

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 12, 2024 – Beach Street Middle School

PRESENT: Mr. Tussie, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Antonello, Mr. Bedell, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Marks, Mr. McCann

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATORS: Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Pellati, Mr. Cameron

ABSENT: Dr. Romanelli

ATTORNEY: Mr. Vigliotta

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Tussie offered deepest condolences on behalf of the district, school board and community to Dr. Romanelli and his family on the loss of Dr. Romanelli's mother.

Due to Dr. Romanelli not being in attendance, Mr. Tussie postponed the announcements of the West Islip UFSD District Emergency Response Plan 2024-2025 and the District Board of Education Goals and Objectives 2024-2025 until the September 24, 2024 Planning Session meeting.

Mr. Tussie asked for a moment of silence to remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and to honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost and countless others that were affected by this day of terror and heartbreak. The bravery of the first responders, the resilience of communities, the enduring spirit and unity that emerged in the face of adversity. May this moment serve as a reminder of the importance of compassion, understanding and the pursuit of peace in our world.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2024 Planning Session.

PERSONNEL:

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following personnel consent agenda items T-2, T-3, T-5, TA-1, TA-2, CL-1, CL-2, CL-3, CL-4, CL-5, and Other as listed below:

TEACHERS

T-2 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED)

Alyssa Ondris Lutz, Special Education
Effective September 26, 2024 through September 25, 2028
(Bayview; Change in date from August 30, 2024 through August 29, 2028)

T-3 REGULAR SUBSTITUTE (AMENDED)

Jamie Doherty, Guidance
Effective August 20, 2024 through June 30, 2025
(Beach; Change in Date from August 30, 2024 through June 30, 2025)

T-5 PART-TIME PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED)

April Virga, ASL (.4)
Effective August 30, 2024 through August 29, 2028
(Beach Street and Udall; change in date from August 30, 2024)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

TA-1 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Colleen Unverzagt, Pre-K
Effective September 30, 2024 to September 29, 2028
(Bayview; Step 4; replacing Linda Flandina {retired})

TA-2 RESIGNATION

Maureen Pike, Special Education
Effective August 30, 2024
(Bayview)

CIVIL SERVICE

CL-1 CHANGE IN TITLE

Mitchell Palminteri, Groundskeeper I
Effective September 13, 2024
(Grounds; Step 2; change from Custodial Worker I; replacing Paul Quigley {reassigned})

CL-2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid)

(Pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993
12-week continuous medical coverage)

Kristi Macchione, Account Clerk
Effective September 17, 2024 through December 9, 2024
(District Office)

CL-3 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

*Elizabeth Acosta, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective September 23, 2024
(Udall; \$16.54/hr.; replacing Melissa Belle {reassigned})

*Lisa Burns, Part-Time Food Service
Effective September 16, 2024
(Paul J. Bellew; \$16.54/hr.; replacing Imee Acevedo {resigned})

*Susan Hennes, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective September 16, 2024
(High School; \$16.54/hr.; replacing Brynn Vitrano-Stocker {resigned})

Christina Robiglio, Cafeteria Aide
Effective September 3, 2024
(Manetuck; Step 3; new position)

** Conditional Pending fingerprinting clearance*

CL-3 continued PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

*Ashley Tagliaferri, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective September 23, 2024
(Udall; \$16.54/hr; replacing Robin Pierce {resigned})

CL-4 RESIGNATION

Erin Bloodnick, Paraprofessional
Effective September 3, 2024
(Bayview)

Jacqueline Richardelli, Cafeteria Aide
Effective August 29, 2024
(High School)

Melissa Schafer, Paraprofessional
Effective August 28, 2024
(Paul J. Bellew)

CL-5 GUARD II (\$24.20/hr)

*Matthew Alfonzo, effective September 13, 2024
Thomas Fannon, effective October 1, 2024
*Nicholas Monaco, effective September 13, 2024

OTHER

ENRICHMENT INSTRUCTORS FALL 2024 (\$408 per session)

Justin DeMaio (LEGO 1 & II)
Danielle Dischley (Got Science I & II)
Katherine Keller (Coding I & II)
Theresa Robertson (Creative Cooking I & II)
Sophia Stokkeland (The Art of Bookmaking I & II)

FALL 2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES (AMENDED)

FIELD HOCKEY

Julia Varley 7-8 Udall Coach
(replacing Hailey Fiordiliso)

PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$150 per diem)

Danielle DeAntonio, Oquenock
Effective September 13, 2024 through June 27, 2025

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem)

*Patrick Hopkins, effective September 23, 2024, student teacher
*Catherine Tinti, effective September 13, 2024

** Conditional Pending fingerprinting clearance*

OTHER
continued

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$150 per diem)

Ana Christodoulou, effective August 30, 2024, leave substitute

ADULT EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS FALL 2024

Michael Harbord (Lifeguard) \$25/hr

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Nicole Cagno-Angerame, Elementary, effective September 28, 2024 (26.5 years).

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Linda Flandina, Pre-K, effective August 30, 2024 (25 years).

CURRICULUM REPORT

Mrs. Morrison welcomed everyone back to a new school year and stated that we had a great opening of school. At the end of August a three-day new teacher orientation was held where we acclimated our new teachers to the district. The district held two Superintendent Conference Days where Dr. Romanelli delivered a keynote speech that centered around human connections, which the district will be spending some time focusing on throughout the current school year. Mrs. Morrison thanked the administrative team, teachers, staff, parents and students for a wonderful opening.

Mrs. Morrison stated that the electronic device policy that was implemented is going well and thanked all the stakeholders, especially the parents and students who are being supportive on the initiation of this program. Current research shows the impact that electronic devices have not only on students but also on society as a whole. A survey will be sent out next week to the district for a districtwide book talk entitled The Anxious Generation and Mrs. Morrison encourages all parents, students, and staff to take part in the book talk. A Literacy Forum will take place at the West Islip High School at 7:00 p.m. on October 9th. The focus will be around the Science of Reading and Multisensory instructional practices that are utilized as part of the District's Tier 1 instruction at the primary level and the interventions that are utilized at the Tier 2 and Tier 3 levels for those struggling readers. A panel discussion that consists of reading specialists, classroom teachers and administrators will be held at the West Islip High School on October 9th at 7:00 p.m. and invites all to attend.

Mrs. Morrison stated that the District would again collaborate with EF Tours to provide travel abroad learning experiences for our high school students. Last year, students traveled to Belize, Italy and Greece. Trips for the current school year include Costa Rica, Spain and Portugal. Trips for the 2025-2026 school year include locations such as Galapagos Islands, Japan, Barcelona and Madrid.

Mrs. Morrison stated that numerous committees will convene throughout the school year to discuss important issues related to curriculum and instruction. The Attendance Policy Review Committee will start meetings in two weeks to review the current attendance policy, sending out surveys to faculty, staff, students and parents for feedback. The Profile of a Graduate work will continue at the grade levels and the subject area Directors will be working on specific activities that can be done in each of the subject areas to support the students gaining those attributes. The Elementary Literacy Review Committee will pilot several new literacy programs to implement for grades K-5 next September 2025.

Mr. Bedell added that in addition to all Mrs. Morrison mentioned, the West Islip Fire Department will be holding an Open House on Sunday, October 6th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event will offer valuable information for the whole family on fire prevention and safety.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Education Committee: Mr. Antonello reported on the meeting held on 9/10/2024. Items discussed were the overview of testing by all Chairpersons for all departments. The numbers have been consistent with previous years. There is a slight uptick in the English Regents Mastery Level increasing to 79% and the Social Studies AP scores are higher.

Mr. Antonello discussed the formation of a Mental Health Sub-Committee; continuation of Profile of a Graduate goals; professional development with a new program called Brisk which changes the lifestyle of reading for students; district equity work which will include a monthly awareness schedule; changes to the extra help system and the creation of guidelines and goals for teachers to restructure extra help including the ending of increments of time. Additionally, the Attendance Committee will be meeting on 9/23/2024 to discuss the current policies of attendance.

Finance Committee: Mrs. Marks reported on the meeting that was held on 9/10/2024. Items reviewed included payroll summary for June; internal claims audit report for August; system manager audit trial for August; payroll certification for the weeks of 8/7/2024, 8/21/2024, and 9/4/2024; review of warrants; and review of board agenda finance items. The external auditors will be at the Audit Committee meeting on 10/10/2024 at 7:00 p.m. to review the 2023-2024 financial statements and year-end results. The district spent approximately 98% of the 2023-2024 expenditure budget. The remaining fund balances at year-end will be allocated to the Workers' Compensation, TRS sub-fund, Capital and Capital II Reserves.

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Mr. McCann reported on the meeting that was held on 9/10/2024. Items reviewed were the update on the expansion of the West Islip High School pool. The preliminary plans will be submitted in November 2024 to the State Education Department for approval of the project. This approval will take between 10-38 weeks and they are currently looking into a third party reviewer to expedite the process. Construction will start May 2025 and the goal is to be completed by September 2026. The Athletics Department will ensure that there will be places for the teams to practice.

Mr. McCann thanked the Buildings and Grounds Department for all their hard work in preparing the schools for the opening of this school year.

Special Education Committee: Mrs. Brown reported on the meeting that was held on 9/11/2024. Items reviewed included IEP, CSE and CPSE recommendations from respective committees and will be approved at this evening's meeting. The extended school year program went well and many of our in-house staff worked the summer program, which provided continuity and seamless transitions for our students. The Special Education Department has been working hard to ensure that all students have appropriate placements that will best meet their needs. The ICT program for the 7th grade is in place at Beach Street Middle School.

Mrs. Brown stated that the SEPTA portion, which is located under Special Education on the district website, is currently being updated to reflect SEPTA events, meetings and new SEPTA Board Members for the school year. SEPTA President Mara D'Amico joined the meeting for the non-confidential portion to discuss the awareness days the District has identified this year. SEPTA is working on bringing in a variety of speakers for this year's meetings. The SEPTA bowl will be on April 5, 2025 and tickets will be available later this year.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2024-2025 General Fund budget transfers 4439-4440 and Capital Fund budget transfer 4438.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2024-2025 Contracts: Effective School Solutions Services; Kidz Educational Services SLP, OT, PT, LMSW, Psychological, Audiology, PLLC Consultant Services.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the donation of 58 wind turbines and 195 propeller blades valued at approximately \$116,000 to the West Islip High School Engineering Technology students from Steven Gellar.

Mr. Tussie thanked Mr. Gellar for thinking of the students and this donation.

DONATION:

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of 58 wind turbines and 195 propeller blades valued at approximately \$116,000 from Steven Gellar, which have been donated to the Engineering Technology students of West Islip High School.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Surplus: Miscellaneous Books – Paul J. Bellevue Elementary School.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, second by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve WITA Memorandum of Agreement re: Preferred Substitute.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve WITA Memorandum of Agreement re: Teamsters Local 237, West Islip UFSD and Employee A.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: the Board of Education approves the recommendation of the Special Education Committee of students as listed in the district's backup and authorizes the District to arrange for appropriate services.

Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Board of Education of the West Islip UFSD approves the recommendations of the Special Education Committee of students as listed in the District's backup and authorizes the District to arrange for appropriate services.

Mr. Tussie stated that Dr. Romanelli asked him to reiterate that the opening of this school year was wonderful and how proud he was on the way the students and staff conducted themselves.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m. on motion by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elizabeth Davis".

Elizabeth Davis
District Clerk

All correspondence, reports or related materials referred to in these minutes are on file in the District Office.