

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**January 7, 2021 – Virtual Meeting**

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.

Mr. Gellar wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020 Regular Meeting.

**PERSONNEL:**

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: LEAVE OF ABSENCE (CANCELLATION) (paid) (Pursuant to FEPSLA): Jennifer Colonna, World Languages, effective October 15, 2020 – October 28, 2020 (High School; approved at BOE Meeting November 12, 2020).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: LEAVE OF ABSENCE (CANCELLATION) (paid) (Pursuant to FEPSLA): Siobhan Kelly, English, effective November 2, 2020 – November 13, 2020 (Beach Street; approved at BOE meeting November 12, 2020).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid) (Pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 – 12 week continuous medical coverage): Jodie Abelson-Sommer, Elementary effective December 23, 2020 – April 12, 2021 (Manetuck Elementary).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid) (Pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 – 12 week continuous medical coverage): Paul Bodnar, Mathematics, effective January 4, 2021 – April 13, 2021 (High School).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid) (Pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 – 12 week continuous medical coverage): Tonimarie Young, Special Education, effective December 8, 2020 – March 22, 2021 (Paul J. Bellew).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: Laura Tramantano, Part Time Office Assistant, effective June 18, 2021 (18 years).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Kayla DiMino, Special Education Aide, effective January 14, 2021 (Manetuck; Step 1; new position).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RESIGNATION: Ryan McCormick, Permanent Substitute Teacher, effective December 24, 2020 (Bayview).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVER (\$25.86/hr.) \*Barbara Lirosi, effective January 8, 2021.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN (\$14.00/hr.): Michael Librizzi, effective January 8, 2021; Angelo Licata, effective January 8, 2021; Edward Spradley, Jr., effective January 8, 2021.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE PARAPROFESSIONAL (\$14.00/hr.): Lisa MacInness, effective January 8, 2021; Diane Mahoney-Paredes, effective January 8, 2021.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$150 per diem): Gabrielle Mescia, effective December 14, 2020 – June 25, 2021.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem):

Rachel Altrui, effective January 8, 2021
*Stephanie Bagley, effective January 5, 2021
*Rachel Bernstein, effective January 8, 2021, student teacher
Ashley Berrell, effective January 8, 2021
Grace Bolin, effective January 8, 2021
Catherine Brudi, effective January 8, 2021, student teacher
*Brian Camarco, effective January 8, 2021, student teacher
Thomas Carusillo, effective January 8, 2021
Angelique DeRosa, effective January 8, 2021
*Deanna DiMartino, effective January 8, 2021
Michael Dondero, effective January 8, 2021
Danielle Ferruggiari, effective January 8, 2021
*Kathryn Ginty, effective January 8, 2021, student teacher
Alexander Giordano, effective January 8, 2021
Kristina Giordano, effective January 8, 2021
Holly Gozinsky, effective January 8, 2021, student teacher
Kiersten Held, effective January 8, 2021
Morgan Kube, effective January 8, 2021
Kristy Mangiano, effective January 8, 2021
Mackenzie Martocci, effective January 8, 2021
Alexander Passannante, effective January 8, 2021
Savannah Rinne, effective January 8, 2021
Samantha Santangelo, effective January 8, 2021
Gionna Second, effective January 8, 2021
Krista Virga, effective January 8, 2021

\*Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: CLUBS/ADVISORS 2020-2021: HIGH SCHOOL: World Language Honor Society, Brittany DiLuciano and Sarah Willman (shared).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: BEACH STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL: Art Club, Jill Culver.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: UDALL ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL: Mindfulness Club, Melissa Morales; Yearbook, Theresa Robertson; Yearbook/Newspaper Photographer, Michael Taranto.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: WINTER 2020-2021 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES: BOYS BOWLING (AMENDED): Steven Mileti, Varsity Coach (replacing James Farnworth; approved at BOE meeting August 25, 2020). BOYS WINTER TRACK (AMENDED): Vincent Melia, Varsity Coach (replacing Anthony Yuli; approved at BOE Meeting August 25, 2020).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTED NURSE: Per diem rate change from \$130 to \$150; at 30 more days to \$180.

#### CURRICULUM UPDATE:

Mrs. Morrison advised that she visited classrooms throughout the district this week. Students and staff have transitioned well from the recent break and students and teachers were engaged in lively discussions and socially distanced collaboration related to grade level skills or subject area curriculum.

Mrs. Morrison also advised that The New York State Office of Mental Health, in partnership with the University of Rochester Medical Center, selected West Islip as one of six school districts in the state to partake in a six month learning collaborative focused on the current mental health systems and supports in place at West Islip High School. This will be a unique opportunity for the high school to engage in strategic action planning, self-assessment, coaching, technical assistance and development/advancement of the mental health support systems at the high school under the guidance of mental health professionals out in the field. This learning collaborative is entitled SHAPE, (School Health and Performance Evaluation System) and will commence within the next few weeks and be ongoing for the next 6 months.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Education Committee: Richard Antoniello reported on the virtual meeting that took place 1/5/2021. The committee discussed secondary course proposals. The first course proposal is STEM Research, allowing students to solve problems according to their interest; the second course is Science and Cinema (self-contained), providing students with a fourth year of science; the third course is Survival on Other Planets (self-contained), in which students will be uncovering facts about scientific event and discoveries. The committee discussed 2021-2022 Course Title Changes: Physics Honors will be renamed Physics and Childhood Education will be renamed Advanced Child Study; and Non-Regents Chemistry will no longer be offered. Universal screening for grades K-8 are upcoming and RTI meetings will follow. Pre-K registration information is available on the district website.

Finance Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the virtual meeting held on 1/5/2021. Items reviewed included the November treasurer's report and extra-curricular report; December payroll summary; November financial statements; December claims audit report; December system manager audit report; payroll certification forms; surplus; and Change Order. Mrs. Pellati discussed the number of ballots that should be ordered for the upcoming Masera Vote. It was decided that the district will purchase 6,000 ballots to ensure a sufficient quantity.

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the virtual meeting that took place on 1/5/2021.

Mr. McCann gave an update of ongoing projects: the planetarium is on target for completion by 2/1/2021; the pool is open and work is being finalized; high school second floor bathrooms are open; automatic door swipe almost complete. The committee discussed phase 6 projects and possible capital improvement projects, looking at safety and security first. Noresco gave a presentation on the Solar Panel Project as part of the energy performance contract; 63% of energy consumption will be paid for by the project. The vote on the sale of the Masera property will take place on 1/19/2021.

Mr. Gellar advised that he watched a demonstration of the planetarium and it was spectacular.

Special Education Committee: Tom Compitello reported on the virtual meeting held 1/6/2021/virtual. Items included a review of budget, CSE meetings and remote learning.

Health and Wellness Committee: Peter McCann reported on the virtual meeting that took place on 1/5/2021. Items reviewed included creation of the newsletter, the return of low risk sports – bowling, swimming, track; and a virtual presentation of The Addict's Diary by Kevin Alter on Tuesday, 1/26/2021, at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 2/9/2021, at 10:00 a.m.

#### FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The treasurer's report for November was presented: beginning balance \$43,744,622.39; ending balance \$40,502,571.60.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve General Fund budget transfers 3998-4004 and Capital Fund transfer 3999.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following surplus: miscellaneous Buildings & Grounds equipment.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Change Order No. 1: Mt. Olympos Restoration Inc. – WIHS - \$57,674.81.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: State Environmental Quality Review Act {SEQRA}(resolution included in supplemental file).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Energy Performance Contract (resolution included in supplemental file).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Nurses' MoA: recording of attendance.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Personnel for Special District Meeting – January 19, 2021.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mrs. Burns advised that Governor Cuomo is expected to give his annual State of the State address on January 11, 2021 and articulate his priorities for the upcoming year. The Legislative Committee of Suffolk Superintendents have met several times to discuss legislation and advocate for funding. Many districts had large expenditures due to COVID-19.

Mrs. Burns advised that she was informed on Tuesday, 1/5/2021, that some school personnel, specifically nurses, psychologists, social workers, speech therapists, occupational therapists and physical therapists are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at sites in Riverhead, Stony Brook University and the Brentwood Campus of Suffolk Community College. Mrs. Burns also explained that the process is to be rolled out methodically by phases.

Mrs. Burns reminded everyone that a webinar is being held Monday evening January 11 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the sale of the Masera property. A registration link is on the district website and the panelists will include the developer, contractor, engineer, school counsel, and Mr. Gellar. The Masera vote will take place on Tuesday, January 19, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at West Islip High School

Mrs. Burns wished everyone a happy and joyous New Year.

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 8:01 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 8:02 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 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.