

Minutes of School Board Meeting – December 19, 2011

Board Room - Administration Building - Mattlin Middle School

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

Also Present: Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Jonas, Ms. Gierasch, Mr. Guercio,
Ms. Aloe, Mrs. Fischer.

Absent: Mr. Ruf.

Acting District Clerk

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Bernstein that the Board of Education appoint Mr. Jonas Acting District Clerk.

Executive Session

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mr. Cepeda, seconded by Mrs. Rothman that the Board of Education recess to Executive Session for the purpose of personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Jonas
Acting District Clerk

Approved: _____
Gary Bettan, President

There were approximately 50 district residents and staff members present.

Mr. Bettan called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Bettan welcomed everyone to this evening's Board Meeting. He stated that at tonight's meeting we will have several student awards. We will also have a special award for our Building and Grounds Director, Kim Parahus.

Mr. Bettan stated that several years ago our Board started a new tradition of visiting each of our buildings to watch actual instruction and then sit down with the building's Principal to talk about what is going on in his/her schools. He stated the Board visited six of our eight buildings over the past month. Mr. Bettan expressed his views and the views of the other members of the Board that these visits are one of the highlights of being a Board member. To actually watch and see and sometimes even participate in actual instruction is very powerful. Tonight, members of the Board will report back on some of the great things we watched and discussed during our visits.

Ms. Kim Parahus will be giving a report on capital projects and Mr. Arthur Jonas will be giving a report on the District moving away from paper towards digital delivery of report cards. We will be voting on this proposal at our January 23 meeting.

Mr. Bettan updated the community on our Superintendent's search. Representatives from the search firm visited our district last week and met with each member of the Board of Education, the leadership of the PCT, ASA and the PTA. We held forums for our staff and community and had an on line survey for everyone to participate. The input provided by these stakeholders will help guide us in picking the right candidate for the position.

Mr. Bettan reminded the community that the January 23 Board of Education meeting will be a Finance Workshop. There will be no public participation at that meeting but he stated the Board looks forward in put from the community at the following meetings.

Board Announcements

Mrs. Schulman was pleased to report on the success of two Plainview Alumni. Lisa Geduldig directed a movie, Esther and Me and Jon Greene, a 1979 alumni published a book called Kill Switch. She congratulated them on their outstanding achievements.

Mrs. Schulman also reported on the conference she attended at the New York State School Board's Association Convention which dealt with communicating about the budget process. The presenters noted that it is "imperative to improve educational Journalism". Public schools have to professionalize communication. Mrs. Schulman stated that the 2% tax cap was discussed. People need to know that the consequences are much more severe now for a contingency budget.

Mrs. Schulman stated the presenters stated that a website should be like an online newspaper. The information climate has changed. People don't want to consume information, they want to participate. She noted that it was also suggested that we do exit surveys after budget votes. If a budget failed, this would be very valuable information.

Mrs. Rothman stated that she and Mrs. Lieberman attended the Annual School Law Conference on December 5, 2011. Mr. Ryan Ruf was a presenter on Property Tax CAP. The CAP is not absolute. She spoke of the requirements that go along with the Tax CAP. She spoke of the need to establish a five year financial plan. Another presenter reviewed the past ten years of budgets in his district if the 2% tax plan had been in place.

She stated that APPR was discussed at another session at which Ms. Barbara Aloe was the presenter. Both Mr. Ryan and Ms. Aloe did a wonderful job.

Mrs. Lieberman discussed the session dealing with bullying and the Dignity for All Students Act. She expressed her views that we must talk to children about what can happen. They have to be made aware of the consequences.

Mrs. Bernstein informed the community that she and Mr. Jonas attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the new 9/11 Memorial Garden at the High School. This was a collaborative effort of members of SOS/TAG and the Student Government. It was noted at the ceremony that the Garden is a beautiful and peaceful place to come and pay respect to those lost on September 11th. Mrs. Jane Policino, mother of graduates of our district and the widow of Steve Policino, one of those lost that day, was present for the ceremony. The four community members who died that day were remembered.

Mrs. Bernstein congratulated and thanked all the students and staff who participated in this collaborative and meaningful project. She also thanked Campanelli Landscaping for their generous donation of supplies and services for the memorial garden. Mrs. Bernstein expressed her views that this project represents the very essence of what we hope to accomplish by our school climate goal.

Mr. Cepeda spoke of a meeting he, other members of the Board, Central Administration, and PTA had with Assemblyman Charles Lavine. They discussed the tax cap and its potential impact on our district. Assemblyman Lavine commented that the political climate necessitated a constraint of escalating property taxes and a link to New York City rent control regulation. Mr. Cepeda stated that because of the new local funding limitation it is imperative that our State lawmakers provide adequate education aid to school districts. He stated that they told Assemblyman Lavine that in order to cope with the state's property tax cap, meaningful mandate relief needs to be passed in areas such as reform of the state's Triborough Amendment, allow school districts to consider factors other than seniority when making decisions regarding layoffs, streamlining of the 3020a process, providing new public school employees with the choice of a defined contribution retirement plan or a hybrid defined benefit/defined contribution plan and aligning state special education mandates to federal requirements.

Mr. Cepeda spoke of the achievements of our Varsity Cheerleading team. He congratulated the members of the team and their coaches.

Mr. Cepeda spoke of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Tree Lighting Ceremony he attended on December 4th. Our POBJFK High School choir supplied some of the entertainment.

Mr. Cepeda had the pleasure of attending the high school drama show. It was fantastic. He extended his congratulations to the drama club and their advisors.

Mr. Cepeda also attended the Senior Citizens Luncheon. He thanked the members for a wonderful afternoon.

Mr. Gary Bettan stated our elementary, middle schools and high school have had their winter concerts. Mr. Bettan expressed his views that the musical programs that we have in our schools are wonderful.

Superintendent's Announcements

Ms. Gierasch was pleased to announce that \$1,267 was raised for Breast Cancer Awareness through Lee National Denim Day. Also the student club, Youths Against Cancer raised \$665.00 for Breast Awareness.

Board of Education Recognition

Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology

Ms. Joyce Barry was pleased to recognize the following students for being semifinalists in the Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology:

Danielle Scarano

Robert Adelson

Steven Adelson

2012 National Merit Scholarship Program

Ms. Laurie Lynn was pleased to recognize Kim Raymond for being a semi-finalist in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program.

High School Representative Update

Andrew Yu, our high school representative, updated the Board on events at the high school.

Award from Nassau County Chapter – School Buildings and Grounds Association

Ms. Kim Parahus introduced Andrew Ward, Vice President of the Nassau County Chapter School Buildings and Grounds Association. He was pleased to inform the Board of Education that the Nassau County Chapter-School Buildings and Grounds Association has presented a check in the amount of \$2,500 to the Plainview School District to be dedicated to benefit Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District Scholarship Funds. This gift was a way of thanking the District for the donating the use of the District's facilities hosting the Forty-ninth Annual Custodian's Workshop. He thanked Ms. Parahus for all her help.

Mr. Bettan thanked Mr. Ward on behalf the Board of Education and the community.

Mr. Dempsey took this opportunity to thank Ms. Parahus and her staff for the fine job they do throughout the year.

Tenure Recommendation

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Rothman that the Board of Education approve the following tenure recommendation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>
Kristen Raszka	Special Education Teacher POBJFK High School	Feb. 1, 2012

Discussion:

Ms. Ellie Becker spoke glowingly of the attributes of Ms. Raszka. She highly recommended her for tenure. Mr. Murray also spoke of what a wonderful teacher she is.

Board Reports on School VisitationsKindergarten Center

Mrs. Lieberman and other members of the Board visited the Kindergarten Center. They saw a lesson on American Sign Language. They saw a lesson on Foundations. They also saw the children using smart boards. They viewed a lesson on anger.

Mrs. Schulman discussed a wonderful health lesson they saw. She spoke of the small group instruction for English Language learners. She stated it was nice to see how a teacher builds up the confidence in children.

Mrs. Lieberman stated it was wonderful to see such innocence in children. It was a great day.

Mrs. Rothman spoke of her visit to Parkway School. She saw Ms. Fessel teaching math AIS through the use of games, flash cards and various other activities. She also saw a lesson in leveled literacy intervention. In Mrs. O'Hare's first grade class they saw a guided reading lesson on the smart board. The children used words that have been introduced with Foundations. The children discussed fiction and non-fiction work in their teams. In Mrs. Heun's third grade class they saw a math lesson. In Mrs. Friedman's class they read aloud a story relating to social studies. In Ms. Stitt's class they did comparison writing and had activities related to school climate.

Mrs. Rothman expressed her views that visits such as this give members of the Board a wonderful opportunity to speak with the principals and assistant principals about their schools.

Pasadena School

Mrs. Bernstein spoke of her and other members of the Board's visit to Pasadena Elementary School. They visited the art room where students in the X-R class were drawing animals that live in the water and on land. The children had read a book about this subject. This is a way of tying art to the common core. They met with the IST team who told what their individual and team roles were with IST and RTI. The psychologist shared some of the concerns she deals with when interacting with students. The reading teachers spoke of their reading programs such as Foundations, Leveled Literacy interventions, System 44 and Read About. They expressed their views that the students are coming into the first grade better prepared for literacy because of their exposure to Foundations in Kindergarten. The math specialist spoke about pushing in and pulling out in classes as well as providing some math enrichment and working with teachers on pacing charts. They met with the nurse who discussed the growing number of students with allergies. They observed a physical education class teaching volleyball as an interactive lesson.

Mrs. Bernstein noted that Ms. Miller had asked members of the Board to look around the school to see the children's work, both academic and related to school climate and they saw quite a bit. Code of Conduct posters that children made up at the beginning of the year stay posted all year. They saw bulletin boards of children's pictures and staff pictures, creating a real Pasadena family. They got to see a Writing Fundamentals lesson. In all of the elementary schools there is a lot of non-fiction reading and writing. They also saw a Daily Five Lesson in an X-R class where students engaged in a lesson on the differences and similarities of two different versions of the Gingerbread Man. One of the goals of the Daily Five is to build stamina in reading and writing. The students in this class began the year reading independently for two minutes. They were now reading independently for twenty-five minutes. Another teacher related to us that the Daily Five has changed the way she teaches.

Mrs. Bernstein stated that they ended their visit with Ms. Miller where the Board had the opportunity to review what they had seen. Ms. Miller told them of a section on Pasadena's website, created by the school librarian, where students review and recommend books. Mrs. Bernstein stated that they saw a large emphasis on reading, writing, the common core standards and positive school climate.

Mrs. Bernstein thanked the principals and assistant principals for welcoming the Board into their buildings and sharing the students and staff with them.

Old Bethpage School

Mr. Bettan and other members of the Board had the opportunity to visit three-fourths of the classes at Old Bethpage School. They saw the Daily Five in action. Mr. Bettan explained that the Daily Five is a reading program that allows teachers to differentiate instruction by splitting the class into small independent reading groups participating in a choice of activities. The students were well behaved and focused on their activities. They saw Foundations and the new writing fundamentals programs. The Old Bethpage PTA initiated and helped launch their new WOW program which is similar to our PARP reading program. WOW focuses on writing.

Mr. Bettan stated that he was very impressed with the student work posted throughout the hallways and in the classrooms. The papers were not perfect; they were works in progress with notes and corrections by the teachers and the students themselves. He was extremely impressed with the level of the writing. Mr. Bettan expressed his views that the use of higher level vocabulary and the more detailed writing is a very big step along our path to higher academic standards and achievements.

Mr. Bettan stated that they also had an opportunity to spend some time with Ms. Gray and Ms. Hoffman. He noted that it was very exciting to hear how they are working with and sharing their ideas and discussing instruction with other principals. Ms. Gray told them of the work she is doing with Mr. Mittleman and his team at Mattlin. Mr. Bettan believes that these discussions will lead to smoother transitions and even more success for our students as they move from elementary to middle school.

Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School

Mrs. Schulman and members of the Board met with Mr. McNamara and saw a presentation by MAP leadership students about their work this year. These eighth grade students elected to be in MAP groups that focused on leadership activities. Mrs. Schulman stated they saw a fifth grade collaborative math lesson taught by Ms. Grund and Ms. Quinones. They saw an Algebra 1 class taught by Ms. Goldstein involved in finding the area of irregular figures. They saw a seventh grade Living Environment lesson on cells taught by Ms. Llinas. They then went to see a sixth grade science class dealing with the concept of light years taught by Ms. Boden. It was an interactive lesson involving the use of a piece of yarn to measure the length of the POB Middle School lobby.

Mrs. Schulman stated that they met with the guidance staff and discussed the development of their STEPS team which stands for School Team Enacting Proactive Strategies. The team meets and discusses different students who are having issues and are in need of potential interventions.

Mrs. Schulman spoke of the Natural Helpers program that is being developed at POB Middle School. This program involves finding students who are part of a support team. The natural helpers are in large part, student-selected. Students in the seventh and eighth grade took an anonymous survey and were asked to identify the students they would go to if they had a problem or needed someone to talk to. The survey asked what the students were most concerned about. The students had concerns about school performance, depression and abuse. Bullying showed up in fifth and sixth grade but not in the upper grades.

Mrs. Schulman thanked Mr. McNamara and the staff of POB Middle School for being so welcoming.

Mr. Bettan expressed his views that it is very impressive to see how students themselves are improving the climate.

High School

Mrs. Pierno stated that she, Mr. Cepeda, Ms. Bernstein, and Ms. Schulman, visited the high school. She noted that it is a building with 1600 school students. It was calm, quiet, orderly, and clean. She stated that it felt like a climate truly conducive to learning.

Mrs. Pierno stated they saw an Algebra plus lab class that is new this year. Ms. Fortmeyer had 4 students and she was teaching them how to figure out what purchase would be a better buy. She was reinforcing the concepts they learned during their regular math period.

They then observed a lesson in the new 10H Interdisciplinary English/Global class. They were discussing Othello. They then saw the same students in their Social Studies classroom where they were preparing to write an essay comparing a literary character to a person in history.

Mrs. Pierno stated they saw a Living Environment special class where the students were using microscopes to look at cells and then going up to the smart board and identifying the parts of a cell. They visited Ms. Jahn in her newly revised Food and Nutrition class. She has changed the curriculum to incorporate the new healthy eating USDA guidelines based upon "My Plate" instead of the "Food Pyramid".

Mrs. Pierno stated that they spent some time with Mr. Tesar and one of his Social Science Research students in the Science Research Lab. The student was selecting a topic for her research and Mr. Tesar was showing her samples from other students' successful projects. He was also going over with her the requirements from Siemens, Intel, and other competitions.

They walked through the beautiful 9/11 Memorial courtyard that was a collaborative effort of SOS and Student Government.

Mrs. Pierno thanked Mr. Murray for giving the Board a glimpse into the many facets of the High School. She stated it was great for the Board to see the newer classes like Algebra Lab, 10H Interdisciplinary English/Global, Social Science Research, and Food/Nutrition in action.

Mr. Bettan stated it was amazing to see how much more comfortable the staff in all our buildings has become with the use of technology and the smart boards. They have become real interactive tools that teachers and students can use together. He was very pleased to hear of all the discussion going on between grades and between buildings. He expressed his view that our District has embraced our School Climate goals. School pride is everywhere and so is teaching tolerance and acceptable ways to find resolutions to conflicts.

Mr. Bettan further commented that RTI is something we are doing. Early intervention is so important to student success. We have dedicated teams in every building working towards helping every student achieve and succeed. Mr. Bettan stated that we are ahead of the state and the nation in our Core Standards efforts

Mr. Bettan thanked all the administrators and their staff for being so welcoming to the Board of Education on their visits.

Mr. Cepeda stated the visits to the elementary, middle schools and high schools visits were very beneficial. He expressed his views that the Superintendent, the administrators, staff and faculty are doing a great job working towards our goal.

Capital Projects Update

Ms. Kim Parahus, Director of School Facilities and Operations, gave the Board a Capital Projects update. She reviewed the capital projects that were successfully completed over the summer of 2011. She noted that the Roof Replacement for Jamaica Avenue School did not take place because the bids exceeded the allocation.

Ms. Parahus reviewed the projects that have been submitted to the New York State Education Department for approval. These projects are to be funded by the capital reserve fund and transfer to capital. She reviewed the two projects that are in the design phase with the architects.

Ms. Parahus also reviewed the Capital Projects that are being considered on the 2012-2013 budget.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pierno asked if we could reconfigure the high school locker room so the lockers could fit backpacks.

Ms. Parahus stated the high school locker room is being reconfigured.

Mr. Dempsey asked if the IP Telephony could be done while school is in session.

Ms. Parahus stated it could.

Mr. Cepeda discussed fire alarm upgrades.

Mr. Bettan stated that there was much talk this past season about turf fields for our district. The Board of Education has had discussions with the Town and we are still trying to work out the finances. He asked for an update on the turf fields.

Ms. Parahus spoke of her meetings with officials from the Town.

Mr. Bettan told of his understanding that the high school would be the school for the turf field. It would be less expensive at this school because it is a relatively newer track and we have the right electricity for lights. He expressed his views that hopefully the Town will be able to find the money.

Mr. Dempsey took the opportunity this evening to thank Ms. Parahus and all her staff for the fine job they do.

Update Digital Report Cards

Mr. Jonas discussed the customized report cards. He stated that we have received good feedback from our stakeholders. Mr. Jonas stated the District wants to go paperless. The goal is to reduce expenditures. Only those parents that don't have access to a computer will have the child's report card sent home. A letter will be sent home telling the parents what our plans are. This is a more efficient way in which to deliver services. This is an opportunity to go green.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pierno stated this is a terrific idea. She asked if we could provide the technology to the Plainview Public Library for those parents that don't have a computer.

Mr. Cepeda expressed his views that a digital report card is terrific. He spoke of all the forms that we keep for students. They are all hard copies. We have a student management system. Perhaps we could have these forms put into this student management system. Mr. Cepeda stated that he would like to hear other ways, besides report cards, in which the District is planning on going paperless.

Mrs. Schulman discussed the confidentiality aspect of this.

Mr. Jonas noted this is the second full year of a parent portal.

Mr. Dempsey agrees that we should be putting more into a digital form.

Mr. Cepeda would like to see other areas that we could go digital.

Public Participation

Mrs. Darlene Baker requested that a collaborative teacher be added to her child's second grade class. She expressed her views that it will be better if there is a second full time teacher in the second grade class.

Mr. Steve Pinsky spoke about the American Red Cross lifeguard session. He hopes the Board will come to a conclusion that will benefit the kids. He asked that a decision be made as soon as possible.

Mrs. Margo Garcia, High School PTA President discussed PTA's concerns about changes to the geometry curriculum. She also discussed the rubric in physical education. She requested that PTA be given sufficient time to review the changes and for PTA to give feedback.

Mr. Morty Rosenfeld, President of the PCT questioned Mr. Cepeda's remarks regarding the Board's visit with Assemblyman Charles Lavine. He questioned the resolutions.

Mr. Guercio responded.

Routine Business

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

1. Students

Student Placement

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

2. Personnel

Professional Staff – Leave of Absence Without Pay

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Yvonne Gonzalez	Science Teacher H.B. Mattlin Middle School	Jan. 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012 (12 weeks under the FMLA)	

Professional Staff – Leave of Absence Without Pay - (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Jeannine Gulli-Kachuba	Special Education Teacher H.B. Mattlin Middle School	Jan. 3, 2012 thru March 30, 2012 (up to 12 weeks to be covered under the FMLA)	
Stephanie Roehrig	Foreign Language Teacher H.B. Mattlin Middle School	Jan. 3, 2012 thru March 30, 2012 (up to 12 weeks to be covered under the FMLA)	

Professional Staff – Regular Substitute Position

Michael Tavitian	Science Teacher – Regular Substitute—Assign: Mattlin M.S. (replacing Y. Gonzalez on Leave of Absence)	Jan. 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2012 or earlier at the discretion of the Board of Education	\$53,569* Step 1BA
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* Salary pending 2011-2012 contract negotiations and salary to be prorated

Non-Teaching Personnel – Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Florence Noto	School Monitor PT Parkway	Dec. 31, 2011 (close of business)	

Non-Teaching Personnel – Resignation

Barbara Bonanni	Computer Tech Aide Old Bethpage E.S.	Jan. 2, 2012 (close of business)	
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Rosemary Mikelinich	1:1 Special Ed. Teacher Aide – POB JFK High School	Dec. 7, 2011 (close of business)	
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Non-Teaching Personnel – Return from Leave of Absence

Carly Rutter	ABA Special Ed. Aide 6 hours Mattlin Middle School	Dec. 8, 2011	
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Non-Teaching Personnel – Permanent Employee Recommendation

Nikkos Hanley	Groundskeeper Buildings & Grounds	12/30/11	
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Non-Teaching Personnel – Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary*</u>
Assunta Laiosa	School Monitor Part-Time Cafeteria 2 ¾ hours per day POB Middle School (replacing Rose Loesel who retired)	Dec. 20, 2011	\$9,412.45 To be prorated

Non-Teaching Personnel – Temporary Appointment

Michael Wood	Security Aide POBJFK H.S. 7 ½ hours per day (replacing Steven Duboff who is on leave without pay)	12/20/11- 2/29/2012	\$24.27 p.h.
Ian Morzan	ABA Special Ed. Aide 6 hours Stratford Road School Temporary placement for out of district student	11/15/2011 - 3/30/2012	\$19.26 p.h
Matthew Dobbs	Temp. ABA Special Ed. Aide – 6 ½ hours Stratford Road Replacing Danielle Turan (who is on a leave while Student teaching)	1/16/2012 -	\$19.26 p.h.

* Salary pending 2011-2012 contract negotiations

Non-Teaching Personnel – Temporary Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary *</u>
Alison Corbisiero	Temporary 1:1 Special Ed. Aide – 4 ½ hours POB JFK High School (Temporary placement for out of district student)	12/20/2011	\$19.26 p.h.

Non-Teaching Personnel – Change of Status

	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>Proposed Position</u>		
Jaime Ansalone	ABA Special Ed. Teacher Aide Stratford Road 6 hrs. per day	ABA Special Ed. Teacher Aide Stratford Road (in accordance with IEP)	Dec. 20, 2011	\$23,518.69 6.25 hours per day
Karen Breslow	ABA Special Ed. Teacher Aide Stratford Road	ABA Special Ed. Teacher Aide Stratford Road (in accordance with IEP)	Dec. 20, 2011	\$23,518.69 6.25 hours per day
Yvette Costantino	ABA Special Ed. Teacher Aide Stratford Road	ABA Special Ed. Teacher Aide Stratford Road (in accordance with IEP)	Dec. 20, 2011	\$23,518.69 6.25 hours per day

* Salary pending 2011-2012 contract negotiations

Appointments – Collaborative Teachers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary *</u>
Eileen Leavitt	Collaborative Teacher	School Year 2011/2012	4 hrs@ \$53.76
Michelle Falk	Collaborative Teacher	“	4 hrs@ \$53.76

Personnel Recommendation – In-District Facilitators – School Year 2011/2012

<u>Facilitator</u>				
Brian Gurney	Collegial Circle: Family and Consumer Science (POB M.S.)	School Year 2011/2012	1 hr.	\$53.76
Jodi Horowitz	Incorporating the Rock Wall into an Adventure Education Curriculum (Elem. & POB M.S.)	“	2	\$53.76
Blaise Martinell	Developing a Bibliography with Electronic Flashcards (H.S.)	“	2	\$53.76
Jason Obloj	Impact of Physical Activity on Obesity & Health (Parkway	“	1	\$53.76
Georgiena Robinson	Teaching All Students with Documents and Texts	“	2	\$53.76
Seema Sumod/	POB M.S. Teacher Website	“	1	\$53.76
William Pilock	Workshop	“	1	\$53.76
Diana Marks	Overview of New Annual Read Aloud Writing Curriculum	“	1	\$53.76
Kristin Goetz	Overview of New Annual Read Aloud Writing Curriculum	“	1	\$53.76
Amanda Maltese	SDN-25 Get Smart	“	1	\$53.76
Seema Sumod	SD-218 SmartBoard (POB M.S.) covering 1 hour due to family illness of facilitator	“	1	\$53.76

* Salary pending 2011/2012 contract negotiations

Co-Curricular Activities – School Year 2011/2012 – POBJFK High School – RESCISSION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary*</u>
Adam Paltrowitz	Theatre Club Advisor	Jan. 30, 2012	

Co-Curricular Activities – School Year 2011/2012 – H.B. Mattlin Middle School

Stephanie Roehrig	French Club Advisor	September 2011 thru January, 2012	\$115
Sandra Simmons	Fred Club Advisor	January 2012 thru June 2012	\$805

Coaching Rescissions – School Year 2011/2012

Devin Fassberg	Head Coach, MS Womens Basketball	Immediately
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Rescind appointment approved in the minutes of the 10/3/11 Board of Education meeting

Mike Heller	Head Coach, JV Wrestling	Immediately
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Rescind appointment approved in the minutes of the 9/26/11 Board of Education meeting

Coaching Recommendation – Change of Status

<u>Name</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>Proposed Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary*</u>
Frank Buck	Asst. Coach JV Mens Lacrosse	Head Coach JV Mens Lacrosse	3/12	\$5556

Coaching Recommendations – School Year 2011/2012

Steve Arcuri	Asst. Coach, MS Mens Lacrosse	3/12	\$3676
Pat Bernardo	Asst. Coach, Varsity Mens Lacrosse	3/12	\$5556
Frank Buck	Head Coach, JV Mens Lacrosse	3/12	\$5556
Ivan Dunat	Asst. Coach, MS Mens Lacrosse	3/12	\$3494
Bryan First	Asst. Coach, JV Wrestling	1/12	\$1980-1/2 season
Marc Gaiman	Head Coach, MS Womens Tennis	3/12	\$4624
Lauren Heiman	Head Coach, MS Mens Volleyball	1/12	\$3494
Steve Jacobs	Asst. Coach, Varsity Mens Lacrosse	3/12	\$4432
William Schenck	Head Coach, MS Mens Lacrosse	3/12	\$3494
Joseph Weinstein	Asst. Coach, JV Mens Lacrosse	3/12	\$3960

* Salary pending 2011/2012 contract negotiations

Coaching Recommendation – School Year 2010/2011

Jerilyn Miller	Head Coach, MS Girls Track	5/5/11-6/30/11	\$1200
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Non-Teaching Personnel – Child Care

Amy Ditekowsky	Child Care Assistant	School Year 2011/2012	\$9.75 ph
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Personnel Recommendation – Appointment – Swim Program – School Year 2011/2012

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Tatiana Antoine	Lifeguard PT Instructor	School Year 2011/2012	\$12.50

Rescind appoint approved at the 9/26/2011 Board of Education meeting

Appointments – Non-Teaching – TAG Program – School Year 2011/2012

Paige Iorio	Special Ed. Teacher Aide Substitute	School Year 2011/2012	\$25.00 ph
Nicole Jonas	Special Ed. Teacher Aide Substitute	“	\$25.00 ph

Appointments – Non-Teaching – TAG Program – School Year 2011/2012

Resolved upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Rothman that the Board of Education approve the following non-teaching – TAG Program appointment for the 2011/2012 school year:

Allison Bernstein	Special Ed. Teacher Aide Substitute	School Year 2011/2012	\$25.00 ph
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On the Motion:

Ayes: Mr. Bettan, Mrs. Pierno, Mrs. Lieberman, Mrs. Rothman, Mrs. Pierno, Mr. Cepeda, Mrs. Schulman.

Abstentions: Mrs. Bernstein.

Motion carried.

Personnel Recommendations – Chaperones

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Martin Buchman	Chaperone	School Year 2011/2012	\$90.36/sess. *
Jeffrey Salzberg	Chaperone	“	\$90.36/sess.*
Sheri Winick	Chaperone	“	\$90.36/sess.*

* Salary pending 2011/2012 contract negotiations

Appointments & Reappointments – Per Diem Substitute Teachers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Matthew Levine	Per Diem Substitute Teacher	12/19/11	\$137.19
Gina DiBella	Per Diem Substitute Teacher	“	\$137.19
Dana Cacciato	Per Diem Substitute Teacher	“	\$137.19
Raury Biblo	Per Diem Substitute Teacher	“	\$137.19
Enza Walker	Per Diem Substitute Teacher	“	\$137.19
Linda Curran	Per Diem Substitute Teacher- Reappointment	“	\$137.19

Non-Teaching Personnel – Substitute

Fereshteh Barzideh	School Monitor PT Substitute	School Year 2011/2012	\$8.50 ph
Page Iorio	School Monitor PT Substitute	“	\$8.50 ph
Patricia Bentivegna	School Monitor PT Substitute	“	\$8.50 ph

3. Finance

a. Disposal of Obsolete Textbooks – Private & Parochial Schools

That the Board of Education declare obsolete for disposal purposes the textbooks listed on Kim Parahus’ memo of October 31, 2011.

b. Cooperative Bids

That the Board of Education award bid No. 682 – Locks/Door Hardware to the following companies:

<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Awarded Companies</u>
American Lock Co.	Accredited Lock Supply Co.
Arrow Lock Corp.	Kelley Brothers, LLC
Best Access System	Stanley Security Solutions
Corbin Russwin Hardware	Kelley Brothers, LLC
Falcon Locks	Independent Hardware
Master Lock Co.	Independent Hardware; Maziuk wholesale Dist.
Medeco	Accredited Lock Supply co.
Norton Door Control Products	Independent Hardware
Sargent Locks	Kelly Brothers, LLC
Simplex Locking Systems	Accredited Lock Supply Co.;
	Independent (now known as Kaba Access Hardware Controls)
Von Duprin	Independent Hardware
Yale Security Inc.	Kelly Brothers, LLC
Dorma	Kelly Brothers, LLC
Dor-O-Matic	Accredited Lock Supply Co.; Weinstein & Holtzman, Inc.
LCN	Weinstein & Holtzman, Inc.
Lockwood Industries, Inc.	Doorologist
Oak Security	Oak Security Group, LLC
Pemko Manufacturing	Accredited Lock Supply Co.
Rixson Specialty Door Controls	Accredited Lock Supply Co.

b. Cooperative Bids (Continued)

Manufacturer

Awarded Companies

Schlage Locksets

Accredited Lock Supply Co.; Weinstein & Holtzman, Inc.

Trimco

Independent Hardware

Mul-T-Lock

Doorologist

Don-Jo

Accredited Lock Supply Co.; Mziuk Wholesale Dist.

Mag

Independent Hardware

c. Disposal of Obsolete Vehicle

That the Board of Education declare obsolete for disposal purposes the following vehicle:

Vehicle 32G

1986 Chevrolet pick up truck

2GCEK14H7G1169209

d. Obsolete Equipment – Music Department

That the Board of Education declare obsolete for disposal purposes the following:

Alto xylophone

Tag #0003157

Bass metallophone

No number

Bass metallophone

Tag #0003161

Bass xylophone

Tag #0003163

e. Donation

That the Board of Education accept a donation of an additional amount of \$836.00 in honor of Mrs. Sandee Goldstein to the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District.

f. Disposal of Obsolete Equipment – POBJFK High School

That the Board of Education declare obsolete for disposal purposes the following items:

	<u>Model Number</u>
Magnavox DVD Player	MDV456/17
Philco DVD Player	PVD1000
GE DVD/CD Player	GE 1401P
Panasonic VHS Recorder	AG 1300P
JVC Remote Controller Unit	RM-P200
Ultra Flex Color Camera Cable (50 ft.)	2969
JVC Video Camera	3CCDKY19
Goldstar VHS Recorder/Player	GVR-E235
RCA CD Player	1050M-C
Panasonic AV Mixer	WJ-MX12

g. Michaels Settlement

That the Board of Education accept a settlement/donation from Michaels Stores, Inc., of eight gift cards in the amount of \$200 each to the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District.

h. Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD 2011 SEC Filing

That the President of the Board of Education be authorized to sign the *Statement of Annual Financial and Operating Information* dated December 16, 2011 and that Munistat Services, Inc. be authorized to file this statement on behalf of the district pursuant to Rule 15c2-12 of the SEC.

i. Single Audit Report for Federal Funds for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2011

That the Board of Education accept the single audit report from R.S. Abrams & Co. LLP, the District's external auditors, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011.

j. Budget Reports

That the Board of Education approve the following:

- Budget Status Report as of October 31, 2011
- Revenue Status Report as of October 31, 2011

k. Donation from the Nassau County Superintendent of School Buildings & Grounds Association

That the Board of Education approve a donation of \$2,500 from the Nassau County Superintendent of School Buildings & Grounds Association Scholarship (SBGA) to be used as scholarships for students of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District.

l. Disposal of Obsolete Equipment – POBJFK High School

That the Board of Education declare obsolete for disposal purposes the following items:

Hewlett Packard Laser Jet (2)
Dell Monitors (14)

m. Acceptance of Donation – Art Department

That the Board of Education authorize acceptance of a donation of fabric, yarn, glue, and other materials to the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District.

n. Treasurer Reports

That the Board of Education approve the following:

- Treasurer’s Report for October, 2011
- Trial Balance as of October 31, 2011
- Cash Flow Projection as of October 31, 2011

o. Extra Class Activity Funds

That the Board of Education approve the Extra Class Activity Funds for July and August, 2011 for the Plainview Middle School, Mattlin Middle School and Plainview-Old Bethpage High School.

p. Payment of Bills

December 2011

General Fund A	\$3,650,856.52
Trust & Agency	\$1,245,577.63
Federal	\$ 24,737.65
School Lunch	\$ 124,287.12
Capital	\$ 14,206.57
Child Care	\$ 719.92
Debt Service	\$1,416,290.63
Net Payroll	\$2,023,919.64

4. Miscellaneous

Approval of Minutes

That the Board of Education approve the Board of Education minutes of the meeting of December 5, 2011.

New Business

1. Field Trips

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mr. Cepeda, seconded by Mrs. Lieberman that the Board of Education approve the field trips on the memo dated December 19, 2011.

2. Circulation of Policy #7231, “Advanced Placement Tests and Policy #6231, “Travel: By Employees; and Administrative Regulation #5660R, “School Lunch Program

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Rothman that the Board of Education approve the circulation of Policy #7231, “Advanced Placement Tests, \$6231, “Travel: By Employees; and Administration Regulations, #5660R-School Lunch Program” for comments.

2. Circulation of Policy #7231, “Advanced Placement Tests and Policy #6231, “Travel: By Employees; and Administrative Regulation #5660R, “School Lunch Program (continued)

Discussion

Mr. Jonas reviewed the policies and the regulation.

Mrs. Bernstein suggested changes in the school lunch regulation regarding the meals the students are allowed to get if the student has not paid for five meals.

Mrs. Lieberman expressed her concern that a student would only get peanut butter and jelly or cheese sandwiches if there is an accumulated unpaid balance.

Mr. Jonas stated that these policies and regulations are being circulated for comments and possible changes.

3. Additional Staff Development Courses

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Bernstein, seconded by Mr. Cepeda that the Board of Education approve the following additional staff development courses for the 2011/2012 school year:

Impact of Physical Activity on Obesity & Health (Parkway)
Incorporating the Rock Wall into an Adventure Education Curriculum (Elem. & POBMS)

Developing a Bibliography with Electronic Flashcards (HS)

Teaching All Student with Documents and Texts

POBMS Teacher Website Workshop

Collegial Circle: Family and Consumer Science (POBMS)

4. Creation of WPOB Radio Club

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mr. Cepeda, seconded by Mrs. Rothman that the Board of Education approve the establishment of the WPOB Radio Club.

5. Attendance at Conferences

a) NYSSBA – Federal Relations Network

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Schulman that the Board of Education approve the attendance of Mr. Cepeda at the New York State School Board's Association Federal Relations Network, in Washington, D.C. on February 5, 6 and 7 2012.

b) NYSSBA – Winter Law Conference

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Bernstein, seconded by Mrs. Rothman that the Board of Education approve the attendance of Mrs. Pierno and Mrs. Schulman at the New York State School Board's Association Winter Law Conference on January 12, 2012 in Islandia, New York.

6. Additional Anime Club Advisor

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Schulman that the Board of Education approve the request to circulate a canvas for an additional level one advisor for the Anime Club.

7. Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Rothman, seconded by Mrs. Lieberman that the Board of Education approve the following Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution and Affidavit of Posting:

7. Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution (continued)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District, location code 72857 hereby established the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement system based on the time keeping system records or the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body:

District Clerk Harriet Fischer	6 hours per day	07/01/2011/- 06/30/2012	Participates in Employer's Time Keeping System
School District Auditor Dianne Sheffield	6 hours per day	07/01/2011/- 06/30/2012	Participates in Employer's Time Keeping System

And that the following Affidavit be posted on our website for at least 30 days:

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

Location Code: 72857

Employer Name: Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District

Affidavit attesting that the Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution was posted and available to the public for a minimum of 30 days

State of New York

County of Nassau

Harriet Fischer being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. That she is the District Clerk of the Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD.
2. That the posting of the Resolution began on December 20, 2011 and continued for at least 30 days.
3. That the Resolution was posted and available to the public on the Employer's website at pob.k12.ny.us

Name _____

Title _____

Executive Session

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Bernstein, seconded by Mrs. Schulman that the Board of Education recess to Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations and personnel matters.

The meeting was recessed at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Fischer
District Clerk

The meeting was reconvened at 11:30 p.m.

Acting District Clerk

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Schulman, seconded by Mrs. Pierno that the Board of Education appoint Mr. Jonas Acting District Clerk.

Adjournment

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Bernstein that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Jonas
Acting District Clerk

Approved: _____
Gary Bettan, President

Minutes of School Board Meeting – December 5, 2011

Board Room - Administration Building - Mattlin Middle School

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

Also Present: Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Jonas, Mr. Ruf, Ms. Gierasch, Mr. Guercio,
Ms. Aloe, Mrs. Fischer.

Acting District Clerk

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Bernstein, seconded by Mrs. Rothman that the Board of Education appoint Mr. Jonas Acting District Clerk.

Executive Session

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Rothman that the Board of Education recess to Executive Session for the purpose of personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Jonas
District Clerk

Approved: _____
Gary Bettan, President

There were approximately 60 district residents and staff members present.

Mr. Bettan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Bettan welcomed everyone to this evening's Board of Education workshop meeting. There will be no public participation this evening but he noted the Board does want feedback and comments during Public Participation at the December 19th Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Bettan stated that this evening's Workshop is in several sections. The first three sections will be on School Climate by elementary, middle and high school grade levels given by our building principals. On the high school level we will be hearing directly from students about programs that they are participating in at Plainview High School that are making the high school a better, more inclusive and emotionally safe place for all students to learn.

Mr. Bettan also stated that we will be discussing our progress and plans for our DASA policy. We will also be discussing the impact that external pressures are having on school districts and the challenges they represent towards meeting our school climate goals.

Superintendent Search Update

Mr. Bettan reviewed the progress of the search for a new Superintendent. He read a letter and accompanying survey that was placed on our website. He urged everyone to respond with their comments. There will also be an open forum to be held on Monday, December 12. The District has hired Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, a national consulting firm that specializes in assisting Boards in the selection of a superintendent. He thanked the community for their involvement and support in this process.

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

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

2. Personnel

Professional Staff – Leave of Absence Without Pay

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary*</u>
Cindy Duboff	Foreign Language Teacher POB Middle School	Nov. 28, 2011 thru March 2, 2012	

NOTE: Rescind Leave of Absence under the FMLA for Ms. Duboff approved at the Board of Education meeting of November 14, 2011

Professional Staff – Part-Time Position

Lisa Swierkowski	Health Teacher (.7) Position Assign: PMS/STRAT/PAS Replacing C. Camerata who is taking a Reg. Sub. position in District	Nov. 16, 2011 thru Feb. 2, 2011 or earlier at the discretion of the Board of Education	\$43,062.60 Step 2BA30 (represents 7/10 of \$61,518)
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Professional Staff – Change of Status

	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>Proposed Position</u>		
Abbey Portnoy	.5 Speech Teacher Assign: Old Bethpage	.6333 Speech Assign: Old Bethpage/Mattlin Middle School	Dec. 6, 2011 thru June 30, 2011	\$43,255.02 Step 3MA (represents .6333 of \$68,301)

* Salary pending 2011/2012 contract negotiations and salaries to be prorated

Non-Teaching Personnel – Leave of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary*</u>
Steven Duboff	Security Aide 7.5 hours per day	12/20/2011- 2/29/2012	

Non-Teaching Personnel – Permanent Employee Recommendation

Mindy Hirsh	Principal Typist Clerk	12/05/2011	
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Non-Teaching Personnel – Temporary Appointment

Leah Kalfin	ABA Special Ed. Aide 6 ½ -POBJFK High Replacing Julia Lombardo who is on a LWOP while Student Teaching	11/17/2011 - 2/10/2012	\$19.26 ph
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Non-Teaching Personnel – Change of Status

	<u>Present Proposed</u>	<u>Proposed Position</u>		
Michael Narbutt	Security Aide PT POBJFK H. S. 6.25 hrs. per day	Security Aide PT POBJFK H.S. 4.9 hrs. per day	12/1/2011	\$22,714.29

* Salary pending 2011/2012 contract negotiations

Coaching Recommendations – School Year 2011/2012

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effec. Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Lauren Heiman	Head Coach, MS Womens	11/11	\$3494 *

* Salary pending 2011/2011 contract negotiations

Personnel Recommendation – Appointment – Swim Program – School Year 2011/2012

Stephen O’Leary	Lifeguard	School Year 2011/2012	\$12.50 ph
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Non-Teaching Personnel – Substitute

Carolina Izzo	Security Aide PT Substitute	12/6/2011	\$24.27 ph *
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* Salary pending 2011-2012 contract negotiations

2. Finance

a. Budget Reports

That the Board of Education approve the following:

- Approval Transfers as of December 5, 2011
- Informational Transfers as of December 5, 2011
- Budget Status Report as of August and September, 2011
- Revenue Status Report as of August and September 2011

b. Treasurer Reports

That the Board of Education approve the following:

- Treasurer’s Report for August and September, 2011
- Trial Balance as of August and September, 2011
- Cash Flow Projection as of August and September, 2011

c. Payment of Bills

December 1, 2011

General Fund A	\$2,129,920.83
Trust & Agency	\$2,699,579.50
Federal	\$ 43,718.29
School Lunch	\$ 96,540.06
Capital	\$ 564,516.77
Child Care	\$ 4,966.98
Net Payroll	\$3,863,861.89

4. Miscellaneous

Approval of Minutes

That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Board Meeting of November 14, 2011.

Recess Regular Meeting

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Rothman that the Board of Education recess the meeting.

The meeting was recessed at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Fischer
District Clerk

Approved: _____
Gary Bettan, President

School Climate Workshop

Mr. Dempsey stated that last year the Board looked into school climate. School climate is the quality and character of school life. He stated we surveyed students, staff and parents about the school climate. The survey showed the areas of strength and what aspects of school culture that have to be addressed. He stated that school climate supports and encourages academic performance. It helps our students to become good citizens. Attention to the social and emotional needs of our students is an essential part of the overall success of our students. The State is asking schools to make children ready for college. We also have to create an environment that is compassionate, disciplined and caring.

Student and High School Climate

Mr. Murray stated that at the high school we wanted to see how we've grown. He discussed the SOS/TAG joint project that was taken on this year. Eric Berkenhead spoke about this program. He discussed the 9/11 Memorial Garden which is a collaborative project between High School TAG, Student Government and SOS. He stated that the work in this Garden was done by the students involved in these groups. Eric showed some pictures that were taken with the students working in the Garden. He thanked everyone for doing an outstanding job.

Daniel Borko and Rachel Hockberg spoke on behalf of the student government. She is a member of SOS. She engaged in new social interactions. Barriers were broken. Daniel Borko thanked Eric for a job well done. Daniel stated that he reached out to new people through TAG. He would never have met these people. He thanked all the teachers and students that worked on this Garden.

Mr. Murray stated that the Memorial Garden is an on going project. He commended Mr. Campanelli, Anne Marie LaBlanc, Ms. Carollo and Mr. Miller.

Mr. Murray discussed the STRIDES proposal. Jennifer Shapp explained that the STRIDES Club stands for Sexuality, Tolerance, Respect, Individuality, Diversity, and Equality for all Students. Ms. Shapp stated that they created an environment in which to speak about anything freely. She stated that they want to change the name of STRIDES TO GSA. She explained why the group wants to change its name. They want to promote awareness among the students. They want to spark an interest and let them be able to find out more. It is showing support. It is a relevant club. She is very appreciative of the Board of Education's support.

Mrs. Lieberman asked if the group has thought about going into the 10th grade.

Mr. Dempsey stated that he was impressed by the work of STRIDES. Administration supports their request to change the name.

Mr. Murray thanked Mr. Jeffery Drossman and Sara Horny, the advisors.

Josh Sekler and Alexa Dickman explained that the Peer Mentoring Club helps 8th graders making the transition into the high school. He discussed High School 101. 8th grade students ask any questions. 8th grade orientation is in January. At that time they are introduced to what is available in the high school. They thanked PTA and the Board of Education for their support.

Mr. Murray expressed his views that this program also breaks barriers in the high school.

Discussion:

Mrs. Bernstein thanked Mr. Murray and the wonderfully articulate students that explained to the Board what these clubs are about and for having these clubs.

Mrs. Lieberman stated that she is profoundly proud of our kids. We are fostering the acceptance for who and what every student is. The level of understanding diversity is wonderful. She thanked the kids, parents and staff.

Mrs. Rothman stated that the American School Board Journal had an article on the subjects that are being discussed this evening. This evening was a wonderful opportunity to hear from our students.

Mrs. Pierno felt that there was a high level of respect, trust and diversity in our high school. She asked if this is an area of concern.

Mr. Murray stated these are areas we wanted to pursue.

Mr. Dempsey stated there is always room for growth in these areas.

Mrs. Pierno asked if the Peer Mentoring program has seen fewer issues with these students.

Mr. Murray stated that the feedback from the parents is that the students feel very comfortable in the school. They love it.

Mr. Cepeda noted that the issues being addressed are not exclusive to the schools. He is happy we are bringing in outside people.

Mr. Murray stated we have the Mix It Up Program. We have Moot Court which brings in different attorneys. We invite senior citizens to the Senior Tea.

Mr. Cepeda expressed his views that it is an important component. It is important to have the right role model.

Mr. Bettan complimented every teacher, administrator and student for making our students get an enriched program. These kids are going to get more out of school. It helps kids to feel better about themselves. He thanked Mr. Murray, the administrators and teachers.

Mr. Jonas stated he is very proud of our kids.

Mrs. Bernstein expressed her views that it is important for the Board to connect with the students in this way. She would like to hear from the students on how these programs affect their lives not just in the high school.

Mrs. Schulman stated that student feed back is very important.

School Climate in the Elementary Schools

All the elementary principals participated in this discussion. Ms. Leiboff stated that the parents filled out the survey. She stated that she stressed to the parents the importance of the survey in forming a school community. She stressed the classroom community. The community cares about the students. The parent community was also discussed. She lets the parents know the school's rules. Every adult in the building will have the same expectations. She read the Kindergarten Center student pledge. They want to build a culture of kids feeling safe and connected.

Ms. Clark stated they want to build a school of common understanding of behavior and expectations. She spoke of the assemblies to let the children know the expectations. She spoke of activities that go on in Stratford Road and activities that bring in members of the community. By creating common expectations, she stated kids feel comfortable in the school.

Ms. Miller stated a major piece is the interschool visitations when the kindergarten students visit the elementary schools and when the fourth grade students visit the middle schools. She spoke of new students in the school. She was not referring to the students coming from the Kindergarten Center because these kids have already made friends. She stated that every class is responsible for making posters about good citizenship and anti bullying. They remain up the entire year. The entire staff read the survey. She spoke of the new programs that were brought into the schools. She spoke of the anti bullying program that Pasadena brought in. The kids have the power to make things good for everyone else.

Ms. Gray stated that the most important thing she gets is support from her colleagues. Social, emotional security is an area Old Bethpage wants to work on. She told how this was being accomplished at Old Bethpage. She discussed focusing on open communication.

Ms. Hershkowitz noted how proud she is of the high school kids. She congratulated the high school. She spoke of how Parkway wages the battle against bullying. They use the Bully Frog Program. She spoke of Fill the Bucket Program. They work very closely with PTA. Every morning they recite an anti bullying pledge. They build on the character education program. She spoke of the programs PTA brings in. She reviewed the charities the children were involved in. Ms. Hershkowitz stated they try to teach the children to be civil.

Mr. Dempsey spoke of language and the age appropriate language that is understandable for all the kids. We have to be able to communicate it to all our children. We have to have a K-12 commonality. We need to create an opportunity for common behavior but also create individuality.

Ms. Leiboff stated it should be a framework of working through the grade.

Mrs. Lieberman stated that continuity between the grades is important. She stated that words hurt. The kids have to be taught that words hurt. There have to be positive words. She noted that our kids are respectful of each other. Mrs. Lieberman stated that they are doing a great job.

Mrs. Schulman asked how we are addressing diversity in the elementary level. What feedback do we receive from the children.

Ms. Clark stated with regard to diversity they do all types of student awareness. They work as a team. She spoke of the programs that are done in the classrooms.

Ms. Hershkowitz stated that with regard to diversity they are not far afield from things done in the past. The social worker has special meetings with fourth graders.

Mrs. Rothman expressed her views that the activities are truly amazing. She stated that common language and common expectations are very important. Are there any common programs or curriculum. Do we have a consistent viewpoint for our children and community.

Ms. Miller stated all schools share programs. Kids On The Block is in all the elementary schools. Me and My Family is in all the elementary schools. Elementary kids are very accepting and very forgiving. There is support within the school. She would like to see more education for parents.

Mr. Cepeda complimented each principal for their leadership in bringing issues to the children. He expressed his views that we need to walk the talk. We need to model the behavior across our district and across our community.

Ms. Leiboff spoke of “in the moment teaching”.

Mrs. Bernstein would prefer us to develop our own common program. It is important for us to work together to develop these programs. We do amazing things at every level. She is very proud that we are a tolerant community as a whole. We always do these things but we don't always discuss them. Mrs. Bernstein thanked them for their input and discussions.

Mrs. Pierno is very impressed with the programs. She feels the climate is good. She asked about social, emotional security. She asked what they learned from the survey particular to their program.

Ms. Gray stated the survey shows the boys are less secure. She spoke of physical surroundings. She spoke of the kids frustrations.

Mrs. Rothman asked what strategies have been successful in a bullying situation. With the older kids is there any concern with cyber bullying.

Ms. Miller stated that cyber bullying is very minimal. Young children don't always know things hurt. They think some things are funny when they are not. The majority of the time with small children the behavior changes for the positive. Teasing is of the verbal type.

Mrs. Schulman asked what the most surprising comment on the survey was.

Ms. Miller stated security on the buses is where children felt less secure. They feel safe and secure in school and less secure on the bus.

Mrs. Lieberman asked if getting things across to parents is more difficult now because of cultural differences.

Ms. Leiboff stated it is not a barrier.

Mrs. Lieberman noted that different cultures have different ways to handle different things.

Mr. Dempsey stated that the survey leads to more questions.

Mr. Bettan asked at what point we should incorporate overcoming adversity.

Ms. Clark stated that we want things to be a learning experience. The children are asked to do self reflection. She noted that they discuss their choices.

Ms. Hershkowitz stated that we have to bring feeling and empathy to all our children.

Ms. Leiboff stated that children have to learn to deal with disappointment.

Ms. Miller stated that kids have to be accountable.

Mr. Bettan thanked all the principals for their presentation.

School Climate in the Middle Schools

Mr. Middleman and Mr. McNamara spoke of their efforts to improve school climate and to connect it to the survey results.

Mr. Middleman spoke of putting data back in the hands of the teachers. He did an electronic interactive presentation with the Board.

Mr. McNamara discussed staff emotional security.

Mr. Middleman discussed making kids feel good about themselves. Making kids safe in the classroom helps them access the curriculum.

Mr. McNamara stated that we want students and staff to own it. Respect is evident everywhere in the building. He noted that both schools run similar programs.

Mr. Middleman spoke of children being engaged and learning the goals of the schools. He stated that social, emotional learning is a missing piece.

Mr. McNamara stated that he asks our teachers to eliminate barriers.

Mr. Middleman spoke of modeling behavior of students and modeling behavior of the staff. He spoke of events occurring in the buildings. They looked for leadership opportunities for their students. He spoke of things that create a positive climate. He spoke of the strengths of our staff.

Discussion:

Mrs. Rothman thanked Mr. Middleman and Mr. McNamara for their report. She read an article that stated “blame” is toxic.

Mrs. Bernstein also thanked them for their report. She stated that respect has to be infused in everything we do. This is the only way we can impact the climate. She stated that she would like to hear what changes have been made in the buildings based on the journey that we have begun.

Mrs. Schulman stated that giving children ownership is very interesting. It is great that we get kids feed back on who they are going to for help.

Mr. Cepeda thanked the principals and their teams. He asked Mr. McNamara to speak about some of the outside programs brought into his schools. Mr. Cepeda wanted to acknowledge Mr. Sheldon Sackstein, Chairman of Action Long Island for hosting the Kids in Action program in Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School.

Mr. McNamara spoke about the program and stated that it was a wonderful program. He expressed his views that there is much value to these outside programs.

Mrs. Lieberman stated that a lot of stuff that is being done is great. These programs give kids a chance to understand that they are all going through the same things. She expressed her views that the middle schools are the hardest time for kids.

Mrs. Pierno stated that intentionality is very important and has great impact. Student engagement is also very important. She spoke of the projects created by kids themselves. Is every kid involved.

Mr. McNamara explained who started each program.

Mr. Bettan asked if MAP is beneficial. Is it becoming what we anticipated.

Mr. Middleman stated that having MAP earlier in the day has helped invigorate MAP.

Mrs. Rothman discussed a program she read about.

Mrs. Bernstein stated that so many of the things that were spoken about tonight were the thought process behind MAP. They will use MAP time to accomplish what the Board envisioned.

Mr. Bettan thanked the principals, the administrative staff, the teachers and the aides.

DASA Update

Mr. Dempsey updated the Board on the DASA Committee. He stated that we are still waiting for State guidance. The State will ask the role of the Dignity Act Coordinator in each building. Mr. Dempsey noted that the Board of Regents has moved into many reform areas. State guidance will be coming before February. Some buildings have teams in place already. The next couple of meetings will generate what the team is responsible for. Every adult in the building will be trained to identify bullying. Mr. Dempsey thanked the head of the DASA Committee. He also thanked the teachers, parents and administrators.

Mrs. Pierno stated that she attended a seminar on DASA in Buffalo at the New York State School Boards Convention. She noted that we are way ahead of most schools in New York State.

Mr. Dempsey stated we have a head start but there is still a lot to be done.

Mr. Bettan asked if we are to provide training for our staff, do we have to create the training.

Mr. Dempsey stated they have to be fairly prescriptive.

Mrs. Bernstein stated that we are working in the right direction.

External Pressures

Mr. Dempsey stated that this is a very challenging time for public education. Resources are in short supply. The Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education have set a reform agenda. He spoke of the Common Core learning standards, the evaluation of teachers and administrators and other programs and reforms that are going on. All present huge problems. Public education is in a contentious state. School climate issues will be affected by these pressures.

Mr. Bettan stated it will take a level of communication and trust. It will not be easy but if we all work together we can accomplish this.

Adjournment

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mr. Cepeda that the Board of Education adjourn the School Climate Workshop.

The workshop was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Fischer
District Clerk

Approved: _____
Gary Bettan, President

The regular meeting was reconvened at 11:30 p.m.

Acting District Clerk

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Rothman, seconded by Mrs. Schulman that the Board of Education appoint Mr. Jonas Acting District Clerk.

Adjournment

Resolved unanimously upon motion by Mrs. Lieberman, seconded by Mrs. Bernstein that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Arthur Jonas
Acting District Clerk

Approved: _____
Gary Bettan, President