

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 16, 2015 – Beach Street Middle School

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

ABSENT: None

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

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

Meeting was called to order at 8:01 p.m., followed by the pledge.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2015 Planning Session.

RECOGNITION

Athletic

Boys Varsity Wrestling
Nicholas Colloca – All County

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

Varsity Cheerleading
Mia Dellamorte – Long Island Cheerleading All Star

Science Olympiad

West Islip High School: *Jessica Levings and Linda Tong, Advisors*
Kaitlyn Antulov, Benjamin Dookram, Nesliban Kasap, Siobban Keeling, Hannah Kim, Christopher Longpre, Molly McLaughlin, Sara Mercurio, Evan Sigouros, Zachary Srubinski, Ryan Tobin, Jordan Villar, Daniel Welborn

Beach: *Lynn Larsen, Advisor*
Erin Bevan, Matthew Borello, Micaylee Cassidy, Sean Coppola, Scott Demarest, Douglas Dillman, Owen DiStefano, Olivia Dnyer, Madison Esposito, Shannon Feminella, Maxwell Gingham, Robert Hoyler, Derek Kim, Abigail Lashinsky, Jake Maresca, Isabella Marmo, Roman Millet, Mckenzie O'Connell, Peter Pastore, Gianna Pillitteri, Evan Raible, Vanessa Randazzo, Olivia Taylor, Grace Villar, Jack Walsh, Krista Wolfe, Charles Zito

Udall: *Brenda Mayo, Advisor / Melanie Regan, Student Helper*
Joel Adames, Brielle Arnold, Anthony Ball, Samantha Barasch, James Cameron, Nicholas Gee, Kimberly Matheson, Alexa Nielsen, Sebastian Nikas, Ciara Padilla, Jocelyn Padilla, Michael Pleitez, Kathleen Polley, Mark Regan, Roscoe Schafer, Matthew Scheid, Dorian Scourtos, Andrew Spiratos, Jake Turcios, Tobias Wefering

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Scott Brady and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RESIGNATION: Heather Gallo, Elementary, effective July 1, 2015.

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): Maureen Sanchez, Special Education, effective April 20, 2015 through June 30, 2015 (Manetuck).

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): Ariana Stubbmann, Reading, effective September 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 (Manetuck).

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Scott Brady and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED (CIVIL SERVICE): SUBSTITUTE CLERICAL (\$11.00 per hour): *Michelle Gent, effective April 17, 2015.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Mike Zotto and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED (CIVIL SERVICE): SUBSTITUTE FOOD SERVICE WORKER (\$9.75 per hour): Claire Bodner, effective April 17, 2015.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Bob Ulrich and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CLASSIFIED (CIVIL SERVICE): SUBSTITUTE PARAPROFESSIONAL (\$9.75 per hour): *Christine Antippas, effective April 17, 2015; *Jennifer Bosch, effective April 17, 2015; *Melissa Iehle, effective April 17, 2015; *Lisa MacInness, effective April 17, 2015; Laura Muhlstin, effective April 17, 2015.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Scott Brady and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR 2014-2015: Robert Pitagno, effective April 13, 2015 (replacing Alexandra Nohowec {approved at September 11, 2014 BoE meeting}).

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Kevin O'Connor and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: 2015 SPRING HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES: BOYS LACROSSE: Scott Mattera, Assistant Udall Coach (replacing Edward Montalvo {approved at February 12, 2015 BoE meeting}); Edward Montalvo, Udall & JV Volunteer Coach (change from Assistant Udall Coach {approved at February 12, 2015 BoE meeting}).

Motion was made by Kevin O'Connor, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTOR (\$30 per hour): Joann Hilbert, effective April 17, 2015.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Dr. Rullan informed the audience that the New York State English Language Arts testing took place this week for Grades 3-8 and that there was an increase in the number of students who refused to take the exam. Dr. Rullan provided an update as to the various activities within each of the curricular areas. Dr. Rullan congratulated the cast of Mary Poppins for a phenomenal performance.

REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEES

Finance Committee: Bob Ulrich reported on the meeting held on 4/14/2015. Items reviewed included the February treasurer's report, extracurricular report, February payroll summary and claims audit report. Warrants, February financial statements, donation of a 1998 Pontiac Grand Prix, donation from Farrell's of Brooklyn for Ipads, Stipulation of Settlement and Release for Gersh Academy, health service contracts for Bellmore UFSD, Deer Park UFSD, Smithtown CSD and South Huntington UFSD and a bid for the purchase of a pre-owned commercial Tractor/Mower were reviewed.

Education Committee: Annmarie LaRosa reported on the meeting held on 4/16/2015. Items reviewed included Superintendent's Conference Day, the professional development calendar for next year, kindergarten writing samples, the possibility of Universal Pre-K classes and fostering consistency in the area of grading requirements and practices.

Buildings and Grounds: Kevin O'Connor reported on the meeting held on 4/14/2015. Items reviewed included difficulties encountered mounting the new high school score board and prioritizing potential bond proposition items.

Committee on Special Education/Preschool Special Education: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting that took place on 4/16/2015. An update on annual reviews, CSE and CPSE recommendations for the month and student placements were reviewed.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The treasurer's report for February was presented. Beginning balance as of 1/31/2015: \$46,460,182.40; ending balance as of 2/28/15: \$39,914,575.41.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Budget Transfers 3183-3190.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Stipulation of Settlement and Release for Gersh Academy.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve a donation from Doreen Montefusco – High School Automotive Class – 1998 Pontiac Grand Prix VIN No.1G2WJ52M8WF231596 Kelly Blue Book – Market Value \$1,432 and donation from Farrell's of Brooklyn for Ipads for Special Education Classes - \$3,700.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2014-2015 Health Services Contracts for: Bellmore UFSD - \$977.12; Deer Park UFSD - \$3,446.56; Smithtown CSD - \$836.21 and South Huntington UFSD - \$18,113.12.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, seconded by Kevin O'Connor, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve bid for Storr Tractor Company – purchase of pre-owned commercial tractor/mower.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve adoption of the 2015-2016 School District Budget in the amount of \$117,750,846.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Scott Brady, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Memorandum of Agreement with WITA regarding Employee A.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The PTA will hold a Blood Drive on April 20, 2015 at Oquenock Elementary School.

The concert season begins April 28 and will take place over the next two months. Check the district website for dates and times.

Mrs. Burns encouraged everyone to attend athletic events and enjoy what all the teams have to offer.

NOTICES/REMINDERS

Nominating Petitions for Board Trustee seats are due at District Office by 5:00 p.m. on April 20, 2015.

The Relay for Life meeting will take place on April 20, 2015 at the High School at 7:30 p.m.

Residents who wished to speak during an "Invitation to the Public":

Mr. Robert LeVien, Jr. 61 Lawn Avenue, West Islip – Mr. LeVien has a fourth grade daughter at Paul J. Bellevue and has concerns regarding class size; he feels his daughter's class size has gradually increased each year. He feels this is not fair to the students, parents or teachers and asked that the numbers be looked at closely and changes be made for next year.

Mrs. Patrice Nelson, 715 Hyman Avenue, West Islip – Mrs. Nelson had concerns regarding the ELA test data and teachers not being able to identify the areas in which students are struggling. Mrs. Burns explained that teachers have this data and suggested she reach out to Dr. Rullan who can explain further. Dr. Rullan explained that the assessments are just one way in which students are assessed. Teachers use multiple measures to identify strengths and deficits in each student.

Mr. Jason Rivera, 408 Myrtle Avenue, West Islip – Mr. Rivera spoke on behalf of himself and other parents in the community. Mr. Rivera asked why there were more ConnectEd calls to parents regarding the March 30th Communities Against Substance Abuse Forum held at Hauppauge High School than district-held events. Mrs. Burns explained that this event was held to address those being lost to substance abuse. Mr. Rivera found the letters on the website regarding opting out offensive. Mrs. LaRosa explained that the district is trying to be considerate to the entire community and must balance the needs of all students. Mr. Rivera requested the Board take a stand against the high stakes testing. Mr. Gellar explained the Board's limitations in this regard and the actions already taken. Mr. Rivera feels the district needs a districtwide opting out policy. Mrs. Burns explained that there are clear and specific protocols regarding testing protocols which are being re-evaluated.

Mrs. Ruth Mineo – Mrs. Mineo announced that there would be a protest at Senator Phil Boyle's office on April 24th. Mrs. Mineo shared her concerns regarding the ELA testing. She feels teachers do not see the value in the test and that the passages are not developmentally appropriate. Mrs. Mineo requested to know which educators developed the tests. Dr. Rullan will obtain more specific information regarding this.

Mrs. Jessica Horvath, 1054 Celia Street, West Islip - Mrs. Horvath asked why testing students are not combined into one location when taking the tests. Mrs. Burns explained that the building administration is assessing how best to address the needs of all students.

Mrs. Doreen Hantzschel, 1129 Jefferson Avenue, West Islip - Mrs. Hantzschel shared some of her thoughts regarding the testing environment when her son took the ELA testing this week. The teachers set the tone and made all students feel comfortable and an environment that was not stressful. Mrs. Hantzschel feels taking the exams are a personal choice for each family and students are being used by both sides in this issue. Mrs. Hantzschel felt a decoding program would greatly benefit the students.

Mrs. Catherine Artusa, 574 Peter Paul Drive, West Islip - Mrs. Artusa expressed her feelings about the testing and was not on board with opting out. Mrs. Artusa feels many parents do not have the information they need regarding the testing. Parents need to know who creates and develops these tests and who grades them. Mrs. Artusa feels some parents regretted not having their child take the ELA tests and parents need to have more information so these tests can be taken more seriously.

Motion was made by Bob Ulrich, and seconded by Kevin O'Connor and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:37 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:37 p.m. on motion by Bob Ulrich, seconded by Ron Maginniss and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Scott Brady, and seconded by Bob Ulrich and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Resolution to Authorize Best Value & Piggybacking Awards.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 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,

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.