

JERICO UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
6:30 P.M.*

MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY
Thursday, September 23, 2004

*NOTE: The Board went into Executive Session between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m.
The open meeting resumed at 7:30 p.m.

Present:

Toni Meliambro
Ira Checkla
Barbara Krieger
Joseph H. Lorintz

Absent:

Hilari Cohen

Also Present:

Henry L. Grishman, Superintendent
Anna Hunderfund
Ben Ciuffo
Joan L. Colvin

Visitors:

List Attached

Barbara Krieger acted as chairperson in the absence of Hilari Cohen

I. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of Minutes

- Toni Meliambro made the motion seconded by Joseph Lorintz "That the Board of Education make any necessary corrections and move approval of the amended minutes of the Special Meeting on July 14, 2004 and the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated August 11, 2004."

Motion carried, 4,0.

II. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

Mr. Grishman welcomed and introduced the New Staff Members. Members of the Board and Administrators welcomed all new staff in a reception held prior to the start of the meeting.

ENROLLMENT

Mr. Grishman reported the current enrollment of 3,215 students. Members of the audience raised issues and asked questions about enrollment of elementary and secondary class sizes.

REPORT – MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Jessica Crusco and Spenser Barnett 8th Graders reported on activities in the Middle School.

II. REPORTS/DISCUSSION (continued)

REPORT – HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Jonathan Cohen, President and Dan Palmieri, Vice-President of the Student Council reported on activities in the High School.

REPORT – PTA COUNCIL

Michelle Warren reported on PTA activities and welcomed back all staff and students.

RECOGNITION OF TEACHER

DISNEYHAND AWARD

Barbara Bauer introduced Susan Menkes, Cantiague Elementary School Art Teacher as the recipient of the Disneyhand Association Teacher of the year award. Ms. Menkes is one of thirty-nine teachers in the United States recognized for her dedication and commitment to her students.

- Toni Meliambro made the motion seconded by Ira Checkla “That the Board of Education congratulates Susan Menkes as the recipient of Disneyhand Award”.

Motion carried, 4, 0.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Education met in Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

III.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDITOR REPORT – PAPPAS AND COMPANY, CPA'S

REGULAR INDEPENDENT AUDIT

Jamie Pappas and Rhonda Meserole presented their audit report to the Board of Education. They indicated that their audit opinion is an unqualified opinion, which is the highest opinion that one can receive.

They indicated that the financial statements for the fiscal year July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004 reflect accurately and fairly the financial condition of the school district. During their presentation they described the activities of the audit and indicated that a portion of their review includes the study and evaluation of the District's system of internal controls.

In addition, the auditors reviewed the management letter and their recommendations for closing the capital fund, establishing a Reserve for Employee Benefit Accrued Liability, and the hiring of an outside firm to perform the duties of internal auditor.

III.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

SPECIAL PURPOSE AUDIT

At the request of the Board of Education, the auditors conducted a special purpose audit reviewing 100% of the District's expenditures in central office codes. The audit included all expenditures for the board of education codes and the central office administrators. They indicated that the District has maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over the Central Administration code expenditures and reimbursements to administrators and to the board of education. Their review encompassed all expenditures for the 2003-04 fiscal year including contractual obligations to the district central office administrators.

Mr. Grishman reported to the public and the board of education the abundance of workshops currently reviewing internal controls and fiscal health of school district. He indicated that members of the board and district administrators including himself and Dr. Colvin had already attended several workshops.

Dr. Colvin indicated that we undoubtedly will see additional regulations or specific legislation that will increase and/or enhance the reporting requirements and responsibilities of the district with regard to financial oversight.

AUDITOR REPORT – PAPPAS & COMPANY

Members of the audience and members of the board questioned the auditors with regard to their review of the District's financial records and the District's internal controls. The auditors reiterated several times that in their opinion the district's financial statement fairly reflect the finances of the district and that the internal control structures are adequate, but once again suggested an outside internal auditor.

- Ira Checkla made the motion seconded by Toni Meliambro "That the Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the report of the school auditor, Pappas & Company, for the year ending June 30, 2004."

NOTE: See Enclosure #11

Motion carried, 4, 0.

Mr. Grishman made a recommendation to the board that they authorize a Request for Quotation for an outside internal auditor. Dr. Colvin indicated that a draft of such a request was recently provided to the board members and she reviewed the contents of the proposal. Dr. Colvin also indicated that when the district receives proposals from a number of firms they would be reviewed by the board and possibly interviews would be held.

- Toni Meliambro made the motion seconded by Ira Checkla "That the Board of Education authorize the district to initiate a Request for Quotation for an Outside Internal Auditor."

Motion carried, 4, 0.

Mr. Grishman announced that a Finance Forum will be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2004. The forum will encompass the financing of New York State schools and the Jericho UFSD.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Please Note: If you would like to make a comment or ask a question, please tell us your name and affiliation, if you are representing a specific group. If you would like your statement to be included in our Board minutes, you must hand in a written copy of your remarks to our District Clerk, Joan Colvin, immediately before speaking.

As always, public discussion on matters relating to staff and students, at which their reputation, privacy or rights to due process, or those of others could in some way be violated, is prohibited.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO BE HEARD (continued)

Joanne Polichetti read a prepared statement, provided to Dr. Colvin before her reading, requesting additional support for the second grade classes at Jackson Elementary school. (attached) Currently there are 75 students in the 2nd grade and some parents of the students believe there should be additional support for each of those classes. In addition to Mrs. Polichetti, David Hoo spoke to the board about support for these three classes. Several other members of the audience provided support for this request. Mr. Weissman reviewed the circumstances of why the class had not split and also indicated that he has been providing additional support in each of those classrooms on a regular basis. He offered to meet with the parents to explain the type of support that is being provided. Mr. Checkla indicated that a second grade parent at a public meeting indicated that the district in the past had split a particular class because a board member's child was a student in the grade. Mr. Weissman had written a letter to this parent correcting the misinformation that was presented. Mr. Checkla wanted the public to know that the information presented at the public meeting at Jackson was incorrect. Mrs. Krieger indicated that at times the board had split classes if there was a recommendation from the administration and there were specific reasons for the recommendation. However, never was there an instance where a split occurred because of a board member's child. As a matter of fact her child was in a 4th grade where there were 27 students in the class. Mr. Grishman and Mr. Weissman assured the parents that if additional support staff were needed they would make that recommendation to the board of education.

NOTE: See Attached

V. PREVIEW FOR FUTURE ACTION

The Board of Education noted dates listed by administration.

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

APPROVAL OF SCHEDULES

- Toni Meliambro made the motion seconded by Joseph Lorintz "That the Board of Education approves the following schedules for appropriate action:

A-486	Treasurer's Report
D-GF-02	General Fund
D-GF-03	General Fund
D-GF-04	General Fund
D-GF-05	General Fund
D-GF-06	General Fund
D-FF-02	Federal Fund
D-FF-03	Federal Fund
D-FF-04	Federal Fund
D-CF-02	Cafeteria Fund
D-CF-03	Cafeteria Fund
D-SA-02	Trust and Agency Fund
D-SA-03	Trust and Agency Fund
D-SA-04	Trust and Agency Fund
D-GF-03	Conference Expense
D-GF-04	Conference Expense
D-GF-05	Conference Expense
E-1318	Award of Bid - Cookies, Chips, Drinks, etc.
E-1319	Award of Bid - Cafeteria Canned Goods
E-1320	Award of Bid - Cafeteria Paper Goods
E-1321	Contract for Pool Facilities

VI. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS (continued)

APPROVAL OF SCHEDULES (continued)

E-1322	Contract for Pool Facilities
G-2397 (rev)	Appointments, Instructional, Intramural Activities
G-2401 (rev)	Appointments, Extracurricular Coaches
G-2402 (rev)	Appointments, Extracurricular Coaches
G-2408 (rev)	Instructional Inservice Course Participation
G-2409 (rev)	Appointments, Instructional, Tutorial Services, Elementary
G-2413	Appointments, Instructional, Part Time
G-2417	Appointments, Instructional, Substitute Teachers, Elementary
G-2418	Appointments, Instructional, Substitute Teachers, Secondary
G-2419	Appointments, Instructional, Part Time
G-2420	Appointments, Instructional, Driver Education
G-2421	Appointments, Instructional, Regular Substitute
G-2422	Appointments, Instructional, Teachers/Curriculum Associates
GG-902 (rev)	Non-instructional Inservice Course Participation
GG-905	Appointments, Non-instructional
GG-906	Appointments, Non-instructional, Substitute
GG-907	Appointments, Non-instructional
H-613 (rev)	Resignations and Terminations of Employment
H-616	Resignations and Terminations of Employment
HH-551 (rev)	Resignations and Terminations of Employment of Non-instructional Employees
HH-553	Resignations and Terminations of Employment of Non-instructional Employees
HH-554	Resignations and Terminations of Employment of Non-instructional Employees
K-307 (rev)	Leaves of Absence - Instructional
K-311	Leaves of Absence - Instructional
L-404	Use of School Facilities
O-524	Services/Consultant Doctors
O-525	Tuition/Consultant Services
S-555	Educational Programs and Projects
S-556	Services/Consultants
S-557	Services/Consultants
T-205	Designation of Textbooks
U-180	Approval of Placements of Children with Special Education Needs

Motion carried, 4, 0.

VII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joan L. Colvin, Ed.D.
District Clerk**