

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
2023-2024-11

PLACE: ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
1881 DEER PARK AVENUE
DEER PARK, NY 11729

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Donna Marie Elliott, President
Mrs. Kristine Rosales, Vice President
Mr. Al Centamore
Ms. Donna Gulli Grunseich
Mr. Anthony Henkel
Mr. Jerry D. Jean-Pierre
Mr. Robert Marino

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. James Cummings, Superintendent
Ms. Marguerite Jimenez, Asst. Superintendent
Ms. Alicia Konecny, Asst. Superintendent
Mr. Dennis O'Brien, Attorney
Ms. Lisa Brennan, District Clerk

**CALL TO
ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon a motion by Mr. Centamore, seconded by Mr. Jean-Pierre, the Board of Education adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The Board of Education reconvened at 8:00 p.m. into an open session and continued with the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was held for student Jaylen Jean.

**APPROVAL
OF
MINUTES**

Upon a motion by Ms. Gulli Grunseich, seconded by Mr. Marino, the Board of Education made the necessary corrections and moved for the approval of the Minutes of the Open Meeting on November 28, 2023.

PRESENTATIONS:

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Town of Babylon

Veteran's Day Awareness Week Essay Contest

Robert Frost students

Abigail Daniel – 1st place

Ibrahim Faisal – 2nd place

Holiday Dinner participants by HS/BOCES Students

Culinary Program

Adrian Rosario

Andrew Vanegas

Joseph Venticinque

Ramon Zapeta Leon

Aviation Program

Zamani Simon

Magma Math
Ms. Gill, Director of Math & Business

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**Seal of Civic Readiness**  
Ms. Langdon, Director of Social Studies and FACS



**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2024-2025**  
**SCHOOL**  
**HOLIDAY**  
**CALENDAR**

*Upon a motion by Mrs. Rosales, seconded by Mr. Jean-Pierre, the Board of Education unanimously approved the following Resolution:*

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the 2024-2025 school holiday calendar.

**2024-2025**  
**CSEA PAID**  
**HOLIDAY**  
**CALENDAR**

*Upon a motion by Mr. Henkel, seconded by Mr. Centamore, the Board of Education unanimously approved the following Resolution:*

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the 2024-2025 CSEA paid holiday calendar.

**ACCEPTANCE**  
**OF \$2,000**  
**GRANT FROM**  
**TANGER KIDS**

*Upon a motion by Mr. Marino, seconded by Ms. Gulli Grunseich, the Board of Education unanimously approved the following Resolution:*

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve a Grant of \$2,000 from Tanger Kids Grants Program that will be used for the purchase of ukeleles and wall mounts in our Fine and Performing Arts Department.

**ACCEPTANCE**  
**OF \$5,000**  
**GRANT FROM**  
**THE JACK**  
**FANNING**  
**MEMORIAL**  
**FOUNDATION**

*Upon a motion by Mr. Centamore, seconded by Mrs. Rosales, the Board of Education unanimously approved the following Resolution:*

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve a Grant of \$5,000 from the Jack Fanning Memorial Foundation. This grant was awarded to Marie Tortorici on behalf of Deer Park Schools and will be used in the Special Education department.

**INCREASE  
IN HOURLY  
RATE FOR  
RECREATION  
SPECIALIST**

*Upon a motion by Ms. Gulli Grunseich, seconded by Mr. Henkel, the Board of Education unanimously approved the following Resolution:*

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the following rate of pay for the below listed employees is as follows, effective January 1, 2024, in line with the new minimum wage increase:

- Recreation Specialist from \$15.98 per hour to \$16.98 per hour

**FIRST  
READING –  
POLICIES**

*Upon a motion by Ms. Gulli Grunseich, seconded by Mrs. Rosales, the Board of Education unanimously approved the following Resolution:*

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve the first reading of the below listed policies:

- #4327 – Homebound Instruction
- #5300.55 – Code of Conduct – Corporal Punishment
- #8210.1 – Use of surveillance Cameras on School Property
- #8636 – Artificial Intelligence
- #9260 – Conditional Appointment & Emergency Conditional Appointment Student Safety Policy
- #9520.6 – Policy on the Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace

**POLICY  
#8130.2 –  
WORKPLACE  
VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION**

*Upon a motion by Mr. Jean-Pierre, seconded by Mr. Centamore, the Board of Education unanimously approved the following Resolution:*

**WHEREAS**, Labor Law § 27-b was recently amended, effective January 4, 2024, to require school districts to adopt a Workplace Violence Prevention Policy and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to implement the policy to comply with applicable law.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby temporarily suspends all policies requiring a first and/or second reading prior to the adoption of the policy; and it is further

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the adoption of the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy.

**APPROVAL**  
**OF**  
**SCHEDULES**

*Upon a motion by Mr. Henkel, seconded by Ms. Gulli Grunseich, the Board of Education unanimously approved the following Schedules collectively:*

**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

**SCHEDULE -- NN --APPOINTMENTS (Non-Instructional)**

**Sofia Arifi**

Deer Park High School  
Position: Lifeguard  
Salary/Step: \$15/hr  
Effective Date(s): 12/8/2023

**Debra Biscardi**

District Office  
Position: Account Clerk  
Salary/Step: \$52,189.18 Step 1  
Effective Date(s): 12/18/2023  
Salary prorated at \$28,101.87

**Padmawattie Shinath**

Transportation  
Position: School Bus Driver  
Salary/Step: \$28.75/hr  
Effective Date(s): 12/7/2023

**SCHEDULE -- NNPS --PER DIEM SUBSTITUTES (Non-Instructional)**

**Sophia Cataldo**

District Wide  
Position: Per-Diem Substitute Aide  
Salary/Step: \$15/hr  
Effective Date(s): 12/21/2023

**Manuel Dumeng**

District Office  
Position: Per-Diem Substitute Security Guard  
Salary/Step: \$15/hr  
Effective Date(s): 12/4/2023

**Allen Gdoviak**

District Wide  
Position: Per-Diem Substitute Custodian  
Salary/Step: \$15/hr  
Effective Date(s): 12/7/2023

**Michael Hauff**

District Wide  
Position: Per-Diem Substitute Custodian  
Salary/Step: \$15/hr  
Effective Date(s): 12/1/2023

**SCHEDULE -- OO --RESIGNATIONS / RETIREMENTS / REMOVALS / TERMINATIONS (Non-Instructional)**

**Anthony Avitabile**

Transportation

Position: School Bus Driver

Salary/Step:

Effective Date(s): 12/13/2023

Resignation. No outstanding obligation to the district

**Manuel Dumeng**

Deer Park High School

Position: Security Guard

Salary/Step:

Effective Date(s): 12/1/2023

Resignation. Will stay on as Per-Diem Substitute Security Guard

**John Lazarich**

Transportation

Position: School Bus Driver

Salary/Step:

Effective Date(s): 12/22/2023

Resignation for the purpose of Retirement

**Eilis Savettiere**

Robert Frost Middle School

Position: Nurse

Salary/Step:

Effective Date(s): 6/28/2024

Resignation for the purpose of Retirement

**Padmawattie Shinath**

Transportation

Position: Transportation Aide

Salary/Step:

Effective Date(s): 12/6/2023

Resignation to accept School Bus Driver position

**SCHEDULE -- QQ --LEAVES OF ABSENCE (Non-Instructional)**

**Lucy Benivegna**

Deer Park High School

Position: 6 hr. Non-Instructional Aide

Salary/Step:

Effective Date(s): 9/1/2023 - 2/1/2024

Extension of Unpaid Medical LOA (12/5-2/1)

**Ina Corio**

May Moore School

Position: Attendance Aide

Salary/Step:

Effective Date(s): 11/9/2023 - 12/8/2023

Change of LOA dates (Paid Medical LOA (FMLA))

**Joseph D'Attoma**

Memorial

Position: Security Guard

Salary/Step:

Effective Date(s): 10/12/2023 - 12/1/2023

Extension of Unpaid Medical LOA (FMLA) (11/28-12/1)

**INSTRUCTIONAL**

**SCHEDULE -- CSS --CHANGE OF STATUS / SALARY (Instructional)**

**Thomas Leonick**

John F Kennedy Intermediate School  
Position: Permanent Substitute Teacher  
Salary/Step: See Comments  
Effective Date(s): 11/17/2023 - 1/5/2024  
11/17 \$125/day; 11/20-1/5 \$175/day (F. Marotta)

**Kevin McCreesh**

Deer Park High School  
Position: Math Team  
Salary/Step: \$3,733.95 Step 5+/5 Units  
Effective Date(s): 9/1/2023 - 6/30/2024  
Correction of Units and Salary

**Andrea Nelson-Williams**

Deer Park High School  
Position: Teacher Mentor  
Salary/Step: See Comments  
Effective Date(s): 9/1/2023 - 6/30/2024  
Adjusted dates/rate: November-January \$360; February - June \$600

**Kristina Occhino**

John F Kennedy Intermediate School  
Position: Special Education Leave Replacement Teacher  
Salary/Step: \$64,568 MA Step 1  
Effective Date(s): 11/30/2023 - 12/1/2023  
Additional prorated salary to include \$645.68 (H. Buksa LOA)

**Summer Rutsky**

May Moore School  
Position: Permanent Substitute Teacher  
Salary/Step: \$175/day  
Effective Date(s): 11/27/2023 - 12/22/2023  
Change of pay rate and dates (L. Barry)

**Summer Rutsky**

May Moore School  
Position: Elementary Leave Replacement Teacher  
Salary/Step: \$59,070 BA Step 1  
Effective Date(s): 1/2/2024 - 1/12/2024  
Change of pay rate and dates, Salary prorated at \$2,658.15 (L. Barry)

**Gina Wetherell**

May Moore School  
Position: Permanent Substitute Teacher  
Salary/Step: \$175/day  
Effective Date(s): 12/11/2023 - 1/26/2024  
Change in salary due to L.D'Angeli LOA

**Nicholas Zaharia**

John Quincy Adams School  
Position: Elementary Leave Replacement Teacher  
Salary/Step: No Change  
Effective Date(s): 12/20/2023 - 2/9/2024  
Change in start date. Salary prorated @ \$9,155.85 (A. Bock LOA)

**SCHEDULE -- LR --LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE / LEAVE REPLACEMENT (LR)  
APPOINTMENTS (Instructional)**

**Caitlyn Gallagher**

May Moore School

Position: Elementary Leave Replacement Teacher

Salary/Step: \$64,568 MA Step 1

Effective Date(s): 12/16/2023 - 1/19/2024

Salary prorated at \$4,519.76 (M. Pinsky LOA)

**SCHEDULE -- N --PROBATIONARY TEACHER (Instructional) \***

**Christina Byars**

May Moore School

Position: Probationary Elementary Teacher

Salary/Step: \$64,568 MA Step 1

Effective Date(s): 12/14/2023

Change from Leave Replacement to Probationary Teacher (Tenure dates

9/1/23-8/31/27)

\*Except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Education Law 2509, 2573, 3212 and 3014, in order to be granted tenure the classroom teacher or building administrator shall have received composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Education Law 3012-c and/or 3012-d of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years and if the classroom teacher or administrator receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period he or she shall not be eligible for tenure at that time.

**SCHEDULE -- NS --PERMANENT SUBSTITUTES (Instructional)**

**Daniel Lombardo**

John F Kennedy Intermediate School

Position: Permanent Substitute Teacher

Salary/Step: \$125/day

Effective Date(s): 1/2/2024 - 6/30/2024

**SCHEDULE -- O --RESIGNATIONS / RETIREMENTS / REMOVALS / TERMINATIONS  
(Instructional)**

**Kathryn Attard**

Deer Park High School

Position: Music Teacher

Salary/Step:

Effective Date(s): 12/20/2024

Resignation for the purpose of Retirement (HS/JFK)

**Angela Baker**

May Moore School

Position: Teaching Assistant

Salary/Step:

Effective Date(s): 1/30/2024

Resignation for the purpose of Retirement

**Lanique Hutchinson**

District Wide

Position: Per-Diem Substitute Teaching Assistant

Salary/Step:

Effective Date(s): 12/15/2023

Removal. No outstanding obligation to the district

**Krista Militello**  
Deer Park High School  
Position: Health Teacher  
Salary/Step:  
Effective Date(s): 6/26/2024  
Resignation for the purpose of Retirement

**Svetlana Nguyen**  
May Moore School  
Position: Permanent Substitute Teacher  
Salary/Step:  
Effective Date(s): 12/8/2023  
Termination. No outstanding obligation to the district

**Jonathan Owen**  
Robert Frost Middle School  
Position: Permanent Substitute Teacher  
Salary/Step:  
Effective Date(s): 11/30/2023  
Removal. No outstanding obligation to the district

**SCHEDULE -- Q --LEAVES OF ABSENCE (Instructional)**

**Lindsay Barry**  
May Moore School  
Position: Elementary Teacher  
Salary/Step:  
Effective Date(s): 10/14/2023 - 1/12/2024  
Paid Maternity 10/14-12/22; Unpaid 12/23-1/12 LOA (FMLA)

**Heather Buksa**  
John F Kennedy Intermediate School  
Position: Special Education Teacher  
Salary/Step:  
Effective Date(s): 9/9/2023 - 12/1/2023  
Extension of Paid Medical LOA (11/30-12/1)

**Lynn D'Angeli**  
May Moore School  
Position: Reading Teacher  
Salary/Step:  
Effective Date(s): 11/20/2023 - 1/26/2024  
Paid 11/20-1/22; Unpaid 1/23-1/26 LOA (FMLA)

**Christine Gill**  
Deer Park High School  
Position: Director of Math & Business  
Salary/Step:  
Effective Date(s): 5/12/2024 - 6/21/2024  
Paid Maternity LOA (FMLA)

**Susan Mehr**  
May Moore School  
Position: Elementary Teacher  
Salary/Step:  
Effective Date(s): 12/4/2023 - 12/8/2023  
Paid Medical LOA (FMLA)

**Philomena Otto**

Robert Frost Middle School  
Position: Teaching Assistant  
Salary/Step:  
Effective Date(s): 11/27/2023 - 1/5/2024  
Paid 11/27-12/13; Unpaid 12/14-1/5 Medical LOA (FMLA)

**Marlee Pinsky**

May Moore School  
Position: Elementary Teacher  
Salary/Step:  
Effective Date(s): 9/20/2023 - 1/19/2024  
Extension of Unpaid LOA. (Unpaid Child Rearing LOA 12/16-1/19)

**Denise Rathje**

Deer Park High School  
Position: Teaching Assistant  
Salary/Step:  
Effective Date(s): 11/28/2023 - 12/13/2023  
Unpaid LOA (WC)

**SCHEDULE -- TA --PROBATIONARY TEACHING ASSISTANT (Instructional)**

**Kristin Schuster**

Deer Park High School  
Position: Probationary Teaching Assistant  
Salary/Step: \$30,947.74  
Effective Date(s): 12/18/2023 - 12/17/2027  
Salary prorated @ \$18,568.64

**SCHEDULE -- TR --TRANSFERS (Instructional)**

**Doreen Bellantoni**

Deer Park High School  
Position: Speech Teacher  
Salary/Step: No Change  
Effective Date(s): 1/2/2024  
Transfer from .6 MM/.4 JFK to 1.0 HS; Budget Code: .6 @ A2831.150.01; .4 @ F2250.150.2302

**Christine Michels**

John Quincy Adams School  
Position: Speech Teacher  
Salary/Step: No Change  
Effective Date(s): 1/2/2024  
Transfer from .8 JQA/.2 MM to 1.0 JQA

**Stephanie Noble**

May Moore School  
Position: Speech Teacher  
Salary/Step: No Change  
Effective Date(s): 1/2/2024  
Transfer from HS to MM

**SCHEDULE -- TTPA --TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT (Instructional)**

**Christine Michels**

District Wide  
Position: Special Education Curriculum Writing  
Salary/Step: \$270.21/day  
Effective Date(s): 9/1/2023 - 6/30/2024

**Nicholas Trnka**

Deer Park High School  
Position: Boys Swimming Varsity Assistant Coach  
Salary/Step: \$5,182.65  
Effective Date(s): 11/13/2023 - 2/17/2024

**Jennifer Zylberberg**

District Wide  
Position: Special Education Curriculum Writing  
Salary/Step: \$270.21/day  
Effective Date(s): 9/1/2023 - 6/30/2024

**SCHEDULE 23/BP-863 – SCHEDULES OF BILLS PAYABLE**

|                 |                      |            |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------|
| General*        | # 26                 | 10/31/2023 |
| Federal*        | # 12                 | 11/30/2023 |
| Capital*        | # 7                  | 11/30/2023 |
| School Lunch*   | # 9                  | 10/31/2023 |
| School Lunch*   | # 13                 | 11/30/2023 |
| WORKERS' COMP.* | Daily Check Register | 11/16/2023 |
| WORKERS' COMP.* | Daily Check Register | 11/20/2023 |
| WORKERS' COMP.* | Daily Check Register | 11/21/2023 |
| WORKERS' COMP.* | Daily Check Register | 11/22/2023 |
| General         | # 23                 | 11/30/2023 |
| General         | # 29                 | 12/31/2023 |
| Federal         | # 16                 | 12/31/2023 |
| Capital         | # 8                  | 12/31/2023 |
| School Lunch    | # 14                 | 12/31/2023 |
| WORKERS' COMP.  | Daily Check Register | 11/30/2023 |
| WORKERS' COMP.  | Daily Check Register | 12/4/2023  |
| WORKERS' COMP.  | Daily Check Register | 12/11/2023 |
| WORKERS' COMP.  | Daily Check Register | 12/13/2023 |

**SCHEDULE D – BID AWARD**

**Bids for Bid # BDP23-009 School, Facilities, Security, Admin and Technology Shirts, Sweatshirts, Jackets, Vests, Sweaters and Hats were received and opened at 11:00 AM on November 9, 2023.**

Bids were advertised in Newsday. Forms and specifications were processed in accordance with Section 103 of the General Municipal Law and bids were solicited on the Empire State Purchasing Group website at [www.BidnetDirect.com](http://www.BidnetDirect.com).

Bids were received from the following vendors:

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| BSN Sports, LLC           | Seaside Companies, LLC |
| Jonah’s Enterprise Inc.   | ABC Custom Sales Inc.  |
| Digital Dash Creative LLC | Empire Printing, LLC   |
| NYSID                     |                        |

Present at bid opening: Concetta Bertelle, Purchasing Agent and Eileen Homeyer, Recorder.  
There were no vendors present.

It is recommended that the bid be awarded to the following vendors as the lowest responsible bidders meeting specifications (see attached pricing in file):

Empire Printing, LLC  
ABC Custom Sales Inc.

**SCHEDULE 23-E-485 - EXPLANATION OF BUDGETARY TRANSFERS**  
#T16, T17, T18

**SCHEDULE 23-F-448 - CONTRACT REPORT**

| <u>Category</u> | <u>Fund</u> | <u>Vendor</u>                        | <u>Purpose</u>                                             | <u>Dates</u>          | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Special Ed      | G           | Sepideh Homayoonfar Phy.D.           | CSE Attendance                                             | 12/1/2023-6/30/2024   | \$250.00      |
| Admin           | G           | United Rentals, Inc.                 | Insurance for the purpose of lights on district property   | 10/1/2023-10/1/2024   | N/A           |
| Trans           | G           | Eastern Suffolk BOCES                | Transportation Contract                                    | 9/5/2023-6/30/2024    | \$84,000.00   |
| Admin           | F           | Heggerty                             | Phonemic Awareness Professional Development Webinar        | 2/13/2024 & 2/15/2024 | \$1,700.00    |
| Admin           | F           | Heinemann                            | Professional development services                          | 11/29/2023-11/28/2024 | \$8,400.00    |
| Admin           | G & H       | Renu Contracting & Restoration, Inc. | Contractor agreement regarding minimum levels of insurance | 7/1/2023-6/30/2024    | N/A           |
| Income          | F & G       | South Huntington UFSD                | Special education services                                 | 7/1/2023-6/30/2024    | 1 student     |

**SCHEDULE 12-H-23 – HOME TEACHING (regular & S/E)**  
(confidential)

**SCHEDULE 12-S-23 – SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION**  
(confidential)

**SCHEDULE 12-SE-23 – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**  
(confidential)

**RECEIPT**  
**OF**  
**SCHEDULES**

*Upon a motion by Mr. Centamore, seconded by Mr. Marino, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Receipt of Schedules collectively:*

**SCHEDULE 23-A-526 – TREASURERS REPORT**

|                         |                     |                                |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Statement of Revenues - | General Fund -      | July-October                   |
|                         | School Lunch Fund - | July-October                   |
|                         | Special Revenue -   | July-October                   |
|                         | Federal Fund -      | July-October                   |
| Treasurer's Report      |                     | July-October                   |
| Cash Flow               |                     | July-October                   |
| Claims Audit Report     |                     | November 1 - November 30, 2023 |

**SCHEDULE 23-B-846 – APPROPRIATION BUDGET STATUS REPORT**

|                                    |                              |              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Appropriation Budget Status Report | General Fund -               | July-October |
|                                    | Capital Fund -               | July-October |
|                                    | Federal Fund -               | July-October |
|                                    | Special Revenue-             | July-October |
|                                    | Energy Conservation Fund -   | July-October |
|                                    | School Lunch-                | July-October |
|                                    |                              |              |
| Extra-Classroom Activities Funds   | High School -                | July-October |
|                                    | Robert Frost -               | July-October |
|                                    |                              |              |
| Trial Balance                      | General                      |              |
| July-October                       | Worker's Comp & Unemployment |              |
|                                    | Federal                      |              |
|                                    | Capital                      |              |
|                                    | Capital Energy Cons. Proj.   |              |
|                                    | Trust & Agency               |              |
|                                    | Private Purpose Trust        |              |
|                                    | Flexible Benefits            |              |
|                                    | School Lunch                 |              |

**DISCUSSION/  
APPROVAL**

- APPROVED - Varsity Track Fieldtrip - Yale University 1/12 - 1/13/24

**PUBLIC  
BE**

**HEARD** no residents signed up to speak

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS, Board of Education**

Mrs. Elliott comments:

Congratulations to the students who participated in the RF musical  
JQA 60<sup>th</sup> celebration was a huge success

Thank you to Ms. Cotrone and Ms. Tortorici on securing grants for our students

Thank you to Ms. Tuozzo’s class for raising money for Ronald McDonald House

Have a wonderful holiday!

**ADJOURN**

Upon a motion by Mr. Henkel, seconded by Ms. Gulli Grunseich,  
the Board of Education adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

