

# **SPRINGS UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **MINUTES**

**Monday, October 19, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Elizabeth Mendelman at 5:35 PM. Mrs. Mendelman called for a motion to enter into Executive Session at 5:45 PM, a motion was made by Tim Frazier, seconded by Jeffrey Miller and the Board entered into Executive Session to discuss employment agreements and update on contract negotiations. At 7:10 PM the Board returned to public session and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following were in attendance:

Elizabeth Mendelman, President; Timothy Frazier, Vice-President, Adam Wilson Jeffrey Miller and Barbara Dayton, Trustees. Also in attendance was John Finello, Superintendent; Keri Delalio, Director of PPS and Human Resources, Eric Casale, Principal, Julie Bistran, District Clerk and Carl Fraser, School Business Administrator.

A motion was made by Adam Wilson, seconded by Jeffrey Miller and the following resolution was approved:

Be it resolved that the Board of Education hereby approves the minutes from the monthly meeting held October 5, 2015.

Mrs. Mendelman, Board President, gave a report on the Board Retreat held October 17<sup>th</sup>. She also asked if there were any nominations from the public for a current open position with Eastern Suffolk Boces, as mentioned in the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mrs. Mendelman also clarified to the audience that the Records Officer was Julie Bistran, as the District Clerk is the Official Records Officer.

Mr. Finello, Superintendent, spoke about the need for additional support for the second grade teachers and expressed how the need for Special Education support was needed to comply with students IEP's. A meeting will be held with the second

grade teachers on October 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the needs and recommendations for additional staffing. A report will be made November 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. The PTA report was not given as there was a book fair currently taking place and President of the PTA was unable to stay for the meeting. Mr. Casale, the Principal, gave an update on student enrollment.

A motion was made by Adam Wilson, seconded by Jeffrey miller and P-1 through P-9 were motioned by consent.

**P-1 BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Education hereby approves the Salary Advancements for the following teachers as per the STA contract.

Kimberly Belkin	\$66,054 (Step 3, MA+30)
Laura Foti	\$52,966 (Step 2, BA+15)
Cristen Keyes	\$ 96,799 (Step 12, MA+45)
Owen McCormack	\$100,516 (Step 12, MA +60)
Angelina Modica	\$ 52,966 (Step 2, BA +15)
Whitney Reidlinger	\$100,807 (Step 16, MA +15)
Amanda Rivera	\$ 60,527 (Step 2, MA +15)
Lindsey Thayer	\$ 84,306 (Step 8, MA +45)
Michael Kelly	\$ 80,104 (Step 10, MA)

**P-2 BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Education approves the appointment of Monique Sullivan to a .8 elementary teaching position effective October 20, 2015 at a salary of \$44,196.80 (Step 1, BA+45), plus benefits.

**P-3 BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Education hereby approves the adjustment of Amanda Rivera's tenure date to September 2, 2017.

**P-4 BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Education hereby approves Owen McCormack for medical leave starting October 26, 2015 through December 22, 2015.

**P-5 BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of Beverly McGrath as an elementary leave replacement for Owen McCormack starting October 26, 2014 through December 22, 2015. The salary shall be at the rate of BA-1 for days 41-90 prorated from an annual salary of \$48,041; and MA for days 91+ prorated from an annual salary of \$55,246 retroactive to the original start date, plus benefits.

**P-6 BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of Shannon Sheehan as a secondary math teacher for Leah Amicucci commencing November 4, 2015 through November 13, 2015. The salary shall be at the substitute rate for work days 1 through 40 (\$130/day); at BA-1 for days 41-and after, prorated from an annual salary of \$48,041, retroactive to the original start date, plus benefits.

**P-7 BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Education hereby approves Francis Cole for personal leave from October 13, 2015 through November 12, 2015.

**P-8 BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Education hereby approves the following individuals for the substitute list for the 2015-16 school year.

**Jessica Artega      Cynthia Purcell      Rossana Solares  
Michele Falabella**

**P-9 BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of Juliette Popovic-Fayh as a monitor at the rate of \$25.00 per hour.

A motion was made by Jeffrey Miller, seconded by Barbara Dayton and F-1 through F-8 were motioned by consent.

**F-1 BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Education hereby accepts with gratitude the donation of brand new dictionaries for every fourth grade student from the Rotary Club Dictionary Project.

**F-2 BE IT RESOLVED** WHEREAS, the Springs Union Free School District has met the criteria set forth in the application for an APPR Hardship Waiver promulgated by the State Education Department;

WHEREAS, for the reasons set forth in the APPR Hardship Waiver application, the District is unable to meet the statutory deadline requiring implementation of an APPR Plan compliant with Education Law Section 3012-d;

NOW, THEREFORE, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby approves and ratifies the District's October 20, 2015 submission of the APPR Hardship Waiver application to the State Education Department;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board hereby ratifies the execution of the application by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board President.

**F-3 BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Education of the Springs Union Free School, District hereby authorizes the Springs Union Free School District to enter into an agreement with Seneca Consulting Group, Inc., for the provision of Affordable Care Act consulting services for the term of October 20, 2015 through June 30, 2016, at a fee of \$11,000, subject to the preparation of a written agreement approved by counsel; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute such agreement with Seneca Consulting Group, Inc.

**F-4 BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Education hereby accepts the Assessed Valuation of \$24,177,604, as received from the Office of the Town Assessor, to determine the tax rate for the 2015-2016 school year and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the tax levy for school purposes for the 2015-2016 school year be established at \$24,453,200, (including STAR). This levy is the same as was approved by the district voters on May 19, 2015.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town of East Hampton will set the New York State School Tax Relief (STAR) reimbursement amount with the remaining balance to be collected by the Town of East Hampton Tax Collector.

**F-5 BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the following Independent Auditor's Reports for year ending June 30, 2015, submitted by the External Auditor's, R.S. Abrams & Co. LLP:

- Financial Statements and Supplementary Schedules, dated June 30, 2015;
- Extra-Classroom Activity Funds Financial Statement dated June 30, 2015;
- Statement of Auditing Standards letter, dated October 15, 2015;
- Management Letter and Recommendations for the year ending June 30, 2015

**F-6 BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby approves the Treasurer's Report for July 2015, as submitted and kept on file in the office of the District Clerk.

**F-7 BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby approves the agreement between Teacher's College and the Springs UFSD for the 2015-2016 school year.

**F-8 BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby authorize the payment to the Springs PTA of previously raised funds in the amount of \$4,588.10 from the Springs School District Visiting Artist Fund.

Mr. Fraser, Business Administrator made comments in reference to item F-1, Audit report. There were no significant deficiencies and that the action plan on findings will be handled in the Business Office by Mr. Fraser. If there are any questions in reference to this report, please feel free to contact Mr. Fraser. R.S. Abram's will be at the November 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting to give a report on the 2014-2015 financial audit.

Mr. Fraser also commented on item F-3, Affordable Care Act. He explained the background of the affordable Care Act and the importance of making sure the time tracking is efficient, as there are penalties established by the IRS, ensuring all employees that work 30+ hours a week are tracked and offered minimal essential health care benefits. BOCES has done a pre-approval of 3 firms and the recommendation was for the firm Seneca Consulting Group to handle the District's employee time keeping for this purpose.

In reference to F-7, Mr. Fraser clarified that Teachers College has an approved budget in the amount of \$32,000.

A motion was made by Barbara Dayton, seconded by Jeffrey Miller and Special Education Recommendations were motioned by consent.

(A) CSE Case #1

(B) CPSE Case #1

Mrs. Delalio, Director of PPS and Human Resources explained that Augmentative Services, as approved in the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, were for the hearing impaired or non-verbal students so they are able to communicate and deal with frustrations they may be experiencing.

A motion was made by Adam Wilson, seconded by Jeffrey Miller and the following were motioned by consent.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Springs Union Free School District has reviewed and discussed the following proposed policies

- (A) Policy 1120: School District Records
- (B) Policy 2410: Formulation, Adoption and Amendment of Policies
- (C) Policy 4010: Equivalence in Instructional Staff and Materials
- (D) Policy 1925: Interpreters for the Hearing-Impaired Parents
- (E) Policy 1900: Parental Involvement
- (F) Policy 2200: Annual Budget Vote and School District Elections

WHEREAS, the proposed policies had a FIRST READING on October 5, 2015 and a SECOND READING on October 19, 2015

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby adopts the following policies:

- (A) Policy 1120: School District Records
- (B) Policy 2410: Formulation, Adoption and Amendment of Policies
- (C) Policy 4010: Equivalence in Instructional Staff and Materials
- (D) Policy 1925: Interpreters for the Hearing-Impaired Parents
- (E) Policy 1900: Parental Involvement
- (F) Policy 2200: Annual Budget Vote and School District Elections  
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The following policies have the first reading of revised policy.

- (A) Policy 4321.1 Allocation of Space for Special Education Programs and Services
- (B) Policy 4321.2 Confidentiality and Access to Individualized Education Services Programs
- (C) Policy 4321.3 Availability of Alternative Format Instructional Materials for Students with Disabilities
- (D) Policy 4321.4 District-Wide and State-Wide Assessments of Students with Disabilities or 504 Accommodation Plans
- (E) Policy 4321.5 Impartial Hearing Officer Appointment and Compensation
- (F) Policy 4321.6 Public Report on Revisions to District Policies, Practices and procedures Upon a Finding of Disproportionality
- (G) Policy 4321.7 Special Education Personnel (NEW)
- (H) Policy 4321.8 School-Wide Pre-Referral Approaches and Interventions

The substance of the policies are being updated to align with current law.

Replacing the following existing Board of Education policies: **Policy 1925, Policy 4010, Policy 2400, Policy 2410, Policy 2430, Policy 2440, Policy 2450, Policy 2460, Policy 1120, Policy 1050, Policy 2120.2.**

#### Old Business:

Mr. Finello gave an update on the information he has received in regard to the construction of modular and portable structures. He spoke with Tom Ferdino from the facilities department at State Ed/Planning. What's the State's perspective on the differences between modular and permanent construction. The State responded that the time frame is the same, depending on the scope of the project. Mr. Finello also reported that Mr. Nick Amaruso spoke at the Board Retreat and explained the process to the Board about the process of modular versus permanent construction. He stated that with modular construction the disadvantages outweigh the advantages when comparing to permanent construction.

Mr. Fraser explained to the public the RFP process and a list of criteria that is set. A committee will be established to interview and select the architects. The committee will interview the architects, and set criteria for evaluating, score the criteria, and the architect with the highest score will be presented to the board for approval. The selection will be established by the end of November for the Boards approval. Then a concept committee will be established and will determine a concept and present it to the board for approval. Timing is major issue so the committees will need to proceed in a timely manner.

Mrs. Dayton, Trustee, suggested that a Special Analysis has already been completed by BBS and the district should consider using this information.

Mr. Frazier, Trustee thanked the Board member and Mr. Finello for the Retreat and he values this opportunity to have the Board become a better operating/more effective Board. He also clarified that the Board hold the meetings as work sessions as opposed to a public meeting.

Public Commentary consisted of;

Request for audit report to be posted on the districts website, descriptions of acronyms used on the agenda, request for last year's BEDS numbers, hiring procedures, hiring of Architect, bids that were done in June for an Architectural Firm, space concern including the comparison of a modular building versus portables.

A motion was made by Timothy Frazier, seconded by Adam Wilson and the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.