

2016-10-17

MINUTES

October 17, 2016  
Regular Meeting  
Education House

Members Present: Rosemarie Eller, Charlie Norris, Sheryl Brady, Cayne Letizia, Rose Lovitch,

Members Absent: James Hricay, Randy Stein

Others Present: Dr. Smith, staff members, guests

Mrs. Eller called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M., led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement. She welcomed Dr. Howard Smith to the district and his first meeting as Acting Superintendent of Schools. She said the Board of Education looks forward to working with him to move the district forward.

- I. Opening of Meeting: Dr. Smith requested a moment of silence in memory of Doris Barnes, ESOL teacher at Rochambeau School for 30 years, and Wilbert Teachey, a Districtwide Grounds Worker for 27 years.

Mrs. Eller - reported on her attendance at the Ridgeway PTA meeting which had a great turnout and said she expects to get around to all the schools. She also thanked Rochambeau School staff for their presence tonight.

In celebration of School Board Recognition Week, union and PTA representatives thanked the Board Members for their "passion and perseverance" and for the countless hours which they contribute on behalf of the children of White Plains. Speakers were Rob Dell'Orletta (CSEA), Kerry Broderick (Teachers Association) and Kristine Holden (PTA Council).

- II. Communications: None

- III. Public Participation: Three parents, Dr. Galit Dardashti, Rev. Noel D'Amico and Colleen Rodriguez introduced the Recess Committee to Dr. Smith and said they look forward to discussing this issue further. They have been pleased with the response of the Board of Education.

- IV. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Smith said he is pleased to be here and has been impressed by the level of involvement and positive energy of people in the district. He is committed to supporting programs and not adding more.

Dr. Smith congratulated Lisa Sherman, Health Education Teacher at Highlands Middle School, who received the 2016 Distinguished Services Award from the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance.

He also announced the National Merit Scholarship Commended Students (in addition to the three Semifinalists named last month).

10/17/16

VI. Other Action: (Taken out of order due to a prior commitment of the independent auditor.)

3. Dr. Smith recommended acceptance of the Independent Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2016. Assistant Superintendent for Business Ann Vaccaro-Teich introduced David Tellier, Partner at Nawrocki Smith LLP, district auditor, who made a brief presentation. The auditors were very pleased with the way the books and records were compiled and commended the Business Office for that and for accomplishing the difficult task of meeting the filing deadline. He said this was a “very clean audit with no material weaknesses in the controls of the district.” We remain within all allowable limits of the tax cap and in a good position to move forward and face the challenges ahead for all school districts. Some suggestions were made for the current year and Ms. Vaccaro-Teich has a plan to implement these.

On motion by Mr. Norris seconded by Mrs. Lovitch, the Board voted unanimously in favor (five voting).

V. Summary Action Items:

#20b: Mrs. Schoenfeld noted a change in the back-up. Two names were removed.

On motion by Mrs. Brady, seconded by Mr. Norris, the Board voted unanimously (five voting) to adopt Summary Action Items #1-21, as listed on the Agenda and as follows:

1. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 12, and the Special Meetings of September 8, 19, and 26, 2016.
2. Approval to arrange for the appropriate program and services for students with disabilities, as recommended by the Committee on Special Education: 44 cases.
3. Approval to arrange for the appropriate program and services for students with disabilities, as recommended by the Committee on Preschool Special Education: 28 cases.
4. Approval that all employees previously granted a conditional appointment and who have not received clearance from the State Education Department be granted another conditional appointment for 20 days.

Civil Service Staffing

5. Acceptance of the resignation of Linda Dahdal, Food Service Helper, George Washington School, effective 10/12/16.
6. Approval of the 52-week Probationary appointment of Felix Torres, Grounds Worker, Districtwide, effective 11/1/16 (replacing S. Sansotta).
7. Approval of the 26-week Probationary appointment of Richard Manorqui, Maintenance Mechanic, Districtwide, effective 10/18/16 (replacing R. Efferen).
8. Approval of the creation of the position of Coordinator, Family Information Center, effective 10/18/16, as per attachment V-8.

Teacher Staffing

9. Acceptance of the resignation of Narado Burrell, Teaching Assistant, Middle School-Highlands, effective 10/11/16.
10. Approval to amend effective dates of the unpaid childcare leave of Kathleen Alvarez, Teaching Assistant, Church Street School, from 9/1/16-11/30/16 to 10/21/16-11/30/16.
11. Approval for the increase in hours for Tania Noriega, Teaching Assistant, Middle School-Highlands, from 6 hours to 6.5 hours, effective 9/1/16.
12. Approval of the Probationary appointments of the following Teaching Assistants:
  - Kyle DeBatte (Replacing H. Davidson)  
Current Assignment: Middle School-Highlands (6.5 hours)  
Step 3, \$27.47/hour  
Probationary Period: 10/18/16-10/17/20
  - Jonathan Arenas (Replacing V. Luciano-Lucenti)  
Current Assignment: Middle School-Highlands (6.5 hours)  
Step 3, \$27.47/hour  
Probationary Period: 10/18/16-10/17/20
13. Approval to amend the Probationary periods of the following Teaching Assistants:
  - Felicia Ortiz, Ridgeway School, from 9/1/16-8/31/20 to 9/1/16-8/31/19
  - Kaylin Gilmartin-Donahue, George Washington School, from 9/1/15-8/31/19 to 9/1/15-8/31/20
14. Acceptance of the resignations of:
  - Kimberly Montesione, Library Media Specialist, Ridgeway School, effective 10/8/16
  - Kelly Reinhardt, Part-time Speech Language Pathologist, Districtwide, effective 11/1/16
15. Approval of the revised childcare leave for Antonella Agudelo, Mathematics Teacher, Rochambeau School, effective 10/24/16-1/31/17.
16. Approval of unpaid leaves of absence for the following:
  - Jonathan Joseph, Social Studies Teacher, High School, effective 10/19/16-1/30/17
  - Rosana Lopez, Language Teacher, Middle School-Highlands, effective 10/20/16-1/30/17
  - Linda Briceno-Ziegler, Elementary Teacher, Ridgeway School, effective 9/23/16-1/31/17
17. Approval of an unpaid leave of absence for Ella Guarin, Guidance Counselor, Middle School-Highlands, effective 2/1/17-6/30/17.
18. Approval of .1 increases in time for the following teachers, effective 8/30/16-6/30/17:
  - Lisa Vushaj, Science Teacher, High School/Rochambeau
  - Chris Nolan, Special Education Teacher, High School

10/17/16

## 19. Approval of the Probationary appointment of:

Kelly Reinhardt** MA + 15 (Replacing C. Stratchan)	Speech Language Pathologist, Ridgeway School Certification: Professional, Speech and Language Disabilities Tenure Area: Speech Step: Teachers - 4 Recommended Salary: \$74,648, prorated Probationary Dates: 11/1/16-10/31/20
--	--

## 20. Approval of compensation for the following, as per attachment V-20:

- a. 2016-17 Professional, Curriculum and Technology, Development Activities and Miscellaneous Stipends
- b. 2016-17 Interscholastic/Co-Curricular Appointments
- c. 2016-17 Extended Day Programs Appointments

## 21. Approval of the appointment of districtwide per diem Substitute Teachers, per diem Substitute Teaching Assistants, Building Substitute Teachers, Test Scorers, Substitute Clerical Support, Substitute Security Assistants, Substitute Nurses, Substitute Food Service Workers and Substitute Custodial Workers, as per attachment V-21.

*\*All of these appointments are conditional, subject to and contingent upon, the satisfactory completion of the fingerprinting process and investigatory background check required by the New York State Education Law. The Board of Education reserves the right to rescind these appointments without notice, upon receipt of any unsatisfactory report resulting from the aforementioned background check.*

*\*\* These appointments are contingent upon achievement of effective or highly effective APPR ratings necessary to receive tenure throughout his/her probationary period, consistent with the requirements of Education Law Section 3012, 3012-c and/or 3012-d.*

VI. Other Action:

1. Dr. Smith recommended acceptance of the resignation of Jessica O'Donovan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, effective 12/31/16. With reluctance, Mrs. Lovitch moved, Mrs. Brady seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor (five voting). The Board thanked Ms. O'Donovan for her service to the district.
2. Dr. Smith recommended approval of the appointment of Jonathan Joseph to the temporary substitute position of Interim House Administrator, High School, effective 10/19/16-1/30/17, pending certification (replacing J. Rappaport). Mrs. Brady moved, Mr. Norris seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor (five voting).
3. Audit -- See page 2.
4. Dr. Smith recommended approval of the Treasurer's Report for August, 2016, as per attachment VI-4. Mrs. Brady moved, Mr. Norris seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor (five voting).

5. Dr. Smith recommended approval of the Revenue & Expenditure Report for September, 2016, as per attachment VI-5. On motion by Mr. Norris, seconded by Mrs. Lovitch, the Board voted unanimously in favor (five voting).
6. Dr. Smith recommended approval of Fund Balance Allocation as of June 30, 2016 in accordance with Board Policy #3110, as per attachment VI-6. Mrs. Lovitch moved, Mrs. Brady seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor (five voting).
7. Dr. Smith recommended acceptance of the Audit Committee minutes of October 10, 2016, and recommendations, as per attachment VI-7. On motion by Mr. Norris, seconded by Mrs. Brady, the Board voted unanimously in favor (five voting).
8. Dr. Smith recommended approval of 2016-17 Budget Transfer to reflect a reclassification to the appropriate budget code, as per attachment VI-8. Mr. Norris moved, Mrs. Brady seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor (five voting).
9. Dr. Smith recommended approval of counsel's recommendation for a resolution pertaining to tax certiorari settlements, as per attachment VI-9. On motion by Mrs. Lovitch, seconded by Mrs. Brady, the Board voted unanimously in favor (five voting).
10. Dr. Smith recommended approval to appoint Kimberly Crawford as a DASA (Dignity for All Students) Coordinator for the 2016-17 school year. Mrs. Brady moved, Mr. Norris seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor (five voting).

## VII. Board Discussion

1. Draft of 2016-17 Goals: Dr. Smith presented a draft of Board/District Goal Topics for the current school year. Included are Dual Language Program Capacity, Elementary School Choice, District Level Systems Evaluation and Support for Current Initiatives. He reviewed these and asked for Board input in order to finalize them.
2. Budget Calendar Draft: Ms. Vaccaro-Teich reviewed this schedule for next year's budget development process, culminating in the Budget Vote and Election on May 16, 2017. This will be refined and finalized.
3. Board Committee Reports: The Finance Committee discussed the Audit results; Human Resources met and discussed confidential matters; Curriculum discussed LATIC and AVID, among other topics; the Special Education Committee will be visiting Mamaroneck Avenue School later this week and the integrated co-teaching class is going well.

At 8:35 P.M. Mrs. Eller thanked the television crew and Mrs. Brady moved adjournment. Mr. Norris seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor (five voting).

Respectfully submitted,

  
Clerk of the Board