

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**March 13, 2024 – Beach Street Middle School**

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

ABSENT: Mrs. Brown

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

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Vigliotta

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Meeting called to order at 7:31 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

Mr. Tussie asked for a moment of silence to honor Kenneth M. Hartill who was the principal at the West Islip High School for many years and recently passed away.

Student Representative Report

Jake Gutman, Public Relations Officer of the World Language National Honor Society, spoke spreading awareness about different languages and cultures. Jake spoke about different flags decorating the hallways at the high school to represent various cultures and playing cultural music during different periods throughout the day. There was also an international festival and scavenger hunt at Udall and a language exchange at Oquenock.

Lucas Scourtos spoke about having the opportunity to attend the DECA competition and spoke about the opportunities he had pitching ideas, attending workshops and how he was able to bring three other people. He also spoke about fundraising since attending the conference is expensive. Lucas also shared how Hofstra University offered him a scholarship because of DECA.

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 February 27, 2024 Planning Session and the February 29, Special Meeting.

PERSONNEL:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following T-1 retirements:

**TEACHERS**

**T-1**

**RETIREMENT**

Jill Culver, Art  
Effective July 1, 2024  
(25 years)

Kristen Finnegan, Elementary  
Effective July 1, 2024  
(32 years)

**T-1**

Maria Lucie, Elementary  
Effective July 1, 2024  
(25 years)

James McManus, Jr., Physical Education  
Effective July 1, 2024  
(38.5 years)

Carrie Beth Russo, Social Worker  
Effective July 1, 2024  
(20 years)

Kelly Sepe, Science  
Effective July 1, 2024  
(26 years)

Karen Testa, Mathematics  
Effective July 1, 2024  
(18 years)

Mary Claire Yoder, English  
Effective July 1, 2024  
(29 years)

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-2 listed below:

**T-2**

**REGULAR SUBSTITUTE (AMENDED)**

Alessia Tocco, Family and Consumer Science  
Effective September 1, 2023 through April 16, 2024  
(Beach & High School; change in date from September 1, 2023 through March 13, 2024)

Catherine Seale, Social Worker  
Effective January 24, 2024 through June 26, 2024  
(Oquenock; change in date from January 24, 2024 through March 13, 2024)

**CIVIL  
SERVICE**

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following CL-1 retirement:

**CL-1**

**RETIREMENT**

Mary Hock, Administrative Assistant & District Clerk  
Effective May 31, 2024  
(22 years)

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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 approve the personnel consent agenda CL-2, CL-3 and OTHER as listed below:

**CL-2**                    **SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN** (\$16/hr)

Landen Smith, effective March 14, 2024

**CL-3**                    **SUBSTITUTE FOOD SERVICE WORKER** (\$16/hr)

Theresa Clark, effective March 14, 2024

**OTHER**

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

Kaylee Martin, High School  
Effective March 14, 2024 through June 26, 2024

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

- \*Matthew Calhoun, effective March 14, 2024
- \*Jack Classen, effective March 14, 2024
- \*Genna Johnson, effective March 14, 2024
- \*Erin MacFadden, effective March 14, 2024
- \*Olessia Sabadakh, effective March 14, 2024
- \*Jenna Vallinoto, effective March 14, 2024

**SPRING 2024 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES**

**GIRLS TRACK (AMENDED)**

Vincent Melia, Varsity Coach, *effective March 11, 2024*  
(Replacement for Nicholas Grieco)

Sierra Koehler, Assistant Varsity Coach, *effective March 11, 2024*  
(Replacement for Vincent Melia)

**BOYS TRACK**

Matthew Sullivan, Per Diem Assistant Varsity Coach

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

Lifeguard  
Abigail Richardelli

*\*Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

## CURRICULUM REPORT

Mrs. Morrison informed the audience that students in grades 3-8 participated in the New York State English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics tests. The results from these tests assists teachers with ensuring that students receive the academic support necessary. The ELA test will be administered in April and the Math test will be administered in May. All students are encouraged to take the tests.

Mrs. Morrison advised that Mr. Wallace's College Business Law students attended court during a citizenship hearing and learned about the roles and operations of the federal court system. Three Virtual Enterprise "startup" firms will attend the International Trade Show at the Javit's Center in New York City where West Islip's future entrepreneurs will showcase their business models. IB DNA Day took place at the high school on March 7. Students conducted three experiments throughout the day and utilized advanced biotechnology typically only made available to college students. Bayview Elementary hosted a Career Fair that included parents volunteering their time to speak to students and staff about various careers such as architect, electrician, nurse, assistant principal, chiropractor and financial planner.

Beach Street and Udall Road Middle Schools are currently taking part in One Book, One School. Students are participating in daily challenges and cross-curricular activities surrounding The One and Only Ivan. The ENL and World Language Departments at Udall and the High School are celebrating International Month and sharing information about languages and cultures as they prepare for the International Day Event on March 22nd. The district will be having a Literacy Summit on April 2, at 7 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.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting held 2/27/24. Items reviewed included an update on custodial grounds, there was removal of old junk, cleaning of storage areas and grounds are being prepared for spring sports. The MASERA/BOCES project work is progressing, work on the high school fire alarm sensors is ongoing, Paul J. Bellew will have two gym windows installed and the district office security vestibule project will start this summer. Other capital reserve projects will be on the 5/21/24 school budget vote ballot.

Health & Wellness Committee: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting held 3/5/24. Items reviewed included Financial Report, newsletter to be mailed soon, fifth and sixth grade volleyball tournaments will take place 3/8 and 3/9 at the high school; A 2024 Fall community initiative was discussed that would include a Glow Run/Walk on West Islip High School property; applications are being accepted for Health & Wellness Alliance scholarships. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at Paul J. Bellew Elementary School and the May meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting held 3/12/2024. Items reviewed included 8th Grade Acceleration for All: math and science will remain the same for 2024-2025 and changes will take place in the 2025-2026 school year; cell phone policy committee drafted policies, grades K-5 phones are not allowed and the high school will have zones where cell phones are permitted; the equity committee reviewed the recent feedback document from parents and guardians and there were over 200 responses that the district is doing very well; and Grade 3 Foundations will go from a pilot program to actual program for the 2024-2025 school year.

Finance Committee: Christina Marks reported on the meeting held 3/12/2024. Items reviewed included the January treasurer's report; January extra-curricular report; January payroll summary; January financial statements; February claims audit report; February system manager audit trail; payroll certifications; budget transfers; and surplus items.

Policy Committee: James Cameron reported that work on the district's revised policy manual continues. There was a First Reading on Policy 3000 that was reviewed by NYSSBA and the district's school attorneys, Volz & Vigliotta, LLP. Feedback on Series 2000(School Board Governance) and Series 1000 Community Relations continues.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve second reading next month for the following policies: New 7572 – Timeout and Physical Restraints (all Students) and New 7572.1R – Timeout and Physical Restraint Regulation; New – 7572.1E Timeout and Physical Restraint Exhibit and New NYSSBA Aligned Manual – Series 3000; Administration. The next meeting will take place on 4/11/24.

Special Education Committee: Christina Marks reported on the meeting held 3/13/2024. Items reviewed included approval of IEPs based on CSE/CPSE recommendations. Mrs. Dowling held a CSE transition meeting for parents of CPSE students transitioning to kindergarten in the fall. The meeting was well attended good questions were asked and the committee plans to have this meeting next year, as well. There are slides on the special education website for anyone who would like to see what was presented.

#### 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 4348-4360 and Capital Fund budget transfers 4349-4361.

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: Deer Park UFSD – Health Services ~ \$1,029.18; Smithtown CSD Health Services ~ \$5,188.96; Smithtown CSD Special Education Services-DOL/DOR.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Surplus Items: Vision Screener ~ Manetuck; Miscellaneous IT equipment ~ Districtwide.

#### 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: receipt of the Single audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2023 from R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP.

#### Resolution

*BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the West Islip School District acknowledge receipt of the Single Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2023 from R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP.*

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Board member Peter McCann, offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. The adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Richard Antoniello and duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted in AYES: 6 and NOES: 0 the resolution was declared adopted.

**BOND RESOLUTION OF THE WEST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, NEW YORK, ADOPTED MARCH 13, 2024, AUTHORIZING THE EXPANSION OF THE DISTRICT'S SWIMMING POOL, INCLUDING WORK REQUIRED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; STATING THE ESTIMATED TOTAL COST THEREOF IS NOT TO EXCEED \$13,850,574; APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$13,850,574 SERIAL BONDS OF SAID DISTRICT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION.**

Recital

WHEREAS, at the Special District Meeting duly called and held on January 23, 2024, in the West Islip Union Free School District, in the County of Suffolk, New York (the "District"), a majority of the qualified voters present and voting approved a Bond Proposition authorizing the expansion of the District's swimming pool, including all mechanical, electrical, plumbing and construction requirements, at the West Islip High School, substantially as described in a report prepared for the District by BBS Architects, Landscape Architects & Engineers, P.C., at the estimated total cost of not to exceed \$13,850,574; and further authorized the Board of Education to levy and collect a tax to be collected in annual installments to pay the principal of and interest on the not to exceed \$13,850,574 serial bonds authorized to be issued;

Now, therefore,

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE WEST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, NEW YORK, HEREBY RESOLVES (by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of all the members of said Board of Education) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The West Islip Union Free School District, in the County of Suffolk, New York, is hereby authorized to expand the existing 5-lane indoor pool to a new 6-lane pool, including all mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and construction requirements, at the West Islip High School, substantially as described in a report prepared for the District by BBS Architects, Landscape Architects & Engineers, P.C., which report is on file and available for public inspection at the office of the District Clerk, the foregoing is to include the original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and ancillary or related site, demolition and other work required in connection therewith; and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof, an amount not to exceed the estimated maximum cost of \$13,850,574 and said amount is hereby appropriated therefor. The plan of financing includes the issuance of not to exceed \$13,850,574 serial bonds of the District, and the levy and collection of taxes on all the taxable real property in the District to pay the principal of said bonds and the interest thereon as the same shall become due and payable.

Section 2. Serial bonds of the District in the amount of \$13,850,574 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (herein called "Law") to finance said appropriation.

Section 3. The following additional matters are hereby determined and declared:

(a) The period of probable usefulness applicable to the purpose for which serial bonds are authorized to be issued pursuant to this resolution, within the limitations of Section 11.00 a. 97 of the Law, is thirty (30) years.

(b) The proceeds of the bonds herein authorized and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds may be applied to reimburse the District for expenditures made for the purpose or purposes for which said bonds are authorized. The foregoing statement of intent with respect to reimbursement is made in conformity with Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 of the United States Treasury Department.

Section 4. Each of the bonds authorized by this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds shall contain the recital of validity as prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and said bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of said bonds shall be general obligations of the District, payable as to both principal and interest by general tax upon all the taxable real property within the District without limitation of rate or amount. The faith and credit of the District are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds and provision shall be made annually in the budget of the District by appropriation for (a) the amortization and redemption of the bonds and any notes in anticipation thereof to mature in such year and (b) the payment of interest to be due and payable in such year.

Section 5. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and of the Law and pursuant to the provisions of Section 21.00 relative to the authorization of the issuance of bonds with substantially level or declining annual debt service, Section 30.00 relative to the authorization of the issuance of bond anticipation notes and Section 50.00 and Sections 56.00 to 60.00 of the Law, the powers and duties of the Board of Education relative to authorizing bond anticipation notes and prescribing the terms, form and contents and as to the sale and issuance of all bonds herein and heretofore authorized and of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, and the renewals of said bond anticipation notes, are hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District.

Section 6. The validity of the bonds authorized by this resolution, and of any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds, may be contested only if:

(a) such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the District is not authorized to expend money, or

(b) the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of such resolution, or a summary hereof, are not substantially complied with,

and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or

(c) such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Section 7. This bond resolution shall take effect immediately, and the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish the foregoing resolution, in summary, together with a Notice attached in substantially the form prescribed by §81.00 of the Law in the “*Islip Bulletin*,” an official newspaper of the District having a general circulation within the District.

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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 approve resolution re: Notice of Public Hearing, Budget Vote and Election of the West Islip UFSD Suffolk County, New York.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION OF THE WEST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing of the qualified voters of the West Islip Union Free School District, Town of Islip, Suffolk County, New York, will be held in the Beach Street Middle School, in said district on May 7, 2024 at 7:00 PM, prevailing time, for the transaction of business as authorized by the Education Law, including the following items:

1. To present to the voters a detailed statement (proposed budget) of the amount of money which will be required for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
2. To discuss all the items hereinafter set forth to be voted upon by voting machines at the Budget Vote and Election to be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting pursuant to Education Law of the State of New York and acts amendatory thereto.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the School District's budget for 2024-2025, exclusive of public moneys, may be obtained by any resident of the District beginning Monday, April 30, 2024 between the hours of 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, prevailing time, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays at the Office of the District Clerk, 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795, at the West Islip Public Library and on the District's internet website.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that said Budget Vote and Election will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, in the West Islip High School, between the hours of 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine upon the following items:

1. Budget Vote

To adopt the annual budget of the School District for the fiscal year 2024-2025 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.

2. Use of General Capital Reserve Fund and General Capital Reserve Fund II

To authorize the West Islip Union Free School District to undertake certain capital improvements consisting of (i) installing boiler burner replacements districtwide and (ii) upgrading the Udall Road Middle School orchestra room, which includes HVAC, a floor renovation and installation of acoustical tiles, all at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$860,000 and to appropriate and expend up to \$400,000 from the General Capital Reserve Fund and up to \$460,000 from the General Capital Reserve Fund II.

3. Election of Board Members

To elect two (2) members of the Board of Education for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2024, and expiring on June 30, 2027 to succeed Richard Antonello and Debbie Brown, whose terms expires on June 30, 2024.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to Section 495 of the Real Property Tax Law, the School District is required to attach to its proposed budget an exemption report. Said exemption report, which will also become part of the final budget, will show how the total assessed value of the final assessment roll used in the budgetary process is exempt from taxation, list every

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type of exemption granted by the statutory authority, and show the cumulative impact of each type of exemption, the cumulative amount expected to be received as payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) and the cumulative impact of all exemptions granted. In addition, said exemption report shall be posted on any bulletin board maintained by the District for public notices and on any website maintained by the District.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education shall be filed with the Clerk of said School District at her office in the Administrative Office at 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795, not later than April 22, 2024, between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, prevailing time. Each petition shall be directed to the Clerk of the District; must be signed by at least 53 qualified voters of the District (representing 2% of the number of voters who voted in the 2023 annual election); Vacancies on the Board of Education are not considered separate, specific offices; candidates run at large. Nominating petitions shall not describe any specific vacancy upon the Board for which the candidate is nominated.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that personal registration of voters is required either pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law, or pursuant to Article 5 of the Election Law. If a voter has heretofore registered pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law and has voted at an annual or special district meeting within the last four (4) calendar years, he or she is eligible to vote at this election. If a voter is registered and eligible to vote under Article 5 of the Election Law, he or she is also eligible to vote at this election. All other persons who wish to vote must register.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, the voters may register with the Clerk of said School District at her office in the District Administration Office, 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. when school is in session at any day on or before May 16, 2024 to add any additional names to the Register to be used at the aforesaid election, at which time any person will be entitled to have his or her name placed on such Register provided that at such meeting with the Clerk of said School District he or she is known or proven to the satisfaction of the Clerk of said School District to be then or thereafter entitled to vote at such election for which the Register is prepared. The Register so prepared pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law will be filed in the Office of the District Clerk, at her office in the District Administration Office, 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795, and will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District beginning on and after Thursday, May 16, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, prevailing time, on Saturday, May 18, 2024 by prearranged appointment only between the hours of 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM, and on May 21, 2024, the day set for the election except Sunday, and at the polling place(s) on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law of the State of New York, the Board of Registration will meet on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, between the hours of 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM, prevailing time, at the West Islip High School, to prepare the Register of the School District to be used at the Budget Vote and Election to be held in 2024 and any special district meeting that may be held after the preparation of said Register, at which time any person will be entitled to have his or her name placed on such Register provided that at such meeting of said Board of Registration he or she is known or proven to the satisfaction of such Board of Registration to be then or thereafter entitled to vote at the school election for which said Register is prepared, or any special district meeting held after May 21, 2024.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that applications for early mail ballots and absentee ballots are obtainable online at: [www.wi.k12.ny.us](http://www.wi.k12.ny.us) and will be obtainable during school business hours from the District Clerk beginning Monday, April 22, 2024; completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no earlier than April 22, 2024 and at least seven (7) days before the election, May 14, 2024, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, May 20, 2024, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Early mail ballots and absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

A list of persons to whom early mail ballots and absentee ballots are issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District in the Office of the District Clerk on and after Thursday, May 16, 2024, on each day prior to the day set for the election, except Sunday, on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, prevailing time, on Saturday, May 18, 2024 by prearranged appointment only between the hours of 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM, and on May 21, 2024, the day set for the election. Any qualified voter then present in the polling place may object to the voting of the ballot upon appropriate grounds by making his or her challenge and the reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls. A challenge to an absentee ballot may not be made on the basis that the voter should have applied for an early mail ballot.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that military voters who are not currently registered may apply to register as a qualified voter of the school district. An application for registration as a military voter can be requested from Mary Hock, District Clerk, West Islip UFSD, 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, New York 11795 by mail or e-mail [m.hock@wi.k12.ny.us](mailto:m.hock@wi.k12.ny.us) Monday through Friday when school is in session from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the application for registration must be received in the office of the clerk no later than 5:00 pm on April 25, 2024, which is the day before the last day for the transmission of military ballots. In the request for an application for registration, the military voter is permitted to designate his/her preference for receiving the application for registration by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail.

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AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that military voters who are qualified voters of the district may submit an application for a military ballot from Mary Hock, District Clerk, West Islip UFSD, 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, New York 11795 by mail or e-mail [m.hock@wi.k12.ny.us](mailto:m.hock@wi.k12.ny.us) Monday through Friday when school is in session from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; in order to receive a military ballot, the military ballot application must be received no later than 5:00 pm on April 25, 2024, which is the day preceding the last day for transmission of military ballots. In the request for an application for a military ballot, the military voter is permitted to designate his/her preference for receiving the application for a military ballot, and the military ballot, by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail. All qualified military voters' ballot application and military ballot must be returned by mail or in person. Ballots for military voters shall be distributed to qualified military voters no later than April 26, 2024. Military ballots must be received by the District Clerk (1) before the close of the polls, on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, and must show a cancellation mark of the United States postal service or a foreign country's postal service, or must show a dated endorsement of receipt by another agency of the United States Government; or (2) not later than 5:00 pm on the day of the election and be signed and dated by the military voter and one witness, with a date ascertained to be not later than the day before the election.

A list of persons to whom military ballots are issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District in the Office of the District Clerk on and after Thursday, May 16, 2024, on each day prior to the day set for the election, except Sunday, on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, prevailing time, on Saturday, May 18, 2024 by prearranged appointment only between the hours of 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM, and on May 21, 2024, the day set for the election. Any qualified voter then present in the polling place may object to the voting of the ballot upon appropriate grounds by making his or her challenge and the reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Section 2035 of the Education Law, any referenda or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Education at the District Office, 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795, in sufficient time to permit notice of the proposition to be included with the Notice of the Public Hearing, Budget Vote and Election required by Section 2004 of the Education Law or on or before Friday, March 22, 2024, at 4:00 PM, prevailing time; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be directed to the Clerk of the School District; must be signed by at least 263 qualified voters of the District (representing 10 percent of the number of voters who voted in the previous annual election); and must legibly state the name of each signer. However, the School Board will not entertain any petition to place before the voters any proposition the purpose of which is not within the powers of the voters to determine, which is unlawful, or any proposition which fails to include a specific appropriation where the expenditure of monies is required by the proposition, or where other valid reason exists for excluding the proposition from the ballot.

Dated: West Islip, New York March 13, 2024  
By Order of the  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
West Islip Union Free School District  
West Islip, NY 11795  
Mary Hock, District Clerk

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 spoke about visiting Udall Middle School and seeing students do the morning announcements in their home languages and sharing messages with the entire school. He also spoke about the community book reading of One Book One School and sat in on one of the classes.

Dr. Romanelli gave a shout out to Dr. Patrick Kiley-Rendon, Director of Technology & Innovation. Dr. Kiley-Rendon was the conference chair for a Technology Conference held at the Hilton. The conference had 600

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educators and 200 vendors. Two West Islip teachers won raffles and a number of West Islip educators presented workshops including three students who also present. The West Islip Jazz Band played during lunch and Dr. Romanelli shared how proud he was of everything going on in the district.

Dr. Romanelli also spoke about Budget Workshop #2 and how circumstances with the budget are changing all the time and the district is pinpointing where they need to be to balance the budget and put together a budget the community can approve. He spoke about news that came out from the Senate and the Assembly both in favor of restoration of the safe harmless provision and the inflation rate adjustment that is in favor of recalculating at 4.1% rather than the 2.4%. There is also a push to increase foundation aid by 3% and there could be an increase to Pre-K funding from \$5,400 per Pre-K student to \$7,000 per student. Dr. Romanelli is hopeful that when the Governor's financial budget comes through, it includes what the senate and assembly have proposed in their plans.

Dr. Romanelli also advised that the district is continuing to advocate and that he was up in Albany along with Mr. Kaufman, who was representing WITA, and has been doing a letter writing campaign. Dr. Romanelli expressed how he appreciates the support of the parents, staff and community members. He advised that Mr. Tussie and himself, will be meeting with Senator Martinez and Assemblyman Durso will be coming to the district next week. The district is advocating and pressing for restoration of these funds and hopeful that the district will be getting these funds back.

The following resident wished to speak during "Invitation to the Public":

Claudia Worley – Mrs. Worley has questions regarding UPK and if the South Shore Children's Center could accommodate students. Dr. Romanelli and Mrs. Morrison advised that they did visit South Shore and the classrooms are large enough. Mrs. Worley also asked about sibling preference regarding the UPK lottery and Dr. Romanelli advised that it is his intention to try to honor that. Mrs. Worley inquired about empty classrooms at Manetuck Elementary and Dr. Romanelli explained that enrollment is up 24 students at the elementary level.

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 8:05 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 8:47 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 adjourn to Super-Executive Session at 8:47 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 8:50 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello 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.