

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 19, 2023 – Beach Street Middle School

PRESENT: Mr. Tussie, Mr. Antonello, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Kelly, Mr. Maginniss, Mr. McCann
(arrived 7:35 p.m.)

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.

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 March 28, 2023 Planning Session.

RECOGNITION

Athletics

Boys Varsity Winter Track All County ~ Rocco Carpinello
Boys Varsity Swimming & Diving All County ~ William DeWitt
Varsity Cheerleading All County ~ Allyson Sesto
Varsity Cheerleading All County ~ Jenna Tyler
Varsity Cheerleading All County Academic ~ Aneliese Ammirata

Stock Market ~ Long Island Competition Student Winners

Fall 2021 Winners	Jake Avella – 3 rd Place	Joseph Pace – 14 th Place
Fall 2022 Winners	Matthew Greenwald – 5 th Place	Ryan Flynn – 13 th Place
	Gannon Klimuszko – 16 th Place	Jake McEnaney – 27 th Place

Student Video Showcase ~ Anastasiia Podliesna

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Tussie spoke about how the Board is dedicated to working in collaboration with parents, students and the community to ensure the safety of our schools. He announced that a school safety presentation would take place discussing all the preventative safety and security measures the district has in place. This includes counseling services and mental health resources. Dr. Romanelli spoke about mental health supports in the buildings and advised that the Panorama survey results will be shared at a future meeting.

School Safety Presentation

The Director of School Safety, Sean McAleavey, spoke about the district's security team which is made up of active Suffolk County Police Department officers, court officers, corrections officers, and retired police officers from NYPD, Port Authority PD and MTA PD. Mr. McAleavey spoke about the safety and security measures the district has in place. Some of these measures are 3M attack certified window film, surveillance camera system that is monitored all day long, new digital repeater system providing radio transmissions for better communication in and out of the buildings, school safety vehicles, a SCPD share program allowing for the SCPD to remotely tap into district cameras in the event of an emergency, security vestibules at all buildings, RAVE panic button app for your phone that automatically notifies SCPD and a Blue Light Lock Down system that is activated when a lockdown is needed.

The Deputy Police Commissioner of Suffolk County, Anthony Carter, also spoke about the many resources the SCPD has in place in case of an emergency. He spoke about response time being under a minute from the 911 call to dispatch to a building, rifle cars, active shooter drills, training security staff and faculty and how West Islip is a model for other districts regarding security measures.

Mr. Tussie thanked everyone and expressed how proud the Board is of the security team and advised that the district will do everything in their power to make the district as safe as possible.

Many parents asked questions and shared concerns that they had regarding a variety of subjects: Blue Light drills; response times; police resources in the area; rifle training; substitute teachers knowing the safety and security procedures; anxiety some students experience. Mr. McAleavey and the Suffolk County Deputy Police Commissioner answered their questions and concerns.

Many parents also asked about armed guards and the timeline the district has regarding making a decision about hiring armed guards. Mr. McAleavey explained that much research must be done and policy and procedures would have to be put in place and Mr. Tussie explained that you could not put a timeline on this decision. Dr. Romanelli advised that the district is listening to calls and e-mails, and taking everything into account and will reflect on what was heard. Dr. Romanelli also advised that discussions are taking place regularly and updates will be given.

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: John Ballantyne, Assistant Principal, effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 (High School; \$131,500; replacing Lauren Lay {reassigned}).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: RETIREMENT: Jack Maniscalco, Principal, effective July 1, 2023 (Oquenock).

Mr. Tussie spoke about Mr. Maniscalco and how he is a true treasure and will be forever missed. Dr. Romanelli spoke about how Mr. Maniscalco's leadership built a positive culture at Oquenock and how Mr. Maniscalco is a legend in West Islip and congratulated him on his great career and retirement.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the 4/19/23 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)
- Jodie Abelson-Sommer, Elementary
Effective May 18, 2023 through June 30, 2023
(Manetuck)
- Alexandra Kaulfers, Reading
Effective May 25, 2023 through June 30, 2023
(Paul J Bellew)
- T-2 CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid)
Jodie Abelson-Sommer, Elementary
Effective September 1, 2023 through January 1, 2024
(Manetuck)

T-2 Elizabeth Daddi, World Languages
Effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
(High School)

T-3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid)

Jaclyn Jacobs, English
Effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
(Udall)

T-4 REGULAR SUBSTITUTE

Milton Bonilla, Elementary
Effective March 27, 2023 to June 30, 2023
(Udall and Oquenock; Step .5¹; Replacing Lynnette Fawess {LOA})

T-4 REGULAR SUBSTITUTE

Paige Fogarty, Elementary
Effective April 17, 2023 to June 30, 2023
(Paul J Bellew; Step .5⁴; Replacing Alexandra Kaulfers {LOA})

Craig Perrino, Health
Effective March 27, 2023
(Beach; Step .5¹; Replacing Shanan Mauro {LOA})

Alyssa Bertolino, Elementary
Effective April 24, 2023 to June 30, 2023
(Manetuck, Step .5¹; Replacing Jodie Ableson-Sommer {LOA})

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

TA-1 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Kayleigh O'Connor, Special Education
Effective April 17, 2023 to April 16, 2027
(High School; Step 5; replacing Kerry Nowick {resigned})

CIVIL SERVICE

CL-1 CHANGE IN TITLE

Maria Vangeli, Part-Time Assistant Cook
Effective April 20, 2023
(Paul J. Bellew; Step 1; change from Part-Time Food Service Worker; replacing Jessica Rega {Full-Time Assistant Cook})

CL-2 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Megan Pardue, Health Office Aide
Effective May 5, 2023
(Beach Street; Step 1; replacing Erin Houston {resigned})

Belinda Rios, Senior Office Assistant
Effective May 5, 2023
(Udall; Step 1; replacing Lois Van Meurs {retired})

CL-3 SUBSTITUTE FOOD SERVICE WORKER (\$15.00/hr)

Elisa Candreva, effective April 20, 2023
Patricia Pacella, effective April 20, 2023

CL-4 SUBSTITUTE NURSE (\$150/per diem)

*Alana DiMartino, effective April 20, 2023
Danielle Gottlieb, effective April 20, 2023
Megan McDermott, effective April 20, 2023
Laurie Moran, effective April 20, 2023
Kelley Smith, effective April 20, 2023
Catherine Sullivan, effective April 20, 2023

OTHER

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem)

*Victoria Caccamo, effective April 17, 2023
*Joseph Caputo, effective April 20, 2023
Matthew Mazer, effective April 18, 2023
Laurie Moran, effective April 20, 2023
Catherine Sullivan, effective April 20, 2023

**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER RESIGNATION

Paige Fogarty
Effective April 17, 2023
(Paul J Bellew)

REGENTS REVIEW 2022-2023

Algebra I

Christina Bivona
Alyssa O'Connor
Christopher Salerno

Algebra II

Tara Annunziata
Beth Crimi
Brittany Probst

ASL I & III

Jennifer Suriano
Karen Testa

Biology

Renee Avelli
Kristine Hagens
Jennifer Hirdt
Jeff O'Hare
Frank Rapczyk

Chemistry

Jessica Alvarez
Michael Fusaro
Linda Tong

Earth Science

Danielle Dischley
John Hulsmann

English 11

Dawn DiVisconti

Geometry

Alissa Nanda
Nancy Yost

Global Studies

David Moglia

Italian 1

Brittany
DiLuciano
Elena Iacobellis

Italian 3

Stephany Camacho
Sarah Willman

Physics

Joseph Dixon
Daniel Varney

Spanish I

Caryn Drezner
Monica Elgut
Kristina Rocco

Spanish 3

Anna Domingo

U.S. History

Daniel Gschwind

OTHER, continued

PREFERRED SUBSTITUTE

Victoria Evola
Effective April 20, 2023
(High School; \$171.83/day; new position)

Courtney Arnold
Effective April 24, 2023
(High School; \$171.83/day; new position)

CURRICULUM:

Mrs. Morrison introduced Dr. Patrick Kiley-Rendon, the district's new Executive Director of Technology and Innovation.

Mrs. Morrison advised that the NYS ELA tests for Grades 3-5 will take place on Tuesday, April 25 and Wednesday, April 26, 2023 and Math tests for Grades 3-5 will take place on Thursday, May 4 and Friday, May 5, 2023. The NYS ELA tests for Middle School Grades 6-8 will take place on Wednesday, April 19 and Thursday, April 20, 2023 and Math tests for Grades 6-8 will take place on Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

Mrs. Morrison spoke about Dr. Romanelli reaching out to students, parents and staff for feedback (via a survey) regarding the profile of a West Islip graduate and the skills, attributes, and competencies the West Islip community feels are important for graduates to possess. This district has received over 1,000 responses and the survey is still open and next week the administrative team will meet to review the results and determine the next steps.

Mrs. Morrison also spoke about impressive learning experiences and events taking place in the district. Mrs. Morrison advised that significant strides continue to take place in elementary literacy, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teachers met for a second training on the Heggerty program, two speech pathologist along with Dr. Walsh facilitated a workshop which focused on the importance of phonological and phonemic awareness, and kindergarten and first grade students are using Geodes.

Mrs. Morrison advised that the district held two professional development sessions focused on the development of reading and the Science of Reading and the teachers attending noted that the session was informative and helpful. Students at Udall and Beach recently experienced the Sweethearts and Heroes Program, which promotes healthy, positive social connections and relationships. IB diploma students took a trip to the Illusion Museum, the National Math Honor Society inducted their first ever class into Mu Alpha Theta. The Business Education Department participated in the Long Island Business Teachers Association Contest. Manetuck students visited South Shore Farm and 5th grade entrepreneurs at Oquenock re-opened their Bead Bonanza Market and worked together in a team to create beaded bracelets to sell to the school community.

Education Committee: Richard Antoniello reported on the meeting held 4/18/23. Items reviewed included an Acceleration for All (Math & Science programs) presentation and the benefits of this program. Other items discussed were the Panorama Survey results regarding the mental health of students and flagging those that need support, review classes after school, class ranking and NYS ELA and Math tests for Grades 3-5 had lower opt out rates than in previous years.

Finance Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting held on 4/18/23. Items reviewed included the February treasurer's report, February extra-curricular report, February payroll summary, February financial statements, March internal claims audit report, March system manager audit report, payroll certification forms, surplus, donations, contracts, change order, bid extensions and American Rescue Plan SEDCAR contracts.

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting held 4/18/23. Items discussed included the air conditioning project, which is moving along quickly, and should be ready to go for September. BBS gave a presentation regarding the high school pool, which is 60 years old, and the district is in discussion regarding modernizing and expanding the pool. Mr. McCann advised that tours of other schools and programs are underway regarding Masera possibly becoming a technical and vocational school and there is a potential candidate that could possibly lease the building for a not for profit school.

Health and Wellness Committee: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting held 4/4/23. Items reviewed included Health and Wellness Scholarships and the committee will be reviewing applications. A Halloween Hustle Community Event will take place Sunday, October 15 and will replace the Color Run, Don't Press and Send presentations will take place on May 2 and there was positive feedback on the Health & Wellness Alliance Newsletter.

Safety Committee: Peter McCann reported on the meeting held 4/18/23. Items reviewed included technology updates on blue lights, camera relocation, and artificial intelligence software for camera system.

Special Education Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting that took place on 4/18/23. Items reviewed included special education pre-school screenings and student placements.

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 4283-4289.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Change Order: Roland Electric, Inc. (\$5,000.00) credit Oquenock Elementary.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Surplus: Miscellaneous textbooks – West Islip High School and miscellaneous books – Udall Road Middle School

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Bid Extensions 2023-2024: #2201 Emerald Electric and Solar, Inc.; #2202 Greenvelvet Tree, Inc.; #2203 Cardinal Control Systems, Inc.; #2204 National Fire and Safety Solutions, Inc.; #2205 Long Island Geese Control; #2207 Winter Bros. Hauling of Long Island, LLC; #2208 Riddell/All American; #2210 Paramount Pest Elimination, Inc.; #2211 Dynasty Elevator Corp.; #2110 Fitzgerald's Driving School, Inc.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Contracts 2022-2023: Half Hollow Hills Special Education Contract; Deer Park UFSD Health Services Contract; Syosset Central School District Health Services Contract.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve SEDCAR ARP Contracts 2022-2023: ACDS; ACLD; Alternatives for Children; Bilinguals Inc.; Childhood Learning Center; Brookville Center for Children's Services, Inc.; Building Blocks Developmental Center; Center for Developmental Disabilities c/o IGHL; Connetquot Central School District of Islip; Developmental Disabilities Institute, Inc.; Eden II Programs; The Hagedorn Little Village School; Just Kids Early Childhood Learning Center; Kids First Evaluation and Advocacy Center; Kids in Action of L.I. Inc.; Kidz Therapy Services, PLLC; Leeway School; Little Angels Center; Metro Therapy; Mid Island Associates; Mountain Lake Academy; Nassau Suffolk Services for the Autism; The Opportunity Pre-School; Suffolk County Department of Social Services; United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Suffolk, Inc.; Woods Services.

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 New York School Insurance Reciprocal (NYSIR) - \$1,000 to WIHS.

DONATION:

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of donated funds in the amounts of \$1,000 from New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal (NYSIR), which have been donated to contribute to the costs associated with the high school college fair for the students of the West Islip High School.

RESOLUTION: INCREASE 2022-2023 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorize the appropriation budget for the 2022-2023 school year to be increased to \$130,248,409, an increase of the \$1,000 donation from NYSIR for the West Islip High School.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Donation – West Islip Softball Booster Club – Purchase of uniforms (value approximately \$2,000.00).

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 Reorganizational Meeting – July 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at West Islip High School.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2023-2024 Regular Meeting and Planning Session dates.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ESBOCES 2023-2024 Administrative Budget and Trustee Election.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Resolution re: Adoption of the 2023-2024 School District Budget of \$134,220,230 and the 2023-2024 Property Tax Report Card.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District Board of Education is required to present a budget to the voters for the 2023-2024 School year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Proposed Budget for the 2023-2024 School Year be adopted for a total of \$134,220,230; and be it further

RESOLVED, THAT THE 2023-2024 Property Tax Report Card is approved to be transmitted to the New York State Department of Education as so required.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Tussie congratulated Dr. Romanelli, Elisa Pellati, Dawn Morrison and everyone who worked on the budget for all their efforts and thanked them for a job well done.

The district was able to manage the gaps, there were no cuts, expand BOCES programs, add an Assistant Director for Special Education, additional UPK 250 students, add preferred subs, math coaches, 6th grade integrated teacher and chrome books for first graders.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve personnel for the May 16, 2023 School Budget Vote and Trustee Election.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Resolution re: Request for Proposal of Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program 2023-2024 school year.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the West Islip UFSD hereby approves South Shore Children's Center as the agency to run a universal pre-kindergarten program in accordance with the terms set forth in the RFP - Universal Pre-kindergarten Program for the 2023-2024 school year and authorizes the District to enter into a consultant services agreement, subject to review by counsel.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Memorandum of Agreement re: Local 237 Clerical – Summer hours.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve WITA Lease Agreement 6/1/2023 - 5/31/2024.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Romanelli gave a shout out to West Islip students and shared how impressed he is every day when visiting the buildings. Dr. Romanelli stopped by the high school recently to visit the Thirst Project where students have raised enough money to bring a well to communities in Africa so they have fresh water. Dr. Romanelli is very proud of the work these students are doing. Dr. Romanelli also went to Islip Town Hall to honor two high school students for their efforts in community service. Every day there is something amazing going on in the district.

Dr. Romanelli advised that the Spring Newsletter would be going out soon.

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

Danika Riccio - Danika is a high school student who asked if a motion could be made to change district policy regarding home schooled students participating in after school activities. Danika also asked if she would be able to attend the end of the year Robotics dinner since she was on the team in September. Mr. Tussie explained that a motion could not be made to change policy, but the policy can be reviewed. Dr. Romanelli advised that he would look into the matter regarding the Robotics dinner and get back to Danika.

Doreen Hantzschel - Mrs. Hantzschel spoke about the importance of National Prayer Day on May 4 and asked if this information could be displayed on the high school electronic sign. Mrs. Hantzschel also spoke about the DEI Committee and feels it creates more havoc than good, is not a good thing and puts race against race. She feels it divides and does not bring unity and the committee meetings should be recorded and open to more people.

Dr. Romanelli explained to Mrs. Hantzschel that the point of the DEI Committee is to lift up all students and for students to hear from one another and benefit from different perspectives. He spoke about the subcommittees and how they have non-partisan conversations in the classrooms. Dr. Romanelli advised that sixty people attended the last committee meeting and were from all sides discussing what is best for the students. He advised that every parent who expressed an interest was invited to be on the committee. Dr. Romanelli stressed that there is not a political agenda and nothing is being taken away from any student to give to someone else. He explained that there are no politics in the classroom and he welcomes all parents, the committee notes are transparent, and there are three subcommittees ensuring success for all students.

Laura Vetere – Mrs. Vetere asked if the fourth grade at Oquenock could have another teacher and Dr. Romanelli advised that another section would be added.

Mr. Tussie thanked the residents for coming to the meeting and reminded everyone that the School Budget Vote and Trustee Election is on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

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 9:43 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:21 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 Grace Kelly and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: carryover of vacation days for Patricia Liggan.

RESOLVED

Resolved, the Board of Education hereby authorizes Patricia Liggan to carryover a maximum of ten (10) unused vacation days from her 2022-2023 allotment which days must be used prior to June 30, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 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.