

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
April 10, 2014 – High School**

PRESENT: Mr. Gellar, Mr. Brady, Mr. Maginniss, Mr. O'Connor, Mrs. LaRosa, Mr. Ulrich, Mr. Zotto

ABSENT: None

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

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

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Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mr. Gellar announced that Mrs. Burns was reappointed as Superintendent as referenced in the February 25, 2014 board minutes due to a clerical issue that needed to be corrected.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2014 and March 25, 2014 board meetings.

**RECOGNITION:**

Athletic:

Boys Varsity Winter Track – *Michael Martiny – All State*

Boys Varsity Swimming and Diving – *Patrick Carter – All County, All Long Island*

Varsity Cheerleading - *Katherine Brady – Long Island Cheerleading All Star, Wendy's High School Heisman Award*

Science Olympiad:

Beach: *Amy Acevedo, Thomas Albrecht, William Albrecht, Matthew Borello, Ty Carpinello, Sean Coppola, Natalie Cosentino, Scott Demarest, Peter DeMicco, Owen DiStefano, Melodi Doganay, Noelle Fallon, Alex Forte, Kaitlyn Friedman, Maxwell Gingher, Julia Grippo, Luke Harris, Robert Hoyler, Rowan Kelly, Derek Kim, Jake Maresca, Molly McLaughlin, Roman Millet, Miranda Paterno, Aidan Pecorale, Evan Raible, Noorul Sabaah, Ashley Taylor, Jack Walsh*

Udall: *Brielle Arnold, Brandi Barasch, Samantha Barasch, James Cameron, Timothy Cameron, John Cannarella, Nikkolette DePetro, Shannon Edgley, Evan Frame, Nicholas Gee, Jack Langhorn, Kimberly Matheson, Natalia Ohlau, Michael Pleitez, Kathleen Polley, Mark Regan, Malanie Regan, Andrew Spiratos, Jake Turcios*

PERSONNEL:

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Ron Maginniss, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve RETIREMENT: Elisabeth Zamarelli, Special Education, effective July 1, 2014 (35 years).

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid): Pamela Carleo, Special Education, effective September 2, 2014 to June 30, 2015 (Beach).

Motion was made by Kevin O'Connor, seconded by Ron Maginniss, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid): Beth Fiorini, Social Studies, effective September 2, 2014 to June 30, 2015 (High School).

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Mike Zotto, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid): Heather Gallo, Elementary, effective September 2, 2014 – June 30, 2015 (Oquenock).

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid): (Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993–12-week continuous medical coverage) Robyn Southard, Psychology, effective March 31, 2014 to June 30, 2014 (Beach).

Motion was made by Mike Zotto, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED (CIVIL SERVICE): SUBSTITUTE PARAPROFESSIONAL (\$9.75/hr.): \*Susan Carlson, effective April 11, 2014; \*Nancy Corso, effective April 11, 2014; Mary Cuffaro, effective April 11, 2014; \*Colleen Giumaraes, effective April 11, 2014; \*Kristen Quinn, effective April 11, 2014; Anita Sorrenti, effective April 11, 2014; Michelina Swick, effective April 11, 2014.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION (\$30/hr.): Joseph Beauchamp, effective March 19, 2014.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$100 per diem): Nicole Costa, effective April 4, 2014; Julianne Jablonski, effective April 1, 2014; Susan Torres, effective April 11, 2014; Jennifer Travaglia, effective April 8, 2014.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHING ASSISTANT (\$85 per diem): Julianne Jablonski, effective April 11, 2014; Susan Torres, effective April 11, 2014; Jennifer Travaglia, effective April 8, 2014.

CURRICULUM UPDATE:

Dr. Rullan informed the audience that ELA Testing for Grades 3-8 went smoothly. The Response to Intervention Committee finished the RtI Plan, directors are using district data to find trends and identify strengths and areas of improvement for professional development goals, and the Curriculum Review Committee is looking into a program review protocol to ensure that materials being used are serving the needs of the students.

REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting held on 4/8/2014. Items reviewed included the February treasurer's report, extra-curricular report, payroll summary, internal claims audit report and systems manager audit trail. Warrants, February financial statements, budget transfers, health service contracts for Bellmore UFSD, Smithtown CSD, S. Huntington UFSD, Uniondale UFSD, Consultant Services Contract for Top Grade and Suffolk Auto Driving School bid were also reviewed. Mrs. Duffy informed the committee of a change of schedule for the June Finance Committee meeting. The meeting originally scheduled for June 10, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. will now be held on June 12, 2014 at 6:45 p.m.

Education Committee: Annmarie LaRosa reported on the meeting that was held on 4/10/2014. A review of work that the committee has completed was reviewed, including curriculum writing; elementary library literacy, K-5 science, K-8 writing units, K-2 skills unit and 3-12 language arts. The Response to Intervention Plan is also complete and will be adopted at the next board meeting.

Buildings and Grounds: Kevin O'Connor reported on the meeting held on 4/8/14. A grounds update was provided and items reviewed included permit fees for 2014-2015, a tenant identification sign at Westbrook, an e-mail sent to tenants regarding building security and custodial organizational structure.

Legislative Action Committee: Steve Gellar informed the audience that the he, other Board trustees, and representatives from the administrative and teaching staffs met with legislators on March 21, 2014 regarding state funding for the district. Legislators heard the voices of West Islip residents through the thousands of letters that were mailed to them. This effort was reflected in the final outcome of the state budget aid to West Islip.

Committee on Special Education: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting that was held on 4/9/14. Items reviewed included CSE and CPSE modifications, annual reviews and an update on impartial hearings.

Health and Wellness/COMPASS Alliance: Mike Zotto reported on the meeting that was held 3/25/2014. Items reviewed included Wellness Weekend and the free cardiac screening event that identified four students with possible cardiac concerns. The committee also discussed future 5K Fun Runs, the June newsletter, Preventative Care Packages (drug testing kits) being available in the high school nurse's office in the near future and the "Shed the Meds" event which will take place on 5/31/14 at the Exchange Ambulance in East Islip. The next meeting will take place on 5/7/14 at 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at Paul J. Bellew.

Bullying Awareness Committee: Annmarie LaRosa reported on the meeting that was held 3/17/14. Items reviewed included youth gambling, impact of technology and how gambling relates to drug and alcohol abuse.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The treasurer's report for January was presented. Beginning balance as of January 31, 2014: \$42,273,256.77; ending balance as of February 28, 2014: \$36,125,550.40.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2013-2014 Budget Transfers 3127-3132.

Motion was made by Kevin O'Connor, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2013-2014 Health Service Contracts for Bellmore UFSD - \$943.31; Smithtown CSD - \$861.11; S. Huntington UFSD - \$24,222.30; Uniondale UFSD - \$1,222.80.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Ron Maginniss, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following bid: Suffolk Auto Driving School - In-Car Driver Education Instruction with Vehicles.

Motion was made by Mike Zotto, seconded by Bob Ulrich, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the declaration of surplus item - #504, 1988 Chevy Van VIN # 1GCGG35K7J7177921.

Motion was made by Kevin O'Connor, seconded by Ron Maginniss, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Consultant Services Contract for Top Grade.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Gellar informed the audience that the tax levy cap of 1.52% has been adjusted to 1.64%. The 2014-2015 proposed budget is within the tax cap, and therefore requires 50 percent of the vote plus one vote. The final state budget provides for an increase of \$600,000 in our state aid for next year.

Mrs. Burns announced that the district will be able to reinstate full time librarians in each of the elementary schools.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the adoption of the 2014-2015 School District Budget - \$115,281,645.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Mike Zotto, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2013-2014 Impartial Hearing Officers {updated}.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mrs. Burns informed the audience that Commander Bob Brown of the Third Precinct recently provided an update to the discussion items from their January meeting. The location of the Udall Road crossing guards at Arcadia and Gerek are being monitored, crosswalks will soon be painted, and a pedestrian study regarding traffic in various locations may be undertaken.

Mrs. Burns also spoke about recent newspaper articles regarding "The Challenge Index", which rates schools based on the number of students taking college level courses. West Islip is in the top 2,000 of 22,000 schools nationwide. Mrs. Burns explained how some of the newspaper articles do not always clearly represent a district, particularly in light of how the information reported in these articles is determined.

#### NOTICES/REMINDERS:

Nominating Petitions for Board Trustee seats will be available at District Office on March 14, 2014/Due at District Office by 5:00 p.m. on April 21, 2014.

Bob Ulrich announced Relay for Life will take place on June 21 - 22, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. If you are interested in signing up, the information is on the school website. On Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight there will be a fund raiser at Buffalo Wild Wings in Deer Park, and 15% of sales will go to Relay for Life. Last year's Relay for Life event raised \$72,000; this year's goal is \$75,000.

The following residents wished to speak during an "Invitation to the Public":

Julia Johnson, 14 Foxglove Road, West Islip  
Craig Miller, 41 Evelyn Road, West Islip  
Kerri Giorgianni, 190 Parkwood Road, West Islip  
Michelle Kilkelly, 13 Pearl Court, West Islip  
Adrianna Kenefick, 61 Foxglove Road, West Islip

All of the above listed residents have kindergarten children at Paul J. Bellew Elementary. All of these parents were concerned about first grade class size for the 2014-2015 school year. They all felt that class size was a very important component to student achievement. Some parents also had concerns regarding elimination of enrichment classes.

Mrs. Burns and Mr. Gellar explained how class size fluctuates from year to year, and the district is presently in the monitoring stage of the process. Mrs. Burns explained that class size is important but the most important component to student achievement is the classroom teacher. Mr. Gellar also explained that relative to the districts in the Islip area, West Islip has the second lowest class size.

Mrs. Burns also addressed concerns regarding the enrichment program, informing the audience that the curriculum writing process will address topics of the Discovery/Enrichment program.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Bob Ulrich and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:11 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:34 p.m. on motion by Kevin O'Connor, seconded by Bob Ulrich and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m. on a motion by Scott Brady, seconded by Ron Maginniss 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.