MINUTES

Date of Meeting: February 23, 2015
Type of Meeting: Legislative Work Session
Place of Meeting: Long Beach Middle School Library

Members Present: Vice President Stewart Mininsky
Board Member Roy Lester
Board Member Dennis Ryan
Board Member Maureen Vrona

Members Absent: President Darlene E. Tangney

Others Present: Mr. David Weiss, Superintendent
Assemblyman Todd Kaminsky
Ms. Halie Meyers
Ms. Carole Butler, District Clerk

Call to Order/Pledge - Board President
Vice President Mininsky called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM and led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report of the Superintendent:
Legislative Work Session Topic: Education

- Superintendent Weiss presented Assemblyman Kaminsky with educational concerns. These included: GEA (Gap Elimination Adjustment), financing, Board of Regents, Social Host Law and teacher evaluations.

Board of Education Comments
- Board Member Vrona asked about the priorities of Governor Cuomo and the legislature regarding education (openness, ethics, Dream Act, investment tax credit); kiddingly asked how to eliminate GEA or Wick’s Law.
- Board Member Lester stated his low expectations of success with teacher evaluations; noted financial pressures of prevailing wage on the district.
- Board Member Ryan commented on 5 year probationary period and charter schools; has concerns about sustaining teacher contracts and the budget given the 2% tax cap, forcing the use of reserve funds; unfunded mandates.
Board of Education Comments (continued)

- Mrs. Vrona voiced concerns about the validity of APPR.
- Dr. Ryan discussed the difficulties with teacher evaluations; administrators must monitor and follow through; worries about common core and its stress on students and the large amount of homework from IB.
- Mr. Lester believes that administrators should limit homework; district does not cater to highest achievers; monies go to raise the weakest performers; district needs prestige (which could be derived from having an Intel winner, for example).
- Dr. Ryan discussed property value impact of 3rd and 4th grade scores, along with 7th and 8th grade scores; district is spending $30,000 per student; district is strongest in area of special education.
- Vice President Mininsky mentioned the positive impact of family on high achieving students.
- Dr. Ryan discussed equity vs. excellence; supports Roger Tilles; mentioned social host law; commented on need for a hospital; discussed option of consolidation, i.e., merger of districts like Island Park and Long Beach.
- Mr. Lester commented on the lack of need for financial support on social host initiative; it was generated from Long Beach.

IV. Questions and Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only

None

V. President Tangney Called for Announcements

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers’ Association - None
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group - None
3. Long Beach Schools Employees Association - None
4. Parent/Teacher Association - None
5. Student Organization - None

VI. Vice President Mininsky called for a motion to adjourn at 7:37 PM.

Motion by: Vice President Mininsky
Seconded by: Board Member Vrona
Approved: 4-0

Minutes submitted by: ________________________________
Carole Butler, District Clerk
April 14, 2015