

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 3, 2022 – Beach Street Middle 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. Arntsen

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

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 January 18, 2022 Planning Session.

The following resident wished to speak regarding an Agenda Item:

Kathryn Abbatiello – Mrs. Abbatiello inquired about agenda item - Suffolk County Police Department Memorandum of Understanding regarding - School Resource Officer. Mrs. Burns advised that the School Resource Officer is an existing relationship with the Suffolk County Police Department that is memorialized with the memorandum of understanding. The district's SRO is split with Brentwood.

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the 2/3/2022 Personnel Agenda as listed below:

TEACHERS

T-1 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT
Alexandra Ragin, School Counselor
Effective August 17, 2022 to August 16, 2025
(High School; Step 14; replacing Salvatore Losardo {retired})

T-2 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED)
Kaitlin Palmieri, Psychologist
Effective December 13, 2021 to December 12, 2024
(High School; change in date from December 6, 2021 to December 5, 2024)

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.

- T-3 REGULAR SUBSTITUTE
Megan Rooney, Special Education
Effective January 28, 2022 through June 30, 2022
(Manetuck; Step 1A¹; replacing Deanna Johnson {LoA})
- Sarah Campbell, Health
Effective February 2, 2022 through June 30, 2022
(Beach; Step 1A⁴; replacing Shanan Mauro {LoA})
- T-4 TENURE APPOINTMENT
Jeremy Robertson, Physical Education
Effective January 25, 2022

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

- TA-1 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT, (AMENDED)
Kierstin Ryder
Effective August 31, 2021 to August 30, 2025
(Bayview; change in step from Step 1 to Step 3)

CIVIL SERVICE

- CL-1 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT
Catherine Sinchi, Special Education Aide
Effective February 4, 2022
(Manetuck; Step 1; replacing C. Rendino {resigned})
- CL-2 SUBSTITUTE GUARD
Daniel Jagiello, effective February 4, 2022 (\$22.80/hr)
Brian Puglisi, effective February 7, 2022 (\$22.80/hr)
- CL-3 SUBSTITUTE PARAPROFESSIONAL (\$15/hr)
Jenine Schroeder, effective February 4, 2022

OTHER

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem)
Christie Rendino, effective January 20, 2022, *student teacher*

ADULT EDUCATION SPRING 2022

Alexandra Bergin (Zumba) \$35/hr
Lenny Butler (Community CPR) \$30/hr
Jake Caramico (How Money Works) no cost to West Islip
Drake Castonguay (Lifeguard) \$20/hr
Kim Crichton (Yoga, Stretch, Body Sculpt) \$35/hr
James Grover (Basketball) \$35/hr
Matthew Haszinger (Volleyball) \$35/hr
Phyllis Hintze (Ballroom Dancing) \$30/hr
Caylee Klimuszeko (Lifeguard) \$20/hr
Evan Levy (Social Security Planning) no cost to West Islip
Bruce Lieberman (Defensive Driving) no cost to West Islip
Jane Loehle (Aquacise) \$35/hr
Lea Parascandola (Lifeguard) \$20/hr

OTHER, continued

Nizza Tasayco (Volleyball) \$35/hr
Richard Tesoro (About Boat Safety) no cost to West Islip
Robert Watts (Introduction to Guitar/Piano) \$30/hr

ENRICHMENT INSTRUCTORS SPRING 2022 (\$275 per session)

Lisa Cosgrove (Coding is Cool, Coding for Kids)
Justin DeMaio (LEGOS I & II)
Michelle Edgley (Soak & Scrub, Crime Scene Capers)
Theresa Robertson (Creative Cooking I & II)

CLUBS/ADVISORS 2021-2022

MANETUCK

Coding, Louis Riley

SPRING 2022 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES

BASEBALL

Shawn Rush, Varsity Coach
Richard Zeitler, Assistant Varsity Coach
Michael LaCova, J.V. Coach
Joseph LaCova, J.V. and Varsity Volunteer

SOFTBALL

Colleen Reilly, Varsity Coach
John T. Denninger, Assistant Varsity Coach
Edward Jablonski, J.V. Coach

BOYS TRACK

Jeremy Robertson, Varsity Coach
John Lavery, Assistant Varsity Coach

GIRLS TRACK

Nicholas Grieco, Varsity Coach
Vincent Melia, Assistant Varsity Coach

BOYS LACROSSE

Thomas Corcoran, Varsity Coach
Kyle Kerrigan, Assistant Varsity Coach
Sean McAleavey, J.V. Coach
Michael Delgado, Assistant J.V. Coach
Scott Mattera, Varsity Volunteer Coach
Anthony Pellati, J.V. and Varsity Volunteer

GIRLS LACROSSE

Joseph Nicolosi, Varsity Coach
Brian Cameron, Assistant Varsity Coach
Thomas Powers, J.V. Coach
Annelise Muscietta, Assistant J.V. Coach

BOYS TENNIS

George Botsch, Varsity Coach
James Dooley, J.V. Coach
Norm Wingert, Varsity Volunteer Coach

GIRLS GOLF

Thomas Loudon, Varsity Coach

UNIFIED BASKETBALL

Ryan Foley, Coordinator

Erin Bies-Harris, Assistant Coordinator

SPRING 2022 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES

BASEBALL

Kevin Osburn, 7-8 Udall Coach

Frank Franzone, 7-8 Beach Coach

SOFTBALL

Tara Annunziata, 7-8 Udall Coach

BOYS TRACK

Kevin Murphy, 7-8 Udall Coach

Christopher Salerno, 7-8 Beach Coach

GIRLS TRACK

Lindsay Morgan-Valentino, 7-8 Beach Coach

BOYS LACROSSE

Greg Schmalenberger, 7-8 Udall Coach

Dennis J. Coleman, Assistant Udall Coach

Louis Riley, 7-8 Beach Coach

Michael Murray, Assistant Beach Coach

GIRLS LACROSSE

Cara Douglas, 7-8 Udall Coach

Kristen Doherty, 7-8 Beach Coach

Sarah Campbell, Assistant Beach Coach

BOYS & GIRLS SWIMMING

Thomas Bruder, 7-8 Udall/Beach B & G Coach

Daniel Gschwind, Assistant Udall/Beach B & G Coach

BOYS TENNIS

JoAnne Orehosky, 7-8 Udall/Beach Coach

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Mrs. Morrison informed the audience that fourth grade students at Paul J. Bellew recently went on a walking field trip to the public library and learned about all the library has to offer. A similar trip is planned for Pre-K classes at Bellew in the spring. Mrs. Traver's sixth grade writer's workshop students at Udall are learning to apply their creative thinking skills by writing their own original stories and publishing them on a secure website for classmates to view. Mrs. Hudson's Pre-K class at Oquenock recently learned why animals can stay outside during the winter without getting cold. Additional information on the learning experiences taking place throughout the district can be found on the district website.

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting held 2/1/2022. Items reviewed included the AP/IB programs; the Community Service and Involvement Program for the Class of 2022; Pre-K; the DEI initiative; and the change to digital administration of the SATs.

Finance Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting held on 2/1/2022. Items reviewed included the December treasurer's report; December extra-curricular report, December payroll summary, January internal claims audit report; January system manager audit report, payroll certification forms; surplus; contract; and a change order. Mrs. Pellati discussed the Tax Levy Limit for 2022-2023. Budget meetings will take place on 3/1, 3/15, 3/29, 4/12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Beach Street auditorium.

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting that took place on 2/1/2022. Items reviewed included ongoing construction projects; the Manetuck generator; air conditioning in the cafeterias; sound systems in the middle school gyms and high school turf field; the solar roof project; capital projects; and other potential improvements. The first Maser Committee meeting will take place on February 16. There will be two sessions from 9:00 a.m.-12 p.m. and 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting held 2/2/2022. Items discussed included updates to student placements. Annual reviews are currently being scheduled.

Safety Committee: Tom Compitello reported on the meeting held on 1/18/2022. Items reviewed included blue light cameras; camera maintenance; high school vaping education; and the high school incident on 12/10/2021 caused by social media postings.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The treasurer's report for December was presented: beginning balance \$ 49,582,709.63; ending balance \$42,320,438.87.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve General Fund budget transfers 4130-4132 and Capital Fund budget transfers 4128-4129.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Surplus: Spanish textbooks – Beach Street Middle School; Biology textbooks – 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 2021-2022 Health Services Contract – Bay Shore UFSD ~ \$17,307.87.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Change Order: Mt. Olympos Restoration, Inc. - \$20,000 – West Islip High School.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Suffolk County Police Department Memorandum of Understanding re: School Resource Officer.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve revised School Reopening Plan 2021-2022.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Teamsters Local 237 Clerical Memorandum of Agreement re: negotiated agreement.

Mr. Tussie announced that Mrs. Burns would be retiring in August. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Tussie expressed that it has been an honor and a pleasure to work with Mrs. Burns for the past two years and expressed that she has been a true asset and leader for the students, faculty and staff of West Islip.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Administrative: Retirement: Bernadette M. Burns, Superintendent of Schools, effective August 15, 2022.

Mrs. LaRosa applauded Mrs. Burns for her 28 years of service to the district as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, and Superintendent and for her dedication to the students of West Islip. Mrs. LaRosa also thanked Mrs. Burns for her many accomplishments as Superintendent including two bond issues, athletic fields, music rooms, expanded STEM program, Science Intel winners and the naming of West Islip High School as a Blue Ribbon School, to name a few. Mrs. LaRosa wished Mrs. Burns a very happy retirement.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mrs. Burns thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the West Islip School District for 28 years and as Superintendent for the past nine years. Mrs. Burns expressed that she has been privileged to work with an amazing teaching and support staff and administrative team as well as with 13 board trustees, all of whom have worked tirelessly on behalf of the students of the district.

Mrs. Burns advised the audience that the district has been informed that it will receive COVID test kits for distribution to all interested student households prior to February recess. The kits are for use before students and staff return to school after February break. More information is forthcoming.

Mrs. Burns thanked the PTA Council and the volunteers that worked the Blood Drive. There were 59 donors resulting in 207 lives saved.

NOTICES/REMINDERS:

Mrs. LaRosa reminded everyone that P.S. I Love You Day will take place on February 11, 2022.

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

Juliana Parasmó – Juliana is a student and spoke about the ineffectiveness of masks and the long-term mental health issues for students.

Frank Mercante – Mr. Mercante spoke about the effects on students who are wearing masks and the positive results of one day of normalcy without masks for his daughter. Mr. Mercante stated that wearing a mask, social distancing and testing has created anxiety, depression and fear in children and objected to students without masks being separated from their peers. Mr. Mercante stated that Mr. Tussie is not fit to be on the Board. Mr. Tussie responded that Board members volunteer their time and are subjected to lawsuits, threats, harassment, hundreds of E-mails, public scrutiny, exploitation of their children. The Board cares about the current state of affairs but there are things they cannot control.

Lisa Curley – Mrs. Curley spoke about mandates that are unconstitutional and that teachers and staff are not qualified to practice medicine or give medical advice.

Brendan Curly – Mr. Curley advised the Board that he is issuing a Letter of Intent to the Board members and Superintendent and feels they should be held liable for not upholding their oath. He served the District Clerk with these documents.

Lisa Mercante – Mrs. Mercante expressed concern that students in the front of the building during recess were not adequately supervised and questioned the lack of consistency between this and the decision not to hold a Halloween Parade. Mrs. Burns explained that the Halloween Parade attracts over 500 attendees, and would share the concerns with Mr. Mullins. Mrs. Mercante questioned how security costs of \$200,000 were apportioned; Mrs. Pellati explained that the costs are over a three year period.

Zuzia Klusek – Zuzia is an eighth-grade student and spoke about the effects of wearing a mask, including restricted breathing, and that students who are not wearing masks are separated from other students and are not receiving the education they need from substitute teachers. Mr. Tussie advised that he hopes that the mask mandate is lifted soon.

Deborah - Deborah spoke about the antisemitic behavior her children have experienced in the community. Deborah feels these are hate crimes and is not happy with how the district has handled the threats and bullying against her children. Mrs. Burns or Mrs. Morrison will follow up with her.

Rose Hicks – Mrs. Hicks thanked the Board and spoke about her son’s medical vulnerability and how masks help to keep children safe. She urged parents to think about her son because the choices of others will affect him. Mrs. Hicks advised that students should be accepted for who they are and that nothing good comes from hate.

Veronica Galati – Mrs. Galati spoke about the importance of adults serving as role models and stated that teachers are pushing their own fear on to students. Mrs. Galati expressed that the mental health of students should be more important.

Rose Randazzo – Mrs. Randazzo stated the district does not care about parent choice. Mr. Tussie advised that the Board previously has taken steps to communicate with the Governor on two separate occasions. Mr. Antonello reminded the audience that the policies affect the Board’s own children, as well.

Laura Vetere – Mrs. Vetere spoke about the threatening letter she received from the district about her children not wearing masks. Mrs. Vetere advised that the mask mandate is up to school boards; Mrs. LaRosa advised that is not true. Mrs. Vetere believes the COVID numbers are inflated and the district should get back to normal.

Aiden Tully – Aiden is a sixth grade student at Udall. Aiden expressed that masks should be a choice and that he wants a normal life back.

Veronique Wallrapp – Mrs. Wallrapp stated that the Board is not advocating for the students and that the law regarding masks is unconstitutional. Mr. Tussie advised that the Board twice wrote letters to the Governor regarding masks. Mrs. LaRosa advised that the Board advocates for students but when a judge makes a decision, the district must follow the decision.

Alexis DeLorenzo – Alexis is a student at Udall. Alexis hates masks and the fear everyone has regarding them. Alexis expressed that she has the right to stand up for herself and for what is right, including the right for an education and a right to breathe.

Lauren Kasuba – Mrs. Kasuba stated the government is controlling health choices and the Board has not done anything to help the community. She feels masks are unconstitutional and is asking for choice.

Tyler Burnett – Tyler is a fifth grade student at Oquenock and spoke about how happy he was to go to school mask-free for one day. Tyler declined wearing a mask when the mandate was upheld and wants to stand up for the students.

Christine Mencarelli – Mrs. Mencarelli asked Mrs. Burns if a student absence due to a mental health crisis was an excused absence from school. Mrs. Burns advised yes, as long as it is documented. Mrs. Mencarelli advised that her child attending elementary school was excused, but her child in middle school was not. Mrs. Burns will follow up.

Claudia Worley – Mrs. Worley spoke about the importance of advocating for the people you love. Mrs. Worley feels the Board and Superintendent have not advocated for the students and should be replaced.

Melissa Carley – Mrs. Carley is a nurse and spoke about the importance of educating teachers and students regarding COVID and how best to mitigate fear as we move forward. She asked the Board to fight the Governor and write more letters to advocate for students. Mrs. Burns advised that the issue of preparing for life beyond COVID has been a discussion item among superintendents and the district will share some strategies shortly.

Doreen Hantzschel – Mrs. Hantzschel wanted to clarify that she does not condone bullying and she cannot control what people think about her. She spoke about the importance of God and importantly, values.

Diana DeLorenzo – Mrs. DeLorenzo stated that the Board does not have control over the COVID mandates but do have control over how teachers treat students. Mrs. DeLorenzo stated that the students should have mask breaks and teachers must be educated on how to treat the students to minimize their fear.

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 9:51 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:35 p.m. on motion by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Resolution: Personnel Action – Education Law §913 Examination.

A motion to approve the following Resolution was approved unanimously by those present, on a motion by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello.

RESOLVED, that pursuant to §913 of the Education Law, the employee named in Executive Session and referred to as Employee “A” is hereby directed to appear for a medical examination in the office of Dr. George Ackerman and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dr. George Peter Ackerman is hereby appointed school medical inspector pursuant to §913 of the Education Law in order to evaluate said employee’s ability to perform their job duties.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Super Executive Session at 10:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:44 p.m. on a motion by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m. on a motion by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Hock".

Mary Hock
District Clerk

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