

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**February 6, 2020 - Beach Street Middle School**

PRESENT: Mr. Gellar, Mr. Maginniss, Mr. Antoniello, Mr. Compitello, Mrs. LaRosa (arrived 8:30 p.m.)  
Mr. McCann, Mr. Michaluk

ABSENT: None

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

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

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Meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Paul Michaluk, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020 Planning Session.

**RECOGNITION:**

Music

*Bradynn Alessi, Hannah Antulov, Sophia Bahm, David Belcher, Patrick Bolin, Lauren Boundy, James Burns, Alexa Camilleri, Matthew Cammarano, Kaitlyn Caragiulo, Ty Carpinello, Drake Castonguay, Eve Castonguay, Anthony Chan, Faith Chen, Paul Ciesluk, Kailyn Cornell, Nicole D'Asaro, Taylor Davies, Jonathan Delanoy, John Denning, Shannon Edgley, Noelle Fallon, Kieran Farrell, Marc Frazier, Aaron Glass, Nicholas Harsch, Kylie Horan, Hallie Huners, Shannon Koerner, Ryan Lang, Avery Lanzarotta, Dylan Latargia, Alexander Lee, Jack Locurto, Sophia Lopez, Emma Musial, Kory O'Neill, Kathryn Paidousis, Christopher Palazzo, Andrew Palmer, Marisa Pastore, Mark Peragine, Stephen Petraglia, Lindsey Pritchard, Michael Rabin, Ryan Rafferty, Taylor Rakovic, Sophia Randazzo, Vincent Santini, Dorian Scourtos, Anthony Shaw, Jake Siffert, Kyle Tran, Tristan Tran, Jake Turcios, Karina Vartanian, Nicholas Veiga, Michael Woss*

**PERSONNEL**

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Richard Antoniello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: CHANGE IN TITLE: Eric Wodhanil, Custodial Worker I, effective January 21, 2020 (Bayview; change from Acting Head Custodian).

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RESIGNATION: Debra Harrell, Special Education Aide, effective February 15, 2020 (Paul J. Bellew).

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: Kathleen Brosnan, Part Time Assistant Cook, effective June 1, 2020 (19 years).

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Paul Michaluk and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PART TIME OFFICE APPLICATION SPECIALIST (\$38.30/hr.): Linda Skinner, effective February 7, 2020.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Richard Antoniello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN (\$13.00/hr.): \*William Nieroda, effective February 7, 2020.

\*Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Richard Antoniello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Angelica Ruden, School Nurse, effective February 24, 2020 (Paul J. Bellew; Step 1; replacing R. Giudice {resigned}).

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 INSTRUCTOR SPRING 2020: Jennifer Friaglia (Zumba) \$35/hr.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Paul Michaluk and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem): Danielle Gick, effective February 10, 2020.

## CURRICULUM UPDATE

Mrs. Morrison asked for a motion for the approval of the following New Course Proposals {including curriculum writing}:

Culinary Arts II {FACS}  
Teen Health and Wellness {Health}  
Freshman Orchestra {Music}  
Virtual Enterprise {Business}

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Richard Antoniello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve.

Mrs. Morrison asked for a motion for the approval of the following Course Replacement:

Italian 5AP with Italian 5 {World Languages}

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Paul Michaluk and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve.

Music Technology to Music Technology & Innovation Mrs. Morrison asked for a motion for the approval of the following Course Title Change:

Music Technology *to* Music Technology & Innovation {Music}

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve.

Mrs. Morrison informed the audience that this week is National School Counseling Week and is celebrated nationwide to highlight the profound impact school counselors have on student success and achievement.

The first annual Elementary Math Parent Academy took place on 1/22/2020 at Paul J. Bellew. The event was planned by Mr. Grover, Director of Math, Business Education, and Family & Consumer Sciences. Math coaches, teachers and students from each building participated in the event.

Geography Club students at Paul J. Bellew participated in the Geography Bee on 1/22/2020 and Kevin Halloran won for the second year in a row. Mrs. Morrison congratulated Kevin and thanked Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Connico for facilitating the Bee.

Ninth Grade Orientation took place on 1/27/2020 for the Class of 2024. Current high school students shared their experiences and members of the administrative team spoke about transitioning to the high school.

On 1/28/2020, 155 high school students were inducted into the National Honor Society. Under the guidance of Ms. Crimi and Ms. Barone, the current student leaders did an impressive job of facilitating the ceremony and emphasizing the importance of scholarship, service, leadership and character to the new inductees.

On 2/6/2020, 73 high school students were inducted into the National English Honor Society. Inductees have demonstrated exceptional ability in literary analysis, composition, linguistic study, creative writing and media studies.

The Pre-K registration deadline for the 2020-2021 school year is Friday, 2/14/2020. A postcard will be sent to every household along with information about the registration process. Parents will be notified in regard to the next steps in the process shortly thereafter.

Kindergarteners recently took part in a Code-A-Pillar engineering activity. Our littlest engineers from across the district began to learn what engineers do and how to work in teams to accomplish a goal with “productive struggle.”

Parent Mindfulness nights will take place for Grades K-5 on 2/26/2020 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Beach Street Middle School and for Grades 6-12 on 3/25/2020 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Beach Street Middle School.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Finance Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting held on 2/4/2020. Items reviewed included the December treasurer’s report; December extra-curricular report; January payroll summary; December financial statements; December claims audit report and January system manager audit report. Also reviewed were warrants, payroll certification forms, donations, resolutions, surplus items, special education contracts and health service contract. Mrs. Pellati informed the Board that the District is not permitted to assist with outside organizations’ fundraising efforts and therefore, the District is not permitted to collect funds on their behalf through MySchoolBucks.

Buildings & Grounds Committee: Paul Michaluk reported on the meeting held on 2/4/2020. Items reviewed included a bond update from BBS and SCC. The addition of exterior basketball hoops at Udall is denied; it will cost \$140,000 to replacing the leaking roof of the bus garage; and ASK US requests to sublet the gym when not in use, for which the district has asked for more information.

There was a power outage at Beach Street and District Office on 1/25/2020 due to a PSEG transformer issue; power was restored by 1:00 p.m. A meeting was held with ECG Group to review submittals and get feedback from ECG regarding the solar PV project; the importance of maintaining cleaning standards and procedures was reinforced with custodial staff in response to concerns about the flu and flu-related illnesses; the DEC Willets Creek project continues on schedule; and the DEC has agreed to additional fencing along the creek on high school property.

Mr. Amoruso from BBS gave a PowerPoint presentation showing completed work through Phase 4.

Committee on Special Education/Preschool Special Education: Tom Compitello reported on the meeting held on 2/5/2020. Items discussed were special education services and placements.

Education Committee: Richard Antoniello reported on the meeting held 2/6/2020. Items discussed included professional development for first grade teachers on the new science standards, and included training on Ozbots so students can incorporate coding to solve a problem. Beach and Udall middle school teams are working to extend the Multi-Tier System of Support/Response to Intervention. High School science teachers Diane Munno and Mary Kroll have spearheaded a committee for the Willets Creek Management Program, which will collaborate with the DEC to brainstorm ideas for the future management of the Willets Creek site.

Safety Committee: Tom Compitello reported on the meeting held on 2/4/2020. Items discussed included training for the Blue Light System; the installation of additional cameras in all buildings; additional door swipes in the high school; completion of the high school vestibules; and the installation of vape detectors.

Audit Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting held 1/21/2020. The committee reviewed the annual risk assessment presented by Cullen & Danowski, LLP. No major concerns were reported and a Corrective Action Plan will be prepared. The Purchasing area will be reviewed in the upcoming year.

Policy Committee: Annmarie LaRosa reported on the meeting held 1/21/2020. A First Reading took place on the following policies: No. 4212 - Table of Organization; No. 7470 - Student Voter Pre-Registration; No. 7516 - Health and Wellness.

School Board/Student Liaison Committee {Beach}: Paul Michaluk reported on the meeting held 1/16/20. Mr. Michaluk and Mr. Compitello visited with the Beach Street Student Council. The students shared about the events they had so far this year and spoke about raising money by creating their own music to be used instead of hiring a DJ for events. They also presented a slide show on the SMART Board. Mr. Compitello and Mr. Michaluk explained their role as board of education trustees and spoke about the annual school budget. The students are considering a Beach Street and Udall Dance so students can meet each other before they enter the high school. Mr. Compitello and Mr. Michaluk were impressed by the Student Council members and how they are making a difference at such a young age.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

The treasurer's report for December was presented. Beginning balance as of 12/1/19: \$28,664,004.99; ending balance as of 12/31/19: \$25,316,608.32.

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 3776-3810 and 2019-2020 Capital Fund budget transfers 3775-3809.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Paul Michaluk, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolutions re: donation from Manetuck Shared Decision Committee for purchase of courtyard benches - \$641.00.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Rich Antoniello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve donation from PAWS to West Islip UFSD for \$10,170.00.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted to increase the 2019-2020 budget by \$10,811.00.

## DONATIONS:

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of donated funds in the amount of \$641.00 from the Shared Decision Committee, which have been donated for the purchase of courtyard benches for the students of the Manetuck Elementary School.

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of donated funds in the amount of \$10,170.00 from the Partners Advancing West Islip Students (PAWS), which have been donated for the purchase of sensory paths, dual ear headsets, zen zone items, 3D printer, Makerspace Center and a DSLR camera kit to be distributed among all elementary and secondary schools.

## RESOLUTION: INCREASE 2019-2020 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the appropriation budget for the 2019-20 school year to be increased to \$125,922,601.98, an increase of the \$10,811.00 donations from the Shared Decision Committee and PAWS.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2019-2020 Special Education Contracts: East Islip UFSD and United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Suffolk, Inc.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2019-2020 Health Services Contract: East Islip UFSD ~ \$4,261.52.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Paul Michaluk, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following surplus items: miscellaneous IT equipment; miscellaneous library books – Udall; Wrestling mat – Udall; Stairmaster – WIHS Fitness Center.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Richard Antoniello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2020-2021 Student-Teacher Calendar.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve WITA Memorandum of Agreement re: EIT Money.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mrs. Burns informed the audience that the 2020-2021 Student-Teacher Calendar has students starting school before Labor Day.

Budget workshops will begin Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Pellati will be giving a review of the budget and will give the dates and topics of the budget meetings.

*P.S. I Love You Day* will be held next Friday, February 14, 2020. Brooke DiPalma will present at assemblies in some of the buildings.

The District celebrates 100 days of school on February 14.

Schools will be closed February 17 to 21 for winter recess.

Mr. Gellar addressed the concerns that the community has regarding the Masera Property. He informed the audience that a district newsletter was mailed to all residents in early November and included information about the proposed sale of the property. A Community Forum will take place on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. at West Islip High School; a postcard informing all residents of the forum will be mailed to every resident in the district. Since the district is still in negotiations, Mr. Gellar is not at liberty to announce the developer but the developer will be in attendance and present at the forum.

Mr. Gellar spoke about the viability of stand-alone homes and the impact on schools in the area. He also spoke about the traffic concerns of the residents living in the presidential section and explained that the only driveways to the property would be on Udall Road. In addition, it is expected that there will be dense trees and landscaping around the property.

Mr. Gellar spoke to the Commissioners of the Fire Department and was assured a development would not be a stressor for the department, and consulted with the Suffolk County Sewer District to ensure the same.

The following residents wished to speak during an “Invitation to the Public”:

Mr. Shawn Gallagher - 154 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, West Islip - Mr. Gallagher questioned whether the Board is still soliciting feedback from residents and requested to scale back the number of units. Mr. Gellar explained that the maximum number of units is limited by the Town of Islip code and the contract will specify that the developer will not be allowed to ask for a variance. Mr. Gallagher asked if other proposals for use of the property were received; Mr. Gellar explained that the district considered other options but decided that a 55+ development was in the best interest of the community. Mr. Gallagher asked if the Board is unanimous (it is) and if the vote on the Masera property sale could be done on a separate day on the north side of town. Mr. Gellar advised that the current plan is to have the vote the same day as the annual school budget vote.

Mr. John Howard, 36 Penny Street, West Islip - Mr. Howard received the postcard about the community forum in the mail. He asked if the Board visits Masera each year, and Mr. Gellar explained the school visitation process. Mr. Howard asked who determined that Masera was in disrepair; Mr. Gellar explained that Masera needs costly repair. Mr. Howard inquired as to why the community could not know details about the contract;

Mr. Gellar advised the district is still in negotiations and it would be irresponsible to share at this time. In response to Mr. Howard's question about the time of the public meetings on February 25, Mr. Gellar advised that all the meetings would be in the same place.

Mr. Bob Gillian, 37 Alden Avenue, West Islip - Mr. Gillian expressed concern that stand-alone housing would overburden the district schools.

Mr. Mark Tessar, 54 Paprocki Avenue, West Islip - Mr. Tessar does not think of more resident children as a burden to the district. Mr. Gellar clarified that the district is not concerned about adding students, but is concerned about the impact to specific buildings. If some current residents move to a 55+ development, other homes become available to young families throughout the district, and not just in the Masera area. In addition to the revenue from the sale, the district will get property taxes, even if the town allows for a tax abatement for ten years. Mr. Gellar encouraged Mr. Tessar to attend the 2/25/2020 forum and see the developer's presentation.

Mr. Michael Lombardi, 115 Watts Place, West Islip – Mr. Lombardi expressed that senior housing is a great idea and questioned what would happen to the building if the sale is voted down. Mr. Gellar advised that he does not have an answer at this time, but it would be costly to maintain the property.

Mrs. Angela DeMeo - Mrs. DeMeo complained about the maintenance of the Masera property and stated that since residents pay taxes on the building, they should decide what happens to it. Mr. Gellar explained that taxes go to the district and ultimately all the school buildings. For the last 20 years, Masera was leased and rental income paid for expenses incurred. Mrs. DeMeo also had concerns about the lack of security at Masera and the traffic senior housing would bring to the area. Mr. Gellar explained that a traffic study would be done; Mrs. Burns advised that there are cameras on the property 24/7 and the property is mowed and trimmed on a regular basis.

Mrs. K. Berardicelli, 92 Highland Avenue, West Islip - Mrs. Berardicelli expressed concern that West Islip would lose the community feeling with senior housing and that rental apartments would lower the value of homes in the area. Mrs. LaRosa and Mr. Gellar encouraged Mrs. Berardicelli to attend the 2/25 forum.

Mr. Anthony Botsch, 511 Rockaway Street, West Islip - Mr. Botsch expressed concern about the size of the project. He asked the Board if there was a Plan B and requested the proposition language, which Mr. Volz provided.

Mr. Gary Koffsky, 96 Udalia Court, West Islip – Mr. Koffsky spoke about the need for the elected school board to be fiscally responsible; if the building remains empty it will be a huge downside for the community.

Mrs. Mary Ann Moore, 243 Curtin Avenue, West Islip - Mrs. Moore asked if Mrs. Winkler has a commercial real estate license. Mrs. Winkler advised that there is no such thing; realtors can practice residential and commercial real estate, although many tend to specialize in one area or the other. Mrs. Moore asked why Mrs. Winkler was chosen to be the agent. Mrs. Gellar advised that based on Mrs. Winkler's successes marketing the Westbrook and Kirdahy properties, the Board chose Mrs. Winkler. Mrs. Moore asked if senior housing allows children, to which Mrs. Winkler responded that children must be 21 and older to live with their parents. Mrs. Moore also asked about the capacity of the district to house additional children in the future, if necessary. Mrs. Burns explained that there are two buildings currently leased that could be redeployed as district schools. Mrs. Moore expressed concern about additional traffic and Mr. Gellar told her a traffic study would be performed. She asked if there would be Section 8 housing and Mrs. Winkler explained that 10% of the units are required by Islip Town Code to be "affordable", but that is different from Section 8 housing.

Mr. John Tibbetts, 385 Arcadia Drive, West Islip – Mr. Tibbetts asked how his taxes would be affected. Mrs. Pellati explained the tax levy vs. the tax rate vs. assessed value. Mr. Tibbetts suggested building a park but Mr. Gellar advised the town/county has no interest in building and maintaining a park.

Mrs. Diane Adamson, 262 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, West Islip – Mrs. Adamson asked if the project could be scaled down and if residents could sell to anyone under 55, to which Mr. Gellar responded "no".

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 10:18 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:51 p.m. on motion by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Paul Michaluk and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 p.m. on motion by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Peter McCann 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.