

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 11, 2021 – Beach Street Middle School

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

ABSENT: None

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

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

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

RECOGNITION:

In honor of International Woman's Day, the West Islip Board of Education recognized Mrs. Burns for her successful leadership, strength, determination and efforts on behalf of the district's students and staff. Mr. Gellar and Mrs. LaRosa thanked Mrs. Burns for her hard work and dedication to the students of West Islip and for leading the district during these unprecedented and challenging times.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2021 Planning Session.

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: RESIGNATION: Lorrie Director, Director of Counseling, effective April 4, 2021.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Kay Cragg, Elementary, effective July 1, 2021 (20 years).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Pamela Diorio, Elementary, effective July 1, 2021 (34 years).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: James Farnworth, Social Studies, effective July 1, 2021 (24 years).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Susan Marullo, Elementary, effective July 1, 2021 (27 years).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Diane Munno, Science, effective July 1, 2021 (39 years).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Paola Nilsen, World Languages, effective July 1, 2021 (28 years).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Louise Stephenson, Art, effective July 1, 2021 (22 years).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: REGULAR SUBSTITUTE: Ryan Licht, World Languages, effective March 8, 2021 through June 14, 2021 (Beach; Step 1A¹; Replacing Elizabeth Daddi {LoA}).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Joseph Camilleri, Custodial Worker I, effective March 29, 2021 (Kirdahy, Westbrook, Transportation; Step 1; replacing F. Mariani (resigned)).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Dustin Cogliano, Custodial Worker I, effective March 29, 2021 (Paul J. Bellew; Step 1; replacing J. Ferayorni {retired}).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Lisa MacInness, Part Time Food Service Worker, effective March 15, 2021 (Udall; \$15.13 hr.; replacing R. Cinquemani {resigned}).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: Debra Massaro, Senior Office Assistant, effective July 1, 2021 (24 years).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: Tana Patti, Senior Office Assistant, effective July 31, 2021 (12 years).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: James Moran, Head Custodian, effective March 20, 2021 (30 years; change date from March 19, 2021).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$150 per diem): Scott Stiene, effective February 24, 2021 through June 25, 2021.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE NURSE (\$150 per diem): Sherry Scammacca, effective March 12, 2021.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem): James Everett, effective March 9, 2021; Nikki Ferrara, effective March 12, 2021, student teacher; Jacqueline Ginty, effective March 15, 2021, student teacher.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: MENTOR PROGRAM 2020-2021: Mentor (\$1,020 stipend, pro-rated): Andromache Agramonte (Michelle Hernandez, World Languages).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: FALL 2021 BOYS AND GIRLS VARSITY SWIM TEAMS: LIFEGUARDS (\$14 per hour): Jarrett Bosch; Olivia DiStefano; Logan Figueroa; Jason Galetto; Isabelle Magee; Alex Prokopiou; Brett Powell.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: FALL 2021 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES: BOYS SOCCER: Alex Giordano, Udall 7-8; FIELD HOCKEY: Kathryn Dranoff-Waters, Udall 7-8, Daniel Sliwowski, Beach 7-8; FOOTBALL: Scott Mattered, Head Udall 7-8; Kevin Konarski, Assistant Udall 7-8.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: CLUBS/ADVISORS 2020-2021: HIGH SCHOOL: Director, Musical, Ryan Jensen; Music Director, Musical, Melissa Senatore; Pit Director, Musical, David Kaufman.

CURRICULUM UPDATE:

Mrs. Morrison advised that the full time return of 12th grade students is going well and students are happy to be back. The 12th grade advisors planned a breakfast, decorations, masks, etc. Some slight adjustments are being made based on parent, student and staff feedback. Mrs. Morrison thanked administrators, teachers and custodial staff. Updates will be provided when information is available regarding the return of the next grade level.

Pre-K Registration is ongoing and information can be found at the bottom of the district website under Quick Links. Professional Development sessions were provided to teachers regarding Blended Learning, PBL and Innovative Grading, How to Read, Understanding an IEP, and using Google Chrome with extensions. Mrs. Morrison also shared some building news.

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting held on 3/11/2021. Items reviewed included the successful return of high school seniors; the federally rejected Grade 3-8 NYS and Regents exams testing waivers; winter RPI data; and the high school exit survey, which will be used to make adjustments to the high school in the areas of safety, ensuring a drug-free environment, and the consistent implementation of rules.

Finance Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting held on 3/9/2021. Items reviewed included the January treasurer's report and extra-curricular report; February payroll summary; January financial statements; February claims audit report; February system manager audit report; payroll certification forms; surplus; contracts and bids. Mrs. Pellati advised that the district's tax levy limit calculation was submitted to the Office of the State Comptroller on February 25, 2021.

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting that took place on 3/9/2021. The committee discussed ongoing bond projects, including: the high school gym air handlers are being completed; the dust collector in the high school shop area is being finished, bottle fillers were on back order and are now being installed; pool room pump is finished; bathroom floors are finished; windows at Bayview and Paul J. Bellew will be done and funded through the bond; solar project moving along and will start summer 2021; outside permits are being issued for clubs and teams. All are expected to follow district COVID protocols.

Special Education Committee: Tom Compitello reported on the meeting held 3/9/2021 by telephone. Items reviewed included the special education program; budget; evaluations; and special education summer program.

Health and Wellness Committee: Peter McCann reported on the virtual meeting that took place on 3/9/2021. Items reviewed included P.S. I Love You Day, for which purple masks were donated for all students; the newsletter, which is at the printer and will have articles pertaining to health and wellness during the pandemic;

activities for the fall, including the Color Run; and the anti-drug seminar, which received good feedback. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 13.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The treasurer's report for January was presented: beginning balance \$33,631,888.21; ending balance \$69,669,551.35.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve General Fund budget transfers 4016-4027 and Capital Fund transfer 4022.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Contracts/Agreements 2021-2022: Long Island Select Healthcare Consultant Services Contract and Tender Age Pediatric Therapies Consultant Services Contract.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following surplus: miscellaneous IT/AV equipment.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2020-2021 Health Service contracts: South Huntington UFSD - \$30,955.78; Syosset Central School District - \$5,101.00.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve bids: RFP#520 – Smallwares; #521 Large Kitchen Equipment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2020-2021 Chief/School Physicians, revised.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve MoA re: WITA – sixth contact period.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mrs. Burns informed the audience that the district is thrilled to bring back the high school seniors and looks forward to returning the juniors, sophomores and freshman. As the district brings back each group, the district is able to troubleshoot any problems in advance.

Mrs. Burns reminded everyone that due to the snow days back in December, school is open Tuesday, April 6, 2021 and the Friday and Tuesday surrounding Memorial Day Weekend.

Mrs. Burns spoke about COVID cases in the district, which have been shown to be associated with social gatherings with as few as three to four students. Mrs. Burns advised that over the last month, approximately 700 student athletes participating in high-risk sports were tested for COVID, with one positive case. Unfortunately, the community continues to post a high number of cases. This poses a challenge for hosting spectators at indoor activities as just one person could jeopardize the health and safety of others and especially the students. In addition to the student and staff cases, the district continues to monitor the COVID numbers in the community so that the district can respond to a decrease and welcome spectators back to indoor activities.

Mrs. Burns reminded the audience that there will be a Budget Workshop addressing facilities and security on Tuesday, 3/23/2021 at Beach Street.

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

Don Marmo, 1317 Wilson Place, W. Islip - Mr. Marmo inquired about a \$10,000 payment made by the district to Eastern Suffolk BOCES for the rental of classrooms at Paul J. Bellew. Mrs. Burns explained that is a result of an ongoing contract in which two ESBOCES-run student classes are maintained.

Mr. Marmo inquired about the latest information regarding the Masera property and the estimated cost of keeping it in useful condition. Mr. Gellar advised that the sale of the property was voted down and that the district received a phone call from a prospective tenant who would operate a private school and make the necessary repairs to the facility. If this does not work out, the district will start new discussions about the use of the Masera property. Mr. Marmo also asked the estimated cost of repairs; Mr. Gellar advised that it is in the millions.

Mr. Marmo inquired as to why Masera was excluded from the Johnson Energy initiative; Mr. Gellar explained that the building was not occupied at the time by the school district. Mr. Marmo also asked about a capital project at Westbrook at a cost of \$877,000; Mr. Gellar advised that was for sprinklers required by the fire marshall upon inspection. The cost was shared with the tenants.

Michelle Alessi, 16 Skipper Drive, W. Islip - Mrs. Alessi asked the district to consider allowing spectators for indoor activities. She expressed that other districts are allowing spectators and would like West Islip to consider allowing two guest per player, with temperature checks, masks and social distancing.

Mrs. Burns advised that the COVID numbers in the community continue to be higher than most other Suffolk County communities. Additionally, Mrs. Burns also explained that it is incumbent on the district to be fair and equitable to all student groups and activities.

Robert LeVien, Jr. 61 Lawn Avenue, W. Islip - Mr. LeVien asked the board to reconsider the spectator policy. Mr. LeVein encouraged Mrs. Burns to re-visit the policy very soon since there is a game on March 16.

Mrs. Ruth Mineo, 1093 Cassel Avenue, Bay Shore - Mrs. Mineo explained that her daughter has not been able to perform with Vocal Motion due to the COVID restrictions. Mrs. Mineo requested that the arts program receive the same consideration as athletics. Mrs. Burns recognized her concerns and assured her that Mr. Albinder (director) and she regularly discuss how to get the arts back on track in our schools.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:47 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Attendance Waiver for Student “A” and Student “A-Jr.”

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Attendance Waiver for Student “B”.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Attendance Waiver for Student “C”.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Attendance Waiver for Student “D”.

Meeting adjourned at 10:49 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Hock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "M".

Mary Hock
District Clerk

All correspondence, reports or related materials referred to in these minutes are on file in the District Office.