

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 14, 2013 – High School

PRESENT: Mr. Brady, Mr. Gellar, Mrs. LaRosa, Mr. Maginniss, Mr. O'Connor,
Mr. Ulrich (arrived 8:45 p.m.), Mr. Zotto

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATORS: Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Duffy, Dr. Rullan

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m., followed by the pledge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

"Invitation to the Public" to speak on an agenda item - Mr. Robert Maresca

Robert Maresca, 688 Pat Drive, West Islip, NY – Mr. Maresca spoke about personnel, specifically the hiring of teachers. He felt that the district should only consider applicants with the highest SAT scores. Mrs. Burns explained that there are many criteria considered when hiring teachers. The district is in the process of reviewing the hiring process and will take his comments into consideration. Mr. Maresca also questioned the criteria for the Board to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Gellar assured him that the Board follows the letter of the law during Executive Session, which our school attorney attends, as well.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Ron Maginniss, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2013 Planning Session.

RECOGNITION:

The following were recognized for their participation in the Thirst Project:

Paola Nilsen, Deanna Berg, Katherine Brady, Dana Buccino, Juliet Czurda, Jessica Hassell, Catherine Hughes, Daniel Kelly, Jennifer LaBombard, Emily Lavacca, Lauren Lavacca, Amanda Medina, Alyssa Policastro, Anthony Raineri, Christina Shaw, Lauren Tyrrie, Madeline Ulrich, Keilani Zajmi

Advisor Paola Nilsen spoke about the work the students have done for the Thirst Project. West Islip is one of 300 schools and universities to participate in this project. They have raised \$7,380.00 toward their goal of \$12,000 to fund a well in Swaziland.

The following were recognized as Keep Islip Clean Junior Commissioners but were unable to attend the meeting:

Madison Madonna, Lena Riportella, Kaitlyn Viviano

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED (CIVIL SERVICE): RESIGNATION: Donna Moran, Cafeteria Aide, effective November 28, 2013 (Bayview).

Motion was made by Mike Zotto, seconded by Ron Maginniss, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED (CIVIL SERVICE): SUBSTITUTE PARAPROFESSIONAL (\$9.75/hr.): *Florence Burns, effective November 15, 2013.

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Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED (CIVIL SERVICE): SUBSTITUTE NURSE (\$100.00 per diem): *Stephanie Coppola, effective November 15, 2013.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Ron Maginniss, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: CONCERT HALL MANAGER 2013-2014: Arthur Machowicz, Beach Street Middle School (\$798 stipend) (replacing John Kennedy {approved at the August 27, 2013 BOE meeting}).

*Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance

CURRICULUM UPDATE: Dr. Rullan informed the audience that Superintendent's Conference Day took place on November 5th. Activities included an overview of APPR and Common Core for all in attendance. Elementary teachers engaged in a report card review, curriculum mapping, and a review of the Response to Intervention Plan. Secondary teachers conducted a benchmark assessment review, ELA study and math curriculum development. Other faculty and staff attended related workshops, some of which were held off-site. It was a productive day and a great deal of work was accomplished. Dr. Rullan thanked all who participated.

REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee: Scott Brady reported on the meeting that was held on 11/12/13. Some of the items reviewed were the September treasurer's report, September payroll summary report, internal claims audit report, system manager audit trail, warrants, financial statements for June and September, budget transfers, special education contract for Little Flower Children & Family Services of New York, SEDCAR contracts and Target donation for Westbrook.

Policy Committee: Annmarie LaRosa reported on the meeting that was held on 10/29/13. There were some policy revisions and a first reading took place for the following policies: #3232 Complaints and Grievances by Students; #6130 Evaluation of Personnel; #7120 School Admissions; #7121 Screening of New School Entrants; #7132 Admission of Foreign Students; #7210 Student Evaluation; #7550 Equal Education Opportunities; #8220 Career (Occupational) Education.

Education Committee: Annmarie LaRosa reported on the meeting that was held on 11/14/13. Dr. Rullan discussed curriculum development and progress is being made in all areas.

Buildings and Grounds: Kevin O'Connor reported on the meeting that was held on 11/12/13. Some of the items discussed were repair of the Udall track, Paul J. Bellew gate repair, Westbrook bathroom renovation completion and School Construction Consultants contract for facilities management support.

Committee on Special Education: Annmarie LaRosa reported on the meeting that was held on 11/14/13. Some of the items discussed were CSE and CPSE recommendations and placements.

Health and Wellness/COMPASS Alliance: Mike Zotto reported on the meeting that was held on 10/25/13. The West Islip faculty and staff raised \$2,407.00 to be donated to the West Islip Breast Cancer Coalition. Approximately 110 students participated in the 2nd Annual Triathlon. The 5K Fun Run is scheduled for Sunday, March 2, 2014. A bullying/hazing pamphlet will be distributed to over 1,500 student athletes. The committee approved funding safety education assemblies at the middle school which will focus on the use of social media. The committee is exploring the possibility of an evening parent workshop.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The treasurer's report for September was presented. Beginning balance as of August 31, 2013 – \$4,261,244.26; ending balance as of September 30, 2013 – \$33,199,167.99.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Scott Brady, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2013-2014 Budget Transfers 3108 – 3113.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the 2013-2014 Special Education Contract: Little Flower Children & Family Services of New York (7/1/2013 – 8/31/2013).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Mike Zotto and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following donation: Westbrook Target - \$544.10. (This donation will be apportioned to the buildings that currently house former Westbrook students.)

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Mike Zotto, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following 2013-2014 SEDCAR CONTRACTS: ACLD, AHRC, Building Blocks Pre-School, Cleary School for the Deaf, Connetquot Central School District of Islip, DDI, Green Chimney Children's Services, The Hagedorn Little Village School, Harmony Heights School, Henry Viscardi School, Hillcrest Educational Center, Just Kids Early Childhood Learning, Kids in Action of Long Island, Inc., Leeway School, Maryhaven Center for Hope, Marion K. Salomon & Associates, Inc., Metro Therapy, Nassau Suffolk Services for the Autistic, The New England Center for Children, Inc., New York Therapy Placement Services, St. Anne Institute, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Summit School, Summit School/Upper Nyack and The Opportunity Pre-School.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Gellar asked Mrs. Burns to speak about the resolution regarding the district's withdrawal from the Race to the Top funding. Mrs. Burns explained that in 2009-2010 a resolution was adopted to accept Race to the Top funding in the amount of \$22,000, of which the district has received \$15,400. Due to the redundancies with the district's student management system (Infinite Campus), and concerns raised about the data dashboards, Mrs. Burns is recommending to the board that the district withdraw from the Race to the Top funding.

Mr. Gellar informed the audience that School Construction Consultants, which has managed the last two bond projects, will manage the rental properties and facility issues. Pending adoption of the resolution, the district will enter into a contract with School Construction Consultants through June 30, 2014.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Memorandum of Agreement re: optional work days ~ West Islip Paraprofessional Chapter of WITA.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Mike Zotto, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Resolution regarding withdrawal from Race to the Top funding.

Motion was made by Kevin O'Connor, seconded by Scott Brady, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve School Construction Consultants agreement.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Mike Zotto, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to *table* the Resolution to adopt provisions of the NYS Superstorm Sandy Assessment Relief Act, pending clarification from Suffolk County regarding holding school districts harmless for costs.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mrs. Burns informed the audience about separate letters the Western Suffolk BOCES and Eastern Suffolk School Superintendents have sent to New York State Education Commissioner, Dr. John B. King, Jr. on behalf of school districts regarding the rush to implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards and the burdens that excessive testing has placed on students, teachers and administrators.

Mrs. Burns also spoke about the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), which has reduced state aid to the district. Information and a letter template will be posted on the school website so that residents can share their concerns with local legislators.

NOTICES/REMINDERS:

Mrs. La Rosa announced there will be a Girl Scout fundraiser in the High School cafeteria on Saturday, November 16, 2013 from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for students in grades K-8. There is a requested \$5.00 donation and those attending are asked to wear red, white or blue. High School Senior and Girl Scout, Brooke DiPalma, is aiming to earn her Gold Award by renovating and refurbishing the Muncy-Weeks Cemetery.

The following resident wished to speak during an "Invitation to the Public" – Mr. Robert Maresca

Robert Maresca, 688 Pat Drive, West Islip, NY – Mr. Maresca had concerns about students names being published without parental consent. Mrs. Burns advised Mr. Maresca that there is a form on the school website that can be filled out by parents prohibiting their child's name from being published.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, 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 10:11 p.m. on motion by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m. on a motion by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Scott Brady and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,



Mary Hock
District Clerk

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