

# GUILDERLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 19, 2017  
 District Office - Main Conference Room  
 8:00 AM

### CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Catherine Barber	Board Member	Present	
Barbara Fraterrigo	Board Member	Present	
Christine Hayes	President	Present	
Christopher McManus	Vice President	Present	
Teresa Gitto	Board Member	Late	8:06 AM
Seema Rivera	Board Member	Present	
Timothy Horan	Board Member	Present	
Judy Slack	Board Member	Present	
Gloria Towle-Hilt	Board Member	Present	
Linda Livingston	Board Clerk	Present	

### PUBLIC COMMENT

*Persons wishing to speak under the "Public Comment" section of the meeting should either contact the District Clerk (456-6200 X 3125) before the meeting OR fill out one of the Public Comment Forms, available on tables at both entrances to the meeting room, and return to the District Clerk.*

George Slingerlands spoke to the Board of Education about the John Hattie study. He said not everything is quantitative it is also qualitative.

Adriene Bush gave information to the Board showing the results of the John Hattie study are not accurate. She said class size does matter.

Maggie Williams, a parent of a Pine Bush Elementary student, also believes smaller class sizes are better. Although, she is concerned about the disruption of adding a section to the third grade at Pine Bush. She said it is too late this year, maybe next year add a third section to fourth grade.

Tina Slingerlands said she is comfortable with adding an additional section to kindergarten at Altamont Elementary. She said kids have to learn to make changes. She feels Principal Peter Brabant will make the right choices on moving the students.

Bethany Mazura believes it is too hard for teachers to teach effectively in larger class sizes. She said now is the time to add the third section of kindergarten at Altamont Elementary.

Kelly Dover spoke of her experiences with her child being declassified in kindergarten. She asked the Board to add the additional section of kindergarten at Altamont Elementary.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### 1. Possible Additional Classroom Sections

The Board discussed the possibility of adding a third section of kindergarten at Altamont Elementary.

Christopher McManus said he was disappointed they were having the discussion at this point in time and stated his concern over moving kids out of their existing classrooms now that school has started.

Gloria Towle-Hilt said the Board owns the problem and is in support of adding the section.

Judy Slack said there are five elementary schools and all the classes are not even. She said the Board needs to look at the overall class sizes.

Catherine Barber said they need to consider increasing the unassigned FTE's in next years budget.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>DISCUSSED</b>
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## 2. Board Policy Discussion

Assistant Superintendent for Business Neil Sanders reviewed existing policy# 8410 Student Transportation. A discussion ensued regarding safe bus stops.

Christopher McManus spoke in support of changing the Board policy and offered language for a new policy. He asked the administration to tell him how many kids are walking unsafely to a bus stop at the next Board meeting.

Catherine Barber said it is not the expertise of the Board to determine the safety of the road.

Judy Slack said any road at any given time can be deemed unsafe.

Gloria Towle-Hilt said it is a shared responsibility with the parent and the school to make sure their children are safe.

Danielle Poirier, transportation director, addressed the Board. She asked them to please take their time and consider all factors before making any policy change.

It was decided the Business Practices Committee will discuss the issue at their next meeting.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>DISCUSSED</b>
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## ACTION ITEMS

### 1. Add an Additional Section of Kindergarten at Altamont Elementary School

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Gloria Towle-Hilt, Board Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Barbara Fraterrigo, Board Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barber, Fraterrigo, Hayes, McManus, Gitto, Rivera, Horan, Slack, Towle-Hilt