

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 8, 2022 – Beach Street Middle School

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

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Romanelli, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Pellati, Mr. Taylor

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Tussie announced that he attended the Energy Manufacturing Expo at the Cradle of Aviation with Dr. Romanelli and how they both learned about alternative energy and manufacturing companies on Long Island. On behalf of the district, Mr. Tussie congratulated West Islip Senior, Robert Mineo, who presented at the Expo and spoke about his engineering internship experience. Mr. Tussie expressed how proud the district is of Robert's accomplishments and how he represented the district.

Mr. Tussie announced that the district is being proactive and sending a letter to Governor Hochul regarding providing parents with choice regarding vaccines and masks. The letter to the Governor will be posted to the district website.

Mr. Tussie announced that under the President's Report on the board agenda, the Board will be approving holding a vote on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. regarding capital improvements consisting of installing air conditioning districtwide and replacing fire alarms at the elementary and middle schools.

The following residents spoke at the beginning of the meeting:

Robert Mineo - Robert is a high school senior and praised the high school teachers in aiding in his development as an inspiring engineer. Robert also spoke about the outstanding high school teachers and their efforts on behalf of the students to help them stand out among others and assist them when applying to colleges and obtaining internships.

John Howard - Mr. Howard recommended that the district consider using the high school electronic sign to post the date and time of the monthly board meeting and would like other schools to have signs too. Mr. Howard would like the board to consider increasing the time that residents speak at the meeting from three minutes to four or five minutes. Mr. Howard also spoke about security concerns at the Masera property.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2022 Planning Session.

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the 12/8/22 Personnel Agenda as listed below:

TEACHERS

T-1 REGULAR SUBSTITUTE

Daniel Sarfin, Mathematics
Effective November 28, 2022 through June 30, 2023
(Udall; Step 0.5 ⁴; replacing Melanie Vecchione {LOA})

Julia DePompeo, Family and Consumer Science
Effective January 9, 2023 through June 30, 2023
(Beach and West Islip High School; Step 0.5 ¹; replacing Janine Lalia {resigned})

T-2 CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid)

Melanie Vecchione, Mathematics
Effective December 9, 2022 through June 30, 2023
(Udall)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

TA-1 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED)

Caroline Conte, Computer
Effective November 29, 2022 to November 28, 2026
(Manetuck; change in Step from 1 to 5)

CIVIL SERVICE

CL-1 CHANGE IN TITLE

Thomas Panico, Groundskeeper III
Effective December 9, 2022
(Grounds; Step 12; change from Acting Groundskeeper III)

CL-2 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Kathleen Mango, Special Education Aide
Effective December 9, 2022
(High School; Step 1; replacing Madison Mills {resigned})

CL-3 RESIGNATION

Sarah Pfenning, Biotechnology Lab Aide
Effective January 20, 2023
(High School)

CL-4 SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN (\$15.00/hr)

*Peter McAtee, effective December 9, 2022

**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

CL-5

RETIREMENT

Paul Hunter, Guard
Effective October 31, 2022
(37 years)

OTHER

PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER RESIGNATION

Daniel Sarfin, Udall Middle School
Effective November 24, 2022

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Craig Perrino, effective November 30, 2022, leave replacement (\$253.28 per diem)

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem)

- *Kristen Alo, effective December 9, 2022, *student teacher*
- *Caitlin Anetrella, effective January 23, 2023, *student teacher*
- Sophia Asofsky, effective January 30, 2023, *student teacher*
- Emily Carlo, effective December 9, 2022, *student teacher*
- Colleen Grover, effective December 9, 2022, *student teacher*
- Jacqueline Kanapes, effective January 30, 2023, *student teacher*
- Kaya Konopa, effective January 23, 2023, *student teacher*
- *Sydney Leone, effective December 9, 2022
- *Isabella Magaraci, effective January 9, 2023, *student teacher*
- *Daria Majkrzak, effective March 20, 2023, *student teacher*
- *Nicole O'Connor, effective January 23, 2023, *student teacher*
- Brayan Portillo, effective January 25, 2023, *student teacher*
- *Brianna Sorice, effective January 23, 2023, *student teacher*

**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

CURRICULUM

Mrs. Morrison informed the audience that Pre-K registration for 2023-2024 will take place online from 1/3/2023 to 2/3/2023, and postcards will be sent to households that may have a prekindergarten student. If there are any questions, residents should call the Registrar's Office. Mrs. Morrison advised that students who register would have placement in the Pre-K program and that there are 40 spots available in each of the four school buildings, any students above the 40 will be placed in a community-based organization that the district partners with. Kindergarten registration will take place from 12/5/22 to 1/16/23 via the district website and students that registered for the Pre-K program do not have to submit any additional paperwork.

Mrs. Morrison spoke about the New York State ELA/Math test for Grades 3-8 and advised that they will be administered via chromebooks this year and practice for these tests will begin in January. Mrs. Morrison also spoke about the learning experiences taking place throughout the district and wished everyone a happy holiday and healthy New Year.

Health and Wellness Committee: Peter McCann reported on the meeting held 11/15/2022. Items reviewed included financial report, 2022 Color Run, researching articles for the newsletter and December Family Connect Night. Other items discussed were the Narcan training event at the West Islip Fire Department and West Islip Public Library Cyber Safety presentation for teens on 11/22/22. Mr. McCann advised that the West Islip Staff Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser donated \$1,940.00 to the West Islip Breast Cancer Coalition bringing the 20-year donated amount to \$45,660.00. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at P.J. Bellew Elementary School.

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting held 12/6/22. Items reviewed included CSIP for Class of 2023, Pre-K registration, Equity Committee meeting 12/5/22, Pilot Heggerty Program: Pre K & K Classrooms, update of reading and math intervention report cards at K-5 level, update of ENL report cards, and course catalog/selection process at high school for 2023-2024.

Finance Committee: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting held on 12/6/22. Items reviewed included the September and October treasurer's report, October extra-curricular, October payroll summary, November internal claims report, November system manager audit report, payroll certification forms, surplus and donations. Mrs. Pellati advised that the Audit Committee would meet on 12/8/22 to discuss the detailed testing done on the Technology department and the annual risk assessment for the district. Other items discussed were the RFP for transportation, results will be on the January Board agenda, and the Capital Reserve Proposition vote will be held Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at the West Islip HS gymnasium.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting that took place on 12/6/22. The committee discussed student placements and the upcoming tour of special education programs scheduled for December 12. The next committee meeting will be January 4, 2023.

Audit Committee: Anthony Tussie reported on the meeting held 12/8/22. The district's external auditors, Cullen & Danowski, LLP discussed the detailed testing done on the Technology department and the annual risk assessment for the district.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2022-2023 General Fund budget transfers 4261-4267 and Capital Fund budget transfers 4258-4260.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Surplus – miscellaneous books – West Islip High School.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolutions: donation of varsity lacrosse jerseys from WI Varsity Lacrosse Booster Club valued at \$3,000; donation of \$500 for the Noelle Kuchler Performing Arts/Music scholarship from Dorothy Kuchler.

DONATIONS:

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of 45 Varsity Lacrosse jerseys valued at approximately \$3,000.00 from the West Islip Varsity Lacrosse Booster Club, which has been donated to the West Islip High School Varsity Lacrosse team.

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of a \$500 scholarship from Dorothy Kuchler, which has been donated to a West Islip High School senior performing arts/music student.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Tussie advised that the approval of the Winkler Real Estate Amendment #12 to the contract will be tabled for further discussion.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: destruction of unused and full ballot booklets from the May 17, 2022 election.

RESOLUTION

Upon the order of the commissioner of education per Education Law §2034(6), when a period of six months from the date of election has elapsed without any proceeding being commenced in regard to such election, the board of education may by written resolution order the destruction of unused ballots and full ballot booklets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves, the destruction of unused full ballot booklets not used at the May 17, 2022 election.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Special District Meeting - January 24, 2023.

Board Resolution for Special District Meeting

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the West Islip Union Free School District hereby approves, as follows:

Section 1. A Special District Meeting of the qualified voters of the West Islip Union Free School District, in the County of Suffolk, New York (the "District"), shall be held within the District, on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, in the West Islip High School, 1 Lions Path, West Islip, New York 11795 as provided in the Notice calling said Special District Meeting (hereinafter "Notice"). The voting at such Special District Meeting shall be by voting machine, as provided by the Education Law, and the polls shall remain open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on said day and as much longer as may be necessary to enable the voters, then present, to cast their votes.

Section 2. The business to be acted upon at said Special District Meeting shall be as stated in the Notice thereof; and the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause the Notice of said Special District Meeting to be published in "Newsday" and "Islip Bulletin," two newspapers each having a general circulation within the District, such publications to be at least made four (4) times within the seven (7) weeks next preceding such Special District Meeting, the first publications to be at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of said Special District Meeting.

Section 3. All other dates and times as more fully set forth in such Notice are hereby approved by the Board of Education.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Notice of Special Meeting (resolution in supplemental file).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Romanelli advised that he has continued to travel around the district and check on the programs going on throughout the buildings. Dr. Romanelli visited the planetarium along with the third graders at Paul J. Bellew and shared how this was an example of engaged learning and excitement in learning. Dr. Romanelli also advised that the district does plan to host some community trips to the planetarium this year.

Dr. Romanelli spoke about his visit to the Alternative School at West Islip High School and thanked all the educators that are part of this program. Dr. Romanelli explained that this school is for students who are not thriving in the regular high school setting, and how having this program helps students excel in academics.

Dr. Romanelli also spoke about the music concerts he has attended throughout the years and how West Islip is a level up and how proud he is of the district's Music department.

Dr. Romanelli informed the audience that the letter referenced by Mr. Tussie to Governor Hochul, will be sent out to the community tomorrow and will be posted on the district website.

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

John Piropato - Mr. Piropato is a representative for the Baseball Club and asked if there would be any upgrades to the baseball and softball stadium. Dr. Romanelli and Mr. Tussie advised that there have been discussions regarding this and that it is on the list, but the top projects are air conditioning and fire alarms.

Veronique Wallrapp - Mrs. Wallrapp thanked the Board for sending the letter to Governor Hochul and for having the upcoming vote regarding air conditioning for the schools. Mrs. Wallrapp asked if there have been any decisions regarding armed guards in the schools. Dr. Romanelli advised that the district currently has a School Resource Officer that is split with the Brentwood School District and the possibility of having the Suffolk County Police Department full time. Mrs. Wallrapp spoke about the summer reading program and how students may have regressed and Mrs. Morrison advised that there was great success with the program.

Kathryn Abbatiello - Mrs. Abbatiello inquired about the policy change regarding students not having to change into gym clothes. Dr. Romanelli advised that this was a collaborative effort on the part of Mr. Horan who reached out to other districts regarding the policy and many districts do have the same policy. The physical education teachers also felt that it was time to move away from the prior policy.

Laura Vetere - Mrs. Vetere asked what Plan B would be if Governor Hochul mandates masks and vaccines and suggested the district obtain legal representation for the students. Dr. Romanelli advised that other districts would be writing letters and would be proactive as well, and that this is only Phase I, and the district will stay ahead of this. Mr. Tussie advised that the district would continue to be proactive and support the students.

Claudia Worley - Mrs. Worley spoke about special education and how the district is moving in the right direction and inquired about adding ICT classrooms to each building ideally at the elementary schools. Dr. Romanelli explained that the district is presently in the budget process and will be having conversations about this. Mr. McCann spoke about how every child should have the opportunity to have the environment that is best for them in their own building and those discussions are ongoing.

Mr. Tussie expressed how grateful he is for Dr. Romanelli and for all the work that the staff has done for the students. On behalf of the board, Mr. Tussie expressed how the board is committed to the students and staff and wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:29 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:24 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 Debbie Brown and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Chief School Physicians – Dr. Puglisi and Dr. Grillo as Chief School Physicians at a total cost of \$20,000 per year, prorated in year one.

RESOLUTION:

Resolved, the Board of Education hereby approves Chief School Physicians, Dr. Puglisi and Dr. Grillo as Chief School Physicians at a total cost of \$20,000 per year, prorated in year one.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Settlement Agreement.

RESOLUTION:

Resolved, the Board of Education hereby approves the Settlement Agreement for SED File No. 38018, subject to review and approval by District Counsel, and authorizes the Board President and Superintendent of Schools to execute the Agreement on behalf of the District.

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m. on a motion by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Hock
District Clerk

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