

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 9, 2020 - Beach Street Middle School

PRESENT: Mr. Gellar, Mr. Maginniss, Mr. Antonello, Mr. Compitello, Mrs. LaRosa,
Mr. McCann, Mr. Michaluk

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATORS: Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Pellati, Mr. Taylor

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

The following wished to speak about an agenda item during the "Invitation to the Public":

Mrs. Stella Puglisi, 1355 N. Monroe, West Islip - Mrs. Puglisi lives near the Masera property and asked what would be built on the property. Mr. Gellar responded that the future use of the property is an ongoing process and three bidders remain with different ideas. The property could be a combination of rentals and condos but it has not been decided yet. Mrs. Puglisi asked why 120 units are proposed and Mr. Gellar advised that Town of Islip code dictates the maximum number of units, waivers would not be allowed, and the height would not be more than two stories. Mrs. Puglisi also asked about the ten-year tax abatement and Mr. Gellar responded that it depends if rentals or condos are built; the tax abatement would be phased in over ten years.

Mrs. Joanne Pace, 371 Hamilton Place, West Islip - Mrs. Pace felt that the district has made decisions without advising the community and that residents' tax money has gone into maintaining Masera, so it should not be shuttered. Mrs. Pace would like to go to the town and shut the project down. Mr. Gellar clarified that BOCES paid for repairs and not the taxpayers and any district tax money used for repairs was for other buildings in the district. Mr. Gellar also explained that the building needs millions of dollars of repairs and requires a massive investment.

Mrs. Pace shared her concerns about traffic cutting through the neighborhood and feels it would only get worse. Mr. Gellar responded that the Town of Islip will do a traffic study before the project takes place and the sale of the property is contingent upon Town of Islip approval.

RECOGNITION:

Athletic

Girls Varsity Gymnastic All County ~ *Olivia Marker, Emily McGrade*

Girls Varsity Swimming All County ~ *Jacqueline Triglia*

Girls Varsity Soccer All County ~ *Alexandra Getfield, Jaden Hampel, Lauryn Schmidt*

Boys Varsity Soccer All County ~ *Bradley Battaglini, Sean DeLuca*

Boys Varsity Soccer All County Academic ~ *Matthew Cairo*

Girls Varsity Cross Country All County Academic ~ *Isabella Rogler*

Boys Varsity Volleyball All County ~ *Nicholas Sandoval*

Varsity Football All County ~ *Robert DiCapua, Kyle Haff, Jack Ilario, William Reichel, Dominic Sagginario*

Varsity Field Hockey All County ~ *Victoria Devlin, Darvie Wallace*

"Invitation to the Public" continued:

Mr. Michael C. DeBlasio, 121 West 2nd Street, West Islip - Mr. DeBlasio is a West Islip Fire Department volunteer but spoke as a resident about the many emergencies to which the fire department has and the fact that staffing is a concern. He is very worried about the traffic congestion and increased response time an additional 120 units would have on the community.

Mr. Shawn Gallagher, 154 W. 3rd Street, West Islip – Mr. Gallagher asked all the board members if they live near Masera and was upset that he was not aware of plans for the Masera property. Mr. Gellar explained that the Board is responsible to the entire community and that he himself does not live far from the property. Mr. Gellar advised that he has been speaking to community members for months at various meetings and functions and that there have been e-mails and texts sent to residents with school age children. Information has been posted on the district website.

Mr. Gallagher asked why the district is opposed to single-family homes. Mrs. Winkler explained that it is not cost effective and the cost of construction is very high.

Mr. Rocco G. Pepe, 15 David Court, West Islip - Mr. Pepe has lived in West Islip for 65 years and a member of West Islip Beautification. Mr. Pepe asked if there was an environmental review of the property and has concerns regarding the sewer district being able to accommodate additional properties. Mr. Gellar explained that the Town of Islip will do a study and the sale is contingent on being able to build as projected. Mr. Pepe also had questions about the landscaping, lighting, and parking spaces. Mr. Gellar advised that these concerns will be part of the discussions regarding Masera and the community would be involved.

Mr. John Davis, 503 Avon Place, West Islip - Mr. Davis is a member of the Willetts Point Association and that the Town of Islip might change the conditions after the sale. He is concerned about rentals and would prefer residents own the property. Mr. Gellar stated his opinion that West Islip has excellent town government, and he would personally fight to keep the terms of the sale in force should the occasion arise.

Mr. Phil Catalani, 1329 Washington Avenue, West Islip - Mr. Catalani moved to West Islip three years ago and had questions about the bid process. Mr. Gellar explained that there were eight bidders and there are now three bidders remaining, and when one is chosen, the specifics will be shared. Mr. Catalani also spoke about the growth real estate has taken and would prefer homes be built rather than apartments or condos. Mrs. Winkler responded that homes would not be affordable or cost effective due to the cost of construction and the price point for building homes.

Mr. John Delaney, 156 Udall Road, West Islip - Mr. Delaney is a 50-year resident of West Islip. His children and grandchildren live in West Islip and he would like to stay in the community. He feels a 55 and over community is a good idea and if the district can get eight or nine million dollars for the property, it would benefit the community. Mr. Delaney asked if renters pay taxes and Mr. Gellar responded that rentals do generate revenue. Mr. Gellar advised there would be more meetings and that information from the December meeting about the Masera property is posted on the district website. A notice in the form of a card will be mailed to residents before the next meeting takes place.

Mrs. Denise Clarke, 1792 Jackson Avenue, West Islip - Mrs. Clarke is a 30 year resident of West Islip and lives on a dead-end street next to Masera. She feels traffic is dangerous and if additional roads to the property are opened, the presidential section of West Islip would be destroyed. Mrs. Winkler spoke about 55 and over communities in other local areas and these communities have one entrance in and one out and residents cannot assume that all streets will be open. Mr. Gellar advised that entrances have not been discussed yet, but the district will work with the developer and the community for mutually agreeable options.

Dr. Anthony Carrino, 619 Montauk Highway, West Islip - Dr. Carrino has lived in West Islip 30 years and feels the lack of information provided to the community has caused hysteria. Dr. Carrino does not want rentals and asked if other realtors were considered. He stated that using Mrs. Winkler was a conflict of interest and the property should be listed on multiple listing and not only be a commercial listing.

Mr. Gellar explained that a RFP went out when the district was renting the other buildings and West Islip has been more successful than other districts in achieving rental income from these buildings.

Mr. Rocco G. Pepe, 15 David Court, West Islip - Mr. Pepe asked if Mrs. Winkler will be selling the condos and Mr. Gellar responded that this has not been decided but would be the developer's prerogative.

West Islip resident – Resident asked what happens to the money once the building is sold and Mr. Gellar responded that the proceeds must be put into a reserve for tax reduction and used to offset the tax levy for up to 10 years..

West Islip resident – Resident asked if the senior housing community would have low income housing? Mr. Gellar responded that it is Town of Islip law that 10 % of the condos be set aside for affordable housing.

West Islip resident – Resident asked about the positive benefit of having senior housing for residents living in the presidential section. Mr. Gellar explained that senior housing will benefit all taxpayers and money from the sale will be used to offset taxes. All information will be posted on the district website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2019 Regular Meeting.

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHER: CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid): Maureen Sanchez, Elementary, effective September 3, 2019 through January 1, 2020 (Approved on 6/13/19 with January 2, 2020 end date).

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RESIGNATION: Matthew Darrell, Permanent Substitute Teacher, effective December 21, 2019 (Beach Street).

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Sandy Olsen, Special Education Aide, effective January 10, 2020 (Manetuck; Step 1; new position).

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Jayne Leith Hug, Senior Office Assistant, effective January 27, 2020 (*revised*) (District Office; Step 1; replacing D. Johnson {retired}).

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: CHANGE IN STATUS: Florence Burns, Special Education Aide, effective January 10, 2020 (Bayview; Step 5; replacing F. DeMartino {Library Aide}; change from Cafeteria Aide).

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Paul Michaluk and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE GUARD:

*Michael Berrios, effective January 10, 2020 (\$22.12./hr.)

Scott Jenkins, effective January 10, 2020 (\$22.12/hr.)

*James Littieri, effective January 10, 2020 (\$22.12/hr.)

Rolando Lopez, effective January 10, 2020 (\$22.12/hr.)

Julio Moya, effective January 10, 2020 (\$22.12/hr.)

*James Swenson, effective January 10, 2020 (\$18.96/hr.) *revised*

Patricia Tulloch, effective January 10, 2020 (\$18.96/hr.) *revised*

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE OFFICE ASSISTANT (\$13.00/hr.): Dianne Johnson, effective January 10, 2020.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Paul Michaluk and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: ADULT EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS SPRING 2020:

Alexandra Bergin (Zumba) \$35/hr.

Lenny Butler (Community CPR, First Aide) \$30/hr.

Jake Caramico (How Money Works) no cost to West Islip

Kim Crichton (Yoga, Stretch, Body Sculpt) \$35/hr.

*Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance

OTHER: ADULT EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS SPRING 2020 (*continued*)

James Grover (Basketball) \$35/hr.
Matthew Haszinger (Volleyball) \$30/hr.
Phyllis Hintze (Ballroom Dancing) \$30/hr.
Bruce Lieberman (Defensive Driving) no cost to West Islip
Jane Loehle (Aquacise) \$35/hr.
Nizza Tasayco (Volleyball) \$30/hr.
Richard Tesoro (About Boating Safety) no cost to West Islip
Robert Watts (Introduction to Guitar/Piano) \$30/hr.
Ronald Weber (Basic Digital Photography) \$35/hr.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: ADULT EDUCATION LIFEGUARDS 2020: Drake Castonguay \$20/hr.; Eve Castonguay \$20/hr.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: ENRICHMENT INSTRUCTORS (\$275 per session):

Jennifer Delaney, Colorful Cooking
Justin DeMaio, LEGOS 1 & 2
Michelle Edgley, Soak & Scrub, Crime Scene Capers
Christine Maniscalco, Coding is Cool, Coding for Kids
Daniel Sliwowski, Fitness for Fun!

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTOR (\$30.00/hr.): Kayla Foubister, effective January 10, 2020; Christopher Harders, effective January 10, 2020.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$115 per diem):

Kayla Foubister, effective January 10, 2020
Christopher Harders, effective January 10, 2020
Meaghan Johnston, effective January 2, 2020
Holly Mascolo, effective January 10, 2020, student teacher
Mariah Tyler, effective January 10, 2020

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHING ASSISTANT (\$85 per diem):

Kayla Foubister, effective January 10, 2020
Christopher Harders, effective January 10, 2020
Eileen Scourtos, effective January 10, 2020

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Mrs. Morrison informed the audience that 14 students in Grades 6-8 participated in the National Geographic Geography Bee on Tuesday, December 17, 2019. Eighth grader, Max Lipshitz, was the winner. An IB Information Night was held on January 7 at which Mr. Gilmartin explained the IB program to parents of 10th grade students, including course offerings, requirements and educational advantages of the program. The Power-Point presentation is on the district's website.

“Sweethearts & Heroes” assembly programs took place at the elementary and middle schools on January 7 and 8. This motivational assemblies explored the impact that bullying has on individuals and how to bring hope and help to those in need.

An Parent Academy will be held on January 22 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Paul J. Bellew Elementary School to explore math topics. Kristie Ferruzzi was awarded ASSET's Bright Light Award for the 2019-2020 school year for her methods of integrating technology in her instruction. Registration packets for the Pre-K program for the 2020-2021 school year can be found on the district website. Registration dates are Tuesday, January 14 for Manetuck and Paul J. Bellew and Wednesday, January 22 for Bayview and Oquenock. A Parent Academy will be held on Monday, March 2 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to provide information about the Pre-K program.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Finance Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting held on 1/7/20. Items reviewed included the November treasurer's report; November extra-curricular report; December payroll summary; November financial statements; claims audit report and the December system manager audit report. Also reviewed were warrants, payroll certification forms, surplus items, donations, resolutions, bids, a change order and an approval of contract. Mrs. Pellati informed the committee that there will be an audit committee meeting with Cullen & Danowski, LLP to discuss the Risk Assessment Update at 7:30 p.m. on 1/21/2020.

Buildings & Grounds Committee: Paul Michaluk reported on the meeting held on 1/7/20. Items reviewed included a bond update from BBS and SCC. The pool will be drained during February recess in an attempt to resolve an ongoing issue; security vestibules are complete except for the high school; the Bayview and Oquenock roofs are complete; Bayview playground complete; surfacing of the Oquenock playground was delayed due to weather; middle school sound and lighting systems are finished; the balance of Phase 4 work was bid at the end of December as Bond Phase 4b. Phase 4b work includes high school site improvements and planetarium renovation, sinks and cabinets at Bayview and Bellew, Bayview classroom ceiling and lighting replacements, toilet reconstruction at the high school and Bellew, districtwide window treatments, and signage at the elementary buildings. The remainder of the bond work not previously accomplished will comprise Phase 5; potential items for Phase 6 were discussed.

The district denied the West Islip Soccer Club's request for portable lights on the Barberry turf field in consideration to neighbors in the area but the district is exploring other locations. Due to the retirement of the chief custodian at the high school, the current chief of elementary and middle schools will move to the high school and the district will advertise for an assistant facilities director.

An FAQ will be added to the district website to provide accurate information to the community regarding the Masera property.

Committee on Special Education/Preschool Special Education: Tom Compitello reported on the meeting held on 1/8/20. Items discussed were CSE/CPSE recommendations and student placements.

Education Committee: Richard Antoniello reported on the meeting held 1/9/20. Every kindergarten classroom will have an i-Pad cart by the end of January and every first grade classroom will have a cart by the end of February. Elementary principals and directors will collaborate with elementary teachers to revamp the elementary report cards for the 2020-2021 school year. The Keyboarding Without Tears program will be introduced in all elementary buildings by the end of February. The Mission B Mindfulness Program was shared with all 5th grade students and the program will now transition to first grade students. The AimsWeb implementation, which identifies at risk students and tracks their growth, will be extended to Beach Street and Udall Road middle schools.

Health & Wellness Committee: Paul Michaluk reported on the meeting held 1/7/20. Items reviewed included articles for the newsletter; a March Into Wellness event that will take place March 18 at Paul J. Bellew from 6:30-8:30 p.m., including yoga, games, mindfulness, nutrition information and raffles. The annual sixth grade volleyball tournament will be held Friday, March 6 at the high school at 7:00 p.m. and the fifth grade on Saturday, March 7 at the high school at 9:00 a.m. The district coordinated the Sweethearts & Heroes motivational program to address all third through eighth grade students and staff on the topic of bullying and building empathy in school communities. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 1, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in the Paul J. Bellew cafeteria.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The treasurer's report for November was presented. Beginning balance as of 11/1/19: \$39,229,151.55; ending balance as of 11/30/19: \$28,664,004.99.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2019-2020 General Fund budget transfers 3762-3774 and 2019-2020 Capital Fund budget transfers 3767-3772.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Paul Michaluk, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve bids: Base Bid No. GC-1 - General Construction – Mt. Olympos Restoration, Inc.; Base Bid No. GC-2 – Site Improvements – Laser Industries, Inc.; Base Bid No. GC-3 – Window Treatments – A1 Construction Services, Inc.; Base Bid No. PC-1 – Plumbing – Ambrosio & Co., Inc.; Base Bid EC-1 – electrical – Palace Electrical Contractors, Inc.; Base Bid PI-1 - Planetarium Integrator – Spitz, Inc.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Paul Michaluk, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Change Order No. 2R – (\$117,044.90) credit.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve a resolution re: donation from HOPR, LLC - \$1,000 to WIUFSD Cafeteria Fund.

DONATIONS:

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of donated funds in the amount of \$1,000.00 from HOPR, LLC, which have been donated to the Cafeteria Fund to directly benefit the students of the West Islip School District.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to a approve resolution re: Alliance Energy, LLC - \$500 to WIHS.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve a resolution re: Increase to Budget 2019-2020 - \$500.

DONATIONS:

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of donated funds in the amount of \$500.00 from Alliance Energy LLC, which have been donated for the purchase of math or science supplies for the students of the West Islip High School.

RESOLUTION: INCREASE 2018/2019 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the appropriation budget for the 2019-2020 school year to be increased to \$125,911,790.98, an increase of the \$500.00 donation from Alliance Energy LLC for West Islip High School.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Paul Michaluk, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the surplus of miscellaneous English items – Oquenock.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Richard Antoniello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2019-2020 contract: Kings Park School District.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Gellar advised the audience the discussion about the Masera property is ongoing and the district will get as much information as possible out to residents. A mailing in the form of a postcard will be sent to residents informing them of the date for the next meeting. Information also will be posted on the district website.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mrs. Burns informed the audience that she met with Mrs. Pellati, Mrs. Morrison and the principals to prepare for the 2020-2021 budget. Dates for the budget workshops will be posted on the district website shortly.

The link regarding the Masera property will be moved to the main task bar on the district website and a link for questions will be posted by early next week.

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

Mr. Eric Harsch, 857 Udall Road, West Islip - Mr. Harsch asked if the money from the sale of the Masera property could go to the bond. Mrs. Pellati explained that the money can only go into a reserve fund for tax reductions. The district must allocate the money for use over ten years to reduce property taxes.

Mr. Harsch also asked about the commission the seller pays. Mrs. Jamie Winkler (real estate broker) responded that the seller would pay a 4% commission instead of the typical 5%. Mr. Harsch suggested that the buyer pay the commission; Mrs. Winkler explained that the buyer would then typically lower their offer. Mr. Gellar stated that the commission would come out of the proceeds of the sale.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Paul Michaluk and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 10:03 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 11:14 p.m. on motion by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Ron Maginniss and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 p.m. on motion by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Paul Michaluk and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,



Mary Hock
District Clerk

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