

**AMENDED  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
November 4, 2021 – Beach Street Middle School**

PRESENT: Mr. Tussie, Mr. Antonello, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Compitello, Mrs. LaRosa,  
Mr. Maginniss, Mr. McCann

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 7:31 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Tussie spoke about the events of the October 7, 2021 Board meeting and the reasons for adjourning the meeting due to disrespectful and inappropriate behavior by some members of the audience.

Mr. McCann spoke about community ties and the West Islip tradition of supporting each other during difficult times and the collective strength of the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 Planning Session.

RECOGNITION

Veterans' Day ~ Mrs. Burns and Mr. Tussie recognized Trustee Tom Compitello and school social worker Brendan O'Connell along with other staff members who have served our country in the armed forces.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Brian Taylor asked for a motion to approve the 11/4/2021 Personnel Agenda as listed in the backup.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the 11/4/2021 Personnel Agenda as listed:

TEACHERS

T-1                    PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT  
                          Kaitlin Palmieri, Psychologist  
                          Effective December 6, 2021 to December 5, 2025  
                          (High School; Step 37; replacing Allison Murray {resigned})

T-2                    PERSONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid)  
                          Christine McCann, Special Education  
                          Effective November 16, 2021 through June 30, 2022  
                          (Beach Street)

T-3                    REGULAR SUBSTITUTE  
                         Gabrielle Roberto, English  
                         Effective November 5, 2021 through June 30, 2022  
                         (Udall; Step 1A<sup>1</sup>; Replacing Kimberly Crouch {reassigned})

CIVIL SERVICE

CL-1                    RESIGNATION  
                         Kristen Pyes, Security/Receptionist Paraprofessional  
                         Effective October 28, 2021  
                         (Manetuck)

CL-2                    PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT  
                         Kathleen Figalora, Part-Time Food Service Worker  
                         Effective November 5, 2021  
                         (Beach Street; \$15.13/hr; replacing T. Allen {resigned})  
  
                         Katherine Keller, Cafeteria Aide  
                         Effective November 5, 2021  
                         (Paul J. Bellew; Step 1; replacing J. MacInness {terminated})

CL-3                    SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN (\$15/hr)  
                         Veronica Lopez, effective November 5, 2021  
                         Christine Stone, effective October 9, 2021

CL-4                    SUBSTITUTE NURSE (\$150 per diem)  
                         Martina Cortes, effective November 5, 2021

CL-5                    SUBSTITUTE TEACHER AIDE (\$18.41/hr)  
                         Mitchel Klass, effective November 5, 2021

CL-6                    SUBSTITUTE GUARD (AMENDED)  
                         David Henry, effective October 20, 2021  
                         (change in rate to \$19.54)

CL-7                    SUBSTITUTE ASSISTANT COOK (\$20.51 hr)  
                         Christine Memoli , effective November 5, 2021

CL-8                    SUBSTITUTE MAINTENANCE II (\$30.00 hr)  
                         Guy DiStefano, effective November 5, 2021

OTHER

ADULT EDUCATION FALL 2021  
                         Caylee Klimuszko (Lifeguard) \$20/hr

CLUBS/ADVISORS 2021-2022  
BEACH STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL  
                         Art Club Grade 6 & 7, Jill Culver

MANETUCK  
                         Poetry Club, Gina Castaldo

PAUL J BELLEW  
                         Best Buddies Club, Amy DeJoseph, Theresa Mercado and Rita Manetta (shared)

Drama Club, Shane O'Neill and Karen McCarthy

CLUBS 2021-2022 - PAUL J BELLEW(cont.)

Game Club, Cara Douglas  
Geography Bee, Cara Douglas and Karen McCarthy (shared)  
Mindfulness Club, Rachel Russell and Darlene Squillante (shared)  
Spanish Club, Kristen Amoia  
STEM Club, Kristen Amoia

UDALL ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Be Yourself Club, Dawn Morgan  
Health Club, Tricia Meliti

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem)

Matthew Boniberger, effective November 5, 2021  
Isabella Colombo, effective November 5, 2021  
Mitchel Klass, effective November 5, 2021  
Destiny Parsons, effective November 5, 2021  
Alissa Pratt, effective November 5, 2021

RESIGNATION

Gabrielle Roberto, Preferred Substitute  
Effective November 5, 2021

INSTRUCTIONAL SWIM & FAMILY SWIM PROGRAMS 2021-2022

Lifeguard \$15 per hour  
Ty Kennedy

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Mrs. Morrison informed the audience that Superintendent's Conference Day took place on Tuesday, November 2. Elementary classroom teachers were engaged in foundational literacy professional development and special area teachers and support staff were engaged in learning experiences relevant to their areas of responsibility.

At the secondary level, teachers attended self-selected workshops in a variety of subjects for which the majority of the facilitators were West Islip teachers and administrators. Mrs. Morrison thanked the Superintendent's Conference Day planning team and workshop facilitators.

Mrs. Morrison advised that West Islip received training and support through the NYS Office of Mental Health to better assist students. Mrs. Morrison also advised that due to parent concerns regarding access to sensitive content on BrainPOP, designated videos will be blocked to K-8 students for individual use.

Mrs. Morrison congratulated science teacher Brian Haldenwang who was recently featured, in *Pasco Lab Notes*, a monthly newsletter for science educators around the world.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting that took place 11/2/2021. Items reviewed included the K-12 school counseling plan; the Panorama Survey; BrainPOP; and ELA strategies for students.

Finance Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting held on 11/2/2021. Items reviewed included the September treasurer's report; September extra-curricular report; September financial statements; October internal claims audit report; October system manager audit report; payroll certification forms; and contracts.

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting that took place on 11/2/2021. Items reviewed included the fence project on Montauk Highway and Higbie Lane; the security vestibule at District Office; air conditioning; the installation of solar panels on school roofs; water damage in a high school art room; and permits for the winter athletic season.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting that took place on 11/3/2021. Items discussed included new entrants.

Audit Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting that took place on 10/19/2021. The district's auditors, R.S. Abrams & Company, LLC attended virtually and reviewed the district's financial statements for year ended June 30, 2021. The district is in good financial condition and received no comments on the audit letter.

Health and Wellness: Peter McCann reported on the meeting that took place on 10/12/2021. Items discussed included the Color Run and the Health and Wellness Newsletter.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

The treasurer's report for September was presented: beginning balance \$45,078,380.73; ending balance \$43,055,299.36.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve General Fund budget transfers 4098-4103 and Capital Fund budget transfer 4102.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2021-2022 SEDCAR Contracts: ADCS, ACLD, Alternatives for Children, Bilinguals Inc/Child & Parent Services, Brookville Center for Children's Services, Building Blocks Developmental Pre-School, Center for Developmental Disabilities, Connetquot Central School District of Islip, Developmental Disabilities Institute, Inc., Eden II Programs, Hagerdorn Little Village School, Just Kids Early Childhood Learning Center, Kids First Evaluation and Advocacy Center, Kids in Action of Long Island, Inc. Kidz Therapy Services, PLLC, Leeway School, Little Angels Center, Metro Therapy, Mid Island Association d/b/a All About Kids, Mountain Lake Academy, Nassau Suffolk Services for the Autistic, Inc., The Opportunity Pre-School, Suffolk Department of Social Services, United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Suffolk, Inc., Wood Services.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following 2021-2022 Contract: Kidz Educational Services SLP, OT, PT, LMSW, Psychology, Audiology, PLLC.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve food and food equipment price increases due to supply chain crisis.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Tussie thanked the Color Run volunteers and sponsors.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Burns updated the community on recent activities, many of which can be found on the district website: the Color Run, Homecoming, and the All District Concert. The district had a successful athletic season in fall sports, with many teams achieving post-season play.

Mr. Tussie spoke about the role parents play in taking their children to all their activities and thanked the parents for their contributions.

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

Don Marmo - Mr. Marmo questioned the surplus in the general fund and why it is not used to reduce the tax levy. Mrs. Pellati confirmed that the surplus represented 4.37% of appropriations under budget. Mrs. Pellati explained that a budget typically includes several estimates (i.e. health insurance rates, special education costs) and that remaining fund balance are allocated among the district’s reserves and can be found on the district website. These healthy reserve balances have put the district in a fiscally sound financial position, have led to a Moody’s rating upgrade, and provided beneficial borrowing rates for the debt service.

Nicole Winn - Mrs. Winn requested more opportunities for parents to be involved in student activities during the school day and expressed disappointment that parents could not attend the Halloween parade.

Madeline Curley - Madeline is a seventh grader and expressed that masks do not protect from COVID and there should be more opportunities to take a break from the mask during the school day.

Lisa Curley - Mrs. Curley is seeking a response regarding a mask exemption for her child. Mrs. Curley is appreciative of the removal of BrainPOP videos of a sensitive nature and had a question about a FOIL request. She spoke about a petition that was submitted at the October meeting in which the Board was requested to meet with the attorneys that are representing districts in a lawsuit. Mr. Tussie advised that the district does not plan to participate.

Laura Vetere - Mrs. Vetere stated that parents are scared that someone could vaccinate their children without parental consent. Mr. Tussie advised that there is no plan to do so and Mrs. Burns explained that the district would not administer any medical intervention without parental consent.

Veronique Wallrapp - Mrs. Wallrapp requested information about the trustee election process and individual trustees stand on vaccinating students. Mr. Tussie stated that the Board members would not be responding to such questions.

Kristin Calder - Mrs. Calder asked the Board to take steps before the vaccine becomes mandated. She requested that the signs in classrooms regarding the vaccine be removed and advised that parents would remove their children from school if the vaccine were to be mandated.

Kathryn Abbatiello - Mrs. Abbatiello expressed outrage over the harassment and bullying of children with disabilities and the LGBTQ community.

Al DiBernardo - Mr. DiBernardo thanked Mr. McCann for his remarks at the beginning of the meeting and expressed how both the community and the Board must be open minded and flexible.

Rob Walsh - Mr. Walsh thanked Mr. McCann for his opening statement and for exploring the installation of air conditioning in all buildings. Mr. Walsh apologized to Mrs. LaRosa a misunderstanding about the 10/7/21 Board meeting. He asked a question about a COVID survey to which Mrs. Burns explained that ParentSquare does not reach the entire community.

Catie Florea - Mrs. Florea expressed that children are suffering by wearing a mask and that the COVID numbers are low. She would like the district to advocate for the community. Mr. Tussie advised that the Board would take this under consideration and Mrs. LaRosa encouraged parents to reach out to local legislators.

Nicole Tully - Mrs. Tully shared a letter that the West Babylon School District sent to the governor. She advised the Board to represent all constituents. Mrs. Tully requested that Vaccinate New York stickers be removed from classrooms. Mr. Tussie advised that they would investigate the stickers and stated that all Board decisions are made in the best interest of all children.

Terry Tully - Mr. Tully spoke about CRT/DEI and stated that students are being used as agents of social change, based on information found on the NYSED website.

Kevin Boln - Mr. Boln expressed concerns about a potential vaccine mandate. Mr. Tussie advised that the Board is in constant discussion with legal counsel and each other regarding this issue.

Claudia Worley - Mrs. Worley explained that she will not request a medical exemption for her child because she would be ostracized. Mrs. Worley inquired about how district committees are formed and expressed concerns that resident addresses are printed in the minutes.

Doreen Hantzschel - Mrs. Hantzschel read NYS Board of Regents information regarding DEI, which she feels is not inclusive. Mrs. Hantzschel emphasized the importance of staff development for teachers.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:52 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:57p.m. on motion by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 p.m. on motion by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello 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.