

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**October 8, 2020 – Beach Street Middle School**

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

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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2020 Planning Session.

**RECOGNITION:** School Board Recognition Week ~ *West Islip Board of Education*

Mrs. Burns presented a certificate to Mr. Gellar and Mr. McCann in recognition of the important work trustees do and their commitment to West Islip and the students.

**PERSONNEL:**

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve **TEACHING: LEAVE OF ABSENCE (AMENDED)** (unpaid): (Pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993-12-week continuous medical coverage): Kimberly Kennedy, Elementary, effective September 16, 2020 – October 8, 2020 (Bayview; change end date from September 30, 2020).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve **TEACHING: LEAVE OF ABSENCE** (paid): (Pursuant to FEPSLA) Lisa Cosgrove, Library Media, effective September 24, 2020 (Beach Street).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve **CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT:** Olga Alma-Cruz, Part Time Food Service Worker, effective October 9, 2020 (Oquenock; \$15.13/hr; replacing K. Culkin {paraprofessional}).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve **CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT:** \*Tyler Bell, Special Education Aide, effective October 13, 2020 (Paul J. Bellew; Step 1; new position).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve **CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT:** Marianne Denner, Office Applications Specialist, effective November 9, 2020 (District Office; Step 1; replacing L. Skinner {retired}).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve **CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT:** \*Jennifer Garofalo, Part Time Food Service Worker, effective October 13, 2020 (Beach Street; \$15.13/hr.; replacing L. Youngleman {paraprofessional}).

\*Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: LEAVE OF ABSENCE (paid): (pursuant to FEPSLA): Patricia Denninger, Administrative Assistant, September 22, 2020 (District Office).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RESIGNATION: Wendy Khokhar, Health Office Aide, effective October 8, 2020 (Udall).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: Patricia Ford, Security/Receptionist Paraprofessional, effective October 5, 2020 (20 years).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN (\$14.00/hr.): William Butler, effective October 9, 2020; Thomas Hohsfield, effective October 9, 2020; Mark Roslewicz, effective October 9, 2020.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE FOOD SERVICE WORKER (\$14.00/hr.): Alan Gilmore, effective October 9, 2020; \*Elizabeth Jardeleza, effective October 9, 2020.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE NURSE (\$130 per diem): Anna Harris, effective October 9, 2020.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE PARAPROFESSIONAL (\$14.00/hr.): Wendy Khokhar, effective October 9, 2020.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$150 per diem): Ryan DeLuca, effective October 2, 2020; Ryan McCormick, effective October 19, 2020.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem): \*Casey Bauer, effective October 5, 2020; Trevor Bernard, effective September 29, 2020; Ryan Licht, effective October 1, 2020; Ryan McCormick, effective September 25, 2020.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SAT 2020 (\$78 per diem): Dina Barone, Exam Proctor; Tracy Clark, Exam Proctor; Donna Devlin, Exam Proctor; Kelly Weisenseel, Exam Proctor.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER: Increase sub teacher pay from \$130.00 (per 20 days) to \$150.00.

#### CURRICULUM UPDATE:

Mrs. Morrison advised that on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, the elementary and middle schools successfully transitioned all students back to full time instruction in the physical school building. Mrs. Morrison thanked the administrators, teachers, parents and students for working collaboratively to make this this happen.

The district continues to keep increased in person instruction for high school students a top priority and discusses its feasibility and options on a daily basis.

Ten accomplished musicians from West Islip High School have been selected to take part in this year's NYSSMA All-State Festival. The selected students will rehearse and perform virtually with their counterparts throughout the state. Mrs. Morrison congratulated the high school students and music teachers on this outstanding accomplishment.

The K-12 Curriculum Council met on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 to discuss curriculum and instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. It was determined that continued professional development is warranted to support the ongoing instructional technology needs related to the various learning models that the teachers face throughout the school year. Additionally, the Council will review the current instructional technology programs to ascertain their effectiveness and utilization by students and staff.

Superintendent's Conference Day will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Plans are underway to provide teachers and staff with EdCamp-like virtual learning experiences.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Education Committee: Rich Antoniello reported on the meeting that took place 10/6/2020. Items included The full time return of all K-8 students on 9/29/2020. K-8 teachers are happy to have their entire class together, and students are excited to be back full time. The 2020-2021 K-12 Comprehensive School Counseling Plan is complete and will be posted to the district website. High School lifeguard training classes will return to the pool setting within the next two weeks. The hybrid-learning model keeps the training classes at a maximum of ten students per class. The 2020-2021 Elementary School Assessment Calendar has been finalized. Some adjustments were made to the calendar to accommodate time for students and staff to transition back to the school environment.

Mrs. LaRosa asked if the committee considered adding Wednesday back to an in-person day at the high school. Mr. Gellar agreed with Mrs. LaRosa and pointed out that a deep clean is done every night, which changes the risk profile in bringing back the students. Mr. McCann also expressed how bringing the students back as soon as possible would be beneficial. Mrs. Burns advised that she would review the schedule with Mrs. Morrison and provide the Board with an update tomorrow.

Audit Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting held on 10/6/2020. Don Hoffman and Rich Coffey of Cullen & Danowski, LLP reviewed the audit of purchasing procedures. The findings were positive and some recommendations were made. A corrective action plan will be submitted.

Finance Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting held on 10/6/2020. Items reviewed included the August extracurricular report; September payroll summary; September claims audit report; September system manager audit report; payroll certification forms; surplus items and contracts. Mrs. Pellati advised that the Audit Committee meeting with R.S. Abrams, the District's External Auditors, will be on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the year-end audit results for the 2019-2020 school year. Mrs. Pellati also reviewed the 2019-2020 fund balance allocations with the committee.

A resident in the audience asked for the allocation of fund balance. Mrs. Pellati gave the following information:

Employee Retirement System Reserve Fund	\$1,500,000
Teachers Retirement System Reserve Fund	\$ 896,925
Unemployment Reserve	\$ 400,000
Capital Reserve	\$2,000,000
Tax Relief	\$1,000,000

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting that took place on 10/6/2020. Items included a bond update: the main turf field at the high school, bathrooms districtwide, and the high school security booth are complete. Blinds and water fountains are in the process of being installed. The generator project went to the state for approval; the planetarium should open in February; and the timers on the exterior lights at Udall are working correctly. Other items discussed included a request by South Shore Children's Center to add a small awning. Additional custodial staff may be needed since elementary and middle school students are in session full-time. Field use by community groups is being considered.

Special Education Committee: Tom Compitello reported on the meeting held 10/7/2020. Items included a review of the special education services throughout the district.

Health and Wellness Committee: Peter McCann reported on the meeting that took place on 9/22/2020. Items reviewed included an overview of past initiatives; Color Fun Virtual Event – Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (pre-registration and purchases are via My School Bucks); Cellular Safety Virtual Presentation; Kevin Alter – Virtual “Addict’s Diary”; federal free lunch programs targeting needy families; and 2020-2021 virtual meeting dates. The next meeting will take place Tuesday, October 13 at 10:00 a.m. (virtually).

#### FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The treasurer reports for June, July and August were presented: beginning balance \$70,835,636.52; ending balance \$66,491,986.32.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve General Fund budget transfers 3935-3960 and Capital Fund transfers 3937-3959.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following 2020-2021 contracts: Kings Park CSD Special Education Contract; Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism-The Martin C. Barell School Consultant Services Contract; South Huntington UFSD Special Education Contract; Wood Services, Inc. Special Education Contract.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve surplus: miscellaneous IT equipment.

#### PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the 2020-2021 Building Emergency Response Plans.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Local Government Records {LGS-01}.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the West Islip School District that Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records, is hereby adopted for use by all officers in legally disposing of valueless records listed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Article 57-A:

- (a) Only those records will be disposed of that are described in Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), after they have met the minimum retention periods described therein;
- (b) Only those records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal, or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Stipulation of Settlement: Student A.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Suffolk School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the West Islip Union Free School District (“District” or “Board”) intends to participate in the County of Suffolk School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program (hereinafter the “Stop Arm Program”); and

WHEREAS, the Stop Arm Program is authorized under New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1174-a; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NYS VTL §1174-a, in order to participate in the Program, the District must enter into an agreement with the County of Suffolk.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the Suffolk County School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program Opt-in Agreement made between the County of Suffolk, West Islip Union Free School District, Bus Patrol America LLC, and Suffolk Transportation Service, Inc. (when applicable), and agrees to be bound by its terms, and authorizes the Board President to execute same.

#### SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Mrs. Burns wished Patricia Ford good luck and health in her retirement.

Mrs. Burns advised that the elementary and middle schools transitioning to full time in-school instruction has been successful and appropriate safety measures are intact.

Mrs. Burns thanked West Islip parents for transporting their children to school and for the sacrifices they have made to do that, but now encourages parents to put their children on the buses and wear their masks. Utilizing the buses will cut down on the arrival process and increase learning time.

Mrs. Burns announced that the West Islip High School has been recognized as a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School, the only one in Suffolk County. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence and their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. The high school was nominated in the category for Exemplary High Performing Schools. Mrs. Burns thanked faculty and staff members for their dedication.

Mr. Gellar spoke about the first Masera open house that took place 10/7/2020; two more are scheduled for 10/13 and 10/22. A maximum of 50 attendees are allowed at each of two sessions. The first session will be from 7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. and the second from 7:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. A request for a reservation can be obtained on the district website.

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

William Kern, 127 Sequams Lane West, W. Islip - Mr. Kern would like to see the high school pool and fields open and feels it is very important for children to take part in activities and to socialize. Mrs. LaRosa asked how many children are allowed in the pool area and Mr. Kern advised 30, according to NYS guidelines. Mr. Gellar advised that the district is in the process of reviewing the use of the pool and fields and will be looking at the CDC guidelines and will see what can be opened.

Mr. Brad Obloj, 7 Thaddeus Lane, W. Islip - Mr. Obloj spoke about the importance of having children return to sports. Mr. Obloj provided the Board with a petition with over 600 plus signatures.

Mr. Gellar asked the administration to begin streamlining the protocols to open the fields. Mrs. Burns advised that the district is working on a timeline and a document that is fair and consistent and will accommodate, within guidelines, for athletics, music and other extracurricular activities that are limited to outdoors. Mr. Obloj suggested reaching out to the districts that have successfully done this already.

Mr. Don Marmo, Wilson Place, W. Islip - Mr. Marmo inquired as to why Mr. McCann abstained from the Masera contract vote and Mr. McCann advised that he would have liked a different proposal. Mr. Marmo also inquired about the value of Masera and if the donation of one million dollars was voluntary. Mr. Gellar advised that the contract states that there will be a donation. Mr. Marmo also asked if the proceeds of the sale would offset the tax levy. Mrs. Pellati explained that if any outstanding debt obligations exist for the property, the

District would be required to place the related proceeds in a Mandatory Reserve for Debt Service. No outstanding debt exists for this property. All remaining proceeds from the sale of real property is required to be placed in a Reserve for Tax Reduction. This reserve is established by Board resolution. Money from this reserve is to be appropriated annually, up to ten years, to offset the tax levy. Mr. Marmo also asked if the district would receive state aid if they built the field and Mrs. Pellati advised that a field in isolation would not receive state aid as it would have to be tied to work in a building.

Mr. Roy Tarantola, Ocean Ave, W. Islip - Mr. Tarantola was upset that his daughter who attends pre-k has not had an assigned teacher and has no idea who her teacher is. Mr. Tarantola asked where the district is in the hiring process and Mrs. Burns advised there would be a permanent sub in the class until someone is hired. The finalists for the position will be interviewed shortly and a teacher will be approved at the 10/20/2020 Planning Session.

Mr. Adam Semcken, 1715 N. Monroe Ave. W. Islip - Mr. Semcken commented on the Masera Open House and felt the process worked. He had questions regarding why a no bid contract was approved for Winkler Realty when multiple bids go out for capital projects. Mr. Gellar advised that professional services do not require a bid and the district received three bids when initially seeking to lease Kirdahy and Westbrook. Based on the district's experience with Mrs. Winkler, Winkler Realty was the best choice for the Masera sale.

Mr. Semcken asked the Board if any trustee had a personal relationship with Mrs. Winkler and Mr. McCann responded that Winkler Realty represented the seller when Mr. McCann purchased his home 15 years ago. Mr. Semcken also asked if anyone currently leases through Mrs. Winkler. Mrs. LaRosa advised that before she moved her business to her current location, the district (East Islip) may have used Winkler Real Estate, but Mrs. Winkler has nothing to do with Mrs. LaRosa's current lease with East Islip.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:13 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie 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.