

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 17, 2013 – High School**

PRESENT: Mr. Brady, Mr. Gellar, Mrs. LaRosa, Mr. Maginniss, Mr. Ulrich, Mr. Zotto

ABSENT: Mr. Smith

ADMINISTRATORS: Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Duffy and Mr. Simon

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

Meeting was called to order at 8:01 PM, followed by the Pledge.

No one wished to speak during an "Invitation to the Public."

Motion was made by Mike Zotto, seconded by Scott Brady and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2013 Regular Meeting and the April 3, 2013 Budget Meeting.

The following students were recognized with Citizenship Awards – Semester 2:

Elementary: Jack Marano, Mia McCandless, Andrew Rao, Sara Rivelli

Middle School: Lainie Martin, Emily Rushton, Krista Ciccarelli, Michael Pleitez

High School: Danielle Brites, Connor Landhauser

The following students were recognized for their athletic accomplishments:

Boys' Varsity Wrestling: All County – Tyler Walsh; **Girls' Varsity Winter Track:** All County – Jessica Ball; **Boys' Varsity Swimming and Diving:** All County – Patrick Carter; **Varsity Cheerleading:** Long Island All Star – Cheyanne Timmons; **Wendy's High School Heisman Award Winners:** Jillian Labriola, Jake Ulrich; **Winter Sportsmanship Awards:** Boys' Varsity Basketball – Coach Thomas Cross; Boys' J.V. Basketball – Coach Brian Cameron; Udall Boys' Basketball – Coach Bill Turri; Girls' Varsity Basketball – Coach Chris Scharf; Boys' Varsity Swimming and Diving – Coach Bob Kollar; Boys' J.V. Wrestling – Coach John Ferrara; Udall Girls' Volleyball – Coach Jim Klimkoski.

The following students were recognized as Science Olympiads:

Beach Street Middle School:

Thomas Albrecht, Daniela Balducci, Joseph Bitetto, George Bourous, Sean Coppola, Natalie Cosentino, Dominic Daleo, Joseph Daleo, Scott Demarest, Owen DiStefano, Lillian Dookram, Natalie Frazier, Maxwell Gingher, Shamina Haque, Luke Harris, Daniel Hart, Robert Hoyler, Andrew Ierardi, Jake Maresca, Eric Mauri, Brian Misegades, Patrick O'Connell, Miranda Paterno, Aidan Pecorale, Nicos Prokopiou, Stephanie Russo, Nicole Sammartano, Nicholas Sugumele, Ashley Taylor, James Woyevodsky.

Udall Middle School: Brielle Arnold, Samantha Barasch, Olivia Butler, Timothy Cameron, Barbara Connor, Nikkolette DePetro, Olivia Forcino, Claudia Kaich, Jack Langhorn, Brian Parrett, Michael Pleitez, Kathleen Polley, Melanie Regan.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-BEARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (paid): Jennifer Kouroutis, Special Education, effective March 19, 2013.

Motion was made by Mike Zotto, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-BEARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (paid): Virginia Scudder, English Teacher, effective April 2, 2013.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-BEARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (paid): Lindsay Simonton, Special Education, effective April 4, 2013.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid): Michelle Falco, Guidance, effective April 3, 2013 to May 31, 2013.

Motion was made by Mike Zotto, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Lori Suprenant, Reading, effective April 15, 2013 – May 23, 2013.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Scott Brady, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid): Healthier Gallo, Elementary, effective April 24, 2013 to June 30, 2013 and effective September 3, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Scott Brady, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid): Healthier Enright, English, effective September 3, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Scott Brady, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid): Nancy Silvestrini, Family and Consumer Science, effective September 3, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

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: RETIREMENT: Kathleen Powers, Senior Clerk Typist, effective July 1, 2013.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: RECALL: Daniel Trupia, Custodial Worker I, effective April 18, 2013.

Motion was made by Mike Zotto, seconded by Ron Maginniss, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Tracie Cinquemani, Special Education Aide, effective April 18, 2013 through June 21, 2103.

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: RECALL TO PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Vincent Russo, Special Education Aide, effective February 28, 2013.

Motion was made by Mike Zotto, seconded by Ron Maginniss, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN: James Ferayorni, effective July 2, 2012.

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 ASSISTANT COOK: Carolina Pozzini, effective April 18, 2013; Roberta Rall, effective April 18, 2013.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Scott Brady, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE HEAD COOK: Sandra Brady, effective April 18, 2013.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE GUARD: Michael Brown, effective April 18, 2013.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER: Timothy Palumbo, effective April 11, 2013.

CURRICULUM UPDATE:

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Scott Brady, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Completed Curriculum Development Projects in Mathematics – Calculus; Music – Music Theory 1, AP Music Theory II; Science – Forensics II, Genetics.

Bernadette Burns informed the audience that the Parent Academy held in March was very successful and will be repeated again in the fall. Grades 3 – 8 are taking NYS ELA tests this week and NYS math tests next week. This is the first year the testing is addressing the Common Core State Standards. Mrs. Burns thanked the principals and Dotty Kuskowski for all their efforts coordinating the state testing throughout the district. Mrs. Burns also announced that Robert Purdy received the Harvard Club Distinguished Teacher 2013 award.

REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEES:

Finance: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting that was held on 4/9/13. Some of the items reviewed were the treasurer's report, payroll summary report, financial statements for the month of February, internal claims audit report, warrants, system manager audit trail and budget transfers. A scholarship donation from Suffolk Transportation and a Health Service contract for Smithtown CSD were also reviewed along with the Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program Resolution and the Cullen & Danowski Engagement Letter outlining the internal control testing that will be performed on the Food Service Department.

Buildings and Grounds: Scott Brady reported on the meeting that was held on 4/9/13. Some of the topics discussed were the Atlantic Projects, BOCES Lease, building rentals, maintenance and security issues. Also, Bridges Academy exceeded enrollment and are considering renting more space.

Health and Wellness/COMPASS Coalition: Tim Horan reported on the meeting that was held on 3/20/13. Some of the topics discussed were Financial Reports on the 5K Fun Run, Parent University presentations, researching future topics to present and the newsletter. Mandatory parent meetings for pre-prom activities will take place on 5/21/13 at Celebrate Education. The committee also approved funding for feel good snacks to have available in the nurse's office for children not feeling well. The next Health and Wellness meeting will be held on 5/1/13 at 10:00 a.m. at Bayview Elementary.

Bullying Awareness Committee: Dan Marquardt reported on the meetings that were held on 3/18/13 and 4/15/13. Some of the topics discussed were video games and bullies, popular students bully and parents becoming more savvy with social media to help students.

Committee on Special Education/Preschool: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting that was held on 4/16/13. Student placements and the continuing annual review process were discussed.

The Treasurer's Report for February 2013 was presented. Beginning balance as of January 31, 2013 \$39,071,218.11, ending balance as of February 28, 2013 \$34,234,317.93.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve budget transfers numbered 3068 to 3080 for the 2012-2013 school year.

Motion was made by Mike Zotto, seconded by Scott Brady, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following Change Order: A.S.R. Electrical Contracting (\$8,258.35)

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Agreed Upon Procedures with Cullen & Danowski, LLP.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Resolution (A) Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve a scholarship donation from Suffolk Transportation, Inc. in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Scott Brady, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following Health Service Contract for the 2012-13 school year with Smithtown Central School District (Smithtown Christian School) in the amount of \$865.84.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Gellar announced that there will be a change of leadership in the district. Mr. Simon will be retiring after three years with the district. Mr. Gellar spoke about how hiring a new superintendent is an important decision for the Board and the district is fortunate to have an outstanding candidate, Bernadette Burns.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Mike Zotto, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: RETIREMENT: Richard A. Simon, Superintendent of Schools, effective October 1, 2013.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Mike Zotto, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS: Bernadette M. Burns, effective October 1, 2013.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Mike Zotto, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: RESIGNATION: Bernadette M. Burns, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, effective October 1, 2013.

Mrs. Burns started in the district in 1994 as a sixth grade teacher she then became a Principal at Captree, a Principal at Udall and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Mrs. Burns has extensive experience, dedication and is the ideal candidate. Congratulations to both Mr. Simon and Mrs. Burns.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Scott Brady, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adopt the 2013-2014 school district budget.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Scott Brady, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to pass a resolution approving the Eastern Suffolk BOCES 2013-2014 Administrative Budget and electing William Hsiang, Lisa Israel, Fred Langstaff, Sandra Townsend, and John Wyche to the BOCES Board.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Memorandum of Agreement with WISE regarding summer hours.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Mike Zotto, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Resolution: Certification of Richard Simon and Bernadette Burns as Lead Evaluators.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Resolution: Certification of Administrators as Lead Evaluators.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Simon announced that after forty years of service devoted to education as a teacher, principal and administrator he will be retiring. He has been fortunate to serve as Superintendent and work with the staff, parents and students. He thanked everyone for making him feel welcome during his years in West Islip. Mr. Simon feels Bernadette Burns is the right choice for Superintendent and a wonderful educational leader. West Islip will continue to provide a great education to students.

Mr. Simon also spoke about standardized testing and how it is changing at lightning speed. He spoke about how change makes things better but takes time, care and thought. The New York State Education Department has been rapid and disruptive and has not given the necessary time to implement the changes that are needed. Mr. Simon asked the Board to endorse a Resolution - Calling upon the New York State Commissioner of Education and the NYS Board of Regents to Stop the Overreliance on Standardized Tests.

Motion was made by Mike Zotto, seconded by Bob Ulrich, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Resolution: Calling upon the New York State Commissioner of Education and the NYS Board of Regents to Stop the Overreliance on Standardized Tests.

NOTICES/REMINDERS: Budget will be available to residents on May 7th. The Public Hearing on the Budget will be held on May 14th at 7:30 PM at the West Islip High School Auditorium. On that same day voter registration will be held between 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM in the High School Lobby.

The following residents wished to speak during an "Invitation to the Public" - Wendy Regan, Michelle Delaney, Ruth Mineo, Elena Messina, Margaret Dixon, Doreen Hantchel, Marcelle Crudele and Catherine Artusa.

Wendy Regan, 42 Sylvia Drive, West Islip, NY – Mrs. Regan had questions regarding district leases. According to their leases, Bridges Academy and BCBA Boxing Gym were both required to pay the district a security deposit. South Shore Children's Center didn't have to pay the district a security deposit. Why? Mr. Gellar answered that he would have to check. Who drew up the district's lease documents for Bridges Academy and South Shore Children's Center? Mr. Gellar answered: The district attorney, Mr. Volz.

Mrs. Regan had some additional questions. Who was supplying air conditioners at Westbrook and Kirdahy for the tenants who have leases with the district? The board replied that the tenants are supplying their own. Mrs. Regan also wanted to know why Annmarie LaRosa abstained from voting on the approval of the South Shore Children's Center lease. Mrs. LaRosa replied that due to a prior business partnership, she chose to abstain. Mrs. Regan asked the same question regarding the agreement with Jamie Winkler and Mrs. LaRosa replied that due to volunteer work she did in the past with Mrs. Winkler as well as shared membership on a prior board together, she chose to abstain.

Michelle Delaney, 62 Udalia Road, West Islip, NY – Mrs. Delaney made a statement regarding the additional proposition that will appear on the 5/21/13 School Budget Election Ballot. This proposition is not a reflection of the current Board of Education it will just allow candidates to run equally. If passed, residents will not have to choose between candidates.

Ruth Mineo, 1093 Cassel Avenue, West Islip, NY – Mrs. Mineo voiced concerns regarding the NYS standardized tests, common core state standards and security. Mrs. Mineo feels teachers should not be graded based on testing. Mrs. Mineo also had security concerns regarding the data New York State receives on students. Mrs. Burns requested that Mrs. Mineo send her the information she gathered on the security matter and she will look into further, when time allows. Mr. Gellar also suggested Mrs. Mineo write a letter to the Commissioner of Education regarding her concerns. There is additional contact information on the Legislative Action Committee information page on the school website.

Elena Messina, 1244 Hyman Avenue, West Islip, NY – Mrs. Messina had concerns regarding opting out of New York State testing. She sent a letter on behalf of her child to opt out of taking the tests. Mr. Simon explained how the district must follow the rules set forth by the Commissioner of Education or the district could put themselves in jeopardy.

Margaret Dixon, 31 Sylvia Drive, West Islip, NY – Mrs. Dixon spoke about the consequences of closing schools. Her child is a first grader at Oquenock in a class of 25. She feels the resource room is small, there have been many cases of lice and the students that previously attended Westbrook still feel a loss.

Marcelle Crudele, 758 Tanglewood Road, West Islip, NY - Mrs. Crudele had questions regarding the resolution to stop overreliance on standardized tests. She wanted to know if other districts have adopted this resolution. Mr. Simon informed Mrs. Crudele that he recently attended an event at Hofstra devoted to these concerns. The Long Island and Westchester areas voice more concern than districts upstate and there is a real divide in New York. He also feels there is a need for a grass roots movement to better educate the public.

Doreen Hantchel, 1129 Jefferson Ave. West Islip, NY - Mrs. Hantchel had questions regarding the testing environment during the NYS standardized tests. She wanted to know if students go into another setting if they are not taking the tests. Mrs. Burns informed Mrs. Hantchel there were only 25 students in the district that opted out of the tests and building principals will handle these situations.

Catherine Artusa, 574 Peter Paul Drive, West Islip, NY – Mrs. Artusa had questions regarding the 2013-14 budget. She wanted to know if there would be furlough days for staff and if unions fight this, how will it effect the budget. Mr. Simon responded that the district will deal with these issues as they develop.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRose, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 10:15 PM for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 11:27 PM on motion by Scott Brady, seconded by Ron Maginniss and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 PM on a motion by Scott Brady, seconded by Ron Maginniss and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Hock

Mary Hock
District Clerk

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