

**SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2017-MINUTES**

**HEMPSTEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
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The special meeting of the Hempstead Public Schools Board of Education was held in the high school board room, 201 President Street, Hempstead, New York 11550. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M. All of the Board Members were present, Trustee Figueroa arrived at 7:10 P.M. Trustee Jackson excused herself at 8:42 P.M. The purpose of the meeting was negotiations and budget discussion and the appointment of special counsel.

BAORD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maribel Touré	President
Gwendolyn Jackson	Vice President
Melissa Figueroa	Trustee
David B. Gates	Trustee
LaMont E. Johnson	Trustee

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fadhilika Atiba-Weza	Interim Superintendent of Schools
Eddy Joseph	Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations
Dr. Rodney Gilmore	Associate Superintendent for Human Resources
James Clark	Assistant Superintendent for Secondary C & I
Regina Armstrong	Assistant Superintendent for Elementary C & I
Patricia Wright	District Clerk
David Pearl	Labor Counsel

Trustee Johnson moved, seconded by Trustee Jackson to call the meeting to order at 7:06P.M.

MOTION	YES 4	MOTION CARRIED
Call to order		

Trustee Jackson moved, seconded by Trustee Gates to convene to executive session at 7:07 PM. to discuss negotiations.

MOTION	YES 4	MOTION CARRIED
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To convene to
executive session

Trustee Figueroa moved, seconded by Jackson to reconvene to open session at 8: 21 P.M.

MOTION	YES 5	MOTION CARRIED
To reconvene to open session		

BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTIONS

Trustee Figueroa moved, seconded by Trustee Jackson to approve the appointment of special counsel as indicated in resolutions number 1 and 2 as indicated.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Education hereby appoints the law firm of Ingerman Smith, LLP as Special Counsel to represent the Hempstead Union Free School District, and named members of the Board of Education, in connection with an appeal pending before the Commissioner of Education identified in Confidential Schedule "A", at the agreed upon fee of \$230.00 per hour.
2. **BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Education hereby appoints the law firm of Ingerman Smith, LLP as substitute counsel to represent the Hempstead Union Free School District, and named members of the Board of Education, in connection with pending litigation identified in Confidential Schedule "A", at the agreed upon fee of \$230.00 per hour.

MOTION	YES 4	MOTION CARRIED
To approve the appointment of special counsel	NO 1 (Trustee Gates)	

Trustee Figueroa moved, seconded by Trustee Jackson to approve to grant permission for the out of state overnight field trip.

3. **WHEREAS**, the ABGS Middle School is planning an out of state overnight field trip to Philadelphia, PA on April 10-11, 2017.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to permit 14 students and 2 chaperones from the ABGS Middle School to go to Philadelphia on a college tour of Drexel University, Temple University, University of Pennsylvania, St. Joseph's College and Villanova, a Roman Catholic institution of higher learning.

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Recommended by: James Clark

Purpose: Students will tour and attend an information session at one of the many collegiate institutions

Goal: To expose students to various colleges

Source of Funding: Trip will be paid for through Gear-up

MOTION	YES 3	MOTION CARRIED
Grant permission for field trip	NO 2 (Trustees Gates & Johnson)	

Board Member and Superintendent Comments for the record.

Trustee Gates for the record: “We reject any numbers that have been give outside of what the business official has submitted.”

Trustee Figueroa for the record: “In response to what you explained to the group here Dr. Atiba I, as a Trustee, elected by the people of this village will not just take your word for it, I require for you to respond to this board with the data that we’ve been requesting all along, and now here we are at this meeting, again just receiving this information, we’ve arrived at the date of April 18th and between now and then I will get my feed back to you and hopefully you’ll include that in the final draft. But I cannot in my right mind and as I owe to the people will not just take your work for it. I will not do that. You said clearly and there are people in the room, that if you are not willing to take my word for it then that’s fine, that what you said. And no, my response is I am not willing to take your word for it. Because we’re talking about a budget of almost over a 200 million taxpaying dollars. So no, no, when I’m presented with a resolution that’s changed from 10.7 million to 1.3 million without sustaining information I’m sorry but that’s a reflection of the history of the financial fiscal disarray this district is in, that’s why I’m propelled as a Trustee that the information being presented to the public if I have anything to do with it to the extent I’m able to contribute and ensure a sound, fiscally responsible budget. That’s what I’m doing I will not take you work for it. I do require for you to respond to the board with the data in a timely fashion so that we can process that information and respond to this budget and contribute to its production with sound fiscal information.”

Dr. Atiba for the record: “ Miss Figueroa, in the packet you have are tow school district report cads published by the State Education Department, prior, prior to this year, in your packet are appropriation reports, a curriculum report that was previously presented in public for which no questions were asked, in your report, in your packet is a list of BOCES services, which have been made available in public, in your packet is everything that was made available in public, there’s nothing new there except three things, a presentation by

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the high school principal justifying what they do, a presentation by the middle school principal justifying what they do and a presentation by the director of English language learners, explaining what they do, note everything is what you need and I've been presenting this to the board since January 6th and all I've gotten for the board is telling me what wrong with the budget, as opposes to line of what addresses the numbers. So I'm saying for the record we have to present a budget on the 20th and it is the responsibility of the board to respond to the items presented, I am presenting a budget to the board on the 20th and it is the responsibility of the board to vote on that budget.

Trustee Figueroa moved, seconded by Trustee Gates to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 P.M.

MOTION
Meeting adjourned

YES 4

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia Wright
District Clerk