

November 22, 2013

'13 - 62

An EMERGENCY MEETING of the Board of Education of the West Babylon Union Free School District, of the Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York was held on Friday, November 22, 2013, in the Board Room of the Administration Bldg adjacent to the Senior High School.

Those present: Trustees James F. Bocca, Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Diane Klein, Dennis Kranz, Peter Scarlatos, Diane Thiel, and Stacy Villagran (arrived at 6:05)

Trustee Jen Wandasiewicz was absent

Also present: Mr. Anthony Cacciola, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mrs. Christine Tona, Executive Director for Curriculum and Instruction; Mrs. Amy E. Jones, District Clerk; Mr. William C. Morrell, Attorney and residents (Approximately 30)

The president opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

Board President Diane Thiel asked Mr. Kranz to share with the trustees his reason for calling an emergency meeting. Trustee Kranz thanked everyone for coming and explained that he had become aware of a situation in which student athletes were not permitted to tryout for sports because their parent/guardian had not attended the required meeting. Mr. Kranz said that he felt the students were being penalized for something about which they had no control. Mr. Kranz said that he had been approached with a request to allow these students to tryout and waive the policy. He said that in light of the fact that the tryouts are next week, he felt it was necessary to call the emergency meeting to enable the trustees to discuss the matter. The trustees discussed the pros and cons of waiving the policies. Concerns included setting a precedent for future requests to waive procedure. Mr. Cacciola said that the mandatory meetings have been in existence for at least four years and this is a procedure of which the Board was fully aware and in agreement. He added that a change had been made this year that required parents to attend only one meeting for the school year instead of a meeting for each sport. Mr. Cacciola noted that there had been nine opportunities for parents to attend one meeting. He said that 875 families had attended the mandatory meeting and approximately 29 had not and he was not in favor of changing the procedure at this time. Concern was expressed that students who had met all of the mandatory requirements could be displaced in the tryouts by students who had not met the mandatory requirements. The trustees agreed that there needs to be a procedure change however, that is not the topic for this evening. The trustees discussed a one time compromise which would be to hold one more meeting which a parent/guardian must attend and extend the tryouts to November 27, 2013. Board President Diane Thiel reminded the trustees that this is not a policy and any change this evening would be overturning an administrative procedure. In addition, there is a chain of command that should have been followed.

Residents spoke both for and against changing the procedure; some residents agreed that the students should not be penalized for parents' nonattendance and others agreed that rules should be followed, even though someone may sympathize with the student who's parent did not follow the procedure.

After a lengthy discussion Trustee Kranz seconded by Trustee Scarlatos made a motion to hold one more mandatory meeting for parents/guardians (one in the a.m. and one p.m.) and extend the tryout dates through November 27, 2013.

Voting Yes: Trustees Campasano, Gismervik, Klein, Kranz and Scarlatos

Voting No: Trustees Thiel and Villagran

Abstained: Trustee Bocca

The motion was **CARRIED**

Trustee Campasano seconded by Trustee Bocca made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

Attested to: _____
District Clerk