

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**February 4, 2021 – Virtual Meeting**

PRESENT: Mr. Gellar, Mr. McCann, Mr. Antonello, Mr. Compitello, Mr. Maginniss,  
Mr. Tussie

ABSENT: Annmarie LaRosa

ADMINISTRATORS: Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Pellati, Mr. Taylor

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

---

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Discussion on the disposition of the Maser Property:

Mr. Gellar advised that the Maser property vote was defeated by a large percentage. The Board will now review its options for the property. Mr. Gellar advised that the district received a call from a party who expressed preliminary interest in leasing the Maser property. In the meantime, the building and access to its fields and playground will be maintained.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2021 Planning Session.

PERSONNEL:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid): Jodie Abelson-Sommer, elementary, effective April 13, 2021 through June 30, 2021 (Manetuck Elementary).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Stacy Bottjer, elementary, effective February 4, 2021 through June 30, 2021 (Manetuck; Step 1A<sup>1</sup>; Virtual, Grade 1).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Lisa Chianese, elementary, effective February 11, 2021 through June 30, 2021 (Paul J. Bellew; Step 1A<sup>1</sup>; Virtual, Kindergarten).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Jenna Conover, elementary, February 5, 2021 through June 30, 2021 (Manetuck; Step 1A<sup>1</sup>; replacing Jodie Abelson-Sommer {LOA}).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Jennifer Dolan, elementary, effective January 29, 2021 through June 30, 2021 (Oqueock; Step 1A<sup>4</sup>; Virtual, Grade 5).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Paige Fogarty, elementary, effective February 4, 2021 through June 30, 2021 (Paul J. Bellew; Step 1A<sup>4</sup>; Virtual, Grade 4).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Natalie Lorey, elementary, effective February 3, 2021 through June 30, 2021 (Bayview; Step 1A<sup>1</sup>; Virtual, Grade 3).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Michael McCabe, School Psychologist, effective January 29, 2021 (Udall; Step 1A<sup>1</sup>; replacing Teresa Stecker {LOA}).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Joyce Ronayne, elementary, effective February 5, 2021 through June 30, 2021 (Manetuck; Step 1A<sup>1</sup>; Virtual, Grade 2).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Daniel Sarfin, elementary, effective January 29, 2021 through June 30, 2021 (Udall; Step 1A<sup>1</sup>; Virtual, Grade 6).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: \*Maria Vangeli, Part Time Food Service Worker, effective February 9, 2021 (Paul J. Bellew; \$15.13 hr.; replacing S. Jordan {paraprofessional}).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: ADULT EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS SPRING 2021:

Alexandra Bergin (Zumba) \$35/hr.
Kim Crichton (Yoga, Stretch, Body Sculpt) \$35/hr.
Jennifer Friaglia (Dance Fitness) \$35/hr.
Phyllis Hintze (Ballroom Dancing) \$30/hr.
Evan Levy (Social Security Planning) no cost to West Islip
Daniel Mazzola (Further, Faster Financially) \$35/hr.
Sophia Stokkeland (Art Class) \$30/hr.
Richard Tesoro (About Boat Safety) no cost to West Islip
Robert Watts (Introduction to Guitar/Piano) \$30/hr.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem):

Jeremy Bein, effective February 1, 2021, student teacher
Sherol Boothe, effective February 1, 2021, student teacher
Brian Brady, effective February 1, 2021, student teacher
Kyle Collins, effective February 1, 2021, student teacher
Griffen Healy, effective February 1, 2021, student teacher
Daniel Matteo, effective February 1, 2021, student teacher
Megan Mellwee, effective February 1, 2021, student teacher
Robert Murphy, effective February 1, 2021, student teacher
Michelle Rodrigues, effective February 1, 2021, student teacher

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: WINTER 2020-2021 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES: BOYS BASKETBALL (AMENDED): Brian Cameron, Assistant Varsity Coach (replacing Richard Zeitler; approved at BOE meeting August 25, 2020).

\*Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance

CURRICULUM UPDATE:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve New Course Proposals {including curriculum writing}:

1. STEM Research I
2. Science in Cinema {.5}/Survival of Life on Other Planets {.5}.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Course Title Changes: Physics Honors to Physics; Early Childhood Education to Advanced Child Study.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve temporary modification to Policy No. 7224 Community Service.

Mrs. Morrison advised that February 1-5 is National School Counseling Week and acknowledged the profound impact school counselors have on the academic, extra-curricular and social/emotional growth of students. Mrs. Morrison thanked Ms. Lorrie Director and the counseling department for their dedicated efforts.

Mrs. Morrison stated that 137 students were recently inducted into the National Honor Society and 105 students were inducted into the National English Honor Society. Both ceremonies were held virtually and are posted on the district website.

Mrs. Morrison shared that Ms. Crimi's Pre-Calculus Honors class recently made FlipGrid videos where they used Newton's Law of Cooling to model and solve real world situation. Mrs. Altschuler's Regents Biology class made gel beads with algae to predict and compare the rate of photosynthesis in different colors of light.

Mrs. Morrison advised that the high school administrative team held a virtual 9<sup>th</sup> grade orientation for the Class of 2021 on January 25; over 240 parents and students joined the live event.

Mrs. Morgan and the students in her 7<sup>th</sup> grade Introduction to Computer Essentials classes at Udall Road Middle School recently created their own "Battleship" boards using Google Sheets. Mrs. Williams and the school social worker and psychologist at Manetuck Elementary School crafted grade level virtual assemblies called Totally TUCK Talks in which students are challenged to expand their thinking about perspective talking and conflict resolution.

The high school administrative team continues to meet and work through the logistics of the possible full time return of students to the high school. Updates will be provided to parents, students and staff when appropriate.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the virtual meeting that took place 2/2/2021. Items reviewed included the return of high school students to in person instruction; an adjustment to the required community service requirement due to COVID-19; and the planetarium renovation. New York State Education Department waiver request for state assessments and accountability was discussed on 1/25/2021; there was a public commentary trending in the direction of the assessments being cancelled.

Finance Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the virtual meeting held on 2/2/2021. Items reviewed included the December treasurer's report and extra-curricular report; January payroll summary; December financial statements; January claims audit report; January system manager audit report; payroll certification forms; surplus; and Special Education contract. Mrs. Pellati discussed the annual report from the Internal Auditors, Cullen & Danowski, and advised that the area of testing will be the Extraclassroom Activities funds. Mrs. Pellati discussed the CARES Act adjustment applications that the district has submitted.

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the virtual meeting that took place on 2/2/2021. Items reviewed included discussion regarding potential projects and their funding streams, whether it be bonds, SmartSchool money or capital reserve. Other items discussed included the recently-high school planetarium and the Masera property will be re-evaluated. The committee approved an Eagle Scout project to redo the Vietnam Memorial on the front lawn of the high school. The district is finalizing the contract to install solar panels on all buildings.

Special Education Committee: Tom Compitello reported on the virtual meeting held 2/3/2021. Items reviewed included annual reviews, triennials and the progress of the high school Life Skills class.

Safety Committee: Peter McCann reported on the virtual meeting that took place on 2/4/2021. Items reviewed included technology; the blue light warning system; cameras; updates to the guard booth at the high school; districtwide security staffing; satellite security offices; and student-athlete COVID testing.

Health and Wellness Committee: Peter McCann reported on the virtual meeting that took place on 1/5/2021. Items reviewed included the financial report; newsletter; mental health of students; return to high school sports; the virtual presentation of “Addict’s Diary” (which was attended by 165 residents); a potential virtual Bike-A-Thon for spring; and a “Kick COVID Challenge”. The next virtual meeting will take place on February 9 at 10:00 a.m.

#### FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The treasurer’s report for December was presented: beginning balance \$40,502,571.60; ending balance. \$33,631,888.21.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve General Fund budget transfers 4005-4015 and Capital Fund transfer 4012.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Contracts/Agreements 2020-2021 – Special Education Contract Half Hollow Hills Central School District.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Contracts/Agreements 2020-2021 – Consultant Services Agreement with Advanced Cardiovascular Diagnostics (*subject to final review and approval by district legal counsel*).

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following surplus: mathematics calculators.

#### PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Single Occupancy Bathroom Facilities.

*Whereas Section 409-m of the Education Law requires school districts to develop policies and procedures requiring that all single-occupancy bathroom facilities are designated as gender neutral for use by no more than one occupant at a time or for family or assisted use and that such bathroom facilities be clearly designated by the posting of such on or near the entry door or each facility.*

*Now, therefore, be it resolved, the Board of Education of the West Islip Union Free School District hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools to ensure the District’s current and future bathroom facilities comply with the requirements of Section 409-m of the Education Law.*

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Memorandum of Understanding re: Point of Dispensing

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Memorandum of Agreement re: COVID-19 Testing at Local Schools for High-Risk Sports and Recreational Activities.

#### SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Mrs. Burns congratulated high school students Eve Castonguay, Lindsey Pritchard and Karina Vartanian, who were recently selected to attend the All Eastern Ensemble.

Friday, February 12 is the 11<sup>th</sup> annual P.S. I Love You Day. Lions Path has been decorated with purple flags to bring awareness to mental health and the need to teach students to recognize when they or those around them need help.

Mrs. Burns advised that the snow days in the instructional calendar have been exhausted and schools will be open on Tuesday, April 6; Friday, May 28; and Tuesday, June 1. If additional snow days are needed, remote instruction will take place.

The district continues to explore getting students back to the high school full time. The winter sports season is starting this week and the district is moving toward more in person extra-curricular activities, but must do so in a safe manner. Information will be forthcoming from building principals.

The first budget work-session will take place on Tuesday, February 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Gellar advised that the district would keep the community informed about in-person meetings, which will resume as the COVID-19 numbers fall. In-person meetings are capped at 50 persons.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:09 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 8:54 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello 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.