

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 2, 2023 – Beach Street Middle 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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Tussie thanked all the Veterans for their service and acknowledged the late Tom Compitello for his service, as well.

Student Representative Report

Kaelynn Sirizzotti, Amy McCann (Class of 2024) – spoke about Spirit Week and the fun they had decorating the hall. The Homecoming Parade was fun and the Homecoming Dance was very successful, it was a great week.

Taylor Riley and Krista Williams (Class of 2025) – spoke about how great homecoming week was and how there was great participation with banner building and they went every day during Spirit week.

Kayla Frangoulis and Lexie Hofmann (Class 2026) – spoke about decorating with a spooky fall theme and were proud of the sophomores who did a lot of the decorating. They both spoke about how fun the T-Shirt Cannon was.

Daniel Syku and Alexis Delorenzo (Active PTSA members) Class of 2027 - spoke about their banner and how amazing it looked. Even though they did not win, there was great team effort.

DISCUSSION

Masera Property

Dr. Romanelli advised that the district is presently in serious discussion with BOCES to lease the building and make the necessary repairs. The district would retain ownership of Masera and retain the fields.

Bias Incidents on Long Island

Dr. Romanelli spoke about bias incidents and an article in Newsday regarding antisemitic events in Nassau County. He talked about a number of incidents in the district and how there would be non-negotiable consequences for students including suspension. Dr. Romanelli advised that the district is on a wait list for a “No Place for Hate” program and working to bring in speakers and educating the students. He also advised that the district is looking to have a subcommittee on the district’s equity team this year dedicated to ending

bias incidents in the community. The first meeting will be next week and Mrs. Morrison will be sharing that work.

Dr. Romanelli spoke about how proud he is to be Superintendent of the district and having the opportunity to work with parents, staff and students, and how the message we send to our children is one of the most important responsibilities.

Mr. Tussie shared a statement that the Board of Education stands united against the rise of antisemitism and that it has no place in our schools or community and every student deserves to feel safe, valued and supported. He called on students and parents to promote a culture of respect and thanked everyone for their support.

Mr. McCann also expressed that students should feel safe in all aspects and should go to educators and principals if they do not feel safe. He advised that the safety of the students is the number one priority.

The following resident wished to speak on an Agenda item:

Deborah Chaleff - Mrs. Chaleff expressed how she has waited a long time to hear what was just said to her regarding the district's statement on bias incidents in school. Mrs. Chaleff talked about the many antisemitic incidents her children have had to endure through the years and the effect these terrible experiences have had on her family.

Mrs. Marks spoke about how proud she was of the entire Board of Education and how they are all in this together. Mrs. Marks spoke about how every student has an equal opportunity to learn in a safe and respectful atmosphere. She asked that parents have tough conversations with their children and ask them to be kind.

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 October 17, 2023 Planning Session.

RECOGNITION

Common Hope Guatemala Service Trip ~ WIHS Teachers: Noreen Matthews and Kristie Ferruzzi
Students: Frances Bernholz, Jewel Boyle, Logan Coppola, Victoria Cusumano, Alex Gitomer-Dawson, Kevin Mauri, Victoria Mueller, Ashyn Murphy, Tadgh O'Sullivan-Bakshi, Mia Valdes

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Dana Musso, Director of Foundational Literacy and MTSS, effective December 4, 2023 through December 3, 2027 (Districtwide; \$165,000; replacing Michelle Walsh {resigned}).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: (AMENDED): Craig Perrino, Health, effective September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 (Beach; change in date from September 1, 2023 through October 27, 2023).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RESIGNATION: Christopher Hachmann, Psychologist effective November 23, 2023 (St. John the Baptist and Bridges Academy).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TA-1, TA-2, CL-1 as listed below:

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

TA-1 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Ryan Perry, Technology and Special Education
Effective November 3, 2023 through November 2, 2027
(Beach; Step 1; replacing Jennifer Bosch {reassigned})

TA-2 RESIGNATION

Caroline Conte, Technology
Effective October 25, 2023
(Manetuck)

**CIVIL
SERVICE**

CL-1 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Angelina Archer, Security/Receptionist Aide
Effective October 23, 2023
(Udall; Step 1; replacing Colleen Guimaraes {reassigned})

Robert Cacace, Bus Attendant
Effective November 3, 2023
(Transportation; Step ; replacing Amanda Neilson {reassigned})

Maninder Kaur, Cafeteria Aide
Effective October 25, 2023
(Manetuck; Step 1; replacing Christina Robiglio {reassigned})

Stephanie Miceli, Cafeteria Aide
Effective October 24, 2023
(Manetuck; Step 1; replacing Brittany Nelson {resigned})

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: *Nicole Rosenberg, Part-Time Food Service Worker, effective November 15, 2023.

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: *Jennifer Ulrich, Special Education Aide, effective October 30, 2023 (Manetuck; Step 1; new position).

**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CL-2, CL-3, CL-4, CL-5, CL-6, CL-7, CL-8 and Other as listed below:

CL-2 **PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT SCHOOL SECURITY GUARD**

Employee	Building
G	Udall

CL-3 **PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENT SCHOOL SECURITY GUARD**

Employee	Building
A	Bayview
B	Beach
C	Manetuck
D	Manetuck
E	Oquenock
F	Paul J. Bellew
H	WIHS
I	WIHS
J	WIHS
K	WIHS
L	WIHS

CL-4 **RESIGNATION**

Angelina Archer, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective October 23, 2023
(Udall)

Caroline LaManna, Cafeteria Aide
Effective November 2, 2023
(Manetuck)

Ryan Perry, Special Education Aide
Effective November 3, 2023
(Beach Street)

CL-5 **TERMINATION**

Jessica Pujia, Cafeteria Aide
Effective October 23, 2023
(Manetuck)

Cathy Weingarten, Assistant Cook
Effective November 5, 2023
(High School)

CL-6 **SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN** (\$15/hr)

Brad Stentiford, effective November 3, 2023

CL-7 **SUBSTITUTE GUARD** (\$23.73/hr)

John Vasquez, effective October 25, 2023

CL-8 **SUBSTITUTE MAINTENANCE MECHANIC II** (\$30/hr)

John Clarelli, effective November 3, 2023
Steven Distefano, effective November 3, 2023

OTHER

ADULT EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS FALL 2023

Michael Johnson (Lifeguard) \$25/hr

NEW TEACHER PROGRAM COORDINATOR 2023-2024 (\$2,805/year)

Donna Flynn and Lauren Lay (shared)

NYS SEAL OF BILITERACY ADVISORS

Anna Domingo
Jennifer Colonna
Karen Testa

PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$150 per diem)

Olivia Gmelch, Bayview
Effective November 6, 2023 through June 26, 2024

REGENTS REVIEW FALL 2023

Barbara Krollage, ELA

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem)

Matthew Campagna, effective November 3, 2023
Brianna Compitello, effective November 3, 2023
* Lindsey Formes, effective November 3, 2023
Julianna Monarco, effective November 3, 2023
Madison Nicolosi, effective November 3, 2023
Christopher Whalen, effective November 3, 2023

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER RESIGNATION

Sofia Vega, effective October 14, 2023

LATE WINTER 2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Christopher Salerno, 7-8 Udall Coach
Kristen Doherty, 7-8 Beach Coach

WRESTLING

Thomas Longobardi, 7-8 Udall Coach
Jason Lella, 7-8 Beach Coach

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Daniel Sliwowski, 7-8 Udall Coach
Jake Rossi, 7-8 Beach Coach

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

Lifeguards

Alexa DosSantos

**Conditional Pending Fingerprinting Clearance*

CURRICULUM REPORT

Mrs. Morrison advised that Superintendent Conference Day will be held on Tuesday, November 7. There will be an EdCamp style professional development with 42 topics for teachers and staff members to choose from, facilitated by in-house administrators, teachers and staff members.

Mrs. Morrison reminded everyone that there will be a Code of Conduct meeting on Wednesday, 11/15/23, in Room 108 at Beach Street. The IT Department has purchased a drone and it will debut at Oquenock for the Parade for Heroes Celebration. The High School Counseling Office will be hosting the Fall College Fair that will take place on 11/4/23. Two kindergarten, first and second grade literacy nights are scheduled, one for the end of November and another in January, dates and times will be shared in Parent Square.

Mrs. Morrison thanked Mr. Bosse and the Buildings & Grounds staff for working hard at cleaning up the creek at the high school. Science students can now use this area as an outside classroom.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the annual renewal of the following policies: 5550 Maintenance of Fiscal Effort (Title I Programs); 8260 Programs and Projects Funded by Title I; 5220 District Investments; 5410 Principals of Purchasing; 5411 Local Purchasing.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Health & Wellness Alliance: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting that took place on 10/10/23. Items discussed included financial report; Breast Cancer Awareness Day donations to be given to the West Islip Breast Cancer Coalition; Halloween Hustle; Newsletter – committee members exploring articles/topics. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 11/14/23 at 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at P.J. Bellew Elementary.

Audit Committee: Anthony Tussie reported on the meeting held on 10/17/23. The committee met with R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP to go over the Financial Statements and Corrective Action Plan for year ended June 30, 2023. District reserves are at appropriate funding levels and there was one comment regarding fund balance in the lunch fund. This was due to lunch meals being free for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years and then reimbursed at a significantly higher federal reimbursement rate as compared to prior years. The Board approved the Financial Statements and Corrective Action Plan and they are posted on the business page of the district website.

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting that took place on 10/17/23. Items reviewed included update on construction projects: the Beach rotunda is almost finished, Beach generator will have a test run and there is a new pedestrian gate to provide access to the softball fields on Higbie Lane. Other items reviewed were the district office vestibule project, Masera, and timeline for bond reconstruction for pool project.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting held 11/1/23. The committee discussed student placements and IEPs to be approved this evening. Other items reviewed included Beach Street Special Education Department developed a new slogan for the 2023-24 school year, the Smile Club met and painted pumpkins, Udall staff and the Special Education Department continue to focus on activities aligned with profile of a graduate characteristics. The Board will visit special education programs on 11/8 and 11/17. The next meeting will take place on 12/6/23 at 9:40 a.m.

Education Committee: Quinn Bedell reported on the meeting held 11/1/2023. Items reviewed included 2024-2025 pre-kindergarten needs, CTE expansion 2024-2025, updates on elementary ELA curriculum review, Profile of a Graduate to be incorporated in lessons, certificate program for technology, and weighted/underweighted grades.

Finance Committee: Christina Marks reported on the meeting held 11/1/2023. Items reviewed included the July, August and September treasurer's report; August and September extra-curricular reports; August and September payroll summary; July, August and September financial statements; October claims audit report, October system manager audit trail, payroll certifications and budget transfers. Mrs. Pellati advised that the Internal Auditors, Cullen & Danowski, LLP will be on-site to do the annual risk assessment this month on November 7, 9 and 13. The Audit Committee meeting with the district's internal auditors will be on December 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Policy Committee: Jim Cameron reported on the meeting held 11/1/2023. Items reviewed included current BOE policy manual; recommended short and long term goals; timeline regarding NYSSBA recommended policies; NYSSBA drafts of sections of manual; publishing new policy manual; annual renewal policies to be renewed; First read of policy No. 3110 - school sponsored media 11/2/23. Future policy committee meeting dates are 2/6/24, 3/12/24, 4/11/24, 6/4/24.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2023-2024 General Fund budget transfers 4329-4332 and Capital Fund budget transfers 4330-4334.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2023-2024 Contracts: Christine Baudin, M.S. Speech Language Pathologist Consultant Services Contract and Locust Valley CSD Special Education Contract.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Surplus Items: Food Service Equipment (non-functional) – Udall Road Middle School.

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 resolution re: participation in a Cooperative Bid coordinated by the Board of Cooperative Education Services of Nassau County.

Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Board of Education of the West Islip UFSD approves participation in a Cooperative Bid coordinated by the Board of Cooperative Education Services of Nassau County.

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

Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Board of Education of the West Islip UFSD 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 a few highlights going on in the district. The Engineering Technology course handbook is out. The engineering and technology classes designed glasses for the Nassau Suffolk School Board Association and they designed a sign for CPI Aero. Manetuck Elementary took a field trip to Islip MacArthur Airport and saw TSA, Police and Fire Departments, flight attendants and the Cradle of Aviation staff. Dr. Romanelli commended students who organized the benefit concert for the Farmingdale School District. Dr. Romanelli, Anthony Tussie and Christina Marks all attended and it was a great performance. Dr. Romanelli thanked the music teachers and Eric Albinder.

Dr. Romanelli advised that Superintendent Conference Day is coming up on November 7. He commended Mrs. Morrison for the choices in professional development opportunities for staff and the administrators across the district who are sharing their knowledge.

Dr. Romanelli also spoke about attending a workshop on school safety with Sean McAleavey, Director of School Safety. The workshop addressed safety recommendations, West Islip checked all the boxes for what everyone is looking for and exceeded them, and is a great place regarding school safety.

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

Jimmy Klimatas – Mr. Klimatas spoke about his 11th grade son and the great deal of work he puts into his AP classes. Mr. Klimatas feels that AP grades should be weighted and asked why they are unweighted. Mrs. Morrison explained that students were not taking elective courses and were taking AP classes to increase their GPA instead of taking a variety of classes. Mrs. Morrison thanked Mr. Klimatas for his feedback and advised that a decision about weighted and unweighted grades will be made by the end of this calendar year for 2024-2025 school year.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:44 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 9:21 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Super-Executive Session at 9:21 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antoniello 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.