

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**May 11, 2023 – Beach Street Middle 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. Vigliotta

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

The Board members and administrative staff recognized Mr. Maginniss for his 12 years of service on the School Board and for all his dedication and hard work on behalf of the students and the community. On behalf of all former Board members, Mr. Gellar, Mrs. LaRosa and Mr. O'Connor thanked Mr. Maginniss for always putting the students first and for his years of service not only on the Board of Education, but also his 20 years of service volunteering his time to the Special Needs Soccer League.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

School Safety

Dr. Romanelli gave an update to the public regarding school safety. Dr. Romanelli spoke about how Sean McAleavey, Director of School Safety, is collecting data on security topics and if the district did decide to have armed guards, what that could look like. Dr. Romanelli spoke about the possibilities of having an outside company oversee the whole operation or have the district utilize their own security team since 90% are retired police officers, three are active police officers and 80 % have licensing. Dr. Romanelli explained that having armed guards does not eliminate wait time in an emergency situation and it still takes time for a response. He also spoke about the cost which would be under \$100,000, and other additional costs such as license renewal, psychological exams etc. Dr. Romanelli spoke about how hiring armed guards is a complex issue and data is being presented and the district is speaking with other districts like East Islip who have implemented the program.

Mr. Tussie thanked Dr. Romanelli for the update and informed the audience that a decision would not be made until all the data is researched.

Noresco – Solar Presentation

A presentation took place regarding solar panels in the district.

**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 April 19, 2023 Regular Meeting, and the April 19, 2023 Budget Adoption.

RECOGNITION

West Islip Association of School Administrators (WIASA)  
Information Technology  
West Islip Teachers Association (WITA)  
Nurses  
Teamsters Local 237 Clerical

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT in the ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES TENURE AREA: James Cameron, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, effective 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2026.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the 5/11/2023 Personnel Agenda as listed below:

**TEACHERS**

**T-1                    REGULAR SUBSTITUTE**

Victoria Caccamo, Science  
Effective May 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023  
(High School; Step .5 4; Replacing Annelise Muscietta {LOA})

**T-2                    RESIGNATION**

John Guerriero, Psychologist  
Effective July 1, 2023  
(High School)

**CIVIL SERVICE**

**CL-1                 RESIGNATION**

Marissa Fiore, Office Assistant  
Effective May 19, 2023  
(Paul J. Bellew)

Nancy Fredericks, Part-Time Food Service Worker  
Effective April 24, 2023  
(Beach Street)

Charles Ogburn, Guard  
Effective April 19, 2023  
(Security)

Kimberly Richichi, School Teacher Aide  
Effective May 12, 2023  
(High School)

**CL-2                 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT**

Kristi Macchione, Contingent, Provisional Account Clerk  
Effective May 22, 2023  
(District Office; Step 1; replacing Eva Gonzalez {reassigned})

Kimberly Richichi, Provisional Senior Account Clerk  
Effective May 12, 2023  
(District Office; Step 1; replacing June Connell {resigned})

**CL-3**                    **SUBSTITUTE ASSISTANT COOK** (\$18.85/hr)

Jennifer Garofalo, effective May 12, 2023

**CL-4**                    **SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN** (\$15/hr)

Amanda Neilson, effective May 12, 2023

**OTHER**

**ADULT EDUCATION 2023-2024**

Michelle Grover, Secretary (\$3,840/semester)

**DRIVER EDUCATION 2023-2024**

Georgette Taylor, Instructor (\$1,500/session)

Chris Taylor, Instructor (\$1,500/session)

Patricia Stack, Instructor (\$1,500/session)

Lorraine Kolar, Secretary (\$1,382/session)

**ENRICHMENT 2023-2024**

Lorraine Kolar, Secretary (\$848/semester)

**PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** (\$150 per diem)

Kristen Bergin, effective September 1, 2023 through June 26, 2024

Christina Bonfiglio, effective September 1, 2023 through June 26, 2024

Shannon Culkin, effective September 1, 2023 through June 26, 2024

Jesse Donnarumma, effective September 1, 2023 through June 26, 2024

Danielle Ferruggiari, effective September 1, 2023 through June 26, 2024

Paige Fogarty, effective September 1, 2023 through June 26, 2024

Paige Gillespie, effective September 1, 2023 through June 26, 2024

Holly Gozinsky, effective September 1, 2023 through June 26, 2024

Sierra Kohler, effective September 1, 2023 through June 26, 2024

Isabella Lumley, effective September 1, 2023 through June 26, 2024

Destiny Parsons, effective September 1, 2023 through June 26, 2024

Joyce Ronayne, effective September 1, 2023 through June 26, 2024

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHER**

Victoria Caccamo, effective April 21, 2023, leave replacement (\$253.28 per diem)

**SUPERVISION HELP** (\$83.66/event)

Dominick LaFerrara, Jr., effective March 30, 2023

**RESIGNATION**

Courtney Arnold, Preferred Substitute

Effective April 24, 2023

## CURRICULUM:

Mrs. Morrison informed the audience that Celebrate Education is on May 16, 2023. There will be a district wide art show, music performances, planetarium demonstrations, robotic team, tour of the updated fitness center and virtual enterprise.

Mrs. Morrison advised that IB/AP testing started on April 29 and ends May 19 and approximately 300 students are participating in AP and IB testing. Beach Street and Udall Middle Schools will be celebrating Wellness Day on May 25 and there will be a full day of celebration dedicated to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of the students.

Mrs. Morrison spoke about 4<sup>th</sup> grade students a P.J. Bellew taking a field trip to the Suffolk County Police Headquarters in Riverhead. The students visited the crime lab; the museum and outdoor area where they watched a helicopter take off and land. They also watched Canine dogs sniffing for explosives and saw the Jaws of Life being used on a “mock” victim and a motorcycle parade. All the students had a great time.

Mrs. Morrison advised on how great strides were made at all levels this year in every department and the district looks forward to this continuing for the upcoming school year.

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting held 5/9/23. Items reviewed included updates on the Profile of a Graduate, the Code of Conduct, MTSS Grant work and kindergarten screening.

Finance Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting held on 5/9/23. Items reviewed included the March treasurer’s report, March extra-curricular report, March payroll summary, March financial statements, March internal claims audit report, April system manager audit report, payroll certification forms, surplus, contracts and bids. Mrs. Pellati advised the committee that R.S. Abrams, the district’s external auditors, would be doing interim audit testing on May 10, 2023 and the year-end audit is scheduled to take place in August.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting that took place on 5/10/23. Items reviewed included CSE and CPSE IEP’s are being reviewed and all middle and high school annual reviews are complete. The partnership with Effective School Solutions has commenced and they will be providing mental health services and behavioral programs. The Unified Basketball Team won the last of three games and the next game will decide if they are in the playoffs. The next meeting will be on June 7, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

Health and Wellness Committee: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting held 5/9/23. Items reviewed included Financial Report, the “Don’t Press Send” presentations were very informative and well received by students and staff, Health & Wellness Senior Scholarships will be awarded to two recipients who will receive \$500, and Halloween Hustle Community Event was discussed and participants will navigate through Halloween-themed stations. Other items discussed were online gambling concerns and there was a slight change to the Health & Wellness Alliance Mission Statement, “abuse” was replaced with “use and misuse”.

## 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 4290-4302 and Capital Fund – 4291.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Bids 2023-2024: #2301 Refrigeration Repair and Services; #2302 Gates and Chain Link Fencing; #2304 Printing; #2305 Athletic Uniforms; #2306 Building and Grounds Uniforms.

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: Smithtown CSD Special Education Contract; Oyster Bay East Norwich CSD Special Education Contract; South Huntington UFSD Health Services Contract - \$30,779.80.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Surplus: Piano ~ Manetuck Elementary

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Additional discussion of the 2023-2024 Regular Meeting and Planning Session Dates and Locations.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve BOCES Multi-Year Service Agreement – Fiber WAN Services – 7/1/2023 to 6/30/2026.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve The Bridges Academy Lease Agreement – Second Amendment.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Romanelli spoke about Performance Based Assessments and explained that not all students learn best through standardized tests and regents exams and how there are different ways students can learn. He referred to the “Most Likely to Succeed” film and how it showcased students creating something. He also spoke about how Artificial Intelligence is surpassing information like ChatGBT, Alexa and Google and how students need to be applying this technology in school.

Dr. Romanelli also spoke about the work the district has been doing this year regarding creating a Profile of a West Islip High School graduate. A survey was done regarding a Profile of a Graduate and identifying six areas the district believes are the skills and knowledge needed to be successful after high school in West Islip. The results of this survey was recently presented to Art Class students at the high school and these students will be creating a visual presentation on the results. This presentation and the survey results will be shared with the community and Board of Education in June.

Dr. Romanelli commended Ryan Vollmuth, Transition Coordinator, who organized the Career Fair in combination with the West Islip Chamber of Commerce and the West Islip Fire Department. Dr. Romanelli also thanked Mr. Bosse for all his efforts regarding the Solar presentation.

#### REMINDER:

Mr. Tussie thanked the West Islip Chamber of Commerce and American Legion and other community groups who will be hosting the Tom Compitello Memorial Barbeque following the annual Memorial Day Parade. The barbeque is free for all parade participants and their families. Mr. Tussie encouraged everyone to come down to the shack at Paul J. Bellew.

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

Maureen Pike - Mrs. Pike is a paraprofessional in the district who loves her job. Mrs. Pike spoke about how hard the job can be and the many things paras do for the students on a daily basis. Mrs. Pike feels that paraprofessionals do more than most parents would ever know and that teachers are the backbone of the school and the paras are the heart and feels that they deserve more. Mr. Tussie advised Mrs. Pike that he knows what paraprofessionals mean to the children and thanked her for the job that she does.

Doreen Hantzschel – Mrs. Hantzschel spoke about the DEI Committee and asked if the Board would think about having the meetings open to the public. She also asked about having headings regarding the DEI subcommittees in the notes from the meeting. Mrs. Hantzschel also requested more time to speak at the board meetings.

Brian Washington – Mr. Washington spoke about being a swim coach for 30 years and has a great deal of experience regarding pool renovations. He asked the Board to consider adding deck space to the high school pool when considering renovations for the pool, and explained how this would open the pool to many swimming events and bring in income. Mr. Washington also offered to volunteer his time and knowledge when the district is deciding on improvements to the high school pool.

Kim Cairns – Mrs. Cairns spoke about the importance of children knowing what to do in an emergency at school and asked if parents could receive a guide on the various school drills. Mrs. Cairns also asked if Parent Academies can be recorded for parents that who are unable to attend. Dr. Romanelli advised that he can consider this in the future and more academies may be added. Mrs. Cairns asked if the data that is being collected regarding armed guards could be shared with the community and what the timeline would be for a decision on armed guards. Mr. Tussie advised that it is not fair to put a timeline on this decision but would prefer the decision be sooner rather than later. Dr. Romanelli advised that this decision would be on the forefront and the district would continue to report on this subject.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Mr. Tussie reminded everyone that Celebrate Education will be held on 5/16/2023 and to vote on Tuesday.

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 8:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 9:48 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 approved resolution re: Education Law §913 Examination – Employee “A”.

A Motion to approve the following Resolution was unanimously approved by those present, on Motion by Richard Antonello, seconded by Peter McCann.

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. Carl B. Friedman, and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dr. Carl B. Friedman is hereby appointed school medical inspector pursuant to §913 of the Education Law in order to evaluate said employee’s ability to perform his employment duties.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 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.