

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 3, 2024 – Beach Street Middle School

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

ABSENT: Mrs. Kelly

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

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Vigliotta

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Student Representative Report

The West Islip Robotics Team under the direction of Team Coach, Dan Varney, did an impressive Robotics demonstration. Mr. Varney spoke about the incredible impact the Robotics Team has had on the students and how each member brings their own experiences to the team and has grown in incredible ways.

The team spoke about what it takes to build a Robot and how they work from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. every night and from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. every Saturday. The kickoff event for the 2024 season is January 6, and the competition will be in March. The Robotics Team thanked the Board for all their support.

Mr. Tussie thanked the team for their demonstration, congratulated them on all their hard work, and wished them well in the competition. Mr. McCann spoke about the Robotics Competition at Hofstra last year and how the teamwork was amazing and how proud he is of the team. He highly recommended that everyone go and see the upcoming competition at Hofstra.

Student Senate

Taylor Riley and Ashlyn Murphy spoke about the annual Christmas party for special needs children. Santa made an appearance and handed out books and presents to all the children and the party was a success. They also spoke about PS I Love You Day that will take place on February 9, 2024. T-Shirts are on sale and can be pre-ordered and the PS I Love You Club will be putting all their focus into the celebration and will be putting flags up all around West Islip again this year.

Mr. Tussie thanked both the Robotics Team and Student Senate.

DISCUSSION

Mrs. Pellati gave a slide show presentation on the High School Pool Bond and explained each of the slides. The Bond vote will take place on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. A video presentation of the high school pool also took place dating back to 1957.

Mr. Tussie thanked everyone who put the video together and spoke about how the pool is 67 years old and is the most used facility in the district seven days a week and 365 days a year. He spoke about the positive impact the district can have with this project.

Mr. Thomas Loudon a teacher and a boys' varsity swim coach, spoke about how the problems with the pool shown in the video are real and how happy he is that the pool problems are being addressed.

Dr. Romanelli advised that a Pool Newsletter would be sent out and will be posted on the district website. There will also be presentations at PTA meetings this month regarding the pool bond vote and a postcard to all residents will be mailed out as well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2023 Regular Meeting.

RECOGNITION

Director of Athletics, Tim Horan, spoke about Robotics and Athletics opportunities and how the pool is a once in a lifetime opportunity. He thanked the Board and administrators for finding a way to get the project to the point where residents will vote on it later this month.

Mr. McCann commented on the sad passing of former Athletic Director, Jack Braddish. Mr. Braddish leaves a great legacy for West Islip.

Athletic

Girls Varsity Gymnastics All County ~ *Emily Ball, Victoria Mueller, Cameron Giorgianni*

Girls Varsity Tennis All County ~ *Abigail Lam, Amy McCann, Julia Evangeliou*

Girls Varsity Soccer All County ~ *Erin Palmeri, Ava Obloj, Carley Sgueglia*

Boys Varsity Soccer All County ~ *Jack Stefanak*

Boys Varsity Soccer All County Academic ~ *Daniel VonThaden*

Girls Varsity Cross Country ~ *Madison Howley*

Boys Varsity Cross Country ~ *James Moore, Gavin DeVito*

Boys Varsity Volleyball All County ~ *Erick Burciaga, Seamus Smith, Zachary Thomas, Dean Miller, Sean Cantwell*

Boys Varsity Volleyball All County Tournament Team ~ *Erick Burciaga, Seamus Smith, Christopher Thomas, Zachary Thomas*

Girls Varsity Volleyball All County Tournament Team ~ *Julia Kalinowski*

Varsity Football All County ~ *Christopher Pirovato, Rocco Carpinello, Shaun Boyle, Jordan Fileti*

Varsity Field Hockey All County ~ *Oliva Genovese*

Varsity Field Hockey All County Honorable Mention ~ *Cadence Catalano, Damiana Beige*

Game Day Cheer All County ~ *Jenna Tyler, Alyson Sesto*

Game Day Cheer Academic All County ~ *Emerson Ammirata*

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Memorandum of Agreement between Teamsters, West Islip UFSD and Employee A.

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

TEACHERS

T-1

PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED)

Jessica Phillips, Psychologist
Effective January 11, 2024 through January 10, 2028
(St. John the Baptist; change in date from January 3, 2024 through January 2, 2028)

T-2

REGULAR SUBSTITUTE (AMENDED)

Alessia Tocco, Family and Consumer Science
Effective September 1, 2023 through February 8, 2024
(Beach & High School; change in date from September 1, 2023 through January 5, 2024)

Catherine Seale, Social Worker
Effective September 1, 2023 through January 23, 2024
(Paul J Bellew; change in date from September 1, 2023 through March 13, 2024)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

TA-1

RESIGNATION

Kierstin Bacchi, Pre-K
Effective December 29, 2023
(Bayview)

TA-2

PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Nicole Bruckner, Pre-K
Effective January 2, 2024 to January 1, 2028
(Bayview; Step 5; replacing Kierstin Bacchi {resigned})

**CIVIL
SERVICE**

CL-1

CHANGE IN TITLE

Keith Beecher, Custodial Worker III
Effective January 4, 2024
(High School; Step 12; change from Custodial Worker I; replacing William Delaney (reassigned))

CL-2

PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED)

Michelle Colletti, Cafeteria Aide
Effective December 18, 2023
(Oquenock; change from December 8, 2023)

**CIVIL
SERVICE**

CL-3 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Kelly Delluniversita, Cafeteria Aide
Effective January 2, 2024
(Bayview; Step 1; replacing Johanna Amantia {resigned})

Eric DelOrfano, Cafeteria Aide
Effective January 2, 2024
(Oquenock; Step 1; replacing Michelle Lecchi {resigned})

CL-4 RESIGNATION

Employee J, Provisional School Security Guard
Effective January 4, 2024
(District Wide)

RETIREMENT

Donald Lettieri, Lead Guard
Effective January 9, 2024
(District Wide)

Employee K, Provisional School Security Guard
Effective January 26, 2024
(District Wide)

CL-5 On behalf of the Board, Mr. Tussie congratulated Mr. Lettieri for his 22.5 years of services to the district and for keeping students, staff and families of West Islip safe. Mr. Lettieri was a Suffolk County Police Officer and was conscientious about the safety of the students.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: Donald Lettieri, Lead Guard effective January 9, 2024 (District Wide).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: Employee K, Provisional School Security Guard, effective January 26, 2024 (District Wide).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE LEAD GUARD: Donald Lettieri, as needed.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the personnel consent agenda: CL-6, CL-7, CL-8, CL-9, CL-10, CL-11, CL-12 and Other as listed below.

- CL-6** **SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN** (\$16/hr)
- Raymond Conroy, IV, effective January 5, 2024
Jess Rice, effective January 5, 2024
- CL-7** **SUBSTITUTE GUARD** (\$23.73 hr)
- Craig Capobianco, effective January 4, 2024
Employee J, effective January 8, 2024
Employee K, effective date February 26, 2024
- CL-8** **SUBSTITUTE LEAD GUARD** (\$25.95/hr)
- Donald Lettieri, effective March 4, 2024
- CL-9** **SUBSTITUTE MAINTENANCE** (\$30/hr)
- Vincent Galasso, effective January 5, 2024
- CL-10** **SUBSTITUTE NURSE** (\$150 per diem)
- Cathleen Cahill, effective January 4, 2024
- CL-11** **SUBSTITUTE PARAPROFESSIONAL** (\$15/hr)
- Gabriella Guadagno, effective December 8, 2023
- CL-12** **SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL SECURITY GUARD** (\$33.75/hr)
- Employee J, effective January 8, 2024
Employee K, effective date February 26, 2024
- OTHER**
- PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** (\$150 per diem)
- Morgan Dosch, Paul J. Bellew
Effective January 2, 2024 – June 26, 2024
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** (\$130 per diem)
- *Noemi Almazo, effective April 1, 2024, *student teacher*
*Peter Altieri, effective January 4, 2024
*Tyler Avelli, effective January 4, 2024

OTHER
continued

Lauren Calabretta, effective January 4, 2024
Emily Garabrant, effective January 4, 2024
Maya Hassett, effective January 4, 2024
Madison Horan, effective January 4, 2024
*Samantha Hughes, effective January 4, 2024, *student teacher*
John Kennedy, effective January 4, 2024
Danielle Magnani, effective January 4, 2024
*Alisa Ozturk, effective January 4, 2024, *student teacher*
Olivia Ramcke, effective January 4, 2024
Brynn Scharf, effective January 4, 2024
*Grace Simone, effective January 22, 2024, *student teacher*
*Ally Sullivan, effective January 22, 2024, *student teacher*

**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

SUBSTITUTE TEACHING ASSISTANT (\$105 per diem)

Nickole Aponte, effective January 4, 2024

CLUBS/ADVISORS 2023-2024

HIGH SCHOOL

New York Business & Marketing Honor Society, Frank Franzone & Patricia Stack (shared)

HIGH SCHOOL (AMENDED)

Pit Director, Musical Eric Albinder
(change in Advisor from David Kaufman)

INSTRUCTIONAL SWIM, FAMILY SWIM PROGRAM & SWIM TEAMS 2023-2024

Lifeguards

Matthew Corbett	Alexandra Gangloff
Nick Dituri	Michael Harbord

SPRING 2024 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES

BASEBALL

Shawn Rush, Varsity Coach
Richard Zeitler, Assistant Varsity Coach
Michael LaCova, J.V. Coach
Joseph LaCova, J.V. and Varsity Volunteer
Dominick LaFerrera, J.V. and Varsity Volunteer

SOFTBALL

Colleen Reilly, Varsity Coach
John T. Denninger, Assistant Varsity Coach
Steve Fasciani, J.V. Coach

BOYS TRACK

Jeremy Robertson, Varsity Coach
John Lavery, Assistant Varsity Coach

GIRLS TRACK

Nicholas Grieco, Varsity Coach
Vincent Melia, Assistant Varsity Coach

BOYS LACROSSE

Thomas Corcoran, Varsity Coach
Scott Mattera, Assistant Varsity Coach
Michael Delgado, Varsity Volunteer
Kyle Kerrigan, Varsity Volunteer
Anthony Pellati, J.V. and Varsity Volunteer
Sean McAleavey, J.V. Coach
Greg Schmalenberger, Assistant J.V. Coach

GIRLS LACROSSE

Joseph Nicolosi, Varsity Coach
Brian Cameron, Assistant Varsity Coach
Thomas Powers, J.V. Coach
Jordan Ilchert, Assistant J.V. Coach

BOYS TENNIS

George Botsch, Varsity Coach
Alex Giordano, J.V. Coach
Norm Wingert, J.V. and Varsity Volunteer Coach
Amie Crisera, J.V. and Varsity Volunteer Coach

GIRLS GOLF

Thomas Loudon, Varsity Coach

GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL

Greg Ziems, Varsity Coach
Jake Rossi, Assistant Varsity Coach

UNIFIED BASKETBALL

Ryan Foley, Coordinator
Noreen Matthews, Assistant Coordinator

SPRING 2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES

BASEBALL

Charles (Kevin) Osburn, 7-8 Udall Coach
Frank Valentino, 7-8 Beach Coach

SOFTBALL

Tara Annunziata, 7-8 Udall Coach

BOYS TRACK

Kevin Murphy, 7-8 Udall Coach
Christopher Salerno, 7-8 Beach Coach

GIRLS TRACK

Kristen Caulfield, 7-8 Udall Coach
Tara Probert, 7-8 Beach Coach

BOYS LACROSSE

Dennis J. Coleman, 7-8 Udall Coach
Louis Riley, 7-8 Beach Coach
Michael Murray, Assistant Beach Coach

GIRLS LACROSSE

Cara Douglas-Stern, 7-8 Udall Coach
Jesse Donnarumma, Assistant Udall Coach
Kristen Doherty, 7-8 Beach Coach
Emily Gillen, Assistant Beach Coach

BOYS & GIRLS SWIMMING

Thomas Bruder, 7-8 Udall/Beach B & G Coach
Gabrielle Zollo, Assistant Udall/Beach B & G Coach

CURRICULUM REPORT

Mrs. Morrison informed the audience that Pre K and K registration would take place Tuesday, January 16, 2024 to Friday, February 16, 2024. Letters and postcards were sent out and the information is posted on the district home page under announcements.

Mrs. Morrison advised that the Elementary Parent Academy would take place on January 11, 2024 regarding foundational literacy skills, science of reading and hands on with programs utilized such as Foundations and Heggerty.

Mrs. Morrison thanked the parents, students and staff who participated in providing feedback related to the impact that cell phones have on the classroom and school environment. The committee will meet on 1/4/2024 to review feedback and determine the next steps.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Safety Committee: Quinn Bedell reported on the meeting held on 11/14/23. Items reviewed included ID card printers; new cameras; new software for RAVE that calls 911; two new staff guards hired for weekends; elementary school gyms have curtains that can be let down; traffic signs at Paul J. Bellew and Oquenock.

Education Committee: Richard Antoniello reported on the meeting held 1/2/2024. Items reviewed included weighted/unweighted classes and it was decided to go back to weighted grades. Other items reviewed were review of data on 8th grade Living Environment and Algebra and a discussion regarding the value of how math and science are set up in 9th grade.

Finance Committee: Christina Marks reported on the meeting held 1/2/2024. Items reviewed included the November treasurer's report; November extra-curricular report; November payroll summary; November financial statements; November/December claims audit report; December system manager audit trail; payroll certifications; budget transfers; surplus items; and bid.

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting that took place on 1/2/2024. Mr. McCann gave an update on the Masera School and advised that BOCES will be going forward with a draft of a lease with a potential September 1, 2024 start date.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting held 1/2/2024. Items discussed included approval of IEPs based on CSE/CPSE recommendations being approved this evening. Other items discussed were special education aides received professional development on 12/1/23 and social workers supported 76 families in need for the holidays. The next Special Education Committee will be on 2/7/2024 at 9:00 a.m. The President of SEPTA joined the meeting, Melissa Swales, items discussed were ESY Summer 2024 and Pre K process for students transitioning from out of district to district. There will be an event at Dave & Busters - \$35 per person from 6 pm – 9 pm open to all students, April 13 is the SEPTA Bowl and SEPTA is seeking donations for raffles. The next SEPTA meeting will take place on 1/24/24 at 7:00 p.m.

Policy Committee:

A second reading took place on Policy No. 6140 - Health Examinations. This policy requires food service staff to have a physical examination within thirty (30) days of the start of employment and skin testing for tuberculosis will be required as part of the pre-employment physical.

Mr. Cameron asked for a motion to approve Policy No. 6140

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Policy No. 6140 Health Examinations.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2023-2024 General Fund budget transfers 4337-4340.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2023-2024 Bid #2401 - Allendale Machinery Systems - HAAS Super Minimill - \$57,933.90.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2023-2024: Deer Park UFSD Special Education Contract.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Surplus Items: School Bus Van #53 (1996) - Transportation Department; Ford E250 Van #505 (2008) - Transportation Department; Various technology items - Information Technology Department; Library Books - Paul J. Bellow Library.

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: Receipt of the Independent Accountant’s Reports on Staff Attendance and System to Track and Account for Children (STAC) and automated Verification Listing (AVL) Forms Detailed Testing and the Risk Assessment Update Report dated December 7, 2023 from Cullen & Danowski, LLP.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Recommendations that the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plans in response to the internal auditors’ reports dated December 7, 2023, submitted by Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve personnel for Special District Meeting – January 23, 2024.

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 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.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Dr. Romanelli thanked Mrs. Pellati for all her work on the pool bond presentation.

Dr. Romanelli spoke about about the changing face of education and the New York State recommendations for graduation. He talked about how many of these recommendations capture the work already taking place in the district and how West Islip is also focused on the Science of Reading that is being rolled out by New York State.

Dr. Romanelli spoke about meeting with several students at each of the buildings and student advisory groups will start in a few weeks. Students are brainstorming some great goals to make the district better. Budget planning is also taking place for next school year, and there are many good conversations going on regarding the budget and seeing what can be done to create a realistic financial picture.

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

Kerry Washington – Mrs. Washington spoke about how the district offers many opportunities for students but feels they have fallen short regarding special education programs. She feels that the district needs to prioritize special education and offer as many programs and services as possible to best fit the needs of students and afford them the opportunity to thrive. Mrs. Washington advised that parents are feeling it is difficult to advocate for their children and would like to see parents be equal members at special education committee meetings. Mr. Tussie thanked Mrs. Washington for speaking on this topic and that he is confident that the district is taking the necessary steps to make the special education program better.

Brian Washington – Mr. Washington followed up on his wife’s comments and spoke about some of his concerns. Mr. Washington was asked to advocate at an elementary CSE meeting and feels strongly that parents need to be listened to. Mr. Washington shared concerns about the adversarial nature of meetings and that they should be clearly focused on student needs. Mr. Washington also had concerns regarding 504 Accommodation plans at the high school and would like to see work done regarding these concerns.

Mr. Tussie thanked Mr. Washington for sharing his concerns. Mr. McCann assured Mr. Washington that the district is invested in putting in the time, effort and resources to make sure every child receives the services they need to succeed and that Dr. Romanelli and the administration is working towards this continuously.

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 8:56 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 9:50 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 9:51 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Deny appeal.

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby denies the appeal concerning Confidential Student A and authorizes the Board President to execute the response letter.

Meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m. on motion by Christina Marks, seconded by Quinn Bedell 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.