

BRIDGEHAMPTON U.F.S.D.
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES

Date: March 31, 2005
Meeting Type: Board of Education Special Meeting
Present: Susan Hiscock, Jack Zito, John Wyche, Christine Kaeding, Bruce Dombkowski
Music Room:
Meeting called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Susan Hiscock, President of the Board of Education.

I. ROUTINE MATTERS:

- A) Call to Order by the President upon his/her having ascertained the presence of a Quorum and Roll Call.

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Bridgehampton UFSD convenes into an executive session at 4:12 P.M.

Motion: Kaeding Seconded: Zito Vote: 5-0

Board re-convenes into public session at 4:27 P.M.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Giosi, Union Representative read a letter that was also given to the Board, asking the Board and Administration to consider Ms. Annette Rivera's return to work at the Bridgehampton School according to the advice of the NYSUT representative indicating that this is a matter of "Pro Forma" and the advice provided by the district's attorney is ultra conservative. It was stated also by NYSUT that any charges to permanently remove Mrs. Rivera or Mrs. Rodgers will be dismissed and result in a waste of taxpayers monies.

More specifically everyone was concerned with the continued academic and emotional impact Annette River's removal was having on the 4th grade students. Mrs. Tamara George spoke as a parent of her 4th grade child, on Mrs. Rivera's behalf. She stated that Mrs. Rivera was a teacher that went above and beyond her call of duty. She was one of those teachers that were the first one in to work and the last to leave. She also said that Mrs. Rivera was not only committed to her class, but she noticed that high school children also depended on her too because she was bi-lingual abilities.

Mrs. Kaeding spoke up saying that the Board and Administration was doing what they could to assist with the situation, but they had to move at the discretion of legal counsel's advise and to some extent their hands were tied. She also could attest as a parent that Ms. Rivera is a good teacher, but she could only do what was advised to do.

Teachers also spoke on Mrs. Rivera's behalf and supported the return of Mrs. Rivera's immediately. Mr. Giosi also added that Mrs. Rivera was an adult education instructor and seemed to have been banned from the school to perform that duty as well and surely that does not have anything to do with certification explained Mr. Giosi.

Therefore, it was the sincere belief of the BTA that in the best interest of the children, Ms. Rivera return immediately to the classroom. They also requested that in the best interest of the district, all legal action cease.

Mrs. Hiscock asked, if there was anyone else to be heard, if not the Board will discuss the concern with Administration and Counsel to view the options, and do whatever they could within their powers.

BUDGET

Mrs. Lapidus handed out a revised copy of the budget. This was the second budget presentation before the Board. After a brief discussion and presentation from Dr. Youngblood, the Board decided to postpone the acceptance until the next Board meeting.

BRIDGEHAMPTON CHILD CARE

Dr. Rolston, introduced herself as the President of the Board of Trustees at the Bridgehampton Child Care Center. She approached the Board about the petition that was submitted to the Board to consider levying monies on their behalf, which had been done for the past 20 plus years, but now has become a discussion and concern for about a month because the Board was told by legal counsel that we have no rights to do so. She wanted to know if since the School District was no longer able to levy the monies for the Center was the Bridgehampton School Board and Administration willing to talk about an alternative way for the Bridgehampton School assisting the Bridgehampton Child Care Center with getting funds. Theresa Quigley, legal representation and other members of the Center explained that she could not understand why this has become a problem and again reiterated Dr. Rolston's question. Tamara George stated, "we can't forget that this would mean a lot to parents, students and community members. This would mean that the after school program for the Bridgehampton School children would no long assist and parents would not have anywhere for the children after school". Mrs. Hiscock and other Board members agreed to speak with the Bridgehampton Child Care Board Members about alternative arrangements. Dr. Youngblood expressed she did not know if she could consider making such an arrangement part of the Bridgehampton School budget. It would mean additional cost to our taxpayers and she already had spent a lot of time preparing what she thought was the best budget possible for the upcoming year for the school and community.

Mr. Zito left the meeting at 6:10pm

Christine Kaeding left the meeting at 6:15pm

Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 6:20 pm

Motion: Kaeding Seconded: Wyche Vote: 3-0

Respectfully submitted: Joyce Crews-Manigo, District Clerk

