

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**September 7, 2023 – West Islip High School**

PRESENT: Mr. Tussie, Mr. McCann, Mr. Antonello, Mr. Bedell, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Kelly,  
Mrs. Marks

ABSENT: None

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

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

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

**DISCUSSION:**

West Islip High School Pool

Dr. Romanelli spoke about the high school pool and how the pool is the most widely used athletic facility in the district. The pool is used for aquatics, varsity and middle school swimming, instructional and recreational programs year round, family swim, community groups and local programs. Dr. Romanelli spoke about the pool repairs requiring draining and refilling, liner repairs, and plumbing issues and how the district has been discussing and looking for the right time on how to address the pool in the best way. After many discussions, the best option would be to replace and enhance the pool to a six-lane pool, which would be best for competition and potentially bring in revenue from outside groups. The price tag for a new pool would be 12.6 million dollars and the district would receive 8 million in state aid. Dr. Romanelli advised that there would be a presentation for the community that would explain the taxpayer impact and the debt the district presently has which will be expiring. Dr. Romanelli feels now could be the perfect timing with minimal debt to initiate this project. The Board agreed and Dr. Romanelli announced that the district would have a 12.6 million dollar Bond Vote on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. The district will begin the process of breaking down the cost and will have a full presentation for the community on this project.

Mr. McCann also spoke about the rebuilding and expansion of the high school pool and how the pool is used six to seven days a week and is the most used athletic complex in the district.

Mr. Tussie advised that there would be a presentation for the public and the project has the full support of the Board.

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 August 29, 2023 Planning Session.



**CL-2**                    **PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT**

\*Jessica Pujia, Cafeteria Aide  
Effective September 7, 2023  
(Manetuck; Step 1; replacing Susan DiGrigoli {retired})

\*Scarlette Sanchez, Special Education Aide  
Effective September 18, 2023  
(Paul J. Bellew; Step 1; new position)

\*Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance

**CL-3**                    **TERMINATION**

Christina Curley, Special Education Aide  
Effective September 1, 2023  
(Udall)

**OTHER**

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

Alexander Giordano, Beach Street  
Effective September 1, 2023 through June 26, 2024

**ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS 2023-2024 (AMENDED)**

Christopher Salerno, Math                    1 section/full year  
(Replacement for Christina Bivona, Math)

Ashley Smar, Science                    2 sections/full year  
(Replacement for Brian Daniels and Kristie Ferruzzi, Science)

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** (\$130 per diem)

Samantha Murray, effective September 1, 2023

**ENRICHMENT INSTRUCTORS FALL 2023 (\$408 per session)**

Ashley Caputo (Let's Get Artsy! I & II)  
Justin DeMaio (LEGO 1 & II)  
Danielle Dischley (Got Science I & II)  
Matilda Duthrie (Holiday No Bake Treats I & II)  
Katherine Keller (Coding is Cool I & II)  
Theresa Robertson (Creative Cooking I & II)  
Jessica Schwartz (Nailed It! I & II)

**FALL 2023 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES**

**GIRLS TENNIS**

Danielle Rufrano, J.V. Coach

**INSTRUCTIONAL SWIM, FAMILY SWIM PROGRAM & SWIM TEAMS 2023-2024**

Colleen Reilly, Director  
John T. Denninger, Co-Director  
Daniel Gshwind, Co-Director  
Edward Jablonski, Co-Director  
Thomas Loudon, Co-Director  
Jeremy Robertson, Co-Director

Lifeguards

Angelina Acosta	Dominic Delta	Lea Parascandola
Nico Acquista	Makenna Gagliardi	Christopher Piropato
Alexa Alvarado	Angelo Hernandez	Mason Plouffe
Angelina Amatulli-Griffith	Kaden Heyman	Ciaran Pollard
William Antippas	Caylee Klimuszko	Vincent Puglisi
Shawn Boyle	Sasha Lavrosky	Isabella Randazzo
Salvatore Calderone	Patrick Lynam	Alex Rutigliano
Ryan Carlson	Kevin McCabe	Nicholas Scarmozzino
Michael Cea	Lauren McCann	Angelina Shannon
Makayla Comer	Alexander Montes	Courtney Skahill
Logan Coppola	Kathryn Mushorn	Seamus Smith
Braedon Dedcovich	Joseph Pace	Daniel VonThaden
Jake Citarella	Lauren Hand	Noel Silva
Ryan Flynn	Michael Johnson	Aidan Steuber
Angelique Grande	Alex Martorella	Sarah Taheny
Emma Grim	Markos Prokopiou	Matthew Triglia
Jack Groark		

CURRICULUM REPORT

Mrs. Morrison thanked the administrators, teachers, support staff, students and parents for a great opening week. There was excitement in the buildings and the students were happy. The classrooms were beautifully decorated and organized to support the district's curricular initiatives. There is flexible seating, Foundations areas in the elementary schools and updated science labs at the high school.

Mrs. Morrison advised that K-8 students will be assessed throughout the month of October by the district's universal screener aimsweb Plus. Upon completion of the screenings, the data will be reviewed to ensure that students are at grade level and if they are not, to determine the necessary interventions.

Pre-K, K, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms are immersed in the Foundations phonemic awareness program. As mentioned in previous updates, the district invested in decodable texts last year called geodes, which align with the Foundations program.

Mrs. Morrison reminded the audience that the District Code of Conduct was revised at the end of last school year. Parent Academies have been scheduled for September 21, October 19 and November 15 to provide parents with an overview of the document including the recent updates and parents will have an opportunity

to ask questions. Parents can contact the Office of Curriculum and Instruction if they would like more information regarding the parent academies or how to register for them.

Mrs. Morrison welcomed everyone back and is looking forward to a great school year.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting held 8/29/2023. Items reviewed included K-8 Assessment Calendar, updated K-5 report cards and performance based assessments.

Finance Committee: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting held 8/29/2023. Items reviewed included the June payroll summary, August system manager audit report, payroll certifications and budget transfers. Mrs. Pellati advised the committee that R.S. Abrams completed their fieldwork testing on 8/30/23.

Buildings & Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting held 8/29/23. Items reviewed included pool reconstruction project discussion and construction projects update. Mr. McCann spoke about how the air conditioning in the buildings has had a profound effect and made a big difference for the students and thanked the community. The Beach Street rotunda is still be worked on, the Udall bathrooms are completed and the Paul J. Bellew parking lot is complete and fencing is up. Mr. McCann also spoke about the Masera property the district is looking at the option of a possible tenant and more information will be coming.

Mr. McCann spoke about attending the first day of school and how happy the students were to be back to school. Mr. McCann thanked Dr. Romanelli, teachers and staff for all their work regarding the opening of school and for what they do for the West Islip community.

Mr. Tussie thanked the community for passing the vote regarding the air conditioning and thanked the Buildings and Grounds Department for all their hard work getting the buildings ready for the opening of school. He also thanked everyone who contributed to the opening of school.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting held 9/7/23. The committee discussed the latest CSE and CPSE meetings and updates to IEPs and student placements. Mrs. Dowling gave an update on summer extended services at Manetuck and advised that the ESY Summer Program is now in the district and data shows good results. Mrs. Brown thanked all the teachers and aides for their hard work and dedication this summer. Other items discussed were Board of Education visits to special education classrooms, the special education department purchased sensory equipment for students, Effective School Solutions update, Mrs. Dowling presently interviewing for special education aide positions and SEPTA will have its first meeting at 6:00 p.m. on September 21, 2023. SEPTA will also have a back to school night at the end of September, Dave & Busters in November, and a Silent Dance in January. The SEPTA Midnight Bowl will take place on April 13, 2024. Mrs. Brown also advised that the District will go Red in October for Dyslexia Awareness month. The next meeting will be October 4, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

#### FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2022-2023 General Fund budget transfer 4321.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve BOCES Multi-Year Service Agreement – Networked Copier Project – four year agreement ending 3/1/2028.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: the Board of Education approves the recommendations of the Special Education Committee of students as listed in the District's backup and authorizes the District to arrange for appropriate services.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Romanelli shared his thoughts regarding the opening of school. The district held two Superintendent Conference Days and New Teacher Orientation. Dr. Romanelli received positive feedback regarding Friday's Superintendent Conference day and that there was great energy and everyone participated in the Hawaiian theme. There was also a keynote speaker who inspired everyone and spoke on the importance of the education field.

Dr. Romanelli thanked Mrs. Morrison for planning new teacher orientation that takes place over three days. He advised that the district has a great group of new teachers and administrators that we are excited to work with, the first day of school was very successful, and there is much excitement for the new school year.

Dr. Romanelli thanked Mrs. Pellati for her budget planning regarding the district air conditioning and thanked the public, as well.

Mr. Tussie shared how he has been a teacher for 24 years and attended 24 Superintendent Conference Days and West Islip by far had the greatest Superintendent's Conference Day ever. He congratulated Dr. Romanelli and the team and is thrilled for the students.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello 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 8:30 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Bridges Academy Lease.

RESOLUTION

*WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the West Islip UFSD has determined that certain property located at 339 Snedecor Avenue, West Islip, New York in the building known as the Paul E. Kirdahy Elementary School, is not currently needed for school district purposes; and*

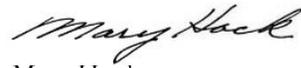
*WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that leasing such real property is in the best interest of the school district.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the West Islip UFSD hereby approves the lease agreement with the Bridges Academy concerning space located in the Paul E. Kirdahy Elementary School for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028, subject to the terms and conditions set forth therein and subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education in accordance with Education Law §403-a, and authorizes the Board President to execute the lease agreement.*

Regular Meeting  
September 7, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello 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.