

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

October 5, 2023 – Beach Street Middle School

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

ABSENT: None

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

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

Meeting called to order at 7:31 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Student Representative Report

High School students Taylor Riley and Ashlyn Murphy spoke about the start of the school year and how students had a clean transition back to school. Students are participating in clubs, they are wearing shirts in support of Breast Cancer month, there are fundraisers for sports and students along with the community are coming together and participating in community events.

Weighted averages were also discussed and Taylor and Ashlyn would like students who take harder classes to be recognized. Mr. Tussie agreed and Mrs. Morrison advised that a meeting would take place in two weeks regarding this and there would be a follow up before the start of the New Year.

RECOGNITION

School Board Recognition Week ~ West Islip Board of Education

Dr. Romanelli, Mrs. Pellati, Mrs. Morrison and Mr. Cameron all recognized the Board members for all their efforts on behalf of the students and the district. Dr. Romanelli spoke about how the Board of Education has a crucial role in education, policies, they represent the values of the community, manage budget, advocate for needs, hire the Superintendent and set long-term goals for the district.

All the Board members reported of their visits to each of the school buildings and how they were very impressed by the students, staff and all the wonderful things going on in each school. The students were all engaged in what they were doing, were happy, and had great energy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023 Planning Session.

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING ASSISTANT: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: *Patricia DiMino, Special Education, effective October 2, 2023 to October 1, 2027 (High School; Step 4; replacing Kayleigh O'Connor {resigned}).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: CHANGE IN TITLE: Lisa MacInness, Health Office Aide, effective October 3, 2023 (Beach Street; Step 3; change from Special Education Aide; replacing Megan Pardue {resigned}).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: CHANGE IN TITLE: Amanda Neilson, Special Education Aide, effective October 2, 2023 (Oquenock; Step 2; change from Cafeteria Aide/Bus Attendant; replacing Lisa MacInness {reassigned}).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: CHANGE IN TITLE: Sarah Tammone, Special Education Aide, effective September 27, 2023 (Oquenock; Step 3; change from Cafeteria Aide {new position}).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: CHANGE IN STATUS: Linda Moore, Senior Account Clerk, Confidential effective October 1, 2023 (District Office; \$85,000/annually).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CL-3, CL-4, CL-5 and Other as follows:

CL-3

PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

*Kimberly Amoia, Senior Office Assistant
Effective October 25, 2023
(High School; Step 1; replacing Lisa Baynon {reassigned})

*Mary Apap, Cafeteria Aide
Effective October 5, 2023
(Oquenock; Step 1; replacing Lori Grimaldi {reassigned})

Nicole Jones, Special Education Aide
Effective October 2, 2023
(Paul J. Bellew; Step 1; new position)

Michelle Lecchi, Cafeteria Aide
Effective September 26, 2023
(Oquenock; Step 1; replacing Janine Allegretto {reassigned})

Sharon Stoehrer, Cafeteria Aide
Effective September 28, 2023
(Paul J. Bellew; Step 1; replacing Barbara Tricoukes {reassigned})

**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

CL-4

RESIGNATION

Patricia DiMino, Special Education Aide
Effective October 2, 2023
(Paul J. Bellew)

CL-4 Justine Gonzales, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective September 18, 2023
(Manetuck)

Pasquale Romeo, Head Custodian
Effective October 3, 2023
(Bayview)

CL-5 **SUBSTITUTE ASSISTANT COOK**

Melissa Belle (\$19.23/hr.)
Effective October 6, 2023

Robin Pierce (\$18.38/hr.)
Effective October 6, 2023

OTHER

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS 2023-2024 (AMENDED)

Brian Cameron, Physical Education .50 section/full year
(change in number of sections from 1 to .50)

Joseph Nicolosi, Physical Education .50 section/full year
(change in number of sections from 1 to .50)

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS 2023-2024

Christina Bivona, Substitute

PREFERRED SUBSTITUTE

Meridith Smith
Effective October 6, 2023
(High School; \$175.27/day; replacing Savannah Rinne {resigned})

CLUBS/ADVISORS 2023-2024

BEACH STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL

Art Club Grade 6, Jill Culver
Art Club Grades 7 & 8, Jill Culver
Chess Club, Christopher Scharf
Costume Director, Justin DeMaio and Shane O'Neill (shared)
Design/Makerspace Club, Andrea Miller
Diversity and Acceptance Club, Carly Aponte

Drama Director, Justin DeMaio and Shane O'Neill
Helping Hands, Kathleen Albretsen
Homework Club Grade 6, Theresa Robertson
Improv Club, Jesse Fawess
Junior Chef Club, Alessia Tocco
Knitting Club, Robyn Southard
Laughs & Crafts Club (DIY Club), Monica Elgut and Jaquelyn Vaysman (shared)
Mathletes Grade 7, Christopher Salerno
Mathletes Grade 8, Jeannine Conaghan
Mushu Fan Club, Lisa Cosgrove
Musical Director, Justin DeMaio
National Junior Honor Society, Theresa Robertson
Newspaper, Danielle Rufrano
Peer Tutoring Grade 7, Christopher Scharf
Peer Tutoring Grade 8, Siobhan Kelly
Photography, Wendy Loddigs and Robyn Southard (shared)
School Store, John Lavery
Science Olympiad Grade 6, Andrea Miller
Science Olympiad Grade 7 & 8, Ashley Pope
Set Director, Shane O'Neill
SMILE, Christopher Salerno and Marissa Villani (shared)
Spirit Club, Theresa Robertson
Strategic Games & Activities Club, John Kennedy
Student Council, Lisa Cosgrove and Tara Probert
Swift Fan Club, Jaquelyn Vaysman and Marissa Villani (shared)
Technology Club, Ashley Pope
Video Production Club, Lisa Cosgrove
Yearbook, Theresa Robertson

BAYVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Art Club, Sophia Stokkeland
Character Ed Club, Danielle Sugumele and Kelly Minicozzi (shared)
Drama Club, Justin DeMaio
Game Club, Ashley Caputo
Math Club, Scott Key
Ukulele Club, Victoria Kavitt

HIGH SCHOOL

Academic Decathlon, Brainstormers, Kevin Murphy
Academic Decathlon, Jr. Brainstormers, Noreen Matthews
Art Club, Linda Marino
Audio-Visual Club Director, Ronald Weber
Band Music, David Kaufman
BNL Stem Coders, Mary Kroll
Chamber Singers, Melissa Senatore
Chess Club, Christine Maniscalco
Coordinator, One Act Plays, Elaine Longo
Costume Director, All Productions, Elaine Longo

Creativity Action Service, Edward Jablonski and Virginia Scudder (shared)
Director Flag Team, Victoria Kavitt
Director Musical Play, Ryan Jensen
Director Senior Play, Melissa Senatore
Distributive Education Club of America, Diana Saadat
Drama Coordinator, James Kraus
Environmental Club, Brian Haldenwang
Extra-Curricular Treasurer, Kelly Sepe
Freshman Class Advisor, Kaya Konopa and Grixon Moreira
Future Business Leaders Club, Monica Krawczyk and Meghan Linderman (shared)
Gay-Straight Alliance, John Koroneos
Junior Class Advisor, Noreen Matthews and John Koroneos
Literary Magazine, David Gershfeld
Mathletes Sr. High, Danielle Davis and Nancy Yost
Mathletes Jr. High, Craig Michel
Mindfulness Club, Meghan Schou
Mock Trial, Edward Jablonski
Music Director, Musical Production, Melissa Sentaore
National Art Honor Society, Richard Santeramo
National English Honor Society, Erika Nolan
National Honor Society, Dina Barone and Beth Crimi (shared)
National Math Honor Society, Tara Annunziata and Alissa Nanda (shared)
National Science Honor Society, Kathleen Scrivani
Natural Helpers Club, Brandon Cohen
Newspaper, Heather Enright and Christine Maniscalco (shared)
Photographer: Newspaper/Yearbook, Heather Enright and Christine Maniscalco (shared)
Pit Director, Musical, David Kaufman
Power Lift Club, Michael Fusaro
P.S. I Love You Club, Edward Jablonski and David Moglia (shared)
Robotics, Andrew Baranec and Daniel Varney
S.A.D.D., Alexandra Ragin
School Store, Diana Saadat
Science Olympiad, Jessica Alvarez and Linda Tong (shared)
Senior Class Advisor, Tara Annunziata and Alissa Nanda
Sets Director (All Productions), Michael Taranto
Sophomore Class Advisor, Dara DePouli and Alexandra Ragin
Student Senate, Edward Jablonski and David Moglia
Students with HEARTT Club, Virginia Scudder
Tri-M Music Honor Society, Ryan Jensen
World Language Honor Society, Brittany DiLuciano and Anna Domingo (shared)
Yearbook, Dawn DiVisconti and Christine Maniscalco (shared)

UDALL ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Activities Grade 6, Kristine Hagens
Activities Grade 7 & 8, Thomas Loudon
Art Club, Gregory Ziems
Backyard Games, Brian Cameron

Be Yourself Club, Dawn Morgan
Beautification Club, Suzanne O'Connor
Chess and Game Club, Thomas Loudon
Costume Design Director, Shane O'Neill
Current Events, Deborah Pulitano
Drama Director, Justin DeMaio and Shane O'Neill
Health Club, Tricia Mileti
Homework Club Grade 6, Amy Harvey
International Club, Kristina Rocco
Mathletes Grade 7 & 8, Alyssa O'Connor
Musical Director, Justin DeMaio
National Junior Honor Society, Danielle Dischley
Peer Tutoring, Dawn Morgan
School Store, Denise LaMattina
Science Olympiads Grade 6, 7 & 8, Kristine Hagens
Set Design, Justin DeMaio and Shane O'Neill (shared)
STEAM Club, Nicole Costa
Student Council Grade 6, Thomas Loudon
Student Council Grade 7 & 8, Kristine Hagens
Study Skills 7 & 8, Janet Renganeschi
Yearbook, Amy Harvey
Yearbook/Newspaper Photographer, Michael Taranto
Yoga Club, Kristen Finnegan

EARLY WINTER 2023-2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Tara Annunziata, 7-8 Udall Coach
Kaitlin Palmieri, 7-8 Beach Coach

BOYS BASKETBALL

Christopher Salerno, 7-8 Udall Coach
Jake Rossi, 7-8 Beach Coach

CHEERLEADING

Marissa McAllister, 7-8 Udall Coach
Marissa McCandless, 7-8 Beach Coach

WINTER 2023-2024 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Christopher Scharf, Varsity Coach
Kristen Doherty, Assistant Varsity Coach
Erin Meade, J.V. Coach

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thomas Cross, Varsity Coach
Richard Zeitler, Assistant Varsity Coach
John T. Denninger, J.V. Coach

WRESTLING

Nicholas LaGiglia, Varsity Coach
John Ferrara, Assistant Varsity Coach
Paul Vasaturo, J.V. Coach
Robert Ulrich, Varsity and J.V. Volunteer Coach
Peter Gonzalez, Varsity and J.V. Volunteer Coach

BOYS SWIMMING

Thomas Loudon, Varsity Coach
Edward Jablonski, Assistant Varsity Coach

BOYS BOWLING

Frank Rapczyk, Varsity Coach

GIRLS BOWLING

Frank Franzone, Varsity Coach

BOYS WINTER TRACK

Vincent Melia, Varsity Coach
Matthew Sullivan, Assistant Varsity Coach

GIRLS WINTER TRACK

Michelle Studley, Varsity Coach
Gregory Ziems, Assistant Varsity Coach

KICKLINE

Jessica Cichy, Varsity Coach

CHEERLEADING

Dina Barone, Varsity Coach
Lauren Brady, Assistant Varsity Coach
Jillian Bohnaker, J.V. Coach
Jennifer Basile, Assistant J.V. Coach

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: INSTRUCTIONAL SWIM, FAMILY SWIM PROGRAM & SWIM TEAMS 2023-2024: Lifeguards (\$16 per hour): Andrew Cooper, Kyle Held, Ruth Higgins, Julia Jordan, Emilia Miranda, Connor O'Brien and all remaining lifeguards will also receive \$16 per hour.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the new rate of \$16.00 per hour for all lifeguards.

CURRICULUM REPORT

Mrs. Morrison advised that three high school students received Commendation in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program based on their 2022 SAT results and congratulated Camryn Byrnes, Jake Guttman and Julia Kennedy for this outstanding accomplishment. Senior IB students recently performed their Theory of

Knowledge Exhibitions for their 11th grade counterparts, the high school Vietnam classes will be attending The Wall That Heals exhibit at the mobile education center at Tanner Park, and elementary school buildings are once again partnering with the high school Early Childhood Program.

Mrs. Morrison advised that West Islip's Vocal Motion performed at the West Islip Breast Cancer Coalitions Pink Flag Ceremony in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. High School counselors are in the midst of meeting with 12th grade students regarding the college application process and school counselors recently started pushing into K-5 classrooms providing literacy and Health Smart SEL learning experiences.

Mrs. Morrison also advised that Passport for Good, the technology platform utilized to track information on the new civic engagement requirements for graduation will be fully live and operational next week. District committees are up and running. The K-12 Curriculum Council met to outline the district's instructional focuses for the school year; the Professional Development committee is planning for Superintendent Conference Day on November 7, 2023; the Cell Phone committee met to discuss the positive and negative impact that cell phones have on student learning and mental health; and the Profile of a Graduate Committee will meet in two weeks. Mrs. Morrison announced that October is Dyslexia Awareness Month and all students and staff are encouraged to wear red to school on 10/6/23. Families celebrating Dyslexia Awareness Month are encouraged to send pictures to Maureen O'Connor in the District office for posting to the district website.

The next Code of Conduct Parent Academy is scheduled for Thursday, 10/19/2023 at 7:00 p.m. at Beach Street Middle School.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Education Committee: Richard Antoniello reported on the meeting held 10/3/2023. Items reviewed included an overview of secondary testing data for June 2023. All students are performing at or above average. All data is on the district website.

Finance Committee: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting held 10/3/2023. Items reviewed included the June treasurer's report; June and July extra-curricular reports; July payroll summary; June financial statements; August & September claims audit report, August & September system manager audit trail, payroll certifications and budget transfers. Mrs. Pellati advised that R.S. Abrams, the external auditors, will be at the Audit Committee Meeting on October 17 at 6:30 p.m. to review the 2022-2023 financial statements and year-end results. The District Reserve Plan has been updated for the 2022-2023 school year and will be posted on the District website on October 6. The plan goes over each of the District's reserves, the funding levels and actual balances as of June 30, 2023. The district spent over 99% of the 2022-23 expenditure budget. The remaining fund balance at year-end of approximately \$460 thousand will be allocated to the Capital Reserve.

Buildings & Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting held 10/3/23. Mr. McCann spoke about the start of the school year and thanked Mr. Bosse and the custodial staff for all their work getting the schools ready. Other items reviewed included air conditioning 95% complete; Paul J. Bellew parking lot complete; windows arriving this week; Beach Street rotunda still being worked on; pool reconstruction project will require a vote and a public forum will be held; older bonds will be sunsetting and the district can start a new bond for the pool as the old one ends; a potential group from BOCES is interested in leasing Masera, an equipment verification process is in the works and there is nothing to announce yet.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting held 10/4/23. The committee discussed CSE and CPSE meetings, updates to IEPs and student placements. Udall special education students are working to capture elements of profile of a graduate, resource room students are learning about individual

strengths and weaknesses and the ICT program students are engaged in a cooperative of learning experiences. Mrs. Brown encouraged becoming a SEPTA member and supporting all the PTAs. The SEPTA Midnight Bowl will take place on April 13, 2024. Special Education information regarding CPSE and CSE are on the district website. October is Dyslexia Awareness month.

Safety & Security Committee: Christina Marks reported on the meeting held 9/19/23. Items reviewed included technology updates on blue light cameras; new security guard added at Udall; after hours security; classroom window coverings; and I.D. cards.

Health & Wellness Alliance: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting held on 9/19/23. Items reviewed included an overview of previous Health & Wellness initiatives, financial report and the 2023 Halloween Hustle that will take place on 10/15/23 at 10:00 a.m. at the WIHS. Other items discussed were 2023-2024 initiatives and a focus on mental health, Islip Goes Purple, Wellness policy, free breakfast program, 2023-2024 health and wellness senior scholarships, Breast Cancer Awareness Day on Friday 10/20/2023, Newsletter, Healing Strides Walk Saturday, 9/23/23, at 10:00 a.m. at East Islip Marina, Effective School Solutions and Vaping. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 10/10/2023, at 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at Paul J. Bellevue Elementary School.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2023-2024 General Fund budget transfer 4323-4326 and Capital Fund budget transfers 4322-4328.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2023-2024 Consultant Services Contract: Donna Geffner, Ph.D., CCC-SP/A.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Surplus Items: Math textbooks – Beach Street Middle School.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Board of Education authorizing funding for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 from Unassigned Fund Balance as follows: To the Capital Reserve – an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Board of Education of the West Islip Union Free School District hereby authorizes funding for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 from Unassigned Fund Balance as follows: To the Capital Reserve – an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Board of Education of the West Islip Union Free School District adopts the 2022-2023 Reserve Plan.

Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Board of Education of the West Islip Union Free School District hereby adopts the 2022-2023 Reserve Plan.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve – Suffolk County School Bus Safety – Memorandum of Agreement Amendment.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: the Board of Education 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.

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.

Peter McCann advised that the West Islip Union Free School District Reserve Plan will be posted to the district website and there is specific information for each fund.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Romanelli shared the many things going on in and outside the district. Visitors Senator Alexis Weik and Bob Vecchio, executive director of Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association, toured the West Islip High School. They saw students in their career programs, visited the auto body shop, the robotics and machine shop, the planetarium, and saw the Profile of a High School Graduate.

Representatives from Good Samaritan Hospital also visited the high school recently and the district is talking about a partnership for students exploring the field of healthcare. The representatives visited the science research program and all the applications that go on in a research hospital. They saw the mechanical arm used in the district's STEM program and spoke about internships in the Cancer Institute and students in science research were very interested. There was an anesthesiology presentation and many students are interested and the district may have an anesthesiologist come in and speak with the students.

Dr. Romanelli also spoke about the LIASCD Administrative Conference he attended and how very proud he was of all the West Islip presentations. West Islip had the most presenters at this conference, which were very well attended. Mr. Tussie also attended the conference and spoke about how there was standing room only at the presentation by Dr. Romanelli.

The following resident wished to speak during "Invitation to the Public":

Luann Dunne - Mrs. Dunne spoke about a personnel matter and expressed her displeasure with the way a particular situation was addressed. Dr. Romanelli was not in agreement with her claim and expressed concern regarding the venue in which the matter was being shared.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 9:40 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: fair market adjustment to base salary of all Confidential Employees appointed prior to 10/1/2023.

Be it Resolved, the Board of Education hereby approves, effective October 1, 2023, a fair market adjustment of a \$3,500 increase to the base salary of all Confidential Employees appointed prior to October 1, 2023 with the exception of the Superintendent's Administrative Assistant who shall receive a fair market adjustment of \$10,000 added to the annual base salary.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Memorandum of Agreement with East Moriches School District.

Be it Resolved, the Board of Education hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement between East Moriches School District and the West Islip Union Free School District.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: 2023-2024 Consultant Services Contract: Dragonfly ABA.

Be it Resolved, the Board of Education hereby approves the 2023-2024 Consultant Services Contract with Dragonfly ABA.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Super-Executive Session at 9:43 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 9:54 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Hock
District Clerk

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