

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

DATE: October 17, 2011

WHERE HELD: Blind Brook MS/HS Auditorium

PRESENT: Sheri Zarkower, Glen Schuster, Nancy Barr, Jeffrey Diamond, Steven Kaplan, William Stark, Jonathan Ross, Harry Burg, Tracy Taylor, Colin Byrne, Gina Healy, James Spano, and Tamara Oppenheimer

At 7:00 PM at the Public Meeting a Motion to appoint Mr. William J. Stark as District Clerk Pro-Tem was moved by Mr. Schuster and second by Mrs. Zarkower. This motion was passed by a 3-0 vote – Mr. Diamond and Ms. Barr arrived late.

Upon Motion by Mr. Schuster and second by Mrs. Zarkower the Board moved to enter Executive Session at 7:02 PM.

The Meeting was called to order by Sheri Zarkower at 8:06 PM and the Pledge was recited with the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders leading the way by signing the Pledge.

The Third Grade followed by singing “Nifty Fifty”, a song identifying the names of all 50 States.

Ms. Nancy Barr read from a prepared statement about the New York State property tax cap and the lack of state mandate relief. She asked for reasonableness from both sides of the issue and urged that all engage in respectful exchanges.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

1. Mr. Stark read the Governor’s Proclamation that School Board Recognition Week will take place October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 4<sup>th</sup> this year. Mr. Stark applauded the work and sacrifices made by the Blind Brook School Board.
2. Mr. Stark reported on Bruno M. Ponterio’s 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration at the PRSS last week.
3. Mr. Stark informed the community that Homecoming will take place at BBHS this weekend.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

1. Mr. Diamond acknowledged Joyce Gober's passing and read a statement written by teachers and offered his own comments.
2. Mrs. Zarkower also acknowledged Mrs. Gober and the work she did with the community's children.
3. Mrs. Zarkower thanked the administrators for the work they did in preparing budgetary information for tonight's Tax Cap Presentation.

## **PRESENTATION**

Dr. Ross and Mr. Stark delivered the Tax Cap Presentation - 8:20 PM – 9:28 PM

Mrs. Healy also made comments on this presentation.

## **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

1. Mr. Gelfarb, 19 High Point Circle – asked for an explanation of the debt service fund and its reserve.
2. Mr. Dick Hubert, Doral Greens – Referred to Mrs. Healy's comments about the Massachusetts tax cap experience and spoke about his experiences with that state's schools. Discussed the Brookline schools and their programs.
3. Susan Telesca, 4 Crossway – Questioned whether the community could infuse money into the athletics program to maintain them. Mr. Stark said it is possible so long as it is not a pay to play situation.
4. Andrew Tilzer, 6 Belle Fair Road – Appreciated the presentation and wanted to know the impact of reducing administrative costs. K-busing also seems wasteful. Questioned the paper work required when registering for school. Dr. Ross and Tracy Taylor responded to his concerns.
5. **Brian Goldberg** – wants to see line item budget – Mr. Stark responded. Also he questioned why TRS/ERS and health insurance costs are so high. Mr. Stark responded to both. Mr. Diamond assisted in explaining ERS/TRS costs.
6. Howard Klein, 22 Holly Lane – wanted to know about actual expenditures as opposed to budget-to-budget data. Dr. Ross responded.
7. Steven Schoen, 68 Talcott Road – wanted to know status of teacher contract negotiations. Mr. Stark responded that negotiations with teachers are ongoing. The Board of Education is discussing how it will release information about negotiations in the future. Mr. Kaplan mentioned that districts in the region must negotiate in the context managing to stay under the cap. Mr. Schuster stated that each 1% increase in the teachers' pay would cost \$180K.
8. Peter Raider, Belle Fair – asked what happens to the cap when a PILOT ends. Dr. Ross responded.
9. Mr. Schuster asked if APPR costs were calculated into the rollover budget. Mr. Stark said, "No, not yet; still trying to figure things out."
10. Mr. Diamond – need mandate relief pressure on Albany - Many districts are much worse off than Blind Brook. Perhaps user fees and "Pay to Play are currently illegal in New York State, but will possibly be permissible in the future although that is still unclear. It would be preferable if Albany gave us mandate relief rather than user fees.

11. Ms. Barr – Asked Mr. Diamond to report on the legislative action he becomes aware of in the future. She asked Gina Healy to opine about the impact of the Massachusetts tax cap on teachers. Mrs. Healy replied that there were layoffs in the 1980’s and it is affecting schools as veterans retire today.
12. Mr. Stark – There is a great divide between districts upstate and districts downstate because of the differential in state aid received by both. Not confident that there will be much mandate relief.
13. Andrew Tilzer, 6 Belle Fair Road - asked if we tried to enter into a long-term lease of the SUNY concert hall for annual graduations. Mr. Stark explained that there is a list to reserve the hall.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The following Resolutions are recommended for action by the Superintendent of Schools to the Board of Education of the Blind Brook-Rye UFSD.

**B. Other Personnel Resolutions**

*Salary figures are subject to the outcome of future negotiations*

1. Appointment Co-Curricular Assignments – BBMS – Recommended Motion: The Board of Education approves the following staff members to Co-Curricular Assignments for the 2011-2012 school year:

J. Van Bourgondien	Art Club	\$913
Don Whitman	Chamber Ensemble	\$913
Allie Kaye Dakers	Drama Club	\$913
Howard Levy	Jazz Club	\$913
Heather McDowell	Newspaper	\$2,282
Seth Horowitz	Outdoor Ed. Coordinator	\$2,282
Kaitlin Carey	Selected Chorus	\$913
Ellen Kapsiotis	Student Government (1 of 2)	\$1,426.50
Colleen Pylilo	Student Government (1 of 2)	\$1,426.50
Kaitlin Carey	Director Spring Musical	\$3,423
Ira Hersch	Digital Media Club	\$913
Mariann Schirizzo	Guitar Club	\$913

2. Appointment – Coaches for Winter Season 2011-2012 - Recommended Motion: The Board of Education approves the following as Coaches for the winter season 2011-2012:

Assignment	Staff	Base Stipend	Step (0-5)	Amt. of Longevity Stipend
Varsity Boys Basketball	Mike Welsh	7319	5	500
JV Boys Basketball	Mike Vecchione	5235	4	350
Varsity Girls Basketball	Manny Martinez	7319	5	500

JV Girls Basketball	Alan Striar	5235	5	500
Varsity Ski Team	Naz Flory	4077	1	50
Varsity Cheerleading	Cher Treacy	4235	5	500
Freshman Boys Basketball	Adam Massi	3847	4	350
Freshman Girls Basketball	London Reyes	3847	0	0
Modified Boys Basketball	Brian Lazere	3718	1	50
Modified Girls Basketball	Michael Martino	3718	1	50

3. Appointment – Program Coordinator – Writing Center – Recommended Motion: The Board of Education of the Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District approves Jon Ambrosio as the Program Coordinator for the Writing Center for the 2011-2012 school year with a stipend of \$3,600.00.
4. Abolishment of Licensed Practical Nurse Position – Recommended Motion: The Board of Education approves the abolishment of one (1) Licensed Practical Nurse position effective October 28, 2011 and directs the Superintendent to notify the affected staff member of this action.

Upon Motion by Mr. Schuster and second by Ms. Barr – Resolutions B. 1-4 were passed unanimously.

### C. Educational Resolutions

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1. Approval of Impartial Hearing Officer - Recommended Motion: The Board of Education of the Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District does hereby Appoint the following Impartial Hearing Officer at a rate of \$100 per hour:

Name	Case #	Effective Date
Arthur Venezia	64217	June 30, 2011

Upon Motion by Mr. Schuster and Second by Ms. Barr Resolution C.1 was passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Tuitions & Service for Out-Of-District Placements – Summer 2011 – Recommended Motion: The Board of Education of the Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District approves the following tuitions and service for Out-of-District Placements for the summer of 2011:

School/Provider	Service	Students	Cost
11/12-3	Tuition July 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011	Individual Student	\$23,837.80
11/12-15	Tuition July 1, 2011	Two Students	\$4316

	through August 31, 2011		\$4316
11/12-13	Tuition July 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011	Individual Student	\$8518
11/12-2	Tuition July 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011	Two Students	\$8528.30 \$8528.30
11/12-5	Tuition July 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011	Individual Student	\$36,265.70
11/12-9	Tuition July 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011	Individual Student	\$18,486.14
11/12-8	Tuition July 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011	Individual Student	\$6,264.06

Upon Motion by Mr. Schuster and Second by Ms. Barr Resolution C.2 was passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Tuitions for Out-Of- District Placements for 2011-2012 – Recommended Motion: The Board of Education of the Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District approves the following Tuitions for Out-of-District Placements for 2011-2012:

School	Service	Students	Cost
11/12-11	Tuition September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012	Two Students	\$98,850 \$53,800
11/12-3	Tuition September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012	Individual Student	\$54,515
11/12-15	Tuition September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012	Three Students	\$88,039 \$13,377 \$25,034
11/12-2	Tuition September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012	Two Students	\$41,081 \$61,064.60

11/12-5	Tuition September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012	Individual Student	\$52,450
11/12-6	Tuition September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012	Individual Student	\$59,850
11/12-8	Tuition September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012	Individual Student	\$37,585
11/12-14	Tuition September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012	Two Students	\$33,801 \$38,378
11/12-10	Tuition September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012	Individual Student	\$64,728
11/12-12	Tuition September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012	Individual Student	\$25,047
11/12-1	Tuition September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012	Individual Student	\$56,835

Upon Motion by Mr. Schuster and Second by Ms. Barr Resolution C.3 was passed unanimously.

Comments:

Mr. Burg explained what an Impartial Hearing Officer does. C.- 1.

Mr. Burg also explained why resolutions are coming after the fact and why costs are so high (mandated by law). C.-2.

Mr. Schuster asked Mr. Burg about trends across grade levels. Mr. Burg declined to answer out of concern for protecting confidentiality.

Mr. Diamond highlighted the high costs and asked Mr. Burg about the CSE process of selecting schools and asked Mr. Burg whether he might return at a future date when he has had more time to prepare in order to discuss the CSE process of determining services, out-of-district placement, and when a new in-district class might be opened rather than sending students out-of-district.

Mr. Burg explained why C-3. was coming after the start of the year – (mandated by law).

**D. Business Resolutions**

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1. Approval of Minutes – Recommended Motion: The Board of Education accepts and approves the Minutes of the October 3, 2011 Board of Education Meeting.

2. Tabled from October 3, 2011 Board Meeting - Approval of Minutes – Recommended Motion: the Board of Education accepts and approves the Minutes of the September 19, 2011 Board of Education Meeting.

Upon Motion by Mr. Schuster and second by Ms. Barr – Resolutions D- 1 & 2 were TABLED.

3. Approval – Use of SUNY Purchase Concert Hall for June 2012 Graduations - Recommended Motion: The Board of Education of the Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District does hereby approve the use of the SUNY Purchase Concert Hall for the June 2012 graduations at a cost not to exceed \$19,268.

Dr. Ross explained the cost history of the SUNY-Purchase Concert Hall use for graduations.

4. Approval of Budget Transfer – Recommended Motion: The Board of Education approves the following Budget Transfer:

<u>TRANSFER TO</u>	<u>TRANSFER FROM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
A2250.400-01.0000	A2250.470-01-0001	\$9,340.45

Upon Motion by Mr. Schuster and Second by Ms. Barr Resolutions D. 3 & 4 were passed unanimously.

Upon motion by Mr. Schuster and second by Ms. Barr the Board moved to adjourn the Meeting at 10:48 PM.

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Jonathan Ross, District Clerk

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Date

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Sheri Zarkower, President

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Date

