

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

Business Meeting
Monday, February 2, 2009

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education of the Pocantico Hills Central School District was held on Monday, February 2 at 8:01 p.m. in the School Library, Bedford Road, Sleepy Hollow, and New York.

With no objection from the Board, President Robert Balog called the Business Meeting to order at 8:01 p.m. **CALL TO ORDER**

The pledge of allegiance was conducted by students in the 5th through 8th grades. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Present: Robert Balog, President
Katherine Yu, Vice President
John Conrad, Trustee
Maurice Curran
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**

Dr. Smith updated the Board on the Security Alert put into effect at the school due to a police car chase.

David Levine has received 15 requests to date for before and after day camp care.

The Lions Club has asked our middle school students to participate in an eyeglass collection/donation.

WPSBA will be holding a Legislative Breakfast on Friday, February 27 at the Doubletree Hotel in Tarrytown.

Our visiting authors, Tonya Bolden and A'Lelia Bundles, will be in the school on February 3rd and 4th along with Blues Musician, Guy Davis on February 6.

Dr. Smith passed out the DRAFT school calendar for the 09/10 school year to be voted upon later in the evening.

Southern Westchester BOCES announced the appointment of Sandra Simpson as Deputy District Superintendent.

Dr. Smith delivered the following Budget message:

“Times like these that we are currently living in can create bonds and test them. I hope the bond that unites us going forward is our shared commitment to student achievement, which requires a collaborative approach that includes students, parents, teachers, district support staff, School Board members, local residents and businesses.

As a community, our priorities should be focused on high-reaching goals and clear expectations that support all students. We know that we need to support our teachers and provide the resources they need to help their students. That's why we have worked hard to find and keep skilled teachers, administrators, and support staff - and provided them with the resources they need to help students reach their goals.

As Superintendent of Schools, I have met many people in our community who generously give of their time and money to support our schools. Likewise, district employees work hard every day to help students achieve - whether they work in a classroom, a library, a cafeteria, a school bus, or an office. We are all part of this community for the same reason - for our children.

I know that our BOE and community shares this dedication to students and will assist in leading the district through this time of change with integrity, honesty, and a sincere commitment to the Pocantico community.

The 2009-2010 budget proposal for the Pocantico Hills Central School District represents the best effort of the District Leadership Team to present a budget that will continue to provide an education at the level Pocantico residents have come to expect, while being mindful of the cost to taxpayers.

As we begin the budget deliberation process, we must all keep in the forefront of our thinking – The excellence that Pocantico is known for. In doing so, the budget we ultimately adopt will be responsive to the needs of today’s students, generations of students to come, and citizens of Pocantico.

The process of developing this budget has truly focused on maintaining an effective, highly motivational system that answers the educational, social and emotional needs of each student. Recognizing the fact that this effectiveness depends on the ability of highly trained, dedicated teachers and strong support staff members, I have worked with the members of the District Leadership Team to develop a budget that truly reflects the current needs of our school and students.

The District Leadership team focused on three components of an effective system. Those components are:

- a) continuing those programs deemed to have helped students be successful in the past;
- b) reviewing those programs that have been less successful, are no longer essential, or have lower priority than others; and
- c) adding those programs that have potential for helping students to be even more successful.

As we have looked at all three components listed above, we have been able to develop a budget that works to enhance and strengthen our current programs.

We thank you for your invaluable contributions and continued support of the children of Pocantico!”

Hearing From Those Present: One community member commented on the salary of a member of the school district.

**HEARING FROM
THOSE PRESENT**

Another community member applauded the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Trustee David Wilens, seconded by Trustee Maurice Curran and passed unanimously 5-0 the Board voted and approved the January 20, 2009 Discussion Meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
January 20, 2009

Policy Review: The following policies will be brought back to the Board on February 23, 2009 for approval by the Board of Education: Policy #0100 – Equal Opportunity, Policy #5100 – Attendance, and Policy #5550 – Student Privacy.

OLD BUSINESS
Policy Review

2009-2010 School Calendar: On a motion by Trustee John Conrad, seconded by Trustee Maurice Curran and passed unanimously 5-0 the Board voted and approved the 2009-2010 academic calendar.

2009-2010 School Calendar

Special Education Committee: On a motion by Trustee Maurice Curran, seconded by Trustee John Conrad and passed unanimously 5-0 the Board voted and approved three additional members to the Special Education Committee as follows: Mary Ries, Beth Laub and Izel Obermeyer.

Special Education Committee

Budget Workshop: Assistant Superintendent Jay Scotto-Friedman presented the draft budget for the 2009-2010 school year.

NEW BUSINESS
Budget Workshop

Committee on Special Education: On a motion by Trustee Maurice Curran, seconded by Trustee John Conrad and passed unanimously 5-0 the Board voted and approved the following recommendations from the Committee on Special Education: Student ID#2003873, #2003855, #0012566, #2003620, #0012555, and #12464.

Committee on Special Education

Memorandum of Agreement: On a motion by Trustee Maurice Curran, seconded by Trustee David Wilens and passed unanimously 5-0 the Board voted and approved the following resolution:

Memorandum of Agreement

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 Memorandum of Agreement between the Pocantico Hills CSD and the Pocantico Hills Teachers Association, dated January 20, 2009 as attached.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President, Mr. Robert W. Balog is hereby authorized to execute the agreement dated January 20, 2009 between the Pocantico Hills Teachers Association, and the Pocantico Hills Central School District.

Discussion/Planning for Future Meetings: Please note the remaining neighborhood meetings:

**DISCUSSION/
PLANNING FOR
FUTURE MEETINGS**

Wednesday, February 11 – Beaver Hill
Hosted by: Walter & Isabel Rivera – 19 Orchard Lane, Elmsford

Thursday, February 23 – Pocantico Lakes
Hosted by: Kimberly & Stephen Rockefeller – 1364 Bedford Road, Pleasantville

Adjournment: On a motion by Trustee David Wilens, seconded by Trustee John Conrad and passed unanimously 5-0 the Board adjourned the Business Meeting at 10:22 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT
FROM BUSINESS
MEETING**

Respectfully submitted,
Gina L. Downes
District Clerk

Robert W. Balog, School Board President

Date: _____

Gina L. Downes, District Clerk

Date: _____