

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 16, 2024 – 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 7:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

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 March 26, 2024 Planning Session.

Dr. Romanelli gave an update and shared his thoughts on the incident that took place at the high school. He spoke about how safety and security has been his number one priority from day one of becoming Superintendent. Dr. Romanelli talked about safety and security with his administrative team and the Board of Education. After looking at the research, data and response times, the district made an informed decision to bring armed guards into the district. The district also put other safety enhancements in place including bullet resistant glass, vestibules at the school buildings as well as designating a Dean of Students at the high school.

Dr. Romanelli advised that a letter was sent to all families regarding the incident that took place and spoke about what happened. He explained that a student showed a firearm to three other students in the high school library and these three students went to the Dean of Students who contacted the school safety team who acted immediately and disarmed the student. The student was moved to the main office and a Hold in Place went into effect. The Suffolk County Police arrived and the student was then moved to a police car. Dr. Romanelli commended the school safety team and thanked them for their actions. He also spoke about how the procedures the district has in place were perfectly executed and how the school safety team truly care about the students and the community. He advised that Dr. Bridgeman will be having an assembly for the students to talk about what happened and what to do moving forward.

Mr. Tussie spoke about how six of the board members all have children at the high school and how the district has created an environment that the students feel safe enough to go to the staff and the incident was handled quickly, efficiently and properly and ended in the best case scenario. He spoke about how important it is that parents look at their children's phones and text messages and go through their rooms, backpacks and know what is happening in their lives. Mr. Tussie thanked the students that stepped up and he thanked the parents for not panicking and staying calm and not creating a traffic problem at the high school.

Mr. McCann thanked security and the students and spoke about the district hiring a security consultant who reviewed safety protocols and how the physical safety and mental wellbeing of the students is a top priority. Mr. McCann spoke about the efforts and large investments the district have put into safety and security. He spoke about hiring armed guards, adding additional guards, more security vehicles, active shooter training and air conditioners providing security by keeping the windows shut.

Mr. Antonello also spoke about how the district security cameras are connected to the Suffolk County Police Department providing additional security.

WI Students with HEARTT Presentation

Virginia Scudder - English Teacher, Founder and Coordinator of the West Islip Students with HEARTT, IB/CAS Coordinator

Students Kori Sansone, Madison DiMaggio and Krista Williams all spoke about the how HEARTT lets students relax and express themselves freely without judgement or discrimination. It is a fun loving environment where they have developed long-term friendships and how gathering in the hallways is great for everyone socially, builds friendships and spreads joy. The club also does so much good and gives back to the community through charity work. Krista spoke about the upcoming trip to Granada this July. Students will be helping small children, visiting universities and enjoying the culture.

Athletics

Girls Varsity Basketball All County ~ Courtney Xippolitos
Girls Varsity Basketball All County Academic ~ Riley Davies
Boys Varsity Winter Track All County ~ Rocco Carpinello
Boys Varsity Swimming & Diving All County ~ William DeWitt, Markos Prokopiou, Colin Stueber,
Branden Felix
Varsity Cheerleading All County ~ Allyson Sesto, Aneliese Ammirata, Ava Verderosa

PERSONNEL:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following TA-2, CL-1, CL-2, CL-3, CL-4, CL-6 and Other as listed in the agenda.

TEACHERS

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

T-1

LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid)
(Pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993-
12-week continuous medical coverage)

Kathryn Waters, Social Worker
Effective April 2, 2024 through June 3, 2024
(Oquenock)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

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

TA-1

RETIREMENT
Christine Stone, Special Education
Effective July 1, 2024
(23 years)

TA-2 **RESIGNATION**
Natalie Meyer, Pre-K
Effective July 1, 2024
(Bayview)

**CIVIL
SERVICE**

CL-1 **CHANGE OF STATUS**

Elizabeth Davis, District Clerk, Confidential
Effective May 31, 2024
(District Office; \$60,500; replacing Mary Hock {retired})

CL-2 **LEAVE OF ABSENCE, intermittent** (unpaid)
(Pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993-
12-week continuous medical coverage)

Joseph Ford, Custodial Worker I
Effective May 1, 2024
(High School)

CL-3 **PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT**

*Linda Sgambati, Administrative Assistant, Confidential
Effective May 6, 2024
(District Office; \$60,500; replacing Mary Hock {retired})
**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

CL-4 **RESIGNATION**

Eileen Ayers, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective March 22, 2024
(Oquenock)

Dominick LaFerrera, Guard
Effective March 27, 2024
(Districtwide)

CL-5 Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CL-5 RETIREMENT of the following:

Pamela Riker, Senior Office Assistant
Effective June 29, 2024
(24 years)

Geraldyn Santospirito, Library Aide
Effective June 27, 2024
(24 years)

RETIREMENT

Continued CL-5

Clive Scarr, Maintenance Mechanic III
Effective June 5, 2024
(21 years)

CL-6

SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN (\$16/hr)

Samuel Baynon, effective April 17, 2024

OTHER

REGENTS REVIEW 2023-2024

Algebra I

Christina Bivona
Kerri Handel
Alyssa O'Connor
Christopher Salerno

Algebra II

Tara Annunziata
Beth Crimi
Kelly Daidone

ASL

Jennifer Suriano
Karen Testa

Biology

Renee Avelli
Kristine Hagens
Jennifer Hirdt
Frank Rapczyk
Ashley Smar

Chemistry

Jessica Alvarez
Brian Daniels

Earth Science

Danielle Dischley
John Hulsmann
Annelise Muscietta
Erin Wallace

Geometry

Paul Bodnar
James Grover
Nancy Yost

Global Studies

David Moglia

Italian

Brittany DiLuciano
Elena Iacobellis
Luisa Marino

Math Substitute

Meridith Smith

Physics

Daniel Varney

Spanish

Anna Domingo
Caryn Drezner
Monica Elgut
Kristina Rocco

U.S. History

Daniel Gschwind

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130/per diem)

Ginamarie Amari, effective April 17, 2024
Daniel Bellear, effective April 17, 2024, *student teacher*
Delanie DeCesare, effective April 17, 2024
Matthew Franolich, effective April 17, 2024
Emma Iehle, effective April 17, 2024
Kaylee Reccardi, effective April 17, 2024
Vincenza Robiglio, effective April 17, 2024
Alexander Ruffini, effective September 4, 2024
Hunter Vierling, effective April 17, 2024

CURRICULUM REPORT

Mrs. Morrison informed the audience that students in Grades 3-8 completed the ELA tests and students in Grades 6-8 took the test today and all went well. Students will be taking the Grade 3-8 Math tests the first week in May.

Mrs. Morrison spoke about Bayview Elementary transforming into Bayviewville. The hallways were decorated in themes from various Dr. Seuss books and students are logging reading times each night and overall minutes will be tabulated on Friday.

Grade 3 classroom teachers, reading teachers and ELN teachers took part in Foundations training in preparation of the implementation of Foundations in 3rd grade in September and a second day of training is scheduled in May.

Mrs. Morrison advised that herself, Dr. Romanelli, Mrs. Pellati and Mr. Cameron were invited to Mrs. Pope's engineering and technology class last week to watch students race their wooden boats with 3-D printed paddles. All students did a great job in creating their one of a kind design.

Mrs. Morrison advised that on April 12, the high school hosted a job fair and 31 local companies and agencies showcased a variety of job opportunities for graduating seniors. Mrs. Morrison thanked Mr. Vollmuth, Transition Coordinator at the high school, and all the companies that took part to provide the awareness opportunities.

Mr. Tussie advised that the Board will take a short break at 8:02 p.m. and returned 8:05 p.m.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting held 3/26/24. Items reviewed included auditorium rentals, community gym usage for off hours, pole lights working at PJ Bellew and Building and Grounds did a great job getting the fields ready. Masera/BOCES is on target for September. The roof and fencing was done, and the fields will be used for sport teams. The new district office vestibule entrance project was approved, and will be started this summer/fall and the 1.4 million Smart Schools grant was approved.

Health & Wellness Committee: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting held 4/9/24. Items reviewed included Financial Report, newsletter, over 160 students participated in the fifth and sixth grade volleyball tournaments, applications are being accepted for Health & Wellness Alliance scholarships that will be awarded on 6/3/24 at the high school. The Glow Run will take place on 11/6/24 on West Islip high school property, sponsorships will be available for \$75 and the rain date will be 11/7/24. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at Paul J. Bellew Elementary School.

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting held 4/11/2024. Items reviewed included Regents classes have begun, Mrs. Morrison gave an update on the Equity Committee and reviewed the data. Most students are comfortable but some would like to see improvements. The biggest issue is bullying and how to combat it and this will be addressed at future meetings. The NYSELA test took place and there was a reduction in refusals compared to previous years. The ASL program is being restructured and phasing out of middle school and will be placed in the high school as an elective, and will allow for college credit and the seal of biliteracy.

Finance Committee: Christina Marks reported on the meeting held 4/11/2024. Items reviewed included the February treasurer's report; February extra-curricular report; February payroll summary; February financial statements; March claims audit report; March system manager audit trail; payroll certifications; budget transfers; donation; surplus items; and Health Service contracts.

Policy Committee: James Cameron reported on the meeting that took place on 4/11/24. Mr. Cameron gave an update on the policy manual and advised that the committee finished a review of Series 2000 and started review on the Series 1000 (Community Relations). In addition, the committee has a first draft of the cell phone policy. The cell phone committee developed an electronic use cell phone policy that will be across three levels, elementary, middle school and high school and will go into effect the next school year. The committee is also through the first three sections of the policy manual and will continue their work at the June 4 meeting. The new version of the policy manual 0-3000 will be going live on 7/31/24 and the overhaul of the remaining sections will continue through the 2024-25 school year. The next policy committee meeting will take place on 6/4/24.

Mr. McCann spoke about the cell phone policy and how the district wants to maximize the learning capacity of students. There will be an educational night for parents regarding the policy and they will be notified via parent square.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting held 4/16/2024. CSE and CPSE recommendations were approved. Annual reviews are in full swing and there are 87 students transitioning from CPSE to kindergarten next year. Unified basketball team played their first game and will play Lindenhurst at the high school at 4:00 p.m. on 4/17/24. The Midnight Bowl was a success and raised \$5,200. At each of the schools, students wore blue to recognize students with autism and students did crafts and other activities to recognize students with disabilities month. SEPTA President Melissa Swales joined the meeting during the non-confidential portion. The March SEPTA meeting guest speaker was Maura Holland, sexuality educator, who spoke about how to talk to your kids about sexuality, puberty and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Safety Committee: Quinn Bedell reported on the meeting that took place on 4/16/24. Items reviewed included getting ID card burners for lost ID cards, installing door alarms at the elementary level, MFA stamp log in, light bulbs for the light at PJ Bellew, speed bump or cross walk for the high school bridge for easier walking, closing windows when using air conditioning for security purposes and the incident at the high 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 transfers 4362-4376 and Capital Fund budget transfers 4365-4375.

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

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following Contracts: 2023-2024 Bay Shore UFSD Health Services Contract ~ \$18,010.58; 2023-2024 East Islip UFSD Health Services Contract ~ \$4,039.16; 2023-2024 Syosset CSD Health Services Contract ~ \$3,732.00; 2023-2024 South Huntington UFSD Health Services Contract ~ \$40,850.30; 2022-2023 Locust Valley CSD Special Education Contract.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Donation~ Jovia Financial Credit Union - \$500 to West Islip HS.

DONATION:

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of donated funds in the amounts of \$500 from Jovia Financial Credit Union, which have been donated to contribute to the costs associated with the Makerspace for the students of the West Islip High School.

RESOLUTION: INCREASE 2023-2024 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorize the appropriation budget for the 2023-2024 school year to be increased to \$134,221,371.60, an increase of the \$500 donation from Jovia Financial Credit Union for the West Islip High School.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Romanelli asked the Board if the May 22, 2024 Planning Session meeting could be changed to Tuesday, May 21, 2024, which is the date of the School Budget Vote. The Board agreed and a Public Notice will be sent out.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Reorganizational Meeting – July 9, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at Beach Street Middle School.

Discussion of 2024-2025 Regular Meeting and Planning Session dates.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Resolution re: ESBOCES 2024-2025 Administrative Budget and Trustee Election.

RESOLUTION

2024-2025 BOCES BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the West Islip UFSD will vote to approve the 2024-2025 Administrative Budget of the Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational Services for 2024-2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education will support six candidates who are running for six (6) vacant seats on the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Board.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Adoption of the 2024-2025 School District budget of \$138,761,990 and the 2024-2025 Property Tax Report Card.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District Board of Education is required to present a budget to the voters for the 2024-2025 School Year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Proposed Budget for the 2024-2025 School Year be adopted for a total of \$138,761,990; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2024-2025 Property Tax Report Card is approved to be transmitted to the New York State Department of Education as so required.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve personnel for May 21, 2024 School Budget Vote and Election.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve SmartWeb, Inc. Consultant Services Contract – 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Winkler Real Estate Professional Services Agreement - Amendment #1 - extension of term to 3/31/2025.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Synovia Solutions, LLC (a CalAmp Company) ~ 36 month subscription - \$2,496.00.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve SEQRA Resolution re: Grant Funding (ESSER II, GEER II, CRRSA, ARPA, ESSER). Anthony Tussie duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted in 7 Yays 0 Nays.

RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the West Islip Union Free School District approves the use of the funds received under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II (ESSER II) and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund II (GEER II) 2021 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) and the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). The approved use of funds will include all previously approved air conditioning improvements as well as the renovation of West Islip High School Science Labs.

SEQRA RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the West Islip Union Free School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvements at the District's facilities as set forth herein and as listed in the working budget: Renovation of three High School Science Classrooms

WHEREAS, said capital improvements are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(1)); and

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2)); and

WHEREAS, routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(10)); and

WHEREAS, the purchase or sale of furnishings, equipment or supplies...other than the following: land, radioactive material, pesticides, herbicides, or other hazardous materials are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(31)); and

WHEREAS, the SEQR Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the capital improvement projects and has determined that the Projects are classified as Type II Actions pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1)(2)(10) and (31) of the SEQR Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the Projects are Type II Actions, which require no further review under SEQR; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello 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 spoke about visiting Mr. Murphy's Vietnam class at the high school. The class has a yearly memorial in honor of eight West Islip Vietnam Veterans who gave their lives in the Vietnam war. The class also learned about Long Islander, Garfield Langhorn, who received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Vietnam War. Dr. Romanelli thanked Mr. Murphy for keeping this class alive and spoke about how it is one of the only Vietnam classes on Long Island.

Dr. Romanelli also visited Mrs. Cristantello high school class. Mrs. Cristantello spoke about branding and developing West Islip logos and website design. Dr. Romanelli spoke about student, Kaylee Barbieri who created a corner piece for a broken MAC display monitor with 3D software. It was ingenious and this student who takes STEM classes and is on the Robotic Team used those skills to address real life problems.

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

Jason Cohen – Mr. Cohen thanked Dr. Romanelli, the Board and the Administrators for everything they have done regarding school safety. Mr. Cohen recommended that there be only one manned entrance in and out of the high school when the building is open. He also thought the high school should have been in lock down on the day of the incident. He spoke about students coming in and out of the high school after school ends and would like the district to look into this to make sure students are safe. Mr. Tussie advised that after school discussions are ongoing and Dr. Romanelli acknowledged that this is a concern and the district is having discussions regarding this.

Diane Sepe – Mrs. Sepe expressed her gratitude to everyone especially the security guards and asked if there was an armed guard at the library incident. Dr. Romanelli advised that there is at least one armed guard at each building and the district conceals their identity and there is a backup if anyone is out.

Kelly Raffaella – Mrs. Rafaela is an Oquenock parent and spoke about an incident that took place at Oquenock and was not shared with the community. Dr. Romanelli explained that two students left the building and there was a report made to the police immediately. The two students could be seen on cameras and the Suffolk County Police Department contacted the families. The students were located and the district is looking at different protocols, getting quotes for alarming some doors and having the school security team present in the hallways.

Jacqueline Baynes – Mrs. Baynes thanked the Board and Administrators for addressing the incident that took place at the high school. Mrs. Baynes feels that the student with the firearm should not have entered the building and feels strongly that the district should have metal detectors. She feels the high school students saved the day and that the district does have a lot of security but it is not enough. She suggested parents contribute money for metal detectors, have one entrance in and out of the building and students use clear backpacks. Mr. Tussie advised that the district would talk to security experts and parents need to be aware of what is going on in their children's lives. Mr. Tussie advised that this will be discussed but made no promises but said that the district will do what is best.

Regular Meeting
April 16, 2024

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 8:47 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 9:56 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Hock".

Mary Hock
District Clerk

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