

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

Business Meeting
Tuesday, April 9, 2013

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education of the Pocantico Hills Central School District was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 6:36 p.m. in the school Library, Bedford Road, Sleepy Hollow, New York.

On a motion by Trustee Joan Cusanelli and seconded by Trustee Emily Segal the Board of Education opened the Business Meeting at 6:36 p.m. The motion was passed (4-0). **CALL TO ORDER**

On a motion by Trustee Emily Segal and seconded by Vice President David Wilens the Board of Education moved into Executive Session at 6:37 p.m. to discuss the employment history of particular individuals and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law. The motion was passed (4-0). **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Present: John Conrad, President
David Wilens, Vice President
Joan Cusanelli, Trustee
Fred Rickles, Trustee (arrived 6:54 p.m.)
Emily Segal, Trustee **ROLL CALL**

Also Present: Valencia F. Douglas, Superintendent
Jay Scotto-Friedman, Assistant Superintendent
David Shaw, School Attorney

On a motion by Vice President David Wilens and seconded by Trustee Emily Segal the Board of Education adjourned from Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0). **ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

With no objection from the Board, President John Conrad called the Business Meeting to Order at 8:11 p.m. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Emily Segal. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Also Present: Valencia F. 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

Board/Superintendent Announcements: The following announcements were made by Superintendent Valencia Douglas:

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CONGRATULATIONS to the cast and crew of The Little Mermaid, Jr. The show was a huge success. Many thanks to our Co-Directors – Sheila DePaola and Melissa Lupi; our costume designer – Norma DeSousa and our Set Designer – Coulter Young.
- The PTA hosted Author Charles Smith, Jr. in the library today. He had an assembly with 5th through 8th graders and he also signed books during lunch period.
- This evening we will be announcing the winners of our Reading Challenge. The kindles will be presented at the next PTA Family Recreation night which is being held on Friday, April 19th. We hope you can all join us for a fun evening and help us celebrate our winners.
- Tomorrow evening is the SWBOCES 65th Anniversary event at Sleepy Hollow High School beginning at 5:45 p.m.
- Our New York State Assessment exams begin the week of April 15th. The ELA Exam for grades 3 through 8 begins on Tuesday, April 16th and runs through Thursday, April 18th. The Math Exam for grades 3 through 8 begins on Wednesday, April 24th and runs through Friday, April 26th. We ask parents to be sure to have the children get to bed on time and eat a good breakfast.
- Just a reminder - Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Orientation is coming and is scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd. If you have a child who will be turning 4 by December 1, 2013, they will be eligible for Pre-Kindergarten at Pocantico Hills beginning in September 2013. Please contact the School Principal, Stan Steele, (914-631-2440 x112) to register your child in the program.
- At our May 7th Board of Education meeting, Mrs. Pietrangelo and Ms. Garrido will have their 5th and 6th grade students present on the Reading Workshop model that they have been implementing. The students read both fiction and non-fiction (or historical fiction) and write about their reading by choosing from a menu of prompts that assist in reading comprehension and address the common core. Reading Workshop helps to foster a love of reading a gives students the chance to practice reading strategies independently and with guidance. The students will be sharing their thoughts about Reading Workshop, as well as their favorite books.

President John Conrad announced that the next neighborhood budget meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Hilltop Firehouse.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Trustee Joan Cusanelli and seconded by Trustee Fred Rickles the Board of Education voted and approved the March 19, 2013 Discussion Meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
March 19, 2013

passed (5-0).

Reading Challenge: The winners of the Reading Challenge were announced to the Board of Education. The winners will be presented with their Kindles at the PTA Family Rec Night on Friday, April 19, 2013. The school read a total of 263,701 minutes or 4,395 hours or approximately 183 days.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
Reading Challenge

Teacher Handbook: On a motion by Trustee Fred Rickles and seconded by Trustee Emily Segal the Board of Education voted and accepted the Teacher Handbook dated 1958 received from a retired, former teacher, Mr. Bowles. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

Teacher Handbook

Annual Report: The Board of Education received a presentation from Stan Steele, Principal and Adam Brown, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, on the DRAFT Annual Report.

Annual Report

Budget Work Session: The Board of Education received a presentation on the DRAFT 2013-2014 school budget from Jay Scotto-Friedman, Assistant Superintendent and Valencia Douglas, Superintendent.

Budget Work Session

School Calendar: On a motion by Trustee Joan Cusanelli and seconded by Trustee Emily Segal the Board of Education voted and approved the 2013-2014 school calendar as amended. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

OLD BUSINESS
School Calendar

Adoption of BOCES Estimated Administrative Budget: On a motion by Trustee Fred Rickles and seconded by Trustee Emily Segal the Board of Education voted and approved the following resolution. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

NEW BUSINESS
Adoption of BOCES 2013-2014
Estimated Administrative
Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pocantico Hills Central School District Board of Education vote to approve the 2013-2014 Estimated Administrative Budget for the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services in the amount of \$9,071,683.

John Conrad, President – yes
David Wilens, Vice President – yes
Joan Cusanelli, Trustee – yes
Fred Rickles, Trustee – yes
Emily Segal, Trustee – yes

Adoption of Three (3) Trustees to Serve on the BOCES Board: On a motion by Trustee Joan Cusanelli and seconded by Trustee Fred Rickles the Board of Education voted and approved the following resolution. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

Adoption of Three (3) Trustees
to Serve on the BOCES Board

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pocantico Hills Central School District Board of Education vote to approve the appointments of Joseph Wooley, Lynn Frazer-McBride and Catherine Draper to serve as Trustees on the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the time period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016.

John Conrad, President – yes
David Wilens, Vice President – yes

Joan Cusanelli, Trustee – yes
Fred Rickles, Trustee – yes
Emily Segal, Trustee – yes

Committee on Special Education: On a motion by Vice President David Wilens and seconded by Trustee Joan Cusanelli the Board of Education voted and approved the following recommendation from the committee on special education. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0). Student ID #2003857.

Committee on Special Education

Donation: On a motion by Trustee Joan Cusanelli and seconded by Trustee Emily Segal the Board of Education voted and approved the following resolution. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

Donation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pocantico Hills Central School District Board of Education accept the donation of two (2) Kindles from an anonymous donor valued at \$169.64 for students who participated in the Reading Challenge.

Discussion on Awards Dinner: The Board of Education received recommendations from Stan Steele, Principal on the Middle School Awards Dinner. The Principal and Superintendent will bring additional recommendations to the Board of Education at the next scheduled meeting (April 23rd).

Discussion on Awards Dinner

Tax Certiorari Refunds: On a motion by Trustee Joan Cusanelli and seconded by Trustee Fred Rickles the Board of Education voted and approved by consent the following tax certiorari refunds. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

Tax Certiorari Refunds

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 Greenburgh, within the Pocantico Hills Central School District, with respect to the following property:

Property Owner	Address/Description	Year(s)
JPMorganChase	1150 Knollwood Road Tax ID: 7.80-8-1	2007-2012

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

WHEREAS, the Town and the property owner have reached a resolution with regard to the assessments at issue in the tax certiorari proceedings; and

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

WHEREAS, the settlement is subject to the three year moratorium on future petitions as provided in Real Property Tax Law Section 727; 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>
2007	54,000	36,000	18,000
2008	54,000	36,000	18,000
2009	54,000	36,000	18,000
2010	54,000	36,000	18,000
2011	54,000	36,000	18,000
2012	54,000	35,000	19,000

The refund of School District taxes will amount to \$24,372.46±

**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 Greenburgh, within the Pocantico Hills Central School District, with respect to the following property:

Property Owner	Address/Description	Year(s)
MACK-CALI	7 Westchester Plaza	2001-2012
	Tax ID: 7.120-19-9 (Volume 7, Sheet 18L, Lot P21A)	
	8 Westchester Plaza	2001-2012
	Tax ID: 7.120-19-6 (Volume 7, Sheet 18L, Lot P21A14)	

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

WHEREAS, the Town and the property owner have reached a resolution with regard to the assessments at issue in the tax certiorari proceedings; and

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

WHEREAS, the settlement is subject to the three year moratorium on future petitions as provided in Real Property Tax Law Section 727; 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:

SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE

The refund of School District taxes will amount to \$425,789.21± on 7 Westchester Plaza, and \$331,059.21± on 8 Westchester Plaza, as detailed on the attached spreadsheet.

**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 Greenburgh, within the Pocantico Hills Central School District, with respect to the following property:

Property Owner	Address/Description
Year(s)	
16 Saw Mill River Road	16 Saw Mill River Road
2007-2012	
Associates, LLC	Tax ID: 116.7-1-8

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

WHEREAS, the Town and the property owner have reached a resolution with regard to the assessments at issue in the tax certiorari proceedings; and

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

WHEREAS, the settlement is subject to the three year moratorium on future petitions as provided in Real Property Tax Law Section 727; 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:

Year	Original AV	Reduced AV	AV Reduction
2007	80,000	70,000	10,000
2008	80,000	70,000	10,000
2009	80,000	70,000	10,000
2010	80,000	80,000	0
2011	80,000	80,000	0
2012	80,000	77,500	2,500

The refund of School District taxes will amount to \$17,554.83±

2012-2013 Contract for Special Educational Services: On a motion by Trustee Emily Segal and seconded by Trustee Joan Cusanelli the Board of Education voted and approved the following resolution. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

2012-2013 Contract For Educational Services

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 2012-2013 contract between Pocantico Hills Central School District and the Ardsley UFSD for the provision of Special Educational services at the rate of \$34,248 for one student which includes basic instruction, psychological consultation, speech consultation, and adaptive physical education, and an anticipated additional amount of \$35,461 for individual/group speech counseling, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and a teacher aide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent, Dr. Valencia Douglas is hereby authorized to execute the contract for Special Educational Services for the 2012-2013 school year between the Ardsley UFSD and the Pocantico Hills Central School District.

Notice of Public Budget Hearing, Budget Vote and Election: On a motion by Trustee Fred Rickles and seconded by Trustee Joan Cusanelli the Board of Education voted and approved the following resolution. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

Notice of Public Budget Hearing, Budget Vote and Election

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Pocantico Hills Central School District hereby approve the attached legal advertisement for the public hearing, budget vote and election being held on Tuesday, May 21, 2013.

Human Resources Special Internal Audit: On a motion by Vice President David Wilens and seconded by Trustee Fred Rickles the Board of Education voted and accepted the following resolution. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

Human Resources Special Internal Audit

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pocantico Hills Board of Education accept the Human Resources Special Internal Audit dated March 7, 2013 prepared by ACCUME Partners.

Personnel: On a motion by Trustee Fred Rickles and seconded by Trustee Emily Segal the Board of Education voted and approved the following personnel by consent. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

PERSONNEL

1. Appointments:

Camp Pool Salaries 2013

Jenna Fanelli	\$2200
Gabriela De Frutos	\$1900
Brooke Savastano	\$1900
Bianca Muniz	\$1800
John Blackburn	\$1800
Allyson Blackburn	\$1800
Ali Misuraca	\$1800
Robert Misuraca	\$1800
Emmi Marolda	\$1800
Charles Knoff	\$1800
Kaydee Kowalczyk	\$1800
Samuel Jacobs	\$1700
Connor Kostyra	\$1700

Paige Savastano \$1600

Recreation Guards 2013

Jenna Fanelli	\$12/hour
Clara De Frutos	\$10.50/hour
Gabriella Fava	\$9.75/hour
Philip Golodetz	\$9.75/hour
Breanna Collins	\$9.75/hour
Marcello Padua	\$9.75/hour
Amanda Pettfield	\$9.50/hour
Gabriela De Frutos	\$9.25/hour
Will Lucia	\$9.25/hour
Anthony Gentile	\$9.00/hour
Bianca Muniz	\$9.00/hour
Brooke Savastano	\$9.00/hour
Jennifer Vander Els	\$8.75/hour
Allyson Blackburn	\$8.75/hour
Daniel Spina	\$8.75/hour
Matthew Praino	\$8.75/hour
Nora Cusanelli	\$8.75/hour
John Blackburn	\$8.75/hour
Emmi Marolda	\$8.75/hour
Charles Knoff	\$8.75/hour
Connor Kostyra	\$8.75/hour
Kaydee Kowalczyk	\$8.75/hour
Rose Gandolfo	\$8.75/hour
Ali Misuraca	\$8.25/hour
Robert Misuraca	\$8.25/hour
John Gandolfo	\$8.25/hour
Samuel Jacobs	\$8.25/hour
Hannah Weber	\$8.25/hour
Kara Fanelli	\$8.25/hour
Paige Savastano	\$7.75/hour
Matthew Dineen	\$7.75/hour
Christopher Keenan	\$7.75/hour
Brandon Castro	\$7.75/hour
Frank Tirri	\$7.75/hour
Jared Reyes	\$7.75/hour
Tommy Gallery	\$7.75/hour
Elena Vander Els	\$7.75/hour

Dive Team

Caliph Mohammed – Head Coach	\$25.50/hour
Jenna Fanelli – Asst. Coach	\$14.50/hour

Early Morning/Closing Guard

+\$4.00 to hourly rate/hour

WSI Hourly Rate

\$20.00/hour

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Term</u>
Brian Bernarducci	Softball Coach	\$3,340	Spring 2013

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

2. Appointment of Section 504 Chairperson:

Section 504 Chairperson: BE IT RESOLVED that the School Principal be appointed Section 504 Chairperson for the Pocantico Hills Central School District effective July 1, 2012 and continue until the Statutory Meeting of the Board of Education in July 2013.

3. Videographer for School Functions:

Name: Peter Rubeo
 Title: Videographer
 Event Date: See Below
 Rate: \$275/event

- Olweus Training Video Board Presentation March 12, 2013.

4. Termination:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby terminates Steve Maio from his probationary position as a custodian/bus driver in the Pocantico Hills Central School District effective April 10, 2013.

5. Revision to Appointment:

Part Time Bus Driver

Name: Troy Miller
 Title: Part Time Bus Driver
 Term: 9/25/12 – 2/8/13
 Rate: 22.51/hour

The resolution above amends the end date of the appointment approved by the Board of Education on September 24, 2013 from 6/30/13 to 2/8/13.

6. Revision to Long Term Leave Replacement – Grade 2

Name: Kristen Attanasio Secor
Title: Long Term Leave Replacement – Grade 2
Term: March 22, 2013 – March 26, 2013
Rate: \$61,290

Kristen Secor was appointed on November 20, 2012 as a long term leave replacement from December 3, 2012 through March 22, 2013. The resolution above extends the appointment through March 26, 2013.

7. **Rescission of Appointment**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Term</u>
Kaitlin Rodriguez	Softball Coach	\$3,340	Spring 2013

Ms. Rodriguez was originally appointed on Tuesday, February 26, 2013.

Discussion/Planning for Future Meetings: The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 23rd at 8:00 p.m. in the Library.

**DISCUSSION/PLANNING
FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Adjournment of Business Meeting: There being no further business, on a motion by Trustee Emily Segal and seconded by Trustee Joan Cusanelli the Board of Education adjourned the Business Meeting at 12:26 a.m. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

**ADJOURNMENT OF
BUSINESS MEETING**

Respectfully submitted,
Gina L. Downes
District Clerk

John Conrad, School Board President

Date: _____

Gina L. Downes, District Clerk

Date: _____