

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

Discussion Meeting  
Tuesday, October 25, 2011

The Discussion Meeting of the Board of Education of the Pocantico Hills Central School District was held on Tuesday, October 25 at 6:36 p.m. in the school Library, Bedford Road, Sleepy Hollow, New York.

On a motion by Vice President David Wilens and seconded by Trustee Emily Segal the Board of Education opened the Business Meeting at 6:36 p.m. The motion was passed (3-0) **DISCUSSION MEETING**

On a motion by Vice President David Wilens and seconded by Trustee Emily Segal the Board of Education opened the Executive Session at 6:37 p.m. to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation. The motion was passed (3-0). **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Present: John Conrad, President **ROLL CALL**  
David Wilens, Vice President  
Joan Cusanelli, Trustee (arrived 6:38 p.m.)  
Fred Rickles, Trustee (arrived at 6:42 p.m.)  
Emily Segal, Trustee

Also Present: Dr. Valencia Douglas, Superintendent  
Jay Scotto-Friedman, Assistant Superintendent  
Jeff Shumejda, Tax Certiorari Attorney  
Ira Levy, Tax Certiorari Attorney

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

With no objection from the Board of Education President John Conrad called the Discussion Meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. **CALL TO ORDER**

Trustee Emily Segal led the pledge of allegiance. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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 **HEARING FROM THOSE**

community.

**Correspondence:** No correspondence at this time.

**Board/Superintendent Announcements:** Superintendent Douglas announced the following:

Our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be leaving on their overnight retreat on Thursday, October 27. They will be staying at a YMCA in New Jersey and will be participating in various team building exercises. They will return to the school on Friday afternoon.

The Strategic Planning Advisory Committee is doing a great job. They meet regularly and have received presentations on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills as well as on-line distance learning. Art Clarke will be presenting to the Board on Tuesday, November 8.

We will be asking the community, students and staff to vote on a new logo for Pocantico Hills. We will be keeping our Hawk, but have updated it for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There will be a chance to voice your opinion through e-mail and ballot boxes placed throughout the building.

October 31 – November 4 is Board Recognition Week. The members of the PHTA, CSEA, PTA, myself and our District Clerk want to thank you for the work you do day in and day out for our children of Pocantico. We realize this work is voluntary and we all appreciate the time and effort you put in everyday.

**Briarcliff High School:** Jim Kaishian and members of the Briarcliff High School Administration gave a presentation on the status of our current high school students.

**New York Property Tax Levy Cap:** Assistant Superintendent Jay Scott-Friedman presented on the New York State property tax cap levy.

**Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by Trustee Fred Rickles and seconded by Trustee Joan Cusanelli the Board of Education voted and approved the October 4, 2011 Business Meeting Minutes. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

**Financial Reports:** On a motion by Vice President David Wilens and seconded by Trustee Emily Segal the Board of Education voted and approved by consent agenda the following financial reports: Claims Auditor Report – June, July, August and September 2011; Warrant Reports 1, 2, 3 & 4; Revenue Status Report – September 2011; and Budget Status Report – September 2011. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

**Policy Review:** On a motion by Trustee Fred Rickles and seconded by Trustee Emily Segal the Board of Education voted and approved by consent agenda the following policies as amended. Policy #4165 – Nepotism and Significant Relationships, Policy #4730 – Homework, Policy #0100 – Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination and Policy #5280 – Interscholastic Sports. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0). Policy #9270.1 – Substitutes has been postponed for further review by our School Attorney. It

## **PRESENT**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

## **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION** Briarcliff High School

## **New York Property Tax Levy Cap**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** October 4, 2011

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

## **OLD BUSINESS** Policy Review

will be brought back to the Board of Education on November 8, 2011.

**Policy Review:** On a motion by Trustee Joan Cusanelli and seconded by Emily Segal the Board of Education voted and approved by consent agenda the following policies as amended. Policy #1050 – Annual District Election and Budget Vote, Policy #1130 – Media Relations, Policy #2382 – Broadcasting and Taping of Board Meetings and Policy #2520 – Board Member Training. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

Policy Review

**Gardening Program:** 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 passed 4 yes and 1 no (President John Conrad).

**NEW BUSINESS**  
Gardening Program

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Pocantico Hills Central School District hereby approve the proposal received from Senta F. Stich to implement and maintain the gardening program for the Pocantico Hills School District from September 2011 to June 2012 at a fee of \$5,000.

**Committee on Special Education:** On a motion by Trustee Emily Segal and seconded by Trustee Joan Cusanelli the Board of Education voted and approved the following recommendations from the Committee on Special Education. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

Committee on Special  
Education

Students with ID numbers: 12541, 0012559, 2003868, 12458, 12549, 12574, 2003692, 002006005, 2003901, 2003598, 187527, 2003918, 2003687, 0012567, 0012551, 2003627, 2003746, 0012555, 2003677, 0012572, 002003680, 187550, 2003649, 12456, 2003904, 002006063, 187555, 002006062, 2402, 002006065.

**Tax Certiorari Reserve Fund:** 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).

Tax Certiorari Reserve Fund

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Pocantico Hills Central School District hereby authorizes the withdrawal of \$1,441,687 from the Tax Certiorari Reserve Fund for the payment of the settled claims between the Pocantico Hills Central School District and Mack Cali 100 Clearbook, 85 Executive Blvd., 300 Executive, 525 Executive, Mack Cali 5 Skyline Drive and 6 Skyline.

**Tax Certiorari Refunds:** 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).

Tax Certiorari Refunds – 700  
Executive Boulevard

**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) |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Rake Realty Assoc. | 700 Executive Boulevard | 2010    |

**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 |
|------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 2010 | 260,000     | 170,000    | 90,000       |

The refund of School District taxes will amount to \$24,547.09±

Tax Certiorari Refund – 6  
 Skyline Dr., 12 Skyline Drive,  
 and 5 Browns Lane

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

**WHEREAS**, the Pocantico Hills Central School District, with respect to the following properties, has previously approved settlements of tax certiorari proceedings regarding the following properties:

| Property Owner   | Address/Description                     | Year(s) |
|------------------|---|---------|
| MACK-CALI/       | 6 Skyline Drive - Tax ID: 116.8-1-11    | 2010    |
| MID-WEST. REALTY | 12 Skyline Drive - Tax ID: 116.11-1-3.2 | 2010    |
| WESTCHESTER      | 5 Browns Lane                           | 2010    |
| INDOOR TENNIS    | Tax ID: 116.7-1-9                       |         |

**WHEREAS**, the settlements were expected to be processed in time so that the School District would not owe refunds on the 2010 assessment reductions (2011-12 School taxes); and

**WHEREAS**, Court orders were duly issued and served on these settlements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Mount Pleasant failed to reduce the 2010 assessments, in accordance with the Court orders; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2011-12 School tax bills were issued on the original assessments, rather than the reduced assessments, as anticipated; and

**WHEREAS**, the terms of the Court orders are that refunds of taxes are owed when the taxes were paid on the original assessment, rather than the reduced assessment; and

**WHEREAS**, accordingly, the School District now owes refunds of School taxes on the 2010 assessment reductions on these properties;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the School District

is hereby authorized to make refunds of 2011-12 School taxes on the above referenced properties, as follows:

Westchester Indoor Tennis: \$7,349.48  
6 Skyline Drive: \$46,622.86  
12 Skyline Drive: \$19,738.93

The total refund of School District taxes will amount to \$73,711.27±. After School Program

**After School Program:** On a motion by Trustee Joan Cusanelli and seconded by Trustee Emily Segal the Board of Education motioned to postpone the discussion on the After School Program rates. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

Construction Contracts

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pocantico Hills Central School District Board of Education hereby authorizes Jay Scotto-Friedman, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Support Services, to execute the general construction contracts prepared by the District's legal counsel between the Pocantico Hills Central School District and Sisca Northeast, Foremost Electric, Pearl River Plumbing, Proton Construction, Mengler Mechanical, Foremost Development, and Arrow Steele.

**Appointment of ELO Instructors:** 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).

#### **PERSONNEL**

Appointment of ELO Instructors

Liz Lapicki – Games ‘n Snacks – 6 sessions @ \$65.00 = \$390.00  
Stephanie Rubeo – Hip Hop Dance – 3 double sessions = \$390.00  
Nancy Occhicone – Outdoor Activities – 6 sessions @ \$65.00 = \$390.00  
Zeena Arturo – Outdoor Activities – 6 sessions @ \$65.00 = \$390.00  
Tracy Carrigan – Simple Snacks – 6 sessions @ \$65.00 = \$390.00  
Dolly Rached – Simple Snacks – 6 sessions @ \$65.00 = \$390.00  
Sharon Rubeo – Minute to Win It – 6 sessions @ \$65.00 = \$390.00  
Jonette Kowalczyk – Minute to Win It – 6 sessions @ \$65.00 = \$390.00  
Kelly Owen – Origami – 12 sessions @ \$65.00 = \$780.00 (Origami is being held on Tuesday & Wednesday)  
Mario Suarez – Scatter – 6 sessions @ \$65.00 = \$390.00  
Peter Rubeo – Scatter – 6 sessions @ \$65.00 = \$390.00  
Peter Rubeo – Touch Football – 6 sessions @ \$65.00 = \$390.00  
Jonette Kowalczyk – Weird Science – 6 sessions @ \$65.00 = \$390.00  
Sana Fanek – Cook it Up a Notch – 6 sessions @ \$65.00 = \$390.00  
Sharon Rubeo – Cook it Up a Notch – 6 sessions @ \$65.00 = \$390.00

**Discussion/Planning for Future Meetings:** The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 8 at 8:00 p.m. Sleepy Hollow High School will be presenting. The Board of Education will be having a retreat on Saturday, November 5 at Historic Hudson Valley. The retreat will be from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#### **DISCUSSION/PLANNING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

**Adjournment to Executive Session:** On a motion by Trustee Joan Cusanelli and seconded by Trustee Emily Segal the Board of Education moved to Executive Session at 11:15 p.m. to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

**ADJOURNMENT TO  
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Adjournment of Executive Session and Discussion Meeting:** There being no further business, on a motion by Trustee Emily Segal and seconded by Vice President David Wilens the Board of Education adjourned the Executive Session and Discussion Meeting at 12:37 a.m. The motion was unanimously passed (5-0).

**ADJOURNMENT OF  
EXECUTIVE SESSION AND  
DISCUSSION MEETING**

Respectfully submitted,  
Gina L. Downes  
District Clerk

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

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

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

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