

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Oceanside Board of Education, Oceanside Union Free School District, duly called and held on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the District Office, 145 Merle Avenue, Oceanside, New York.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In Attendance: President Garrity, Vice President Schoell, Mr. D'Ambrosio, Mr. Maresca, Mrs. McGrath-Mulhern and Mr. Transom. Also in attendance were Superintendent Harrington and Assistant Superintendents DeRosa, Provvido and Van Cott, and District Clerk Green. Mr. Blau was not in attendance.

A motion was made by Mrs. Garrity and seconded by Mrs. Schoell at 6:02 p.m. to move into executive session in the Board Room of the District Office.

A motion was made by Mr. Maresca and seconded by Mr. D'Ambrosio at 7:24 p.m. to adjourn executive session and move into public session.

CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In Attendance: President Garrity, Vice President Schoell, Mr. D'Ambrosio, Mr. Maresca, Mrs. McGrath-Mulhern and Mr. Transom. Also in attendance were Superintendent Harrington and Assistant Superintendents DeRosa, Provvido and Van Cott, and District Clerk Green. Mr. Blau was not in attendance.

CASTLETON HIGH SCHOOL – Mr. Mitchell began his presentation by thanking administration and the Board of Education for their constant support of Castleton High School. He introduced his very dedicated and committed staff: Francis Gillespie, Margie Gilbert, Carla Stillwell, James Scannell, Jacqueline Wick, Melissa Rudes, Dr. Marc Metzger and Jared Stoler. Castleton High School has permanent faculty members with some traveling teachers for electives.

Mr. Mitchell spoke about changing the narrative – what our role is with our students, what we represent and changing the message we give our students. Castleton High School provides an alternate approach to education that empowers students to be successful in school. The goal is to make Castleton a true alternative program that we can build upon and to push the paradigm. Change struggle into success. Mr. Mitchell was happy to report that a number of students who have graduated return to share their stories.

The current enrollment of Castleton High School consists of 56 students. There is a low student-to-teacher ratio. Regents exams are offered at Castleton.

Mr. Mitchell reported that 25 of the 56 students have an IEP. Castleton High School has three resource rooms. There is no set profile of a Castleton student; it is determined on a case-by-case basis. The students are referred to Castleton through the Child Study Team at the High School. There is open enrollment.

Mr. Mitchell spoke about the field trip to Adventure Park that had a variety of climbing and zip line challenges. This trip was a component of the Castleton field experience.

Mr. Mitchell reported on Personal Education Plans (PEPs) – individualized plans for each student that includes a student’s strengths, needs, plans for graduation and career interests. This plan could help teachers prepare students for jobs that might not even exist yet. PEPs track what is going on with a student. He also reported on the Alternative Days of Study which will be a day that students can focus on their own academic interests. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Hope and Grit curriculum has been brought back – changing the vision of oneself as a learner.

Another goal is the development of the Castleton website so it is more live.

Several Board members spoke very highly of Castleton High School. One Board member felt that it is beneficial for a 9th grader to start at Castleton and perhaps could transition at a later date to the High School. A suggestion was made that Oceanside Middle School could benefit from Castleton if we could identify those students early on. Mr. Mitchell reiterated that these decisions must be made on a case-by-case basis. Some students have anxiety issues and will always function better in a smaller environment.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion was made by Mrs. Garrity and seconded by Mr. Maresca to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Marie Barbella
Secretary to the Board of Education

Robin D. Green
District Clerk