

**BYRAM HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**ARMONK, NY**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2016**  
**Meeting: 7:00 p.m. (Proposed Executive Session)**  
**Public Meeting: 7:30 p.m.**

**DATE:** August 30, 2016

**TIME:** 7:30 p.m. Public Meeting

**PLACE:** Board Room in District Office

**PRESENT: Board of Education Members Present**

Mr. Brett Summers, President

Mr. Scott Levy, Vice President

Ms. Mia DiPietro

Ms. Robin Glat

Mr. Ira Schulman

Ms. Lara Stangel

**Absent**

Mr. Michael Sanders

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. William Donohue, Superintendent

Mr. Gregory Carlson, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Management Services; District Clerk

Dr. Tim Kaltenecker, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Jen Lamia, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

**1. Call to Order**

At 7:35 p.m. the public meeting was called to order by Board President, Mr. Summers.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**3. Proposed Executive Session upon Board Approval**

The Board met in Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss the following items:

**3.1 Legal Matter - Individual Student**

**3.2 Personnel Matter - Individual Employee**

**3.3 Legal Matter - Communications**

**4. Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public at this time.

**5. Revision and Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made by Mr. Levy and seconded by Mr. Schulman to adopt the agenda as presented.

Vote: 6-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Mr. Levy to adopt **Item 6: Consent Agenda - Personnel; Item 7: Consent Agenda - Special Services; and Item 8: Consent Agenda - Business** as presented. Vote: 6-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

## 6. Consent Agenda - Personnel

- 6.1 Administrator Appointment:
  - 6.1.1 Regina Cunningham, Assistant Principal, BHHS, 4year probationary, effective 8/04/16-8/03/20
- 6.2 Teacher Leaves:
  - 6.2.1 Employee #665, Library Media Specialist, CH/WA, effective 8/30/16-1/24/17
  - 6.2.2 Employee #1633, Elementary (Grade 4), WA, effective 8/30/16-11/18/16
  - 6.2.3 Employee #2132, Math, BHHS, effective 8/30/16-11/21/16
- 6.3 Teacher Appointments:
  - 6.3.1 Deena Lise, Psychologist, HCC, 4year probationary, effective 8/30/16-8/29/20
  - 6.3.2 Danielle Roviezzo, ENL, DW, 4year probationary, effective 8/30/16-8/29/20
  - 6.3.3 Andrew Benowich, Spec. Ed. HCC, 4year probationary effective 8/30/16-8/29/20
  - 6.3.4 Jonas Kalish, Math, BHHS, amend probationary period from 8/30/16-8/29/20 to 8/30/16-8/29/19 (4 years to 3 years)
- 6.4 Regular Substitutes:
  - 6.4.1 Brett Weinberg, Elementary, CH/WA, effective 8/30/16-11/18/16
  - 6.4.2 Amanda Ruderman, Math BHHS, effective 8/30/16
  - 6.4.3 Joseph Grippi, Phys. Ed., WA, effective 8/30/16
  - 6.4.4 Eleanor Fosnot, Elementary (Grade 4), WA, effective 8/30/16-11/18/16
  - 6.4.5 Dora DeBiase, Spec. Ed., HCC, effective 8/30/16-1/21/17
- 6.5 CSEA Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement:
  - 6.5.1 James Smith, III, Custodial/Bus Driver, DW, effective 6/30/17
- 6.6 CSEA Resignations:
  - 6.6.1 Andrew Benowich, Teacher Aide, HCC, effective 6/30/16
  - 6.6.2 Rosina Bain, Teacher Aide, CH, effective 6/30/16
- 6.7 CSEA Probationary Appointments:
  - 6.7.1 Danielle Schultz, Computer Aide, HCC, effective 8/24/16
  - 6.7.2 Serena Cecere, Office Assistant (Automated Systems), Spec. Svcs., effective 7/18/16
  - 6.7.3 Linda Hernandez, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 8/22/16
  - 6.7.4 Philip Salamone, P/T Monitor, Transportation, effective 9/06/16
  - 6.7.5 Johanna Pelaez, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 8/22/16
  - 6.7.6 Tyrone Murrell, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 8/22/16
  - 6.7.7 Richard Romagnoli, P/T Cleaner, BHHS, effective 7/18/16
  - 6.7.8 James Horigan, Teacher Aide, WA, effective 9/06/16
  - 6.7.9 Brett Alcantara, Teacher Aide, BHHS, effective 9/06/16
  - 6.7.10 Brittney Mangieri, Teacher Aide, HCC, effective 9/06/16
  - 6.7.11 Peter Cancro, Teacher Aide, BHHS, effective 9/06/16
  - 6.7.12 Leana DeSimone, Teacher Aide, HCC, effective 9/06/16
  - 6.7.13 Larry Cerretani, Teacher Aide, HCC, effective 9/06/16
  - 6.7.14 Alissa Nicole Bruno, Teacher Aide, HCC, effective 9/06/16
  - 6.7.15 Gedeon Toth, Sr. Custodian, CH, effective 8/29/16
  - 6.7.16 Wendy Gilligan, P/T Monitor, Transportation, effective 9/06/16
  - 6.7.17 Marlene Costello, P/T Monitor, Transportation, effective 9/06/16
  - 6.7.18 Aymer Chaux, P/T Monitor, Transportation, effective 9/01/16
- 6.8 Substitute Teacher Appointments:
  - 6.8.1 Sabrina DiBullo, effective 8/30/16
  - 6.8.2 Brett Alcantara, effective 9/06/16
  - 6.8.3 Harriet Savitz, effective 9/06/16
  - 6.8.4 Barbara Sass, effective 9/06/16
  - 6.8.5 Lucas Avidan, effective 9/06/16

- 6.9 Additional Teaching Assignment Rescission 201617:
  - 6.9.1 Douglas Carpenter, Health .1 FTE, BHHS
- 6.10 Additional Teaching Assignment 201617:
  - 6.10.1 Jen Croke, Health .1 FTE, BHHS
- 6.11 Extracurricular Appointments BHHS:
  - 6.11.1 Brett Alcantara, Assistant to the Athletic Director Daytime Supplement
  - 6.11.2 Peter Cancro, Debate Coach
- 6.12 Fall Coaching Rescissions:
  - 6.12.1 Joseph Grippi – Assistant Modified Football
  - 6.12.2 Mike Darland - Girls Diving Coach
- 6.13 Fall Coaching Appointments:
  - 6.13.1 Richard Rolo – Assistant Varsity Football
  - 6.13.2 Brittney Mangieri – Head Varsity Cheerleading
  - 6.13.3 Andrew Benowich – Head Modified Girls Soccer
  - 6.13.4 Muhammad Ali – JV Field Hockey
  - 6.13.5 Isabel Mora – Cheerleading Assistant
  - 6.13.6 Michele Connors – Head Varsity Field Hockey
  - 6.13.7 Joseph Grippi – Assistant JV Football
  - 6.13.8 Joseph Giesemann – Head Modified Football
  - 6.13.9 Jason Hicks – Assistant Varsity Field Hockey
  - 6.13.10 Nicholas Vallo – Head JV Football
  - 6.13.11 Danielle Roviezzo – Head JV Cheerleading
- 6.14 Approval to Appoint Leanne Falcone as a Guidance Intern at BHHS
- 6.15 Approval of Teacher Mentor Appointments for the 2016-17 School Year:
  - 6.15.1 CH –Michelle See, Heather Nimsger
  - 6.15.2 BHHS – Matt Allen
- 6.16 Approve Ameer Ainsworth as a Seasonal Cleaner for the period 8/15/16-8/30/16
- 6.17 CSEA Part-time Availability Appointment:
  - 6.17.1 Shirley Lewer, P/T/A Monitor, effective 9/06/16
- 6.18 Game Supervisor and Intramural Supervisor Appointments for the 2016-17 School Year: See Attached List
- 6.19 Approval to Create Supplemental Pay for Sr. Custodial Worker

**7. Consent Agenda - CSE/SubCSE/CPSE Recommendations**

**8. Consent Agenda - Business**

- 8.1 Acceptance of Donation from the Byram Hills Bobcat Boosters and Authorization to Increase 2016-17 General Fund Budget
 

**Resolved**, that the Board accepted the donation of \$7,500 from the Byram Hills Bobcat Boosters and authorize an increase of \$7,500 in the General Fund budget code A2855.510.06.6200.
- 8.2 Authorization to Dispose Outdated/Obsolete Equipment
 

**Resolved**, that the Board authorized the Assistant Superintendent for Business to dispose of obsolete equipment.

- 8.3 Authorization to Dispose Obsolete Textbooks  
**Resolved**, that the Board authorized the Assistant Superintendent for Business to dispose of obsolete non-public textbooks.
- 8.4 Authorization to Execute a Special Education Services Contract with the Irvington Union Free School District for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year  
**Resolved**, that the Board Authorize Superintendent to execute a contract for special education services with the Irvington Union Free School District for the 2015-16 fiscal year.
- 8.5 Authorization to Execute Contract Amendment with Northern Westchester Center for Speech Disorders, Inc. for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year  
**Resolved**, that the Board Authorize the Superintendent to execute a contract amendment in the amount of \$26,870 with Northern Westchester Center for Speech Disorders for the 2015-16 fiscal year.
- 8.6 Authorization to Execute Contract Amendment with Summit Occupational and Physical Therapy Services, PLLC for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year  
**Resolved**, that the Board authorized the Superintendent to execute a contract amendment in the amount of \$41,292 with Summit Occupational and Physical Therapy Services, PLLC for the 2015-16 fiscal year.
- 8.7 Authorization to Execute Contract Amendment with Programs for Little Learners, LLC for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year  
**Resolved**, that the Board Authorize the Superintendent to execute a contract amendment in the amount of \$3,465 with Programs for Little Learners, LLC for the 2015-16 fiscal year.
- 8.8 Authorization to Execute a Contract Amendment with Isa Marrs Speech and Language Pathology, PC for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year  
**Resolved**, that the Board authorized the Superintendent to execute a contract amendment in the amount of \$6,500 with Isa Marrs Speech and Language Pathology, PC for the 2015-16 fiscal year.
- 8.9 Approval of Contract for Health & Welfare Services with the Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns for 2015-16 School Year  
**Resolved**, that the Board authorized the Board President and District Clerk to execute a contract for health and welfare services with the Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns for the 2015-16 school year.
- 8.10 Approval of Contract for Health & Welfare Services with the Ossining Union Free School District for 2015-16 School Year  
**Resolved**, that the Board authorized the Superintendent to execute a contract for health and welfare services with the Ossining Union Free School District for the 2015-16 school year.
- 8.11 Authorization to Execute an Attorney Agreement with Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year  
**Resolved**, that the Board authorized the Board President to execute an attorney agreement with Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP for the 2016-17 fiscal year.
- 8.12 Authorization to Execute a Contract for Summer School Educational Services with the Ardsley Union Free School District for the 2016 Summer  
**Resolved**, that the Board authorized Board President to execute a contract for summer school educational services with the Ardsley Union Free School District for the 2016 summer.
- 8.13 Authorization to Execute Instructional Service Agreements with the Harrison Central School District for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year  
**Resolved**, that the Board authorized the Board President to execute the Instructional Service Agreement with the Harrison Central School District for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

- 8.14 Authorization to Execute Agreement with The Karafin School for Educational Services for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year  
*Resolved*, that the Board authorized the Superintendent to execute a contract with The Karafin School for educational services for the 2016-17 fiscal year.
- 8.15 Authorization to Execute Renewal Agreement with NJB Security Services, Inc. for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year  
*Resolved*, that the Board authorized the Superintendent to execute a renewal agreement with NJB Security Services, Inc. for security services for the 2016-17 fiscal year.
- 8.16 Award of Bid for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year: Athletic Supply, Health and Trainer Supply Bids Coordinated by Clarkstown Central School District and Administered by Educational Data Services, Inc.
- 8.17 Authorization to Participate in Putnam/Northern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services Joint Bid With Other Schools for Commodities for the 2016-17 fiscal year  
*Resolved*, that the Board authorized the District Clerk to execute a contract with Putnam/Northern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services to bid jointly for commodities for the 2016-17 fiscal year.
- 8.18 Award of Bid for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year: # 2 Heating Oil for the Operations and Maintenance Department  
*Resolved*, that the Board awarded the Bid to purchase #2 heating oil for the Operations and Maintenance Department from East River Energy for the 2016-17 fiscal year.
- 8.19 Authorization to Increase A La Carte Food Selling Prices  
*Resolved*, that the Board authorized authorized the increases in food selling prices as recommended.
- 8.20 Acceptance of Treasurer's Report for June 2016  
*Resolved*, that the Board accepted the Treasurer's Report for June 2016.

## 9. Unfinished Business

There were no Unfinished Business items.

## 10. New Business

### 10.1 Board Goals

Dr. Donohue discussed the difference between the 2016-2017 Board of Education Goals and the 2015-2016 Board of Education Goals. Mr. Schulman requested the Board not adopt the Goals at this meeting since Mr. Sanders is not present.

Dr. Donohue explained that he reviewed the Board's comments from last spring and incorporated those ideas into the following proposed goals for 2016-17.

1. **Excellence in Teaching and Learning** - This goal has been expanded to include STEAM and the theme of Globalization. Culture, Diversity and Character Education, previously separate goals, have also been included into this goal.

2. **Fiscal Accountability and Communications** - This goal remains essentially unchanged, noting that it is paramount for the District to be fiscally accountable.



**3. Succession Planning and Leadership Development** -This has been a goal for a number of years and it remains unchanged. The District has benefitted greatly from the goal, particularly in the last few years, as four administrative directors have been replaced (due to retirement) with excellent candidates.

**4. Education Reform and Advocacy** – Advocacy, in the past, had been addressed under the Excellence in Teaching and Learning Goal but is now addressed under its own goal with Education Reform.

The Board discussed the proposed goals and their relevancy to the current school year, including what should be considered goals and what should be considered ongoing work of the Board. Dr. Donohue noted that the proposed changes were welcomed, as well as some additional proposals, such as removing the goal of succession planning and addressing declining enrollment. The Board considered discussing the goals during the Board's retreat, however, Mr. Summers suggested that the Board use the retreat for working on Board processes and communications versus addressing particular issues.

Based on the evening's discussion by the Board, Dr. Donohue will revise the goal on Fiscal Accountability to include enrollment and the gradual depletion of fund reserves. The Board Goals will be reviewed again and adopted when the full Board is all present at a Board meeting.

### **10.2 Public Hearing to Discuss the Preliminary Investment Plan for the Smart Schools Bond Act**

At 8:01 pm, the public hearing was called to order to discuss the Preliminary Investment Plan for the Smart Schools Bond Act. Dr. Donohue introduced the discussion. He reported that in order to proceed with the Investment Plan, the Board is required to hold a public hearing before voting to approve the plan. Returning Board members have heard about the plan several times, however, Dr. Kaltenecker will provide a brief summary to initiate the discussion. The Smart Schools Bond Act, now in its third year, was approved when Governor Cuomo was first elected. Dr. Kaltenecker reported that Dr. Andrew Taylor, Director of Technology, determined that the SmartBoards, which are utilized in most classrooms, are approximately ten to fifteen years old and are considered old technology. He explained that different concepts were piloted by Dr. Taylor and the Promethean Interactive TV was considered to be the best choice. The advantages of the Promethean Interactive TV are listed within the document plan, and the teachers' familiarity with the interactive TV and Boards will require much less teacher training. Dr. Kaltenecker noted that once the plan is approved, the new interactive boards would be in place in a few months. The District is eligible to receive approximately \$334,000 from State Bonds. Dr. Donohue reported that once the funds are approved and allocated, the District will need to apply for use of the funds before a check is issued. The plan is scheduled to be approved by the Board at the September 13, 2016 Board meeting.

Dr. Kaltenecker answered some questions from the Board. The public hearing concluded at 8:09 pm.

### **10.3 Board of Education 2016-2017 Committee Assignments**

The Board Committee Assignments were previously distributed to the Board. Mr. Summers completed the assignments based on the Board's feedback. He considered waiting for Mr. Sanders to discuss the assignments, however, Mr. Sanders' assigned committees were the same as last year, as he requested. Mr. Schulman offered to replace Ms. Glat as Athletic Liaison and she was agreeable to the change.

Mr. Schulman asked if there will still be one non-officer present at the agenda meetings with the Superintendent. Mr. Summers responded that he and Mr. Levy discussed not having a formal rotation. Mr. Summers suggested having it open and rotate Board members informally. Dr. Donohue suggested having more structure. He noted that dates for all Board members have been assigned on a rotating basis, however, if there is a conflict with someone's schedule, naturally, their date can be changed. Mr. Schulman noted he is not able to attend agenda meetings. This will provide additional opportunity for the new Board members to attend.

Mr. Summers noted that Ms. Glat is now Board representative to the Emergency Safety Team.

## **11. Staff Reports**

### **11.1 Superintendent**

Dr. Donohue discussed the presentation he made to faculty earlier today during the faculty's Superintendent Conference Day. He discussed the impact of the tax cap since 2008, and the John King/Meryl Tisch version of reform and its impact since 2011. Significantly, he noted that he and Dr. Kaltenecker have recently worked on developing the 3012-D, which is the fourth APPR plan in five years. He pointed out to the faculty that despite the fiscal conditions and restrictions from the state, the District needs to plan for the future, noting that the District cannot have "no initiatives" forever. He urged the teachers to look at ways to really re-make the District. He pointed out to the faculty that given the District's test scores and college admissions the risks associated with experimentation are actually low. He reported that the District's ELA for Grade 6 placed first in the state this year and six grade levels scored top in the county. For the last four years, fifty percent of the Byram Hills' graduating seniors have been accepted into at least one Tier I college. Dr. Donohue commented that there is no need to be afraid of taking risks and challenged them to join a newly formed Task Force Committee which will review different ways to take risks. He also proposed that the high school put together some proposals as to how to replace every Regents exam that is not required for a student to graduate in New York State. Dr. Donohue mentioned that he will be meeting with the Math Department on Wednesday, August 31, as they would like to be the first department to attempt this. He explained that the idea is to jump-start positive initiatives. If someone has a good idea, he would like them to act on it. Dr. Donohue noted that today was the faculty's first day back and positive feeling was felt throughout the day. He also mentioned that recognition was noted for those teachers who received tenure, longevity and teacher recognition awards this past June.

### **11.2 Assistant Superintendent for Business and Management Services, District Clerk**

Mr. Carlson noted that the field work for the District's external audit was completed at the end of July. The District invited auditor, Dominick Consolo, to present the external audit at the September 27, 2016 Board meeting. Mr. Carlson received the first draft and said it's something to be very proud of. Mr. Consolo will meet with the Audit Committee on September 27, prior to his presentation during the public meeting.

Mr. Carlson noted that some Board members attended the annual tour of the buildings, just prior to the evening's meeting. He mentioned that Mr. Steve Thompson, Director of School Facilities, Operations and Maintenance took some before and after photos of the work performed in the District during the summer months. These pictures demonstrate the excellence of the work done by the Operations and Maintenance staff. Some of the projects include: Replacing the gym floor at Coman Hill; new flexible space in the Technology Lab at Wampus; enhancements in the Technology Lab at the middle school; enhancements in the Technology Lab at the high school, with furniture arriving within the next week; reconfiguration of the high school library and the area for the Athletic Hall of Fame; the creation of a coffee shop at the high school with booth seating with furniture arriving in mid-October. Mr. Carlson noted that the District will conduct a promotional event for the coffee shop once the work is completed, as this space will most likely be well received. Mr. Carlson mentioned that the Board also visited the Transportation Department, which is nearing completion. Mr. Schulman commented, on behalf of the Board of Education, their appreciation to Mr. Thompson and his department. Mr. Summers added that the flex space for technology looks terrific and is exciting. However, the Transportation Department has been proceeding too slowly and there is some frustration with that.

### **11.3 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction**

Dr. Kaltenecker noted this summer was very busy for teachers. He reported that over 70 workshops were offered to teachers which were facilitated by administrators and consultants and the annual Cyber Camp proved to be exciting. Many technology tools were made available to the teachers and the teachers were trained on these new tools, as well. A workshop and training program on problem-based learning was offered which was attended by approximately thirty-five teachers. Dr. Kaltenecker noted that the teachers admitted to the discomfort at first, but then became excited about the possibilities of this new learning.

Dr. Kaltenecker reported on the New York State Test Results. The Board received an overview in their packet and Dr. Kaltenecker will present a full report at the end of September. Dr. Kaltenecker reported that the Commissioner made it clear that the 2016 tests were changed significantly, therefore, they are not a valid comparison with previous year's tests. Dr. Kaltenecker also discussed the student opt-out results. Dr. Kaltenecker added that the Commissioner reported that the opt-outs are not always the same students. Dr. Kaltenecker stated that he will closely review this and will focus the faculty on how to help the students meet the District's benchmarks. A detailed analysis will be part of the full report.

#### **11.4 Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources**

Ms. Lamia reported that she introduced 20 new faculty members during the Superintendent's Conference Day. The summer months were busy for the Human Resources Department with items such as: Dignity Act Compliance training for two new Assistant Principals and a refresher course for the Dignity Act Compliance for standing Assistant Principals and compliance training of policies for all staff members. Another training initiative was the implementation of a new on-line teacher evaluation system. Other training facilitated by Ms. Lamia included the Mentor and Mentee teacher training program which provides support to new teachers. Ms. Lamia also had the opportunity to oversee a refresher training course for bus driver's that was facilitated by Ms. Patricia Kristoferson, newly appointed Supervisor of Transportation. She noted the District is fortunate to have Ms. Kristoferson, as she received her accreditation from the New York State Education Department as a Master Instructor. In this role, she serves on the School Bus Driver Advisory Committee and goes to NYSED four times a year for discussion on what the training is going to be for bus drivers in a given year and she conducts training sessions for instructors, as well. Her training for the District's bus drivers focused on elements, such as respecting and understanding the differences between students, noting their moods from one day to the next, being a source of contact for the student, and being sure that students are safe and secure and are well looked after. Ms. Kristoferson also spoke about the importance of communication among bus drivers, principals and assistant principals. Mr. Summers acknowledged how beneficial it is for the District to own their own buses, have their own employees and especially for students to have consistency in having the same bus driver and the same route each day versus having an outside bus contract. Ms. DiPietro also added how important it is to have the good bus drivers, as those drivers play a big part as the start and end of a students' day.

## **12. Board Reports**

### **12.1 President**

Mr. Summers discussed the personnel hiring process. He reported that from time to time there is a hire that is made without being first formally approved by the Board at a Board meeting, prior to their start date. This occurs because there isn't a scheduled Board meeting prior to the start date of the person being hired, therefore, that person is approved, retroactively. The current process in place asks for the Board President's approval (out of the meeting setting). Going forward, Mr. Summers is suggesting that if someone needs to be hired and begin working before a formal Board meeting, that Dr. Donohue and Ms. Lamia have the authorization to approve the hire. Ms. Lamia added that this scenario happens frequently. For example, just recently, three new teacher aides were hired just before the opening of school and were needed to start work on Tuesday, September 6 (the first day of school for students) and could not wait until the next Board meeting (which would be September 13). Ms. Lamia noted that all these new hires had been fingerprinted, fully vetted, had reference checks, etc., and, therefore, were all cleared to begin work. Ms. Glat asked how the process is different from the hiring of coaches. Ms. Lamia explained that new hires are told that they are being approved to start work, however, the Board still needs to approve their appointment, and in the event they are not approved, the District would compensate them for the work they have done up to that point. Dr. Donohue mentioned that he thought the process of having a new hire start before that person was placed on an agenda for a formal Board approval would not be an issue, and reiterated that no new employee's start date would be approved unless all the required paperwork, fingerprinting, references, etc. are in place. Mr. Summers concluded that the new hire would be made aware that they could start work, but their employ isn't finalized until it is brought before the Board for approval at the next Board meeting.



Mr. Summers welcomed two newly elected Board members, Ms. Mia DiPietro and Ms. Lara Stangel. Mr. Summers reminded the Board of updating their biographies for the District website and the Board picture will be taken at the September 13 Board meeting. Mr. Summers noted that on September 8, Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association is hosting an event to discuss the draft resolutions for the NYSSBA annual meeting. This is an opportunity for school district to submit resolutions, and if adopted statewide, will become the formal lobbying position of the New York State School Boards Association. These resolutions are always reviewed at the Business meeting during NYSSBA's annual conference, sometime in October of every year. He mentioned that during the meeting on September 8, a two-county group will be meeting to discuss the resolutions. Mr. Summers and Mr. Levy will be attending the meeting and will then present an update to the Board at the next meeting. He noted that all Board members are welcome to attend the meeting. Mr. Summers reported that WPSBA will also be hosting a panel discussion on October 13 about *Social Emotional Wellness for All Students*. Mr. Summers mentioned that Dr. Donohue and he were invited to provide a five minute presentation on the flexible learning center which is something of interest to many other school districts. Mr. Summers commented that he appreciated the Superintendent's remarks made to the faculty during the Superintendent's Conference Day and the challenge set forth to them from the Superintendent. Mr. Summers reported that he also met last week with Representative Nita Lowey, as well as representatives from NYSSBA, WPSBA and the Lower Hudson Education Coalition. He noted that Ms. Judy Weiner, a former Byram Hills' School Board member was in attendance, as she serves as a lobbyist for WPSBA and for the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents. The two topics discussed were test refusals and the status of the current proposed regulation from the Department of Education whose proposed regulations will financially sanction school districts if they don't achieve 95% student participation; He explained that if these regulations were to pass, Byram Hills would be lumped into a "Needs Improvement" district. They also discussed funding, specifically IDEA.

#### **12.2 Committee/Board Members**

There were no reports from Board members or committees.

#### **12.3 Topics for Future Agendas/Request for Information**

There were no Requests for Information.

#### **13. Communications to the Board**

Dr. Donohue included a letter in the packet on the Veterans Tax Exemption issue. The new Board members can consider it and it will be placed on a future meeting's agenda.

#### **14. Approval of Board of Education Minutes: July 5, 2016**

A motion was made by Ms. Glat and seconded by Ms. DiPietro to approve the Board of Education Minutes of July 5, 2016. Vote: 6-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

#### **15. Executive Session**

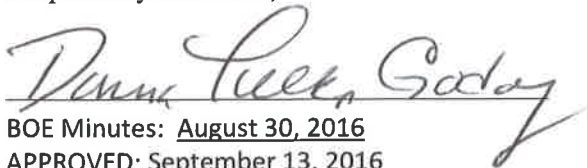
The Board met previously in Executive Session and completed discussions on:

- 3.1 Legal Matter - Individual Student**
- 3.2 Personnel Matter - Individual Employee**
- 3.3 Legal Matter - Communications**

#### **16. Adjournment**

At 8:51 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Levy and seconded by Mr. Schulman to adjourn the meeting. Vote: 6-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



September 13, 2016

BOE Minutes: August 30, 2016  
APPROVED: September 13, 2016

Donna Tulkin-Godoy, Secretary

Date