Ms. Lynn for her efforts, and commented how one idea expanded to this level.

Dr. Lewis thanked Ms. Lynn and everyone involved.

Mr. Bettan stated how excited he was to see this happening. He said that it's a new world out there and he's happy to see this as leaving a positive footprint.

Mrs. Lieberman asked if the elementary students will have a chance to see the video. She feels that kids relate well to other kids.

Ms. Gierasch replied yes.

Mrs. Pierno said that it is nice to know that when the students leave us and set off into the world, they have those skills.

Dr. Lewis added how important it is to embrace the three C's, College, Career and Citizenship.

Mrs. Lieberman left at 7:30.

Mrs. Lieberman returned at 8:22.

NYSSBA

Mrs. Schulman stated that she attended a number of seminars. She spoke about the Mental Health seminar and its focus on the developmental approach, and how the take away should be to focus on strengths and not weaknesses.

She spoke about the approach in the book, “Mindset”, by Carol Dweck. She said that the take away for POB is that mental health issues are often treated reactively and they need to access the care needed, in a more holistic approach. She stated that there needs to be more partnering with community groups and professionals to help address important mental health issues. She talked about another seminar concerning a district on Long Island that is starting a Special Ed. program using a holistic approach from scratch because the district was spending so much money sending students out to other districts. Mrs. Schulman felt that there was a “doom and gloom” feeling on how “terrible” American schools are. She said that we are doing a great job and that statistically middle class kids are doing better than the kids in Finland. She stated that there are many varying factors to a school’s success.

Mrs. Rothman also attended many wonderful seminars. One in particular that she wanted to highlight was Demystifying the PARCC Assessments. She said that she feels like she is always the bearer of bad news and that she needs to find a positive conference. She mentioned that fourteen states, including NYS, have opted out due to the length of the test. She spoke about what the PARCC’s vision is and it’s five components. Mrs. Rothman stated that the costs of the tests will supposedly stay the same, but that does not take into account equipment and staff development. She said that it is estimated that a PARCC exam will be 8 hours long for the elementary level, 9 for the fourth and fifth grades and 9 ½ for the upper grades. She said that it is recommended that Chrome books are the tablets used and that there be one tablet device for every two students. That said, current equipment may not be adequate in two years. Lastly, they referred the districts to a website to help launch the initiative.

Mrs. Schulman left the room at 8:42.

Mrs. Schulman returned at 8:44.

Mr. Bettan stated that he has a problem supporting this. He feels that it is insane to invest the money so that the Federal Government can test every kid on aging infrastructure.

Mrs. Rothman asked “what will be expected legally”.

Mrs. Pierno expressed her concerns regarding all the students being proficient at using keyboards.

Dr. Lewis said that by the 17-18 school year many, but not all, of the tests will be online which will increase the length of the tests. Currently high school students under PARCC are taking a total of 15 hours of tests. That is more time than candidates sitting for the Bar Exam.

Mr. Bettan asked what the penalty would be, if as a district, we refuse the PARCC testing.

Dr. Lewis said they would talk in three years.

Mrs. Pierno asked about the Infinite Campus and the Parent Portal and why it needs to be taken down for so long before the grades go out. She said that she had spoken to a representative at the conference and he said it should only be a few days.

Dr. Mulieri said that they allow two weeks for the teachers to add the grades and then the Principals need time to review them. He said that they are looking into ways to shorten the time.

Dr. Lewis said that they will have a conversation with the Principals to see if they can keep the portal opened and close the gradebook.

Ms. Gierasch said that on the elementary level it is more detailed; it is not just adding a number. The teachers also add personalized comments to each section.

Mr. Bettan asked if we could make it easier for the elementary teachers.

Ms. Gierasch said that they will be looking into making changes.

Public Participation

Ms. Nina Meltzer wanted to shed some light on the elementary level process of posting the grades. She said that it takes more time to enter everything into the gradebook, longer than it does on the Middle and High school levels. She said that it is difficult to look at the “whole child” digital and that you find yourself always flipping back and forth. She said just because it’s digital doesn’t mean it’s quicker.

Mr. Jacque Wolfner commented on Mrs. Rothman’s PARCC presentation. He asked that with all the required testing, does it leave anytime to teach. Mr. Wolfner expressed his concerns in regard to the Bond Referendum, feeling that there has not been a lot of publicity. He asked for a full discussion on a few agenda items.

Dr. Lewis stated that they have sent out e-mail blasts, and that all of the information is posted on the website. Mailings have been sent out to all district residents and another flyer will be sent out this week. She and Mr. Ruf have also attended all of the PTA meetings as well as visiting the Senior Center and meeting with the Chamber of Commerce.

Routine Business

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Schulman that the Board of Education approve the following routine business items:

1. Students

Student Placements

That the Board of Education approve the student placements as recommended by Pupil Personnel Services.

2. Personnel

Non-Teaching Personnel – Leave of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Twinkal Parikh	Bus Attendant PT Transportation	1/20/15 thru 2/28/15

Non-Teaching Personnel – Change of Status

<u>Name</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>Proposed Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Maryann Bulla	School Monitor PT Café/Rec 2.75 hrs. Mattlin MS \$10,607.05	School Monitor FT Café/Rec 6 hrs. Mattlin MS \$23,142.66 (prorated)	12/2/2014

(Replacing J. Ercolano who resigned)

Personnel Recommendation – In-District Facilitators-2014-15 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Gloria Rothenberg	Facilitator	2014-15 School Year	\$55.94/hr.	2

Coaching Recommendations– 2014-15 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Eff.</u>	<u>CAT/LEV.</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Caitlyn Donach*	Head Coach, JV Cheerleading	11/14	8 1	\$4120

*Pending receipt of paperwork

Coaching Recommendations-Rescission- 2014-15 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Stephen McDade	Asst Coach, Varsity Mens Track, Spring	Immediately

Please rescind appointment approved in the BOE minutes of 6/2/14

Personnel Recommendation – Chaperones

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Craig Berini	Chaperone	2014-15 School Year	\$94.01

Appointments – TAG Program – School Year 2014-2015

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Pam Ghents	Substitute TAG Teacher	2014-15 School Year	\$65/hr.

Appointment-Swim Program-2014-15 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Dionisios Katehis	Lifeguard I PT	2014-15 school year	\$12.50/ph

Appointment-Per Diem Substitute Teacher and Nurses

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Maria Cerniello	Per Diem Sub. Teacher	12/1/14	Step 1	\$145.58
Derek Madden	"	"	"	"
Susan Miele	Per Diem .5 Sub. Librarian	12/5/14	.5 of own Daily Rate	\$155.99
Terri Abofsky	Per Diem Sub. Nurse	12/1/14	Step 1	\$137.50
Aleli Cueto	"	"	"	"
Jennifer Kilkenny	"	"	"	"

Non Teaching Personnel-Substitutes

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Mary Clinton	Typist Clerk PT Sub.	2014-15 School Year	\$12.50/ph
Niketa Lalwani	School Monitor PT Sub.	"	\$8.75/ph
Lisa Sperry	"	"	"

Finance

8.1 2014 SEC Filing

That the President of the Board of Education be authorized to sign the Statement of Annual Financial and Operating Information dated December 5, 2015 and that Munistat Services Inc. be authorized to file this statement on behalf of the district pursuant to Rule 15c2-12 of the SEC.

8.2. Child Nutrition Program-Revised Single Permanent Agreement

That the Board of Education approve and authorizes the Superintendent to sign the Single Permanent Agreement.

8.3 SEQRA Determination-POBMS Track

That the Board of Education approve the proposal with VHB to perform the SEQRA determination at POBMS at a cost of \$800, and authorize the President to sign the proposal.

8.4 Contract –Rosetta Stone License Renewal

That the Board of Education approve the attached agreement with Rosetta Stone and authorize the Board President to sign the Agreement.

8.5 Contract –Andrea Honigsfeld, Ed.D

That the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to sign a the agreement for three days of training with Andrea Honigsfeld, Ed.D in the amount of \$3,600.

8.6 Contract –Laura McCabe

That the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board to sign a Contract for the 2014-15 school year with Laura McCabe, M.A. School Psychologist to provide one student with Bilingual Psycho-Educational Evaluation services as listed in the contract.

8.7 Donation-POBMS

That the Board of Education authorize the acceptance of the items listed on the memo from Mr. McNamara dated November 13, 2014.

8.8 Donation-TAG

That the Board of Education accept a donation from SNAP to the TAG program the items listed on the memo from Mrs. Becker dated November 17, 2014.

Mrs. Schulman said that they really appreciate the donation and SNAP’s continued partnership.

Dr. Lewis stated that she had the opportunity to attend the Thanksgiving celebration at Mattlin. She spoke of how wonderful the meal was in the awesome kitchen donated by SNAP.

8.9 Payment of Bills

November 26, 2014

General Fund A	\$ 3,134,081.75
Trust & Agency	\$ 1,263,306.45
Federal	\$ 29,499.20
Child Care	\$ 4,424.08
Net Payroll	\$ 1,844,168.83

Unfinished Business

10.1 Amend Policy #3210-Visitors to the School with Change

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Bernstein, seconded by Mrs. Schulman that the Board of Education approve the Visitors to the School with Change, Policy #3210, as amended.

Discussion

Mrs. Bernstein asked if this included the PTA president’s suggestion.

Dr. Lewis stated that in speaking with the principal, he felt that the plan they have in place in good. She stated that resources would need to be added if they were to have a security guard into the evening hours.

Mr. Greenberg stated that it is afterschool hours that we are talking about. He said we could adopt the policy as amended now and we can always look into ways to address it further.

Mr. Guercio responded.

10.2 Approval of Courses for 2015-2016 School Year *

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Schulman that the Board of Education approve the new course proposals for the 2015-2016 school year.

Discussion

Mrs. Bernstein assumed that these new courses were presented at the High School's Curriculum and PTA meetings. She asked if there was any feedback.

Ms. Gierasch stated that all of the comments were positive. And that the hope is that they all will run based on the enrollment numbers.

Mrs. Pierno stated that she was glad that they are offering Advanced French for beginners.

Ms. Gierasch stated that there may be a name change to that course.

Mrs. Schulman said that she was happy to see the Business department and the Foreign Language department working together.

*Courses listed in the November 17, 2014 BOE minutes.

New Business

11.1 POBJFKHS Field Trips- June 29, 2015- **HOLD**

Dr. Lewis updated the Board on the significant costs associated with the Board's approval of this overnight trip. She stated that she was not in support of this trip.

11.2 Project Challenge Field Trip

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Rothman, seconded by Mrs. Bernstein that the Board of Education approve the Project Challenge Field Trip.

11.3 Resolution for Appointment of Officers for the December 9, 2014 Bond Referendum

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Pierno that the Board of Education approve the following Resolution:

On the Motion

Yea: Mrs. Lieberman, Mrs. Rothman, Mrs. Bernstein, Mr. Greenberg,
Mrs. Pierno.

Abstention: Mr. Bettan, Mrs. Schulman.

**RESOLUTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS FOR DECEMBER 9,
2014 ANNUAL MEETING, BOND REFERENDUM VOTE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby designates Mrs. Emily Schulman as Chair of the Bond Referendum Vote to be held on December 9, 2014 in accordance with Section 2025 of the Education Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to the provisions of the Education Law, the following are hereby appointed to act as Chief Inspectors of Election for the Bond Referendum Vote to be held on December 9, 2014 at the rate of \$ 13.00 per hour each:

1. Diana Regino – Chief Election Inspector: Election District #1;
2. Martin Bard – Chief Election Inspector: Election District #2;
3. Norman Kleiman – Chief Election Inspector: Election District #3;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to the provisions of the Education Law, the following are hereby appointed to act as Inspectors of Election for the Bond Referendum Vote to be held on December 9, 2014 at the rate of \$10.50 per hour each:

Ms. Marsha Elowsky	Ms. Edith Bress	Mr. Nigel Kravitz
Mr. Joe Elowsky	Ms. Dorothy Leogrande	Ms. Carol Fox
Mr. Jerry Kornreich	Ms. Helen Kornreich	Ms. Madeline Rothman
Ms. Linda Guerra	Ms. Maureen McDonald	Mr. Sam Bertsch
Ms. Frances Rosa	Ms. Roz Gluck	Ms. Gabby Bettan
Mr. Joe Varrone	Ms. Terry DiLegge	Ms. Sarah Boecker
Mr. Atampal Nanda	Ms. Sandra Kleinman	Ms. Amelia Channin
Ms. Margaret Poplinger	Mr. David Kaplen	Ms. Gina Gallo
Ms. Kim Kaplen	Ms. Phyliss Handler	Mr. Zack Lewis
Ms. Ann Zirpolo	Mr. Jerry Cohen	
Ms. Anna Small	Ms. Muriel Reahl	
Mr. Luke Ting	Mr. Hans Stumpp	
Mr. Bruce Fay	Mr. Alfredo Regino	
Ms. Terry Russell	Mr. Bob Gorman	
Ms. Millie Gorman		

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to notify this Board of Education forthwith if any of such persons here and above appointed to the respective offices refuses to accept such appointment or fails to serve, in which case this Board of Education is to take such further action as maybe authorized in such circumstances pursuant to the Education Law. In the event that this Board of Education is unable to hold a meeting to fill a vacancy caused by refusal of any such persons to serve, the District Clerk is hereby authorized to fill such vacancy.

11.4 Resolution: Personnel Action

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Rothman that the Board of Education approve the Confidential Schedule "A":

Executive Session

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Schulman that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session for the purpose of negotiation.

The meeting was recessed at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jeanne Tyler
District Clerk

Approved: _____
Gary Bettan, President