

**BRIDGEHAMPTON U.F.S.D.
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Date: November 17, 2008
Meeting Type: Board of Education Special Meeting
Present: Elizabeth Kotz, Carol Kalish, Nicki Hemby, Rick Delano, Susan Hiscock
Joe Berhalter
Dr. Dianne B. Youngblood, Superintendent, John Pryor, Principal,
Philip Kenter, Business Administrator, Joyce Crews-Manigo, District Clerk
Absent: James Walker

I. ROUTINE MATTERS:

- A) Call to Order by the Vice President, Elizabeth Kotz upon her having ascertained the presence of a Quorum, Saluting the flag and Roll Call at 6:30 P.M.
- B) **Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Bridgehampton UFSD approves the Proposed BOE Agenda, dated November 17, 2008.

Motion: Hiscock Seconded: Kalish Vote: 6-0

II. DISCUSSION

Princeton Review Course for the 2008-09 Junior Class with East Hampton High School.

After a brief discussion regarding the opinion from legal Counsel and the opinion of the Board of Education, the Board approved a resolution as follows with a summary, drafted by Mr. Rick Delano, Board Member, of the decision regarding the Board's determination, that they should subsidize the cost of the Princeton SAT Review Course:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Bridgehampton UFSD hereby authorizes payment of \$700 per interested junior student, to participate in the Princeton Review Program at the East Hampton High School, effective December 6, 2008. The cost to each parent will be a \$100 per student. The district will pay the remaining \$700 per student. It is understood that the student will be responsible for payment of an additional \$400 if he/she drops out of the program.

Motion: Berhalter Seconded: Delano Vote: 6-0

On behalf of the Board of Education of the Bridgehampton UFSD, I am drafting a summary of the decision regarding the Board's determination, that we should subsidize the cost of the Princeton SAT Review Course. It should be known that this Board has approved subsidizing this prep course in earlier years and it is common knowledge that neighboring districts also subsidize this course for their students. At our November 10, 2008 meeting, we asked legal Council to advise us as to the legality of subsidizing this course. Our decision time frame is "last minute" for a variety of reasons and we met in Special Session today to determine how we might approach this preparation service with a need to commit two days hence to have our willing students join a course to be given in a neighboring school district.

Our legal Council's memo dated of November 12, 2008 advises us that "our decision to fund the SAT preparation courses "could leave the District susceptible to a challenge". A copy of their memo is provided as part of the minutes. Our Business Manager and Superintendent both stated that they thought proceeding was risky and that we could be cited in a near-term state audit and potentially their state license to practice could be impacted. However the full Board present (six of seven) felt that we did not have all the facts, and given the time constraints, believed that we needed to make sure that our students had an equal opportunity to access to these prep courses that students in our neighboring districts appear to enjoy through their subsidy of such courses.

We appreciate the extent of the deliberation we undertook as a district which we feel is a sign of our growing maturity as a governing and administrative organization. In particular, we want to recognize the earnestness and steadfastness of our Business Manager in articulating his point of view. We also pledge to undertake a full analysis within the next 90 days, so we can determine an appropriate procedure for the up-coming year.

Resolved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Motion: Hiscock

Seconded: Kalish

Vote: 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Dianne Youngblood, Pro-Temp