

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

Discussion Meeting  
Tuesday, October 22, 2013

The Discussion Meeting of the Board of Education of the Pocantico Hills Central School District was held on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 6:52 p.m. in the school Library, Bedford Road, Sleepy Hollow, New York.

On a motion by Vice President Emily Segal and seconded by Trustee Joan Cusanelli the Board of Education opened the Discussion Meeting at 6:52 p.m. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

**CALL TO ORDER**

On a motion by Trustee David Wilens and seconded by Trustee Fred Rickles the Board of Education moved to Executive Session at 6:53 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular individual. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Vice President Emily Segal and seconded by Trustee Joan Cusanelli the Board of Education adjourned from Executive Session at 7:58 p.m. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

**AJOURNEMENT FROM  
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

With no objection from the Board of Education, John Conrad called the Discussion Meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

**RETURN TO DISCUSSION  
MEETING**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee David Wilens

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Present:           John Conrad, President  
                      Emily Segal, Vice President  
                      Joan Cusanelli, Trustee  
                      Fred Rickles, Trustee  
                      David Wilens, Trustee

**ROLL CALL**

Also Present:    Dr. Valencia Douglas, Superintendent  
                      Jay Scotto-Friedman, Assistant Superintendent  
                      Gina L. Downes, District Clerk

**Hearing From Those Present:** There were no comments from the community.

**HEARING FROM THOSE  
PRESENT**

**Correspondence:** There was no correspondence.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Superintendent Announcements:** Dr. Valencia Douglas announced the following:

**SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Tomorrow we will be kicking off Olweus with two shows from Ooch! The first show at 9:15 a.m., The Collection, will be geared towards Pre-Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The second show at 1:15 p.m., Secrets to Being Social, will be for our 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>

grade students. We look forward to Ooch's return and hope you can join us for one or both of these exciting shows.

- The first Tea, Coffee and Conversation with the Superintendent will be held on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Hilltop Firehouse in Pocantico Hills. The next two dates for this event will be held on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Westchester Hills Condominium and Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> in the School Library beginning at 7:00 p.m. You should have received an e-mail invitation for these events, as well as a mailing. We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events.
- The PTA Book Fair begins on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. The Fair will be set up outside of the gym and will run through Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. The PTA will also be hosting a Halloween Costume Dance on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. This event replaces the Fall Festival that is on the calendar. We looks forward to seeing everyone at the Costume Dance this Friday – don't forget your costume as the PTA will be giving out prizes for "best costume" in many different categories.
- Pocantico's annual Halloween parade will be on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> beginning at 2:15 p.m. in the bus circle. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Vice President Emily Segal congratulated former Pocantico students who are currently attending Briarcliff High School and were inducted into the Tri-M Music Society Induction. One-quarter of the inductees were Pocantico representatives. A special thank you to Mrs. DePaola and Mr. Lucadamo for helping them to get where they are today!

**Special Presentation:** The Administration and members of the faculty presented the 2012-2013 New York State Department of Education test results.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by Joan Cusanelli and seconded by Trustee Fred Rickles the Board of Education voted and approved the Business Meeting minutes of October 8, 2013. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** October 8, 2013

**Old Business:** On a motion by Trustee Fred Rickles and seconded by Vice President Emily Segal the Board of Education motioned to postpone Item #1 under Old Business and Item #4 under New Business (Tax Certiorari Refunds). The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

## **OLD BUSINESS** Tax Certiorari

**Discussion on the Requirement for a Data Dashboard:** President John Conrad asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add a resolution. On a motion by Trustee Fred Rickles and seconded by Trustee Joan Cusanelli the Board of Education voted and approved the amendment to the agenda. The motion was unanimously passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS** Discussion on the Requirement for Data Dashboard

On a motion by Trustee David Wilens and seconded by Vice President Emily

Segal the Board of Education voted and approved the following resolution. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize Superintendent Dr. Valencia F. Douglas to submit a letter to the State Education Department withdrawing from the Race to the Top (RTTT) effective July 1, 2013, thus enabling the Pocantico Hills Central School District to select a Data Dashboard from sources other than offered through New York State.

**Discussion of an Enrollment Committee:** On a motion by Trustee David Wilens and seconded by Trustee Joan Cusanelli the Board of Education voted to postpone the discussion of an enrollment committee to consult with the District’s legal counsel. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

Discussion of an Enrollment Committee

**Policy Review:** The Board of Education reviewed Policy #9420 – Staff Evaluation and Policy #9420.1 – Building Principal and Classroom Teacher Evaluation. The Board will having a second reading at the next Board meeting on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Policy Review

**Committee on Special Education:** On a motion by Trustee Fred Rickles and seconded by Vice President Emily Segal the Board of Education voted and approved the recommendations from the committee on Special Education – Student ID #2003598 and Student ID #002006195.

Committee on Special Education

**Appointments:** On a motion by Trustee Joan Cusanelli and seconded by Trustee Fred Rickles the Board of Education voted and approved by consent the following appointments. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

**PERSONNEL**  
Appointments

**Substitute Teacher:**

Name: Norah Carney  
Title: Substitute Teacher  
Rate: \$90.00/day  
Term: September 08, 2013 – June 30, 2014

*Denial of clearance or conditional clearance from the Commissioner of Education shall result in immediate termination of employment for the appointment listed above.*

Name: Joanne DeGregory  
Title: Math tutor  
FTE .4 FTE Step 6 MA  
Salary \$81,275 prorated to \$62.80/hour  
Effective Date: 9/30/13

This teacher was appointed as a .3 FTE teacher effective 9/1/13. The .4 FTE appointment is effective 9/30/13.

**Clerical Appointment:**

Name: Deborah Kaplan  
Title: Secretary to Administrator - Provisional

FTE: .4  
Rate: \$47,848 prorated to \$19,139/ 26.29/hour  
Step/Column: Column B Step 1  
Effective Date: August 28, 2013

Subject to the approval of Westchester Civil Service

**Resignation:** On a motion by Trustee Fred Rickles and seconded by Trustee Joan Cusanelli the Board of Education voted and approved the following resignation. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

Name: Kaitlin Rodriguez  
Title: Teaching Assistant  
Effective Date: October 18, 2013

Resignation

**Business/Planning for Future Meetings:** The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 5 at 8:00 p.m. in the library. It is anticipated that there will be an executive session to discuss tax certiorari matters.

**BUSINESS/PLANNING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Board Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:00 a.m. and will be facilitated by Donna Clement. It will be held at Historic Hudson Valley.

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Trustee Fred Rickles and seconded by Trustee Joan Cusanelli the Board of Education adjourned the Discussion Meeting at 10:57 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,  
Gina L. Downes  
District Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Conrad, School Board President

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gina L. Downes, District Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_