

West Islip School District
Education Committee
Minutes
October 10, 2019

- The Education Committee meeting commenced at 7:15 p.m.
- The following Education Committee members were present:

Mr. Richard Antonello, Mrs. Annmarie LaRosa, Mr. Peter McCann

- The following administrators were present:

Mrs. Bernadette Burns, Mrs. Dawn Morrison

I. National Honor Society GPA Requirement Update:

The honor societies at the high school met to discuss the impact that unweighted classes will have on the current 11th grade class. It was proposed, discussed and approved by the Faculty Council to decrease the cutoff entrance average from a 90 to an 87 in order to ensure that those students that are enrolled in more rigorous classes are not unfairly penalized. This is in accordance with the Constitution of the National Honor Society.

II. West Islip High School Senior Exit Survey:

At the conclusion of every school year, the graduating class provides feedback on their experience at West Islip High School. West Islip continues to be proud of its overall instructional and extra-curricular programs while at the same time recognizing the continuous need for ongoing improvement and development. Dr. Bridgeman and the administrative team at the high school have reviewed the results of the survey with the high school staff and are currently developing an action plan to address the areas in need of improvement.

III. Computer Based Testing:

4th grade students - along with students in grades 5 through 8 - will take part in computer based testing this year for the New York State Assessments. Students in grades 4-8 will be provided with opportunities throughout the school year to practice utilizing the computer based math and ELA methods and tools necessary to take the test.

IV. Appointment of Karen McCarthy to Mentor Program Coordinator:

Interviews were conducted and Karen McCarthy (teacher at P.J. Bellew) was appointed the Mentor Program Coordinator position. She is taking over for Catherine Dolan-Stefenak who retired at the end of the 18-19 school year. In conjunction with the Office of Curriculum and Instruction and the Office of Human Resources, Karen McCarthy will facilitate a formal

mentorship program for the 11 newly hired teachers this year (3 at the elementary level and 8 at the secondary level). The Mentor Program focuses on the development of new staff members by establishing a mentor/mentee relationship between a seasoned teacher and the newly hired teacher, facilitating opportunities for the mentor and mentee to collaborate in regard to lesson planning, effective instructional practices, collaborative learning practices, classroom management, curriculum expectations and the development of positive relationships with students, parents and colleagues.