

**BUSINESS MEETING PAGE 054 JANUARY 14, 2015  
SOUTH COUNTRY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Vice President, Carol Herrmann called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. The meeting took place at District Office, 189 Dunton Ave, E. Patchogue, NY.

Board of Education Members Present

Rocco DeVito  
Lisa Di Santo  
Carol Herrmann  
Antoinette Huffine

Julio Morales (*arrived at 6:35 pm*)  
Rob Powell  
Danielle Skelly  
Allison Stines  
Cassidy Greco (*Student Ex-Officio Member*)

Board Members Absent: Chris Picini.

Others Present: Superintendent Dr. Joseph Giani, Nelson Briggs, Charles Delargy, Margaret Evers, Robert McIntyre, School Attorney, Douglas Spencer.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion (Stines / DeVito) to convene to Executive Session at 6:35 pm to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation tool and a proposed settlement agreement with the BTA.

**VOTE:** *Motion carries unanimously . 7-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Picini, Morales).*

Public session reconvened at 7:40 pm.

Trustee Powell led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held in honor of former Board of Education Trustee and District teacher, Ellie Mahoney, who recently passed away.

**B. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES / SMOKE FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Vice President Herrmann discussed the exits to be used in the event of an emergency and reminded all present that the South Country School District is a smoke-free District, with smoking prohibited in all buildings and on school grounds.

**C. BOARD CONSENT AGENDA – APPROVALS**

**A motion (Stines / DeVito ) to approve the following:**

1. Minutes- Business Meeting of December 10, 2014, as amended.
2. Minutes- Special Meeting of December 17, 2014
3. Claims Reports- September, 2014
4. Treasurer's Report- November, 2014
5. 2015 Election Inspectors

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Education hereby approves the following persons to serve as Chief Election Inspector and Election Inspector for the 2014-2015 school year at the hourly rates set forth below:

**Chief Election Inspector    \$14.50 per hour**  
Alison Neumann

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<b>Election Inspectors</b>	<b>\$12.50 per hour</b>	
Joan Blum	Kathleen Kocher	Darlene Towlen
Patricia Bragoli	Joyce Kinney	Ann Vergona
Joanne Colosa	Kathleen Leone	Rose Ventiere
Frances Cornacchiulo	Dawn Moore	Jimmie Webb
Courtney Davis	Paul Neumann III	Nita Webb
Mary Dunbar	Michael Risolo	
LaNel Kavander	Toni Risolo	

6. 2015 South Country Library Vote

**RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a Special Meeting of the voters of the District to be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 for the purpose of considering and voting upon the adoption of the **South Country Library** budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and to elect three [3] Trustees of the South Country Library to fill three-year terms commencing with the May 21, 2015 regular Board meeting and ending May 16, 2018.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the District Clerk is authorized to publish the “Notice of Special District Meeting” as provided for in Education Law 2004.

7. 2015 Brookhaven Free Library Vote

**RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a Special Meeting of the voters of the District to be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 for the purpose of considering and voting upon the adoption of the **Brookhaven Free Library** budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the District Clerk is authorized to publish the “Notice of Special District Meeting” as provided for in Education Law 2004.

**VOTE:** *Motion carries.* 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Picini).

**D. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Gianì

- Congratulations to the BMS History Team who were recently recognized by the Brookhaven Town Board for winning First Place in the History League Competition at Sayville Middle School.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving Up Ceremony will remain as scheduled due to other potential conflicts if changed.
- The January 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting will be our first budget presentation.

Student and Staff Commendations

Athletic Director, Bob McIntyre, acknowledged the following Zone Award recipients and Fall All County Athletes:

Volleyball

Toni Parente All County Volleyball

Samantha Colombo, All County Volleyball

Hailey Wagner, #1 Academic All County Volleyball, NYS High School Heisman Award Winner

Football

Adrien del Rosario, All County Football

Nikolas Fountis, All County Football

Conor Haverty, All County Football

Andrew Trent, All County Football.

Kreamer St Phys Ed teacher, Kerry Hogan, was also recognized for her presentation using technology in the Phys Ed setting at the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual NYS Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Conference.

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### Board of Education

- News updates needed on the District's Athletic website.
- Thanks to Barbara Butler, Principal at William Floyd HS, for hosting South Country members to look at their model for Security and Student ID program. It was a wonderful experience for all.
- Reminder that BHS Curriculum Night and Parent University are being held next week, January 21<sup>st</sup> at Bellport HS, 6:30 and 7pm respectively.
- Thanks to the staff and students of the Frank P. Long Music Dept for their excellent Winter Concert.
- Thanks to the South Country Education Foundation for sponsoring and the students and staff involved with the Dancing Classrooms program at Frank P. Long.
- The Bellport HS Student Council was involved in many community service activities over the holidays, creating food baskets as well as participating in the "Christmas in a Shoebox" program.

### **E. PUBLIC COMMENTARY (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

*None.*

### **F. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**A motion (Stines / Huffine) to approve the following:**

#### 1. Mandatory State Field Testing

**WHEREAS**, mandatory New York State assessment tests in ELA and math are given to New York students in grades 3 through 8 during April of each school year which is the beginning of the Fourth quarter of the school year. The South Country Central School District Board of Education believes this timing is dictated by the needs of the State Education Department teachers' and principals' accountability system, known as APPR;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education believes the quality of instruction of all students in grades 3-8 grade is lowered by mandatory testing practices of the State Education Department resulting in the reduction of students' learning opportunities;

**WHEREAS**, these mandatory tests are developed, in part, through the administration of additional "field tests" used by testing companies to develop appropriate questions for future tests;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education believes the testing companies realize a commercial profit by using children and taxpayer resources to advance their business plans;

**WHEREAS**, in the past, a district's participation in these "field tests" was on a voluntary basis;

**WHEREAS**, the State Education Department has proposed amending certain Regulations of the Commissioner of Education such that New York school districts would be required to administer the "field tests". The Board of Education believes this will result in the use of more instructional time for the purpose of advancing a mandatory testing system organized and based, in part, on APPR, not on the basis of what is best for children;

**WHEREAS**, the Regents are considering the proposal of the State Education Department to make the administration of these "field tests" mandatory;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education believes additional mandatory testing will force children and districts to, in effect, subsidize the profit-making work of testing companies thus using public resources and private families for the purpose of advancing a private business plan.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the South Country Central School District Board of Education disagrees strongly with any additional mandatory testing and urges the Regents to reject the State Education Department's proposal to make "field tests" mandatory and to reconsider its

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approach to assessing student learning and teacher and/or principal effectiveness. The Board of Education believes that a decision to increase mandatory testing would hurt children and abuse the public trust by subsidizing private enterprise without public discussion.

**VOTE:** *Motion carries unanimously . 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Picini).*

2. Strategic Plan Status

The Strategic Planning Committee has been working very hard and the draft plan is close to completion. Thanks to Mr. Jimenez for his work on the committee.

**G. BOARD CONSENT AGENDA – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

**A motion (Di Santo / DeVito) to approve the following:**

1. CSE/SCSE Minutes
2. CPSE Minute
3. Field Trip Application- Yale High School Track Classic

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a field trip for the Girls' winter track team to travel to New Haven, Connecticut, on Friday, January 16, 2015 through Saturday, January 17, 2015 to compete in the Yale High School Track Classic. The cost to the district is \$3000.00 to cover the cost of transportation, hotel accommodations and the entry fee.

4. Foreign Exchange Student

**RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the enrollment of Foreign Exchange Student “████” for the 2015 spring semester at Bellport HS, in accordance with Board Policy # 7132.

**VOTE:** *Motion carries unanimously .8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Picini).*

**H. BOARD CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL**

**A motion (Stines / DeVito) to approve the following items, H1 through H3 and H5 through H8:**

1. Leaves of Absences
2. Instructional Appointments
3. Non-Instructional Appointments
5. Additional Work
6. Salary Schedule Changes / Adjustments
7. Tenure Recommendations
8. Substitutes

**VOTE:** *Motion carries unanimously .8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Picini).*

**A motion (DeVito /Stines) to approve the following items, H4.2 through H4.4**

4. Long-Term Substitutes.

**VOTE:** *Motion carries unanimously .8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Picini).*

**A motion (Stines / Di Santo) to approve the following item, H4.1:**

4. Long Term Substitutes

**VOTE:** *Motion carries. 7-Yes, 0-No, 1-Abstain (Powell), Absent (Picini).*

*Trustee Powell disclosed that this item referred to his daughter.*

**I. BOARD CONSENT AGENDA – BUSINESS**

**A motion (Huffine / DeVito) to approve the following:**

1. Discard of broken computers from Bellport High School
2. Discard of broken walk-in freezer from Bellport Middle School
3. Appointment of Underwriter for Refunding of Bonds- Jefferies LLC

The Board of Education of the South Country School District hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. The District received four ( 4) proposals for the refunding of all or a portion of the outstanding balances of the School District (Serial) Bonds- 2006, Series A and School District (Serial) Bonds- 2006, Series B of the District, and based upon the advice received from the District's Financial Advisor, Munistat Services, Inc., it is hereby determined that the proposal of Jefferies LLC is hereby accepted and such firm is appointed to serve as underwriter.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

4. Education Services Agreement- Henry Viscardi School
5. MOA with BTA- Elementary Science Organizer
6. MOA with BTA- Final Year Increment and Retirement Incentive
7. Funding from DonorsChoose.org
8. Consultant Services Contract with Clayton R Cook (Sound Educational and Psychological Services, PS, Inc.)

**VOTE:** *Motion carries unanimously .8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Picini).*

**J. PUBLIC COMMENTARY (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**

Darlene Mercurio (resident): Commented on Smart Schools Bond Act and Common Core.

James Vaughan (resident): Commented on the Veterans Tax Exemption Credit.

**K. CLOSING REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

- Thank you to DonorsChoose.org for their funding of Mrs. Zaffarano's, Mrs. Pettit's and Mrs. Havens' classrooms.
- Request to begin process for dedication memorial for former Board Trustee and teacher, Ellie Mahoney.
- Concern for keeping legal fees down.
- Status of Caithness internship.
- Concern regarding number of teaching assistants.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion (Stines / DeVito ) to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.**

**VOTE:** *Motion carries unanimously .8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Picini).*

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy Poulos*

Nancy Poulos  
District Clerk

Attachments