

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 8, 2024 – 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 7:32 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Masera Lease Agreement

Mr. Tussie announced that on January 23, 2024 the Board of Education approved a lease agreement between the District and Eastern Suffolk BOCES for a 10-year lease of the Masera Building. The lease will begin on February 1, 2024 and go through January 31, 2034. BOCES will have use of the facility weekdays from 6:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The District will maintain full control of the grounds and athletic fields. BOCES will pay the District an annual rent of \$1.00 and perform a list of construction and improvements to the building. The scope of the construction work and improvements include installing a new roof, new ceilings, lighting, flooring, interior doors and hardware, replacing bathroom fixtures and drinking stations, HVAC repairs and replacements, installation of carbon monoxide leak detection systems, repair and/or replacement of fire and security alarm systems, installation of new servers, cabling, telephone, camera and building, access systems, and environmental remediation of lead, asbestos and pcb's (polychlorinated biphenyls) as required.

Mr. Tussie thanked the community for all their patience regarding the Masera property. Mr. McCann thanked the community for pulling together and making their voices heard regarding Masera. Dr. Romanelli thanked Tom Volz and his legal team for all their efforts getting everything together in order to finalize the Masera Agreement.

Mr. Tussie thanked WITA representatives for dropping off 400 letters from the teachers advocating for full Foundation Aid regarding state aid projections.

Student Representative Report

Student representatives Taylor Riley, Mandy Nicolosi and Krista Williams gave a P.S. I Love You presentation. The representatives spoke about preparing for P.S. I Love You Day and placing 75 purple flags all over the district. They also spoke about the beautiful murals that are in the hallways at the High School and Oquenock Elementary.

DISCUSSION

State of the District – Mid-Year Report

Dr. Romanelli gave a mid-year report on the district. He went over the Mission Statement, 2023-2024 goals, the district policy manual, enhancing school programs by collaborating with the community, district committee updates, instructional programs and facilities. Dr. Patrick-Kiley-Rendon spoke about future plans regarding technology for the district. The Mid-Year Report is available on the district website.

2024-2025 Calendar

Dr. Romanelli discussed three options for the 2024-2025 school calendar and Board members gave their input. Dr. Romanelli advised that the calendar would be discussed further with the Administration and the Teachers Union and a final recommendation will be made and the calendar will be approved at the next board meeting.

RECOGNITION

Music

Jake Avella, Jessica Belle, Arianna Bergold, Marissa Beybl, Carlie Brunengraber, Vivian Gallagher, Isabella Grimaldi, Thomas Kerrigan, Sean Koerner, Giordana LaFemina, Kevin Mauri, Teagan McGuire, Mandy Nicolosi, Brendan O'Regan, Daniel Pipitone, Braden Pritchard, Caitlyn Salus, Sophia Stehlik, Aaron Tomasello

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 January 23, 2024 Planning Session.

PERSONNEL:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the personnel consent agenda T-1, CL-1, CL-2, CL-3 and OTHER as listed below. A separate motion was made regarding OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER: Danielle Braithwaite changing start date to February 9, 2024.

TEACHERS

T-1

REGULAR SUBSTITUTE (AMENDED)

Alessia Tocco, Family and Consumer Science
Effective September 1, 2023 through March 13, 2024
(Beach & High School; change in date from September 1, 2023 through February 8, 2024)

**CIVIL
SERVICE**

CL-1

PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

*Kiersten Comer, Special Education Aide
Effective February 9, 2024
(Paul J. Bellew; Step 1; replacing Nicole Jones {leave})

CL-1

*Maria Crafa, Cafeteria Aide
Effective February 9, 2024
(Manetuck; Step 1; replacing Caroline LaManna {resigned})

Peter McAtee, Custodial Worker I
Effective February 9, 2024
(High School; Step 1; replacing Keith Beecher {reassigned})

*Kristen Shaw, Cafeteria Aide
Effective February 9, 2024
(Oquenock; Step 1; replacing Sarah Tammone {reassigned})

*Brynn Vitrano-Stocker, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective February 9, 2024
(Paul J. Bellew; \$16.22/hr; replacing Maria Vangeli {reassigned})

CL-2

RESIGNATION

Robert Cacace, Bus Attendant
Effective January 22, 2024
(Transportation)

CL-3

SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN (\$16/hr)

Vladimir Desruisseaux, effective February 9, 2024

OTHER

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem)

Gabriella Guadagno, effective February 9, 2024, *student teacher*

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem): Danielle Braithwaite, effective February 9, 2024, leave substitute.

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

Lifeguards

Noah Blumberg	Jordan Fileti	Tadhg O'Sullivan-Bakshi
Ryder Blumberg	Michael Flynn	Logan Reese
Christopher Bosco	Daniel Gorman	Ava Reynolds
Erick Burciaga	Robert Govier	Peter Roberto
Jayson Carlson	Nils Haugen	Nicholas Ruby
Ryan Cascino	Ariel Hudson	Joseph Saladino
John Charbonneau	Emma Kay	Jack Schaefer
Daniel Clarke	Jake Lella	Andrew Schiano
Charlie DellUniversita	Piper Loveland	James Sinclair
Brandon Disbrow	Matthew Monaco	Peter Soursos
Matthew Dorn	Charlye Nicolosi	Travis Vine
Noah Dumond		

OTHER

SPRING 2024 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES

UNIFIED BASKETBALL (AMENDED)

Brandon Cohen, Coordinator
(Replacement for Ryan Foley)

SPRING 2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES

SOFTBALL

Bridgette Capozzoli, 7-8 Beach Coach

BOYS LACROSSE

Corey Clifford, Assistant Udall Coach

BOYS TENNIS

Craig Perrino, 7-8 Beach/Udall Coach

**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

CURRICULUM REPORT

Mrs. Morrison informed the audience that February is Black History month and Pre K-12 classrooms throughout the district are focusing on and celebrating the contributions and accomplishments of African Americans from all periods of U.S. history. Mrs. Morrison advised that during the week of February 12, 2024, parents/guardians, students (Grades 3-12) and staff will have the opportunity to provide feedback by completing a District Experience Feedback form regarding how district stakeholders feel about their experiences in the district. This information will be reviewed to celebrate areas of success and to address areas in need of improvement. Samples of the forms can be viewed via the homepage of the district website.

Mrs. Morrison spoke about the Seal of Civic Readiness, 113 students from the Class of 2024 have met the requirements for this Seal and 158 students are within 2 points of meeting the requirement. A letter was sent home to these students advising them they are only 0.5-2 points short and what they can do to meet the requirement.

Mrs. Morrison also spoke about National School Counseling Week and how under the leadership of Mr. Arini, the district's amazing K-12 counselors support the academic, social and emotional needs of 4,000 students. Mrs. Morrison thanked the school counselors for their tireless efforts and dedication to the future of West Islip students.

Mrs. Morrison advised that there is a West Islip Literacy Summit on April 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The summit will focus on sharing the district's instructional practices that support the acquisition of early literacy skills, information related to the science of reading and a panel discussion that includes district literacy experts. Information will be sent out districtwide in March with specific details.

Pre K and Kindergarten Registration is currently underway and parents must register students by February 16. Questions regarding the registration process should be directed to the district registrar.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Health & Wellness Committee: Grace Kelly and Christina Marks reported on the meetings of 1/9/24 & 2/6/24. Items reviewed included Financial Report, newsletter is expected to be mailed in February; fifth and sixth grade volleyball tournaments will take place 3/8 and 3/9 at the high school; the committee approved providing two \$500 scholarships and the application form is online; Christina Marks advised that the West Islip Fire Dept. will be having a free Fire Safety event on 3/7/24 at the West Islip High School from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, presentations will begin at 7:00 pm, there will be food and separate events for both parents and children and residents can still register.

Safety Committee: Quinn Bedell reported on the meeting held on 1/23/24. Items reviewed included ID card printers not operational and the committee will be looking to print them outside the district; new cameras were installed at the buildings; classroom window coverings started in classrooms; Sean McAleavey spoke about the work place violence policy; P.J. Bellew parking lot in need of lighting.

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting that took place on 1/23/2024. Items reviewed included the Masera Agreement being finalized, and the passing of the Pool Bond Vote. The committee will talk about upcoming projects for next year at the next meeting.

Education Committee: Richard Antoniello reported on the meeting held 2/6/2024. Items reviewed included a presentation by Mr. Arini regarding counseling services and elementary programs - Littles Helping Littles and P.S. I Love You Day; there will be weighting of grades for AP and IB for the 2024-2025 school year; Panorama Survey week of March 4, 2024 samples on the district website; High School testing center will be implementing some new steps to make sure the testing center is running efficiently; follow up regarding 8th grade Algebra and Living Environment, no decisions have been made and the Board would like teachers thoughts on this.

Finance Committee: Christina Marks reported on the meeting held 2/6/2024. Items reviewed included the December treasurer's report; December extra-curricular report; December payroll summary; December financial statements; January claims audit report; January system manager audit trail; payroll certifications; budget transfers; surplus items; and donation. Mrs. Pellati discussed the tax levy limit calculation for the 2024-2025 school year, the District's Capital Reserve Plan and proposed Capital Reserve proposition for the May 2024 budget vote. Mrs. Pellati also discussed the change in tax exemptions for senior citizens and at the recommendation of the Town of Islip; the district will hold a public hearing on February 27, 2024 to adopt the change in the tax exemption.

Policy Committee: James Cameron reported on the meeting that took place on 2/6/24. Items reviewed included current BOE policy manual online; revised NYSSBA policy files; Goals for 2023-24 regarding policy handbook; transition to NYSSBA numbering policy; review and modify NYSSBA drafts of sections of the manual; review Series 3000 (Administration) and offer a first reading on 2/27/24 and second reading 3/13/24; First Reading for Policy #7120 - School Admissions and Policy #7511 – Immunization of students. Future policy committee meetings will take place on 3/12/24, 4/11/24, and 6/4/24.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting held 2/7/2024. Items reviewed included approval of IEPs based on CSE/CPSE recommendations being approved this evening; annual reviews starting the end of February; review of past and current special education students from grades K-12 and numbers are rising; the committee will now have a SEPTA board member join the non-confidential portion of the meeting to help facilitate open discussion and communication; improving communication with parents of CPSE students transitioning to kindergarten; reminder there is a special education tab on the district website to obtain SEPTA information. The SEPTA Bowl will take place April 13th and tickets can be purchased on the SEPTA member hub and SEPTA is still taking basket donations for this event. The next

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Special Education Committee meeting will take place on 3/13/24 and the next SEPTA meeting will be on 3/25/24 in the Beach Street Library.

Grace Kelly spoke about the mental health portion of the meeting and spoke about the newly formed partnership with PM Pediatrics for Grades K-8 and students identified as deaf can now have access to mental health services. Effective School Solutions (ESS) continues at the high school, counselors will meet with students individually, and family sessions are offered two times a month after school and in the evening. There will be parent counseling sessions in middle school as well, that models the ESS program and will start sometime in March.

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 4341-4347.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2023-2024 donation and related budget increase in the amount of \$500.00 from ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program.

DONATION:

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of donated funds in the amounts of \$500 from ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program, which have been donated to contribute to the costs associated with the high school science, technology, engineering, or mathematics programs for the students of the West Islip High School.

RESOLUTION: INCREASE 2023-2024 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorize the appropriation budget for the 2023-2024 school year to be increased to \$130,220,833.30, an increase of the \$500 donation from ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program for the West Islip High School.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2023-2024 Health Services Contract: Farmingdale UFSD - \$1,350.84; Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD - DOL/DOR 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: Freezer ~ Manetuck Elementary; Miscellaneous books ~ Udall Road; Miscellaneous books ~ Beach Street.

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 re: resolution: results of Pool Bond Vote held January 23, 2024.

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the West Islip Union Free School District approves the results of the January 23, 2024 Pool Bond Vote. Number of ballots cast including Absentee Ballots were 1,086. Yes Votes were 856 and No Votes were 230.

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 advised that he would be sending a letter to the community tomorrow asking for assistance from parents regarding writing letters to the Governor about cuts in state aid. After speaking with local senators and assembly members, the district is hopeful state aid will be reinstated, but it will take advocacy. Dr. Romanelli spoke about save harmless that states state aid would remain the same as previous years, and how the Governor's 2024-2025 budget proposal eliminates this and further lowers Foundation aid resulting in a 3.4 million cut in state aid that would be detrimental to the district. The district does remain hopeful and is asking for help and for residents to reach out to the Governor on this essential proposal. The final budget is expected around 4/1/24 or later.

Dr. Romanelli expressed how proud he is of all the work going on in the district for P.S. I Love You Day and thanked Mr. Jablonski for all his efforts, as well.

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 9:19 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 9:50 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 a resolution re: Memorandum of Agreement with the West Islip Teachers Association dated January 26, 2024 regarding TESOL certification, and authorizes the Board President to execute it on behalf of the District.

Resolution

Resolved, the Board of Education hereby approves a memorandum of agreement with the West Islip Teachers Association dated January 26, 2024 regarding TESOL certification, and authorizes the Board President to execute it on behalf of the District.

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 9:19 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 9:50 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

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Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Super-Executive Session at 9:51 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:48 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:48 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.