

Board of Education
Nutley, NJ

June 13, 2001

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Nutley, New Jersey was held in the Radcliffe School Multi-Purpose Room, 379 Bloomfield Avenue, on Wednesday, June 13, 2001 at 7:02 p.m. with Dr. Philip T. Casale, President, presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING:

Dr. Casale read the following:

"According to the provisions of the 'Open Public Meetings Act' (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), and NJSA 18A:22-11 and 22-12, proper notice of this Special Meeting was made on June 8, 2001. Said Notice was:

1. Posted at the entrance of the Board Office.
2. Mailed to The Nutley Sun, the Star Ledger, the North Jersey Herald & News and the Nutley Journal.
3. Mailed to the Nutley Township Clerk.

"The purpose of this meeting will be for the Board to hold a closed Executive session, present an explanation of the School-Age Extended Child Care Program, consider the appointment of the Director of the School-Age Extended Child Care Program, and consider the appointment of various summer program employees.

"Formal action may be taken.

"Following Board consideration and/or action on these items, the Board will remain in session for its normal conference meeting."

CALL OF ROLL:

The other members present at roll call were: Mrs. Maria Alamo, Mr. John Cafone, Mr. Alan Genitempo, Mr. Vincent A. Moscaritola, Dr. Gerard M. Parisi, Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr. and Mrs. Agnes Roncaglio. Approximately 190 citizens were present.

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Dr. Casale asked Mr. Sincaglia to read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education will be discussing matters exempt from public discussion pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education recess to closed executive session at this time to discuss personnel matters, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the results of the discussions will be made public by inclusion on the agenda of a subsequent meeting of the Board of Education or when the reasons for discussing such matters in closed session no longer exist.

Mr. Moscaritola moved that the resolution be adopted, seconded by Mrs. Roncaglio and unanimously approved by the Board.

RECESS MEETING

The meeting recessed at 7:04 p.m.

RESUME MEETING

The meeting resumed at 8:20 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF THE SCHOOL-AGE EXTENDED CHILD CARE PROGRAM

Dr. Serafino stated that at the May 21, 2001 Board meeting she made a recommendation to the Board to offer a district-sponsored school-age child care program. Dr. Serafino said that the Board did approve the addendum resolution during the public Board meeting, however, she did not realize the ramifications of this recommendation would be as they are. She noted that her first consideration was, and will always be, what is in the best interest of the children of the Nutley School District. She stated there were some concerns regarding our process but everything was followed to the correct letter of the law. She then introduced Dr. Vivinetto.

Dr. Vivinetto stated that an Advisory Committee was organized by Dr. Serafino to carefully address the issues of a Nutley Public School-sponsored school-age child care program. He noted the committee met numerous times to begin the extensive planning of this program working closely with Dr. Serafino, central administration, staff and members of the Board. He stated that the committee demonstrated a commitment to the children and the parents of our school district. He then commended the following committee members:

John Calicchio
 Rosemary Clerico
 Frank Comune
 MaryLou Dowse
 Marianna Francioso, Chairperson
 Barbara Hirsch
 Lisa Markman
 Rosanna Tangorra
 Joyce Wood

Dr. Serafino presented the following goals of the district program:

"GOAL I Safe engaging environment which motivates and inspires learning and literacy beyond the school day

"GOAL II Promote strong family involvement in a program designed with sensitivity to the needs of working parents

"This is a separate and distinct program. It is an alternative to other community programs and provides an element of safety and security by keeping students in their home based schools.

"This is a 12 month program beginning September, 2001 and will provide services during school vacations and the summer break.

"The program will serve students from Kindergarten through Grade 8.

"The program will include a component for special needs' children.

"Both enrichment and remediation will be available to students in the program.

"The program will include both guidance and schools-to-careers components.

"Kindergarten

Remain in school of attendance-no busing

"Certified teachers serve as site supervisors

"Access to all school facilities

"Integration with regular school program and summer enrichment

"Administrative involvement

Hiring of staff

Supervision of staff

Improved communication

"School to career component

HS students serve as tutors

"Special education component

"Middle school program under consideration

Monday-Friday, 3 hours 3-6

1st hour Enrichment

Clubs, music, art, crafts, photography, computer technology, drama, dance

2nd Homework (tutors)

3rd Recreational

"In addition weekly:

Life Skills Instructor
SAC coordinator-conflict resolution
Guidance counselor

"Under consideration:

One day/week – community service projects – voluntary
Ex: coat drives, campus clean-up, senior citizens, special young adults

"Nurse

"Security

DYFS Training
Cell phone

"Results of research:

Increase in overall academic achievement
Increased interest and ability in reading
Increase in homework quality, work habits and better attendance
Decrease in disciplinary referral, detentions, and suspensions
Social relationships improved
Decrease in amount of TV watched
Increase in self-esteem and improvement in attitude towards school."

Dr. Serafino also mentioned that the committee and the present advisory board are very similar to what has been in place in the past. She mentioned that many of the site coordinators who are presently in the schools have also reapplied to the program with the Board of Education. She indicated that the Board is ready to go ahead with this program for September 1.

Dr. Casale stated that the Board will allow any comments or questions on the School-Age Extended Child Care Program. He also noted that resolution, Item One, has been removed and held to the next meeting by Dr. Serafino in the spirit of getting out as much information as possible before any further action is taken.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Denise Ozyjowski, 57 Colonial Terrace, expressed numerous concerns with the program and felt that at this late date it gave her no choice but to leave her children in this program.

Margaret Casiero, 53A Lovel Court, thanked the Board for addressing all the things lacking from the current program especially care for the middle school and special services children.

Sally Boland, Warren Street, stated that the committee and the program is very impressive but wondered how long it had been studied and during that time

some form of communication could have been made to the Township so they would not be caught short like they are now. She felt it was handled abominably causing parents to wonder what is going on. She said that she thinks the Board that voted for that program without really fully investigating it deserve not the praise but the censure of the taxpayers.

Sue Brogen, 21 Evelyn Place, asked how much the tuition would be for the program. Dr. Serafino responded that the tuition rate will be the same as it is now.

Lisa DePalo, Carrie Court, asked the Board to emphasize what is available for the kindergarten child i.e., hot or cold lunch, homework help, etc.

Dr. Serafino said that the kindergarten children will be part of our regular school lunch program with an aide assigned to them. She noted that the children will be in a classroom appropriate to their size and age with a teacher that will help them with their homework and provide some enrichment activities as well.

Kerri Tyerman, 38 Burnett Place, stated that she was happy to hear that a kindergarten care program was being added and asked if there was going to be a working parent advisory committee added to the program. She also noted that she would like to see outside lessons taught at the after school care i.e., karate, dance, etc.

Dr. Serafino said that all her suggestions were excellent and will be taken into consideration.

Jack Magnifico, 25 Chestnut Street, asked if the system that is running now, and the person who runs it, will be incorporated into the new system. He also asked if this program is going to cost the taxpayers any more money, and is this going to effect the school budget.

Dr. Serafino stated that she hoped to maintain the program under the same supervision as in the past but her recommendation to the Board would have to be approved. She noted that this program will not cost the taxpayers additional money and it will not effect the school budget.

Mr. Cafone said that the Superintendent's list of the committee was very impressive, however, there was no one from the present director's office or town represented on this list. He is concerned that the integrity and character of this Board are being questioned and he feels that is very critical. Mr. Cafone said that working hand-in-hand with the town is something that is for the good of all the people in town, especially our children. Mr. Cafone said that Mayor Scarpelli helped the Board purchase gasoline in town, Commissioner Orechio helped with a problem the Board had with school crossing guards and the Board entered into a joint-venture with Parks & Recreation to erect a fence at Spring Garden School for an ongoing problem with the lacrosse teams. He noted that the best way to move forward with this particular issue is to rescind the resolution as it is known, not to discontinue the advisory board, but give full representation from the Town, school district and parents and move forward. Mr. Cafone said that he would like to make a motion to rescind the resolution and Dr. Parisi said he would second it.

Dr. Casale said the reconsideration of a motion at a Special meeting must be put forth by someone that voted in the affirmative of the resolution.

Mr. Cafone responded that is to reconsider, not rescind, according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Mr. Sincaglia said, that according to Robert's, reconsideration is in order at the same meeting or during the next succeeding legislative day. He said a motion to reconsider would take precedence over a motion to rescind. He noted that the only issue to reconsider is it would have to be someone who voted on the prevailing side.

Dr. Parisi said he voted affirmatively at first and he would be happy to make the motion under the guidance that Mr. Sincaglia provided, seconded by Mr. Genitempo.

Mrs. Alamo read the following statement:

"When I decided to run for a seat on this Board of Education, I did it with only one thing in mind and that was to work hard for the children in this district, keeping their best interest at heart, while being responsible to the families of these children and to the taxpayers.

"In doing the job in which I was elected to do, I am well aware that sometimes I will have to make decisions and cast votes that may not be popular ones. However, I am not sitting in this seat for popularity. Nor am I sitting in this seat acting in any political manner, and I would resent any implication with regards to that. The children in the charge of this Board of Education are my only concern and I know to be the concern of this Board.

"Even though the after school program was presented as an addendum item, one that I did not see prior to the evening it was presented to the Board, I voted yes. I voted yes because I liked the idea of our little children remaining in the school that are familiar to them all day long. I voted yes because I liked the idea of enrichment programs being implemented for our children after school. I voted yes because I liked the idea of an after school program being offered to our middle school children. I voted yes because I liked the idea of tutoring being available to these children. I voted yes because I believe that our children should be in the charge of the Board of Education while they are in our schools being cared for after school.

"I did vote yes for these and many other reasons. However, I do not believe that this implementation should be rushed into. I do not believe that this Board of Education should put the parents of this district in any state of confusion when it comes to the caring of their greatest asset -- their children. At our last meeting, I realized that there was much confusion on the part of our families. A parent came before us with two papers in hand. One was an application form from the township with a response deadline of June first. The second was an announcement from the school district stating that we were offering an after care program. There is no doubt in my mind that hastiness to get this program up and running so fast caused the parents of our children confusion and concern.

"I continue to believe that this Board of Education should offer this after school program. I can only envision how much could be brought to our children through it and I thank the Superintendent for her dedication to our children. My vote was yes and I will not rescind my vote, however, I would like to see a resolution that clearly states that this after school program be put on hold until something concrete is put in front of me so we can ensure a smooth transition from the current program and I firmly believe that is the way we have to go."

Mr. Cafone stated that there are many great benefits for having this extended day care program run through this school district. He noted that just as our judicial systems works, if things are not handled properly, people are let go everyday and the reason being the integrity and the character of the system cannot be questioned. He also noted that as public officials if they do not have public trust they might as well go home and do something else. He said the way to remedy this is to rescind the resolution and start from scratch by putting together a committee that has a cross-section of all the people necessary involved and move forward from there.

Mr. Genitempo said that he would like to echo some of the comments Mrs. Alamo made and noted that as a new Board member he did vote yes on the program. He said that when the program was first presented he did think it was a good idea for our district to run. He expressed two main concerns for this program, one being parents not knowing what is going to happen and the other being that we have to work with the people that run this town. He thinks a mistake was made in not addressing the issues with Commissioner Cocchiola and a lot of problems could have been avoided. Mr. Genitempo stated he has concerns about cost and staff and the only way to move forward is slowly. He noted he seconded the motion with hesitation only because he did not believe our Superintendent, Board President or Board members had any ill-conceived motives in presenting this. He said he still supports our Superintendent and President but he believes we have to show respect to our Commissioners and to those who help run this program.

Mr. Pelaia stated that his position on the matter is that the motion is superfluous. He noted that the Board and the Superintendent have agreed not to move ahead with the hiring of the Director of this program. He stated by a motion to rescind you would not take anything away but the ability to proceed with the program. He asked what this motion would accomplish.

Dr. Parisi responded by stating that the reason he would like to rescind this resolution is because of what its become. He said the program, as it was presented to him, is completely different than how it has been presented in the newspaper articles. He commented that the quotes that were given is not what was discussed; at least in the one meeting that was addressed to him. He stated that he voted based on the information that was given that night.

Dr. Parisi said it worries him a great deal that a salary for someone has already been discussed that increases expenses, that the amount of people needed to be hired for this program is not yet set, and this program is obviously more expansive than what is already in place. He feels this will cost a lot more money and the funds need to come

from the parents' pockets. He is concerned that if the parents see that the funds are more, and we are making comments that the fees will not got up, we are bound by that. We will have no option but to charge the parents more because there is no other funding. He noted that if we were to move on and parents leave the program the cost would increase for those who remain in the program.

Dr. Parisi said it was stressed to him that we were not taking over any other program and that our program would not impact any other program at all. He commented that it is quite evident that there will be an impact on the other program. Dr. Parisi said these are all the reasons we need to rescind and start over again.

Mr. Pelaia commented that to rescind the resolution would not calm anyone's fears but to stop the process; effectively killing the process of this program. Mr. Pelaia asked for the following comment made on May 21, 2001 to be read into the record:

"Mr. Pelaia felt that if there were two programs the parents would have choices. He hopes both programs will flourish."

Dr. Casale clarified that the original resolution was to go forward and gather information to put together a program. The Superintendent cannot move forward and put a committee together and take action until she is given permission to do so. He stated that there was no date put on that resolution as to the inception of the program. He questioned the Board members who changed their vote. He noted that the resolution did not change there was no date put on that resolution.

Dr. Parisi stated that his intent is not to stop the district from running this program, but the way it progressed to this point is totally outside the boundaries of the vote. He noted that he feels very strongly about the monetary issues. The Board cannot move forward until we know who is paying the bill.

Dr. Casale stated that it was in the resolution that there would be no cost increase.

Mr. Cafone commented that no one had intentions for this resolution to cause headaches but a resolution of this magnitude was not listed as a possible addendum item and not placed on the regular agenda. He feels the integrity of the Board could be questioned.

Jack Magnifico, 25 Chestnut Street, stated that the Board should get together with the proper people and work it out. He state that he somehow feels that the taxes will be effected.

Mrs. Roncaglio stated that this program belongs in the auspices of the Board. She noted that she voted on what she felt was best for the children.

Janet Canonico, 464 Bloomfield Avenue, read the following letter that was sent to the Board members and offered to share it with anyone who wanted to read it because she feels so strongly about this issue:

"As you may know, many parents have repeatedly expressed a desire for a child centered, developmentally appropriate program to be available for our children after school and during school vacations.

"This request was made not to disparage the various programs that are operating within the Township but rather an attempt to be proactive in requesting additional programs that are creative, stimulating and enriching.

"I attended the Nutley Board of Commissioners Meeting on June 5, 2001. I heard the views of several parents and expressed my own. After listening to them I realize that we all share the same concerns – safe, affordable care for our children. Care which nurtures their spirit and provides them with creative and intellectually stimulating opportunities.

"I fully support the Nutley Board of Education and Dr. Serafino for their action in implementing such a program.

" I have been concerned about the shuffling about of the children and all the shuffling about the program.

"With all due respect to the Township's Governing body and their various endeavors in this area I believe that it is time to stop bouncing around the program, parents, children and staff and make a determination, given both the history and existing circumstances that the "kids come first." The program needs to be free from the kind of political activity that has taken place over the past few weeks and the instability that has dogged the program since it's inception.

"I will again state my full support for your responsible leadership in implementing such a program and fully commend the actions of the Nutley Board of Education and Dr. Serafino."

Mrs. Canonico asked the Board how long they were going to study this, how long did special education children have to wait, and how much longer should the children be shuffled around. She stated that the time to act is now.

Dr. Parisi stated that you cannot dispute that it is a good program, but you cannot rush into this. He noted that there is a need to work cooperatively with the Township and that is what's best for our children.

Mr. Pelaia said all he meant to suggest is that we do have different programs in this town and hope all of them will flourish.

Frank Comune, said that 13 years ago Sally Goodson came to him and Steve Parigi and they put their necks on the line and started a program that the parents were happy with. They provided snacks, help with homework and activities. He said then the town took the program over. He feels the best thing that should be done is to keep the children in the school. He said the program should have always been kept in the

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school. He commended Dr. Serafino to be the first Superintendent to have the foresight to say that it should be with the Board of Education.

Fran Hynes, 242 High Street, cannot help but think that this program is going to cost us more money. She stated that the current program is affordable.

Dr. Casale said that the resolution clearly states that it does not allow us to use district funds. Dr. Casale read the following:

"BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the Implementation of a District Sponsored School Age Child Extended Care Program which will be self-sustaining without resort to the use of district funds."

Mr. Cafone stated that the committee that is established has no representation from parents or the town for a smooth transition and there is no question that they belong on the committee.

Mr. Genitempo stated that the motion is not killing the program, just taking a step back.

Maria Russo, 251 High Street, commented on the lack of communication between the Board members and the committees. She asked if the town pays for the use of the school buildings. Mr. Sincaglia responded that they do not. Mrs. Russo felt who better to run the program but the Board of Education. She offered information that she had received from the state and volunteered her services to help the program get up and running for the benefit of the children.

Lisa DePalo, stated that she is willing to put her children in this program and put them in the teachers' hands.

Mrs. Alamo said that we all agree that this belongs in the school district but questions the way it was handled.

Cindy Williams, 18 Garden Place, stated that she needs closure but would like to see parents on the advisory board.

Dr. Casale asked Mrs. Cervasio, Director of the current extended day program, if she thought it was possible to run a program by September.

Mrs. Cervasio responded that the ultimate goal is the children and concern of the parents and with the proper cooperation this should be no problem. She commented that she was hired on August 23, 1999 as Director to get the current program in place by September of that year and it was accomplished.

Dr. Casale asked if we were to move forward with this resolution would some of the current employees work in the Board program. Mrs. Cervasio responded that she assumed most of them would.

Mr. Cafone asked if the current program is going to be operating this summer. Mrs. Cervasio said it would be operating this summer and numerous children are enrolled.

Mr. Genitempo asked if this resolution was delayed for one month could this program be up and running by September 1. Mrs. Cervasio stated that this could be done.

Dr. Parisi said that the District should run the program but the concern is that it have no impact on the Town's program. Mrs. Cervasio said she could not answer that question.

Dr. Casale said that at this point there will be dialogue between the Superintendent and Commissioner Cocchiola and there will be a program running come September 1. He stated whether or not its the Board of Education's program or the Township's program at this point is not important, but there will be a program running come September.

James Durand, 31 Rhoda Avenue, said that he had attended different meetings during the last two weeks and what he heard from the Town's meetings was that if the Board program was instilled the other program would be absorbed into your program since they would not be allowed to use the schools' facilities. He feels that the parents basically want to know which program is going forward as well as more information. He noted that he thinks no one is doubting the integrity of this Town or the Board, but communication among the both will be in the best interest of the children.

Mrs. Alamo questioned Dr. Casale on bringing closure to this tonight and asked what could be done as far as parliamentary procedure to move forward.

Mr. Sincaglia stated that if the majority of the Board votes to reconsider the motion from May 21, 2001, it is then back before you. He noted that in that case it would be subject to amendment, modification or whatever, like any other motion made. He stated that is his interpretation as to how Robert's explains it.

On a roll call vote the motion to reconsider the original resolution that was passed on May 21, 2001 was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Pelaia voted aye with the understanding that they were voting to make a motion to amend the May 21, 2001 motion.

Mrs. Roncaglio voted aye stating that she echo's Mr. Pelaia's statement.

Dr. Parisi made a motion to make an amendment to the original resolution that in order to move forward a committee made up of Dr. Serafino, Commissioner Cocchiola, Maria Cervasio along with parents and other persons at the Superintendent's discretion should come together in order to develop the program properly and report back to the Board within 30 days so this Board can move forward, seconded by Mrs. Alamo.

Mr. Sincaglia clarified the wording of the amended resolution by stating the following:

"BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the Implementation of a District Sponsored School Age Child Extended Care Program which will be self-sustaining without resort to the use of district funds.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a committee consisting of Dr. Serafino, Commissioner Cocchiola, Maria Cervasio

and other persons selected by the Superintendent, including parents, be formed to present a report on the implementation of this program, and report back to the Board within thirty (30) days."

All members agreed that this clarification represented what the amendment was attempting to accomplish.

Upon being put to a roll call vote the motion to make an amendment to the original resolution was approved with Mrs. Alamo, Mr. Genitempo, Mr. Moscaritola, Dr. Parisi, Mr. Pelaia, Mr. Restaino, Mrs. Roncaglio and Dr. Casale voting aye, and Mr. Cafone voting nay.

Mr. Cafone voted nay with the comment that he feels that the amendment to this original resolution puts us in a much better position, although, it was done after the fact. He noted he will support whatever the majority of the decision is of this Board but he votes no.

Mrs. Roncaglio stated she voted yes because she hopes this can be put together as quickly as possible so the parents can have the peace of mind which she feels is their motivation for coming out to the meeting.

APPOINTMENTS - 2001 Summer School:

Mr. Cafone presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Pelaia. Upon being put to a roll call vote the resolution was approved with Mrs. Alamo, Mr. Cafone, Mr. Genitempo, Dr. Parisi, Mr. Restaino, Mrs. Roncaglio and Dr. Casale voting aye, and Mr. Moscaritola and Mr. Pelaia abstaining.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the personnel listed below be appointed for the 2001 Summer School Program:

Susan Ames	\$2,909
Laura Love	2,909
Michael Viteritto	2,909
Denis Williams	2,909

APPOINTMENTS – Summer Enrichment Program:

Mrs. Roncaglio presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Restaino. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the appointments of the following aides for the 2001 Summer Enrichment Program:

Laura Baker	Senior Aide	\$550
Marisa Castronova	Senior Aide	550
Sean Cefalo	Senior Aide	550
Denise Cherence	Senior Aide	550
Raymond DeLorenzi	Senior Aide	550
Jaimee Giglio	Senior Aide	550
Christa Luzzi	Senior Aide	550

Angelica Marra	Senior Aide	550
Claudia Marra	Senior Aide	550
Allison Mattia	Senior Aide	550
Richard Bolcato	Junior Aide	375
Crysta Caprio	Junior Aide	375
Michele Castronova	Junior Aide	375
Jo Ann Esposito	Junior Aide	375
Anjelle Facciponte	Junior Aide	375
SandiLynn Knierim	Junior Aide	375
Gina Tucci	Junior Aide	375
Layne Vicidomini	Junior Aide	375

APPOINTMENTS – Special Education Summer Program:

Mr. Genitempo presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Restaino. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following personnel be appointed to the 2001 Special Education Summer Program:

TEACHERS	Alisha Gencarelli	\$1,940
	Debra Marchese	1,940
	Margaret Parker	1,940
	Janice Schoem	1,940
	Phillip Siculietano	1,940
	Jill Sorensen	1,940
SPEECH/LANGUAGE SPECIALIST – INSTRUCTIONAL	Elaine Mauro (2 weeks)	970

AIDES:

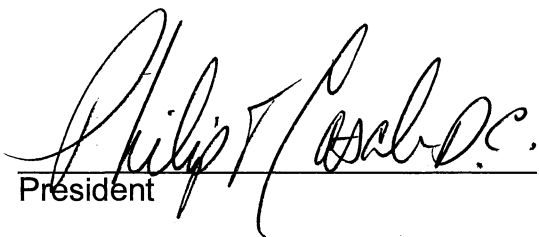
Gerard Guarino	Senior Aide	550
Robyn Isgro	Senior Aide	550
Katie Moncelsi	Senior Aide	550
Nancy Belloso	Junior Aide	375
Patricia Bernardo	Junior Aide	375
Bethany Cirigliano	Junior Aide	375
Sarah Guider	Junior Aide	375
Kathleen Hugan	Junior Aide	375
Daniel Jacoby	Junior Aide	375
Nicole Juliano	Junior Aide	375
Gregory Reisman	Junior Aide	375
Emily Ross	Junior Aide	375

Mr. Pelaia made a motion to dispense with the regular scheduled Conference session, seconded by Mr. Restaino and unanimously approved by the Board.

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ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, on a motion made by Mr. Pelaia, seconded by Mrs. Roncaglio , the meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.



President



Secretary

6/25/01
Date