

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
599 Bedford Road
Pocantico Hills
Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591**

Discussion Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2009

The Discussion Meeting of the Board of Education of the Pocantico Hills Central School District was held on Tuesday, January 20 at 8:02 p.m. in the School Auditorium, Bedford Road, Sleepy Hollow, and New York.

With no objection from the Board, Vice President Katherine Yu called the Business Meeting to order at 8:02 p.m. **CALL TO ORDER**

Superintendent Freddie D. Smith led the pledge of allegiance. Before the pledge of allegiance was led, there was a moment of silence for Carol Wilson who recently passed away. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Present: Robert Balog, President (stepped out at 8:25 p.m./returned at 8:55 p.m.)
Katherine Yu, Vice President
John Conrad, Trustee
Maurice Curran, Trustee (arrived 8:10 p.m.)
David Wilens, Trustee **ROLL CALL**

Also Present: Freddie D. Smith, Superintendent
Jay Scotto-Friedman, Assistant Superintendent
Gina L. Downes, District Clerk

Superintendent Announcements: Superintendent Dr. Freddie D. Smith announced the following: **SUPERINTENDENT / BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Sheila Stanton received a note from Brandywine thanking the school for visiting during the holiday season. All residents enjoyed the visit and look forward to another visit.

Three of our former students received special honors: Christopher Cruz (Briarcliff High School) has received a full scholarship to Penn University in the Fall; Elizabeth Cai and Melody Bates (Sleepy Hollow High School) are semi-finalists of the INTEL Science Talent Search 2009.

A teacher from The Gillispie School in La Jolla, CA sent a note of praise for the information she found on our website regarding Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by one of our former 2nd grade class. She has plans to use the information during her instruction for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The former editor of The Hudson Independent sent an email to one of our parents congratulating the students and staff of the school newspaper, "The Hawk" for a job well done.

Terry Hongell and Bobbie McCann recently worked with Toby Miller of the Westchester County Health Dept. on an observational survey in the cafeteria for the Wellness Committee. The results were favorable – 84% chose healthy beverages (56% took flavored milk and 56% selected juice), 53% selected fruit, 71% chose vegetables and 15% selected sandwiches on whole grain bread.

At a recent LHEC Superintendent's meeting it was mentioned that the MTA is proposing to impose a payroll tax on all employers in the twelve county MTA area. The LHEC is asking all districts to write a letter to their legislators opposing this MTA proposal.

Board President Robert Balog noted that the school was buzzing with activity for the Inauguration of our 44th President.

Hearing From Those Present: PTA President Brenda Misuraca thanked Superintendent Dr. Fred Smith and the Board for all of their support during their fundraising efforts. Mrs. Misuraca spoke briefly of their upcoming basketball fundraiser happening on Saturday, March 28, 2009.

HEARING FROM THOSE PRESENT

Book Adoption: On a motion by Trustee John Conrad, seconded by Trustee David Wilens and passed unanimously 4-0 the Board voted and approved the adoption of a new pre-Algebra book titled, “Algebra Concepts and Applications”, for the 8th grade.

NEW BUSINESS
Book Adoption

Executive Session: On a motion by Vice President Katherine Yu, seconded by Trustee David Wilens and passed unanimously 4-0 the Board moved into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss personnel.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Adjournment from Executive Session into Discussion Meeting: On a motion by Trustee Maurice Curran, seconded by Trustee John Conrad and passed unanimously 4-0 the Board moved out of Executive Session and back into the Discussion Meeting at 8:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION INTO DISCUSSION MEETING

Financial Reports: On a motion by Trustee David Wilens, seconded by Trustee John Conrad and passed unanimously 4-0 the Board voted and approved the following financial reports by consent agenda: Treasurer’s Report – November 2008, Warrant #6, Budget & Revenue Status Report – December 31, 2008 and Bond Payments as of December 31, 2008.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Trustee Maurice Curran, seconded by Trustee John Conrad and passed unanimously 5-0 the Board voted and approved the minutes of the January 5, 2009 Business Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
January 5, 2009

Special Presentation: The Board presented the 7th & 8th grade students with “Certificates of Achievement” for their recent achievements at the Academic Triathlon.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Glenn Brigham also presented to the Board the 7th & 8th grade ELO Bridge Unit project.

Construction Timeline: Joe Tola of Savin Engineering presented the DRAFT timeline of the upcoming Capital Improvement Project.

OLD BUSINESS
Construction Timeline

Policy Review: The Board will review suggested and/or revised policies from NYSSBA and solicit suggestions from the administration before approving the following policies: #0100 – Equal Opportunity; #5100 – Attendance; #5405 – Student Wellness; #5550 – Student Privacy. These policies will be brought back to the Board at the February 2, 2009 meeting.

Policy Review

Full Day Kindergarten: The Board has decided to discuss the possibility of full day Kindergarten as a framework during the upcoming budget discussions.

Full Day Kindergarten

2009-2010 School Calendar: Superintendent Dr. Fred Smith notified the Board that SWBOCES is still working on the 2009-2010 school calendar. He will bring the calendar back to the Board for approval at a future date.

2009-2010 School Calendar

Donation: On a motion by Trustee John Conrad, seconded by Trustee David Wilens and passed 4-1 (Trustee Maurice Curran voted no) the Board voted and approved the following resolution:

NEW BUSINESS
Donation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pocantico Hills Board of Education accept a \$400.00 donation from Foremost Development, LLC for use toward the purchase of the Guardian Angel rings.

Permit Renewal: On a motion by Trustee Maurice Curran, seconded by Trustee John Conrad and passed unanimously 5-0 the Board voted and approved the following resolution:

Permit Renewal

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Pocantico Hills Central School District with offices at 599 Bedford Road, Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591, hereby authorizes Jay Scotto-Friedman to execute and deliver to the Westchester County Department of Health, for and on behalf of said school district, an application for a permit to operate a food service establishment, to execute and deliver any and all additional documents which may be appropriate or desirable in connection therewith.

Settlement of Tax Certiorari Claim: On a motion by Trustee Maurice Curran, seconded by Trustee David Wilens and passed 4-1 (President Robert Balog abstained from voting) the Board voted and approved the following resolution:

Settlement of
Tax Certiorari
Claim

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX
CERTIORARI SETTLEMENT**

WHEREAS, petitions having been filed by the property owner, below challenging real property tax assessments on the assessment roll of the Town of Mount Pleasant, within the Pocantico Hills Central School District, with respect to the following property:

Property Owner	Address/Description	Year(s)
FREM 22 CO., LLC	22 Saw Mill River Road Tax ID: 116.7 – 1 – 5	2008

WHEREAS, petitioner's tax certiorari proceedings are now pending in Supreme Court, Westchester County; and

WHEREAS, the Town and the property owner had reached a resolution with regard to the assessments at issue involving this property for the 1999 through 2007 tax certiorari proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the School District had reviewed the settlement and has found that the terms of the settlement are reasonable; and

WHEREAS, this previous settlement is subject to the provisions in Real Property Tax Law Section 727; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 assessment has been entered on the assessment roll at the original assessment, rather than the reduced settlement; and

WHEREAS, the proposed settlement will reduce the 2008 assessment to conform to the 2007 reduced settlement assessment; and

WHEREAS, the settlement of these proceedings are in the best interests of the School District;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Special Counsel for Tax Certiorari are authorized to execute a settlement on behalf of the School District as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Original AV</u>	<u>Reduced AV</u>	<u>AV Reduction</u>
2008	128,800	84,450	44,350

The refund of School District taxes will amount to \$0±.

Proposal for Cultural Arts Programming: On a motion by Trustee Maurice Curran, seconded by President Robert Balog and passed 4-1 (Trustee David Wilens abstained from voting) voted and approved the following resolution:

Proposal for Cultural Arts Programming

BE IT RESOLVED, that it is hereby moved that the Board of Education of the Pocantico Hills Central School District at Sleepy Hollow, New York approve the 2008-2009 proposal dated January 2, 2009 received from the Tarrant-Reid Group in the amount of \$12,820 plus the cost of the digital video.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assistant Superintendent is hereby authorized to execute the proposal between the Tarrant-Reid Group and the Pocantico Hills Central School District.

Committees: On a motion by Trustee John Conrad, seconded by Trustee Maurice Curran and passed unanimously 5-0 the Board voted and approved the following committees and their members:

Committees

Sub- Tax Certiorari Committee: *Ted Sabety, Joseph Albert, Spencer Disher and Dr. Fred Smith.*

Tennis Committee: *Denise Willi, Nick Vander Els, Mark Leahy, Mark Golodetz, Tomek Kopczyński, Adam Brown, Dan Linehan, Bobbie McCann, and Dr. Fred Smith.*

Special Education: *Christina Conrad, Nicole Marples, Felicia Peterson, Madeline McDougal, Robin Huber, Debbie O'Neill, Eileen Vail, Roberta Weiner and Dr. Fred Smith.*

Fall ELO After School Program Instructors: On a motion by Trustee Maurice Curran, seconded by Trustee John Conrad and passed unanimously 5-0 the Board voted and approved the following appointments:

PERSONNEL
Fall ELO After School Program Instructors

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
6th Grade Bowling	Mario Suarez	\$390.00
6 th Grade Bowling	Laura Garrido	\$390.00
6 th Grade Bowling	James Cioffi	\$390.00

Discussion/Planning for Future Meetings: The following neighborhood meetings have been scheduled as follows:

DISCUSSION / PLANNING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, January 21 – Westchester Hills Condominium
Hosted by: Gina & Robert Downes
7:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 22 – Briggsville
Hosted by: Joan & Pat Cusanelli
7:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 29 – Pocantico Hills Hamlet
Hosted by: Kristin & Fred Rickles
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 4 – Pocantico Lakes
Hosted by: Kimberly & Stephen Rockefeller
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 11 – Beaver Hill
Hosted by: Walter & Isabel Rivera
7:30 p.m.

TBD – Pocantico Lakes & Pocantico Park Association

Adjournment from the Business Meeting: On a motion by Trustee Maurice Curran, seconded by Trustee John Conrad and passed unanimously 5-0 the Board adjourned the Business Meeting at 10:50 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT
FROM THE
BUSINESS
MEETING**

Respectfully submitted,
Gina L. Downes
District Clerk

Katherine Yu, School Board Vice President

Date: _____

Gina L. Downes, District Clerk

Date: _____