

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 9, 2023 – West Islip High School

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

ABSENT: None

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

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Remembering Raymond V. Schwartz and Thomas C. Compitello

Mr. Tussie thanked the Color Guard and Jim Kraus for the presentation honoring Thomas Compitello.

Mr. Tussie, Mr. McCann and Dr. Romanelli spoke in memory of Raymond Schwartz and Thomas Compitello.

Mr. Tussie thanked the community for coming together during tough times and thanked them for their support.

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 January 24, 2023 Planning Session.

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: TENURE APPOINTMENT: Gail Daugherty, Assistant Director of Special Education, effective March 1, 2023.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the 2/7/23 Personnel Agenda as listed below.

TEACHERS

T-1

LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid)
(Pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993-
12-week continuous medical coverage)

Ashley Smar, Special Education
Effective February 1, 2023 through April 25, 2023
(High School and Udall)

T-2

CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid)

Ashley Smar, Special Education
Effective April 26, 2023 through June 30, 2023
(High School and Udall)

T-3

REGULAR SUBSTITUTE

Alyssa Brady, Mathematics
Effective February 10, 2023 through June 30, 2023
(Udall; Step 0.5 ¹; Replacing Melanie Vecchione {LoA})

Keith Warns, Special Education
Effective February 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023
(High School and Udall; Step 0.5 ⁴; Replacing Ashley Smar {LoA})

T-4

REGULAR SUBSTITUTE (RESIGNATION)

Daniel Sarfin, Mathematics
Effective February 10, 2023
(Udall)

CIVIL SERVICE

CL-1

CHANGE IN STATUS

Claire Appel, Assistant Cook
Effective February 10, 2023
(High School; Step 11; change from floater Assistant Cook to Assistant Cook; replacing
Veronica Tardugno {Senior Cook})

CL-1

CHANGE IN STATUS

Jessica Rega, Floater Assistant Cook
Effective February 10, 2023
(High School; Step 7; change from part-time Assistant Cook to full-time floater Assistant
Cook, replacing Claire Appel {Assistant Cook})

CL-2

RESIGNATION

Jennifer Mackin, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective February 9, 2023
(Manetuck)

CL-3

RETIREMENT

Lois Van Meurs, Senior Office Assistant
Effective April 17, 2023
(Udall; 26.87 years)

CL-4

PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Jennifer Mackin, Special Education Aide
Effective February 10, 2023
(Paul J. Bellew; Step 1; new position {IEP})

Mitchell Palminteri, Custodial Worker I
Effective February 10, 2023
(High School; Step 1; replacing Justin Escalera {Groundskeeper I})

CL-5 **TERMINATION**

Ray Schwartz, Guard (Deceased)
Effective January 17, 2023
(Districtwide)

CL-6 **SUBSTITUTE ASSISTANT COOK** (\$18.85/hr)

Olga Alma-Cruz, effective February 10, 2023

OTHER

PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$150 per diem)

Daniel Sarfin, Floater
Effective February 10, 2023 through June 23, 2023
(Districtwide)

SPRING 2023 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES

GIRLS LACROSSE

Jordan Ilchert, Assistant Varsity Coach

SPRING 2023 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES

GIRLS LACROSSE

Jesse Donnarumma, Assistant Udall Coach

CURRICULUM:

Mrs. Morrison spoke about visiting the schools and observing the purposeful learning experiences taking place in recognition of Black History Month. High School students are discussing the contributions African Americans have made to the United States. Middle School students are learning about Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois and their contributions to American culture. Elementary students are learning about and discussing famous black Americans such as Barack Obama, Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, Ruby Bridges, George Washington Carver, and Rosa Parks. Kindergarten students learned about Garrett Morgan, inventor of the traffic light and read a biographical article about his life.

Mrs. Morrison advised that National School Counseling Week is February 6-10 and thanked Mr. Arini, Director of School Counseling, the Social Workers, K-12 counselors, parents and staff who support the social emotional and academic well-being of the students. Mrs. Morrison spoke about her classroom visits to kindergarten, 2nd grade and 4th grade. She also advised that the high school psychologists and social worker are educating students on strategies to overcome anxiety and to keep both their bodies and minds active and healthy.

Mrs. Morrison announced that P.S. I Love You Day will be celebrated throughout the district tomorrow in all the buildings to bring awareness of the importance of mental health and prevent bullying. Ninth Grade Orientation will take place for 8th grade students and their parents on Monday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m., at the high school and Mrs. Morrison congratulated the students and their families who were inducted into the National English Honor Society and the National Honor Society.

Safety Committee: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting held 1/24/23. Items reviewed included update on blue light cameras, servers are running smoothly and the security staff were trained on tourniquets and packing wounds.

Mr. Tussie asked Mr. Carpenter to speak in memory of Thomas Compitello. Mr. Carpenter spoke about Mr. Compitello having a huge impact on the community and announced that the American Legion will be hosting a Post Memorial Day Parade and community barbeque to show the meaning of service and what Memorial Day is about. The Touch Down Committee will be raising money for the community and it will be a great way to celebrate Tom Compitello.

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meetings held 1/24/23 and 2/7/23. Items reviewed included bond and capital reserve work update. Mr. McCann advised that the Capital Reserve Vote passed and air conditioning would be installed this summer along with the building management systems controller upgrades. Middle School fire alarms will be installed in 2023 and High School fire alarms in 2024. Mr. McCann spoke about the Masera property and how the district is still exploring the possibility of a Technical Vocational School and looking into enrollment and also visiting facilities in other school districts to gather data and make an analysis. Mr. McCann also spoke about a possible tenant for the Masera property and will share further updates as they become available.

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting held 2/7/23. Items reviewed included high school midterms, elementary instruction, pre-kindergarten registration for 2023-2024, high school ALC 2023-2024, middle school math support for 2023-2024 and updates on K-12 digital fluency standards, curriculum review, and CSIP.

Finance Committee: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting held on 2/7/23. Items reviewed included the December treasurer's report, November and December extra-curricular reports, December payroll summary, December financial statements, January internal claims report, January system manager audit report, payroll certification forms, surplus items, contracts and bids. The committee reviewed the Tax Levy Limit calculation for the 2023-24 school year. The change in the consumer price index for 2022 was 8% so the allowable levy growth factor was capped at 2%. The district's allowable levy limit with exclusions results in a tax levy increase of 1.87%.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting that took place on 2/8/23. Items reviewed included an update to student placements and budgeting for next school year. The next meeting will take place on 3/8/23 at 8:30 a.m. Mrs. Brown also advised that there will be a SEPTA Bowl on 3/4/2023.

Health and Wellness Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meetings held 1/10/23 and 2/7/23. Items reviewed included financial report, gingerbread house decorating event, newsletter articles being collected, committee approval of donation up to \$500 to P.S. I Love You Day initiatives and 5th grade and 6th grade volleyball tournaments. Other items reviewed included newsletter mail date, exploring community fall 2023 events, exploring Don't Press Send program presentations for students/parents, Life-Vac for choking emergencies and concerns regarding Aloha Cigar Shop. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at P.J. Bellew elementary school.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2022-2023 General Fund budget transfers 4270-4277.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Request for Proposals #602 Large kitchen equipment and #603 Smallwares.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2022-2023 Contracts: Amityville UFSD Health Services ~ \$882.21, Farmingdale Health Services ~ \$1,306.47, PPT Therapies of Western Suffolk. PT, OT, SLP, LLP - Consultant Services Contract.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Surplus - Steamer ~ West Islip High School and miscellaneous books ~ Bayview.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Notice of Public Hearing, Budget Vote and Election of the West Islip Union Free School District, Suffolk County, New York.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: participation in a Cooperative Bid coordinated by the Board of Cooperative Education Services of Nassau County.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the results of the Special District Meeting held January 24, 2023 regarding the Use of Capital Reserves.

Mr. Tussie explained to the audience that the district was informed by the Town of Islip Tax Assessor that the district's exemption limits are already at \$29,000 and, therefore, the district did not need to have a Public Hearing or adopt new exemption limits. Mr. Tussie read the following information to the audience:

Since this information was previously discussed, and community members might wonder why the district is not going through with a public hearing, I thought you might want to make a statement at the next Board Meeting. If you do, perhaps the notes below might be helpful.

- In August 2022, New York State amended the statutory income limits for real property tax exemptions. This change allowed taxing jurisdictions to expand real property assessment relief for Senior Citizens with Limited Income and for Persons with Disabilities and Limited Income by increasing the maximum income limit from \$29,000 to \$50,000 for a 50% exemption.
- On October 18, 2022, the Town of Islip Board adopted the local options to increase the maximum income limit for a 50% exemption from \$29,000 to \$50,000 for both of these exemptions.
- In October 2022, the Islip Town Assessor asked local Board of Education to consider increasing the limits, suggesting we do so on a gradual basis. They also notified us that West Islip School District was currently at a limit of \$24,000 for both exemptions.
- The Board of Education discussed this topic at the January 3 Audit Committee and decided to increase the current income limits from \$24,000 to \$29,000 for both exemptions after a public hearing on February 9.
- However, on January 31 the district received an email from the Islip Town Assessor informing us the information originally provided to the district was incorrect as the district is already at the income limit of \$29,000 for both exemptions.
- Therefore, the District no longer needs to hold a public hearing or have the resolutions approved at the February 9 Board Meeting as we are already at the high exemption amounts.

If anyone has any questions, please let me know.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Romanelli spoke about some of the amazing things going on around the district. Dr. Romanelli and Mrs. Morrison visited two Pre-K classes at Oquenock Elementary for the 101st day of school. They read 101 Dalmatians to the children and the children were dressed as dalmatians. They then went over to Paul J. Bellew and saw the Middles helping Littles Program where middle school students help the elementary students and then went on to the high school to check out the science programs and visited Mrs. Kroll's class. Students presented research projects and analyzed one another's projects. Dr. Romanelli was very proud to see the high-level work taking place at the high school.

Dr. Romanelli also spoke about the Aloha Cigar Shop and concerns the district and community have regarding this shop. Dr. Romanelli read the letter that will be going out to Islip Town Supervisor, Mrs. Angie Carpenter, regarding the concerns and asking for their help. This letter will be sent out on 2/10/2023.

REMINDERS

Dr. Romanelli announced that West Islip would be hosting St. John's vs Manhattan NCCA Men's Lacrosse game this Saturday, February 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the high school stadium.

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

Kim Cairns – Mrs. Cairns had questions regarding summer camp at Oquenock and asked when it will be available. Mrs. Cairns also asked about talent camps and Mr. Tussie will be following up with her.

Susan Lipman - Mrs. Lipman spoke about Tom Compitello and his wonderful contributions to the students and the district and thanked Mr. Tussie and Mr. McCann for their moving comments. Mrs. Lipman also congratulated the Board regarding the passing of the Capital Reserve Vote and thought the letter Dr. Romanelli read to the audience regarding the Aloha Cigar Shop was excellent. She also asked what BOCES programs are the district looking into regarding the possible vocational school at Masera. Dr. Romanelli advised that the district would be visiting other BOCES programs at Sachem, Roslyn and Mineola school districts.

Doreen Hantzschel - Mrs. Hantzschel expressed how beautiful the ceremony for Tom Compitello was and how blessed the students were to have him as a teacher. Mrs. Hantzschel spoke about National Prayer Day on 5/4/23 and asked that the district consider drawing attention to the importance of this day. She also asked that the DEI Committee meetings be recorded for the community.

Stacy Piropato – Mrs. Piropato was representing the Baseball Booster Club. She was inquiring about installing a flag pole at the baseball softball complex so there could be a flag at the playoffs. Mr. Tussie advised that he would speak to Mr. Bosse of Buildings and Grounds and Dr. Romanelli asked Mrs. Piropato to e-mail him the specifics so the district can discuss the possibility of the project and the funding.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:58 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 9:59 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 re: Local 237.

Resolved, the Board of Education hereby approves a settlement agreement of Local 237 regarding CP-1655 and U-38244 and authorizes the Board President to execute it.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. on a motion by Richard Antonello, 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.