

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 12, 2021 – West Islip High School

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

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATORS: Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Pellati, Mr. Taylor

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

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

The following resident spoke on an Agenda Item regarding the Reopening of Schools:

Mrs. Lauren Pankratz, 34 Sylvia Drive, West Islip – Mrs. Pankratz spoke about universal masking. She feels it is irresponsible for children not to wear masks during a serious health crisis and that making masks optional goes against the CDC and DHS recommendations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2021 Reorganizational Meeting and the July 6, 2021 Regular Meeting.

PERSONNEL:

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: RESIGNATION: Kristin Kelly, Assistant Principal, effective August 16, 2021 (High School).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Grace Bolin, Elementary, effective August 31, 2021 to August 30, 2025 (Oquenock; Step 1A¹; replacing Judith Schwartz {retired}).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Jamiee Connors, Elementary, effective August 31, 2021 to August 30, 2025 (PJB; Step 1APK⁴; new position).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Nicole Devine, Elementary, effective August 31, 2021 to August 30, 2025 (Oquenock; Step 1APK¹; new position).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Michael Fusaro, Science, effective August 31, 2021 to August 30, 2025 (High School; Step 2⁴; replacing Lynn Larsen {resigned}).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Beth Gewirtz, Elementary, effective August 31, 2021 to August 30, 2025 (Manetuck; Step 1APK¹; new position).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Jade Lawrence, Elementary, effective August 31, 2021 to August 30, 2025 (Bayview; Step 1APK¹; new position).

In order to be granted tenure a classroom teacher or building principal shall have received composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Education Law § 3012-d of either effective or highly effective in at least three of the four preceding years and if a classroom teacher or building principal receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period he or she shall not be eligible for tenure at that time.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED): Gina Castaldo, Elementary, effective August 31, 2021 to August 30, 2024 (Manetuck; change in effective date from September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2024).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED): Dara Depouli, School Counselor, effective August 17, 2021 to August 16, 2025 (High School; change in effective date from August 31, 2021 to August 30, 2024 and change in Step to 2⁵).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED): Cara Douglas, Elementary, effective August 31, 2021 to August 30, 2024 (Paul J. Bellew; change in effective date from September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2024).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED): Louis Riley, Elementary, effective August 31, 2021 to August 30, 2024 (Manetuck; change in effective date from September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2024).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Dana Levine, Psychologist, effective August 31, 2021 through June 30, 2022 (Beach; Step 1A¹; replacing Robyn Southard {LoA}).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE (AMENDED): Alexandra Ragin, School Counselor, effective August 17, 2021 to June 30, 2022 (High School; change in effective date from August 31, 2021 to June 30, 2022).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid): (Pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993-12-week continuous medical coverage): Lisa Baynon, Senior Office Assistant, effective July 12, 2021 through August 27, 2021 (High School).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RESIGNATION: Thomas Finnegan, Custodial Worker I, effective August 7, 2021 (High School).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RESIGNATION: Daniel Seagraves, Custodial Worker I, effective July 13, 2021 (Oquenock).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RESIGNATION (AMENDED): John Rizzotto, Custodial Worker I, effective July 31, 2021 (Kirdahy).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Elizabeth Hammels, Part Time Food Service Worker, effective August 26, 2021 (Paul J. Bellew; \$15.13/hr.; replacing D. Carmine {resigned}).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Thomas Hohsfield, Custodial Worker I, effective August 16, 2021 (Oquenock; Step 1; replacing D. Seagraves {resigned}).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: *Antoinette Knice, Part Time Food Service Worker, effective August 26, 2021 (Beach Street; \$15.13/hr.; replacing S. DeSano {retired}).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Michael Librizzi, Custodial Worker I, effective August 16, 2021 (High School; Step 1; replacing D. Taveras {retired}).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Nicholas Mancini, Custodial Worker I, effective August 16, 2021 (Kirdahy; Step 1; replacing J. Camelliri {resigned}).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Jedediah Rodriguez, Custodial Worker I, effective August 16, 2021 (Paul J. Bellew; Step 1; replacing W. Delaney {appointed Custodial Worker III}).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Edward Spradley, Jr., Custodial Worker I, effective August 16, 2021 (High School; Step 1; replacing T. Finnegan {resigned}).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Josephine Taggart, Part Time Food Service Worker, effective September 1, 2021 (High School; \$15.13/hr.; replacing J. Rega {Assistant Cook}).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE FOOD SERVICE WORKER (\$15.00/hr.): *Lisa Ksiazek, effective September 1, 2021.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE GUARD: Michael Delgado, effective August 13, 2021 (\$19.54/hr.); *Salvatore Ferro, effective August 13, 2021 (\$22.80/hr.); Joseph LaSala, effective August 13, 2021 (\$22.80/hr.); Michael Nolan, effective August 13, 2021 (\$22.80/hr.); *Charles Ogburn, effective August 13, 2021 (\$22.80/hr.); Jenna Principato, effective August 13, 2021 (\$22.80/hr.); George Santiago, effective August 13, 2021 (\$22.80/hr.).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: PREFERRED SUBSTITUTE: Savannah Rinne, effective August 31, 2021 (High School; \$168.46/day; replacing Daniel Gschwind {reassigned}).

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: PREFERRED SUBSTITUTE: Gabrielle Roberto, effective August 31, 2021 (High School; \$168.46/day; replacing Tim Natsch {resigned}).

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$150 per diem): Thomas Carusillo, effective August 31, 2021 through June 24, 2022.

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem): Heather Fauvell, effective September 9, 2021, student teacher.

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUMMER SCHOOL 2021: Craig Michel, Substitute.

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: FALL 2021 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES: FOOTBALL: Nicholas DeLapi, Volunteer Varsity Coach.

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: FALL 2021 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES: (FOOTBALL AMENDED): Michael Bellacosa, Assistant Varsity Coach (replacing Phil Kane; approved at BOE meeting June 10, 2021).

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: James Klimkoski, Varsity Coach; Tara Annunziata, Assistant Varsity Coach; Taylor Carangi, J.V. Coach.

CURRICULUM UPDATE:

New Teacher Orientation will take place on August 25 and 26.

The orientation includes an introduction to the administrative team, an overview of curriculum and instruction expectations, workshops and a bus tour around town to show the various school buildings in the district.

Superintendent's Conference Day will take place on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 and will include building and department meetings and NYSED mandated training. Pre K and Kindergarten parents will receive information related to the Pre K and Kindergarten orientations within the next two weeks from the Elementary principals.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Education Committee: Richard Antoniello reported on the meeting that took place 8/10/2021. Items reviewed included curriculum and instructional goals for the 2021-2022 school year; elementary literacy program; and high school course offerings. Updates were provided on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiative; Pre K and kindergarten orientation programs; summer school; the middle school academy; and summer enrichment.

Finance Committee: Annmarie LaRosa reported on the meeting held on 8/10/2021. Items reviewed included the May extra-curricular report; June and July payroll summary; May financial statements; June and July internal claims audit report; June and July system manager audit report; payroll certification forms; surplus items; contracts; resolutions and request for proposal. Mrs. Pellati advised the committee that the external auditors will be on-site the week of August 23 to perform the year-end audit work.

Buildings and Grounds: Tom Compitello reported on the meeting that took place on 8/10/2021. Items reviewed included permits, the use of the high school auditorium for dance productions; the COVID plan for indoor activities; field maintenance costs; and a request by The Bridges Academy to remove a wood dilapidated playground.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve General Fund budget transfers 4083-4085.

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following 2021-2022 contracts: Bay Shore UFSD Special Education Services Contract; Commack UFSD/Tuition Contract for Special Education Services; Complete Rehabilitation PT, OT, SLP of the Hamptons, PLLC Consultant Services Contract; Deer Park UFSD Special Education Services Contract; Serene Home Nursing Agency Consultant Services Contract; Syosset CSD Special Education Contract; Wood Services, Inc., Special Education Services Contract.

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Tax Levy 2021-2022.

RESOLUTION: 2021-2022 TAX LEVY

WHEREAS, the estimated expenditures for the West Islip Union Free School District, for the school year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$127,501,568 proposed in accordance with Section 1716 of the Education Law, were approved by the voters of the District on May 18, 2021, and,

WHEREAS, the estimated expenditures for the West Islip Public Library, for the fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$4,198,519, proposed in accordance with Section 259 of the Education Law, were approved by the voters of the District on April 6, 2021 for a total approved budget of \$131,700,087 therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2021-2022 tax levy in the amount of \$88,619,244 for the West Islip Union Free School District and \$4,105,519 for the West Islip Public Library, for a combined tax levy of \$92,724,763 be approved and levied upon the real property of the District.

(The tax levy of \$88,619,244 for the School District plus \$38,882,324 other income as estimated on July 1, 2021, including State Aid, \$400,000 Appropriated from Reserves and \$1,000,000 of Appropriated Fund Balance equals a budget of \$127,501,568. The tax levy of \$4,105,519 for the Public Library plus \$93,000 other income as estimated on July 1, 2021 equals a budget of \$4,198,519).

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Breakfast Program Exemption 2021-2022.

RESOLVED, that the West Islip Union Free School District shall request an exemption from implementing a school breakfast program in the below listed schools for the 2021-2022 school year.

BAYVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BEACH STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL
MANETUCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
OQUENOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PAUL J. BELLEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
UDALL ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: donation from Retail Business Services \$1,465.11 – Bayview.

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: donation from Retail Business Services \$1,877.61 – Beach.

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: donation from Retail Business Services - \$1,461.79 – Paul J. Bellew.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: donation from Stop & Shop - \$1,142.23 – Manetuck

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: increase to budget 2021-2022 - \$5,946.74.

DONATIONS

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of donated funds in the amounts of \$1,142.23, \$1,465.11, \$1,461.79 and \$1,877.61 from Retail Business Services, which have been donated for the purchase of supplies for the students of the Manetuck, Bayview and Paul J. Bellew Elementary Schools and Beach Street Middle School.

RESOLUTION: INCREASE 2021-2022 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the appropriation budget for the 2021-2022 school year to be increased to \$127,507,514.74, an increase of the combined \$5,946.74 donation from Retail Business Services for the Manetuck, Bayview, Paul J. Bellew and Beach Street Schools.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: receipt of the Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures dated June 22, 2021 from Cullen & Danowski, LLP.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: approval of the Corrective Action Plan in response to the Internal Auditors' Agreed-Upon Procedures Report dated June 22, 2021, submitted by the Assistant Superintendent for Business.

I. RESOLUTIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the West Islip School District acknowledges receipt of the Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures dated June 22, 2021 from Cullen & Danowski, LLP.

Recommend the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan in response to the internal auditors' Agreed-Upon Procedures Report dated June 22, 2021, submitted by the Assistant Superintendent for Business.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Request for Proposal – RFP #522 – Commodity Foods Direct Diversion.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Discussion of 2021-2022 Board of Education Goals and Objectives

Discussion of District Mission Statement

Mrs. Burns advised that Mrs. Brown had suggested the district include mental health initiatives in the annual goals and objectives. Technology goals will also be included and the Mission Statement will be reviewed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mrs. Burns informed the audience that teachers and staff will return on Tuesday, August 31 and will take part in conference day activities. The district will welcome students back to school on Wednesday, September 1 and is in the process of finalizing the reopening plan. Mrs. Burns advised that there are many difficult decisions to be made and that every choice would be framed around providing everyday full time instruction for all students as the district is committed to resuming a full extra-curricular program at all levels. More information will become available as the weeks unfold.

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

Mr. Marmo, Wilson Place, West Islip – Mr. Marmo requested an update on the Masera property and the timing for the implementation of a community advisory committee. Mr. Tussie advised that the district is focused on reopening schools and more information is forthcoming. Mr. Marmo had several questions regarding the sprinklers at Westbrook, and why the tenants were not reimbursing the district for the full cost of the sprinklers. Mr. Marmo previously inquired about board candidates receiving contributions from the West Islip Teachers' Association and Mr. Tussie explained that this was a legal practice with no conflict of interest, and that Board members can vote on teacher contracts.

Mrs. Lauren Pankratz, 34 Sylvia Drive, West Islip – Mrs. Pankratz asked about ventilation in the classrooms and Mrs. Burns advised that changes were made last year and the district is in a good place and will continue to reassess where they are.

Tyler Burnett, 343 Oakwood Avenue, West Islip – Tyler is a fifth grade student at Oquenock Elementary and spoke about how good it was to have a mask free summer school and camp and would like the same opportunity in September.

Jeanine Longo, 236 West 5th Street, West Islip – Mrs. Longo hopes everyone will have a choice about whether to wear masks.

Mrs. Doreen Hantzschel - Mrs. Hantzschel spoke about the importance of choice and is disappointed in the way society is heading. She is also disappointed in the district's English department and the SUPA material. Mrs. Hantzschel asked the Board to eliminate the three-minute limit when residents speak at the board meeting.

Mrs. Janet Manno, 716 Higbie Lane, West Islip – Mrs. Manno shared that her family followed all COVID protocols but still became ill and suffered the loss of a family member. She also advised that there was no mask wearing at Bayview Summer Camp and there were no cases of Covid.

Mrs. Christine Richards, 19 McCall Avenue, West Islip – Mrs. Richards feels we have to take back our country and had concerns regarding the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion curriculum. Mrs. Richards feels masks are not good for children.

Mrs. Christine Mencarelli, 12 Daniele Court, West Islip – Mrs. Mencarelli asked what is being done to ensure parents are allowed to be class parents and enter the school building in September. Mrs. Burns advised that the administration is discussing and looking at what steps to take to safely invite visitors to the buildings.

Mrs. Tara Spadolini, 114 Anchorage Drive, West Islip - Mrs. Spadolini feels mask wearing causes an emotional disconnect for children and she supports parental choice.

Mrs. Vikki Rossi, 1100 Hyman Avenue, Bay Shore – Mrs. Rossi feels masks should be a choice. She would like to see desk shields permanently removed as well as daily screenings and Covid updates. Mrs. Rossi also asked about locker use.

Mrs. Cassandra Sottile, 803 Tanglewood Road, West Islip – Mrs. Sottile feels masks and vaccines should be optional and supports parental choice.

Mrs. Jeanine Longo, 236 West 5th Street, West Islip – Mrs. Longo spoke about 5G towers and 5G cells and the negative health effects.

Mrs. Lisa Curley, 4 Finely Place, West Islip – Mrs. Curley asked the Board if they read medical journals and studied the dangers of mask wearing and asked where they stood on masks. Mr. Tussie advised that it is a challenging question and the Board must look out for the health and safety of the children. Mrs. LaRosa asked that if masks are optional and the district experiences many Covid cases and has to shut down, if parents be okay with that.

Mrs. Amanda Barbara, 47 Duck Lane, West Islip - Mrs. Barbara provided statistics about the effects of COVID on children and recommended using common sense. Mr. Tussie advised that the district is working on this and Mrs. LaRosa explained that the Board has not yet made a decision.

James Riley Griesmeyer, 364 Acardia Drive, W. Islip – James is a fourth grade student at Oquenock Elementary and spoke about masks being a punishment and the inability to see emotions. James feels breathing the same germs over and over is not healthy and feels the decision to wear masks should be left up to the person. James also spoke about the difficulty to learn looking through shields and the importance of participating in student activities.

Jennie Zethner (guest of Cassie Sottile) - Mrs. Zethner is a pediatric nurse practitioner and speaks with patients each day. Mrs. Zethner advised that there are more mental health issues in children than children getting sick from Covid, and that children are being instilled with fear.

Mrs. Denise Hassler, Martin Drive, West Islip – Mrs. Hassler stated that paper masks are for single use only and cannot eliminate the risk of infection beyond an hour. Mrs. Hassler asked if the schools were monitoring how masks are used by students and that parents should make the choice for their child.

Mrs. Claudia Worley, West Islip – Mrs. Worley asked the Board to stand up for our kids. Mrs. Worley's daughter does not know people with their masks on asked how she should tell a four year old to wear a mask. Mr. Tussie suggested explaining that we sometimes must abide by decisions we do not want to follow but they are there to minimize the spread of the virus. Mrs. Worley would like to see a decision made regarding masks. Mr. Tussie advised that the guidance is changing all the time and further guidance is coming and a decision of this magnitude requires time to ensure the Board is making the right decision.

Mr. Roy Tarantola, 845 Ocean Avenue, West Islip – Mr. Tarantola suggested that the district do a survey to see how parents feel and suggested segregating the students into masked and unmasked classrooms. Mr. Tarantola also inquired about the Masera advisory committee; Mrs. Burns advised that a postcard will be going out in September.

Mrs. Valerie Rivera, West Islip – Mrs. Rivera had questions regarding how many students got Covid and how many who were quarantined had Covid. Mrs. Burns advised that the Department of Health Services should be contacted. Mrs. Rivera feels that parents should not be keeping their kids at home and Mrs. Burns advised that the district hopes to eliminate quarantining as much as possible.

Mrs. Veronique Wallrapp, 11 Harvest Lane, West Islip– Mrs. Wallrapp inquired as to why there was a lack of responses to her phone calls and e-mails. Mr. Tussie advised that the Board receives many e-mails and may not respond to those that state opinions. If a resident has a question, there is a response.

Mrs. Catie Florea, West Islip – Mrs. Florea feels parents need to make decisions for their children and feels a survey should be done regarding masks and the district should abide by those results.

Mrs. Viktoria Evangeliou, West Islip – Mrs. Evangeliou is a registered nurse and worked in a nursing home. She explained that staff contracted Covid wearing masks and feels surgical masks are useless. Mrs. Evangeliou advised children get headaches due to masks and wearing masks are unfair to children.

Mrs. Jennie Zethner – Mrs. Zethner spoke again to share information about a movement vexxitny.com. She inquired as to whether districts share information and Mrs. Burns advised that she meets regularly with colleagues.

Mrs. Cassandra Sottile, West Islip – Mrs. Sottile asked the Board if they are for pro-parent choice for masks and vaccines. Mr. McCann advised that he needs more information; Mr. Compitello feels parents should make the choice regarding the vaccine but is not sure about masks; Mr. Tussie could not give an answer regarding masks but feels vaccines should be a parental choice; Mrs. Burns could not answer for a variety of reasons and asked parents for patience; Mrs. LaRosa would never force the vaccine and could not decide regarding masks, but spoke about the importance of getting kids in school every day; Mr. Maginniss did not have an answer yet but emphasized that the real goal was getting kids into the classroom; Mrs. Brown was pro-parent choice regarding vaccines and on the fence regarding masks. Mrs. Sottile would like the daily covid screening and covid alerts to stop and requested they only be on the school website. Mrs. Sottile asked about eliminating desk shields.

Mrs. Julie Lella, West Islip – Mrs. Lella shared that due to mask wearing, her son has suffered many infections. Mrs. Lella feels only parents and doctors should be making the decision about whether a student wears a mask.

Mrs. Doreen Hantzschel, West Islip – Mrs. Hantzschel encouraged the Board to listen to the medical experts at the meeting. Mrs. Hantzschel would like to see curricular options that allow students to make choices based on their own belief system and feels there should be more conservative books available for students.

Mr. Antonello expressed how he respects the audience's frustrations. Mr. Tussie thanked everyone for attending.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Mr. McCann and carried when all members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 10:21 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 11:45 p.m. on motion by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution to deny appeal of Student "A".

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 p.m. on motion by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann 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.