

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**March 12, 2015 – Beach Street Middle School**

PRESENT: Mr. Gellar, Mr. Brady, Mrs. LaRosa, Mr. Maginniss, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Zotto  
*arrived 8:07 p.m.*

ABSENT: Mr. Ulrich

ADMINISTRATORS: Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Duffy, Dr. Rullan

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

---

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

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2015 Planning Session.

**RECOGNITION:**

New York State School Boards Association Board Achievement Award – *Steven D. Gellar*

Mrs. Burns and Mrs. LaRosa each expressed their congratulations and gratitude for all Mr. Gellar's efforts on behalf of the district.

**PERSONNEL:**

Motion was made by Kevin O'Connor, seconded by Scott Brady and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Kevin Doolittle, Music, effective July 1, 2015 (29 years).

Motion was made by Mike Zotto, seconded by Kevin O'Connor and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Deborah Harris, Family & Consumer Sciences, effective July 1, 2015 (17 years).

Motion was made by Kevin O'Connor, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Kim Ann Price, Science, effective July 1, 2015 (16 years).

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Mike Zotto and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-BEARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (paid): Reanna Fulton, Special Education, effective February 17, 2015 (Beach Street).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Scott Brady and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-BEARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (paid): Ann Staak, Elementary, effective March 2, 2015 (Bayview).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Kevin O'Connor and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Jennifer Travaglia, World Languages, effective September 2, 2014 to June 30, 2015 (Udall; Step 17; replacing C. Allen).

Motion was made by Mike Zotto, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED (CIVIL SERVICE): CHANGE IN STATUS: Mary Cameron, Teacher Aide, effective March 13, 2015 (Manetuck; Step 2; change from 3-hour cafeteria aide; replacing C. Georgio {resigned}).

Motion was made by Kevin O'Connor, seconded by Mike Zotto and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED (CIVIL SERVICE): REGULAR SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENT: Florence Burns, Cafeteria Aide, effective March 13, 2015 through June 26, 2015 (Bayview; Step 1 replacing H. Akley).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Kevin O'Connor and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED (CIVIL SERVICE): SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN (\$9.75 per hour): Justin Escalera, effective March 13, 2015; John Weldon, Jr. effective March 13, 2015.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED (CIVIL SERVICE): SUBSTITUTE SPECIAL EDUCATION AIDE: Florence Burns, effective March 13, 2015.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Scott Brady and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTOR (\$30 per hour): Brittany Siragusa, effective March 13, 2015; HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTOR (\$63.79): Lynn McVeety, effective March 13, 2015.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$115 per diem): Enzo Brun, Jr., effective March 13, 2015; Vanessa Carro, effective March 13, 2015.

#### CURRICULUM UPDATE:

Dr. Rullan congratulated the four semifinalists for their participation in the Long Island Science & Engineering Fair, as well as the business students who competed at the DECA Competition in Rochester, New York. Dr. Rullan also spoke about DNA Day, the SCMEA Festival, ELA units of study, social studies assessments, IB, middle and high school instructional technology training, and the administration of the National Spanish Exam later in the month. She also reported that IB enrollment for next year has increased.

#### REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee: Scott Brady reported on the meeting held on 3/10/2015. Items reviewed included the January treasurer's report, extracurricular report, January payroll summary and claims audit report. Warrants, January financial statements, Target donations for West Islip High School, Manetuck Elementary School and Oquenock Elementary School, a special education contract for Deer Park UFSD and health service contracts for East Islip UFSD, Hicksville UFSD and Uniondale UFSD were also reviewed. Mrs. Duffy discussed the upgrade to Finance Manager and human resource software. Mrs. Duffy also reviewed property tax receipts, state aid, and STAR payments that were received in January.

Policy Committee: Annmarie LaRosa reported on the meeting that was held on 3/10/2015. The committee had a Second Reading of the following policies: No. 2110 Orienting New Board Members; No. 2210 Committees of the Board; No. 2211 Advisory Committees to the Board; No. 2310 Membership in School Boards Association; No. 2320 Attendance by Board Members at Conferences, Conventions and Workshops; No. 2330 Compensation and Expenses; No. 2342 School Board Use of Electronic Mail.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Kevin O'Connor and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the above listed policies.

Education Committee: Annmarie LaRosa reported on the meeting held on 3/12/2015. Items reviewed included curriculum and instructional changes discussed at the budget workshop, a review of IB physical education and math curricula, changes to English course names, the Professional Development Plan, an instructional coordinator position, and administration of the Common Core Geometry Regents schedule.

Buildings and Grounds: Scott Brady reported on the meeting held on 3/10/2015. Items reviewed included the turf field scoreboard, 2015-2016 facility fees for the High School Performing Arts Center and the list of potential bond proposition items.

Legislative Action Committee: A meeting did not take place but Mr. Gellar spoke about the difficulty of formulating a budget without distribution runs, which the governor has refused to release. The Legislative Action Committee will meet with state legislators next week.

Committee on Special Education/Preschool Special Education: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting that took place on 3/12/2015. CSE and CPSE recommendations for the month, budget items and student placements were reviewed. The annual review process is under way.

Health and Wellness Committee: Mike Zotto reported on the meeting that was held on 3/11/2015. The West Islip Care Magnets are at the printer and will be mailed at the end of the month; social host postcards will be mailed in the spring. The *Unite for the Fight: Communities Against Substance Abuse Forum* will take place on March 30 at Hauppauge High School, the *Shed the Meds* event will take place sometime in April, and the West Islip Kids' Triathlon is scheduled to take place at the high school on May 17. Sally Marchese and Karen Blank presented information on the "Walk to End Alzheimer's" event taking place on September 19. The next meeting will take place on April 29, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at P.J. Bellew Elementary School.

#### FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The treasurer's report for December was presented. Beginning balance as of December 31, 2014: \$6,726,414.71; ending balance as of January 31, 2015: \$46,460,182.40.

Motion was made by Kevin O'Connor, seconded by Mike Zotto, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Special Education Contracts for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 for Deer Park UFSD.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve a Target donation for West Islip High School in the amount of \$1,087.01; A Target donation for Manetuck in the amount of \$566.06, and a Target donation for Oquenock in the amount of \$651.75.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2014-2015 Health Services Contracts for: East Islip UFSD - \$3,595.68; Hicksville UFSD - \$585.73 and Uniondale UFSD - \$615.47.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Gellar informed the audience that the Public Hearing for the Budget Vote will take place on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at Beach Street Middle School and the Budget Vote and Election will take place on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at the West Islip High School in the Girls Gymnasium from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mrs. Burns informed the audience that the 2014-2015 Student-Teacher Calendar will be revised to reflect that school is in session on March 13, 2015 and a Superintendent's Conference Day for staff only will be held on April 2, 2015.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the revised 2014-2015 Student-Teacher Calendar.

Mrs. Burns announced that Louis Zocchia successfully obtained a waiver from the State Education Department to work as a substitute world languages teacher. He was appointed by the Board in September at a rate of \$100 per day. Under Social Security Law and the Commissioner's Regulations, the district is obligated to notify residents that Mr. Zocchia was approved for temporary employment, and that he has the right to receive a pension while so employed.

Mrs. Burns discussed the NYS Council of School Superintendents Conference that she attended in Albany on March 8-10. Superintendents from various areas of the state attended to expand and enrich their knowledge of New York State issues and initiatives in education.

#### NOTICES/REMINDERS:

Budget Worksessions – March 17, March 24 and April 1 – Beach Street Cafeteria at 7:30 p.m.

Nominating Petitions for Board Trustee seats available at District Office March 13 and due back at District Office by 5:00 p.m. on April 20, 2015.

Mrs. LaRosa reminded everyone that the PAWS Annual Dinner is March 13, 2015. Timothy Horan & John Mullins will receive the Education Award and Marie Pecorale will receive the Community Award. Mrs. LaRosa thanked the PAWS Committee for this ongoing fundraising event.

Residents who wished to speak during an “Invitation to the Public”:

Mr. John Barrett, 265 Oak Neck Lane, West Islip – Mr. Barrett is a student at the High School and spoke about the benefits of the Robotics Club. He invited the Board of Education and Superintendent to attend a Robotics Competition on March 27, 2015 at Hofstra University.

Mrs. Susan Elberti, 2 Myson Street, West Islip – Mrs. Elberti questioned why students must take two Geometry Regent Exams in June. Mrs. Burns explained that students taking Geometry for the first time this year are required to take the Common Core Geometry Regents Exam. Since it is anticipated that the conversion charts for the Common Core Regents will not be available before the administration of the old Regents exam, students will take both tests and the higher of the two scores will be posted on their transcript.

Mrs. Ruth Mineo – Mrs. Mineo spoke about the many calls she has made to state legislators regarding the budget distribution runs. She also expressed concerns about content-area posters in gyms, detracting from the joy of pure physical education. Mrs. Burns clarified that the physical education teachers integrate various skills into the physical education setting whenever possible. Mrs. Mineo also had concerns regarding the number of assessments in her daughter's music class. Mrs. LaRosa explained that the music curriculum is a well-rounded program and the assessments provide valuable information to the music teachers about student progress.

Mrs. Vikki Rossi, 1100 Hyman Avenue, West Islip – Mrs. Rossi asked about the regulations for opting out of ELA and Math testing and for signing children out of school at that time. Mrs. Burns explained there is no mechanism for opting out, and the protocol for signing students in and out of school is not changed on testing days. Mrs. Burns also spoke about the benefits of using the test results to improve instruction and to address individual student needs.

Mr. Jason Rivera, 408 Myrtle Avenue, West Islip – Mr. Rivera had concerns about testing and felt these tests were not an effective measure of student progress. Mr. Rivera invited everyone to a community education forum to be held on March 30, 2015 at the West Islip Fire House.

Mrs. Catherine Adam, 132 Anchorage Drive, West Islip – Mrs. Adam spoke about her support for assessments and does not believe students should opt out. She stated the assessment tests are too long but have merit and she is very interested to know how her child does relative to other students. Mrs. Adam had concerns regarding curriculum writing, particularly in social studies and science, and feels these subjects need to be more rigorous. Mrs. LaRosa agreed and explained this is a work in progress.

Mrs. Doreen Hantzschel, 1129 Jefferson Avenue, West Islip – Mrs. Hantzschel had concerns about the quality and amount of homework at the elementary level.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, and seconded by Kevin O'Connor and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:23 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 p.m. on a motion by Kevin O'Connor, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,

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.