

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**May 6, 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

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Meeting called to order at 7:56 p.m.

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 April 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting and the April 20, 2021 Planning Session.

Prior to the approval of the minutes, Mrs. LaRosa commented on a point of order she made at the April 8 meeting during the Buildings and Grounds committee report. Mrs. LaRosa advised that at the time she took exception to details in that report, but clarified that Mr. McCann's report was accurate and her remarks after that were misconstrued.

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: RESIGNATION: Reanna Fulton, Director of Instructional and Information Technology, effective July 1, 2021 (District Office).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: RETIREMENT: Judith Schwartz, Elementary, effective July 1, 2021 (36 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: Kevin Miller, Music, effective May 10, 2021 through June 30, 2021 (Bayview; Step 1A<sup>1</sup>; Replacing Sharon Quinlan {LOA}).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING ASSISTANT: RETIREMENT: Sandra Romaka, Computer, effective July 1, 2021 (20.5 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: RESIGNATION: Alexandra McClenahan, Security Aide, effective May 6, 2021 (Bayview).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE PARAPROFESSIONAL (\$14.00/hr.): Kristin Barba, effective May 7, 2021.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTION TEACHER: Gabrielle Roberto, effective May 14, 2021 (Remote; \$83.26/hour).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: ADULT EDUCATION 2021-2022: Kevin Murphy, Director, \$8,326 (\$4,163/semester); Michelle Grover, Secretary, \$7,382 (\$3,691/semester).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: ENRICHMENT 2021-2022: John Ruggiero, Director \$5,547 (\$1,849/semester).

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: ENRICHMENT INSTRUCTORS SUMMER 2021 (\$275 per session): Danielle Dischley (Got Science I & II); Michelle Edgley (Soak & Scrub, Crime Scene Capers); Christine Maniscalco (Maker Space & Coding is Cool); Dan Sliwowski (Fitness for Fun I & II); Cara Wenk (Cooking I & II).

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: UDALL ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL: Costume Director, Musical, Shane O'Neill; Drama Director, Musical, Justin DeMaio; Drama Director Musical, Shane O'Neill; Set Director, Musical, Justin DeMaio.

Mr. Taylor announced that there was an addition to the Personnel Agenda as discussed at the Buildings and Grounds meeting on 5/4/2021. Mr. Taylor asked for a motion to approve a resolution to establish maintenance substitute pay of \$30.00 per hour.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve a resolution to establish a maintenance substitute pay raise at \$30.00 per hour.

*Be it Resolved, that the maintenance substitute pay be established at \$30.00 per hour.*

#### CURRICULUM UPDATE:

Mrs. Morrison advised that the test refusal rate was down this year for the ELA and Math tests for Grades 3-8. A letter went home to parents and students last week regarding how the 2021 Regents Exam score would be recorded on the student transcript. Students in various classes at the high school are enjoying an increased amount of time in the renovated Planetarium. The Class of 2021 celebrated Senior Decision Day on May 3 by writing their college plans on paw prints that are displayed outside the high school Counseling Office. Mrs. Morrison advised that the district will implement a full day UPK/Pre K program for the 2021-2022 school year. Details are forthcoming.

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting held on 5/4/2021. Items reviewed included how Regents scores would be recorded on student transcripts; Grades 3-8 ELA and math refusal numbers; full day UPK/Pre K for 2021-2022; and steps taken to addressing learning deficits during the pandemic.

Anthony Tussie acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked the teachers for all they do professionally and their dedication to the students' social and emotional well-being.

Finance Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting held on 5/4/2021. Items reviewed included the March treasurer's and extra-curricular reports; April payroll summary; March financial statements and claims audit report; April system manager audit report; payroll certification forms; surplus; contracts and bids. Mrs. Pellati advised that the district's internal auditors, Cullen & Danowski, would be on site this week and next week to audit the extra classroom activities fund. The district's external auditors, R.S. Abrams, will be performing their interim work next week.

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting that took place on 5/4/2021. Mr. McCann advised that bond projects are moving along, repairs are being done to speed bumps on Lions Paths, tennis court cracks at Udall will be repaired, fencing along the library fields are being replaced, and permits for summer camps are being issued with COVID protocols expected to be in place. Mr. McCann gave an update on the Maser School. There were two perspective lease opportunities but the Board could not come to an agreement with the first vendor, and they are presently negotiating with the second vendor and will keep the community informed. The facility continues to be maintained and the fields are being used by the youth clubs.

Special Education Committee: Tom Compitello reported on the meeting held 5/5/2021. Items reviewed included the special education program, CSE meetings and annual reviews.

Health and Wellness Committee: Peter McCann reported on the virtual meeting that took place on 4/13/2021. Items reviewed included financial report; newsletter; the tentative date for the Color Run is Sunday, October 17, 2021; Health and Wellness Scholarship; and parent workshops. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

#### FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The treasurer's report for March was presented: beginning balance \$63,540,353.35; ending balance \$76,364,597.19.

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 4047-4051 and Capital Fund transfer 4052.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Contracts/Agreements: Da Vinci Education & Research LLC Addendum to Existing Contract 2020-2021; ESBOCES Contract for Cooperative Educational Services 2021-2022; Metro Therapy 2021-2022; Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism - The Martin C. Barell School 2021-2022.

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: JVC Compact Disc Stereo System.

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 contract - Deer Park UFSD - \$1,963.86.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Annmarie LaRosa and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2021-2022 Bids: #2101 Refrigeration Repair and Service; #2102 Sheet Music and Instructional Material; #2103 Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Service; #2104 Boiler Maintenance; #2105 Gates and Chain Link Fencing; #2106 Athletic Uniforms; #2108 Athletic Equipment Reconditioning; #2109 Purchase of CNC Milling Machine; #2110 In-Car Driver Education Instruction with Vehicles.

Motion was made by Peter McCann seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following resolution: Rejection of Printing Bid.

*RESOLUTION: Printing of District Newsletter, Budget Brochure, Graduation Newsletter, Adult Education Brochure, Health and Wellness Newsletters and Post Card Mailer Bid*

*Be It Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent of Business the West Islip Board of Education hereby rejects all bids with regard to Bid# 2100 – Printing of District Newsletter, Budget Brochure, Graduation Newsletter, Adult Education Brochure, Health and Wellness Newsletters and Post Card Mailer and re-advertise for new Bids. Cost over budget is the basis for this rejection.*

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Personnel for Annual Meeting ~ School Budget Vote and Trustee Election May 18, 2021.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Teamsters Local 237 Clerical Memorandum of Agreement re: Summer Hours.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve WITA Memorandum of Agreement re: Retirement.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Mrs. Burns advised that this week is National Teachers Appreciation Week and next week is National School Nurses Day and thanked these two groups for the enormous work they have done this school year to support our students. Due to restrictions that were imposed until recently, the district has moved official district recognitions to June to accommodate more people.

Mrs. Burns announced that 41 students were inducted into the National Art Honor Society on April 14. On Tuesday, May 18, there will be a virtual Art Show on the district website in lieu of our annual Celebrate Education events. The high school will be fully remote on May 18 due to the budget vote; teachers and staff will report to school.

Beach Street Middle School inducted 82 students into the National Junior Honor Society and Udall Road Middle School inducted 69 students. Mrs. Burns also announced that two high school juniors have met the requirements to enter the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program and the district is proud of these two students.

The high school prom will take place on Thursday, June 24, 2021 at The Sands at Atlantic Beach; graduation will be the next day on June 25. Tentatively, there will be two ceremonies - one at 4:00 p.m. and another at 6:30 p.m. The gathering limits are subject to change and information is forthcoming.

Middle School Moving Up ceremonies will take place on Wednesday, June 23, in the afternoon and evenings. There will be three to four ceremonies per building due to the gathering limits; all events will allow two guests per student.

Fifth grade parents will receive a survey via Parent Square regarding the types of moving up ceremony they prefer.

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

Jonathan Delanoy, 1 Thaddeus Lane, W. Islip – Jonathan is a high school senior and spoke about how COVID cubicles in the classroom are unnecessary and detrimental to the learning environment, and the CDC recommends removing them.

Mrs. Burns advised that the district is constantly reevaluating this intervention and explained that the CDC makes these rules for the country. The district abides by the recommendations of the Suffolk County Department of Health. If the Covid numbers stay where they are, the cubicles are worthy of another discussion.

Mrs. Christine Caracciola, Paul J. Bellew Elementary – Mrs. Caracciola spoke on behalf of the faculty, staff and students at Paul J. Bellew Elementary School. Mrs. Caracciola advised that there have been five cases of breast cancer at Paul J. Bellew and all five have tested negative for the BRCA gene. Mrs. Caracciola feels it is possible the cancer has come from cancer causing agents found in the soil and water near Willets Creek. At the district's request, the Suffolk County Department of Health looked into this matter and reported that there is no direct link to breast cancer. Mrs. Caracciola requested that the Board look further into this matter further.

Mr. Gellar advised that this matter would be reviewed. Mr. McCann also addressed Mrs. Caracciola's concerns.

Kieran Farrell, 46 Quincy Place, W. Islip – Kieran is a high school senior and asked the Board to reconsider allowing outside dates at the Senior Prom.

Dorian Scourtos, 77 Arbour Street, W. Islip – Dorian is the Vice President of the High School PTSA and explained that students were advised that in order to go to the prom they must have a COVID vaccine or a negative Covid test. He expressed concern about students who had COVID previously and might still test positive. Mr. Taylor advised that if a student tests positive within 90 days of the prom, they are not required to test. Mrs. Burns shared that antibody testing can also be done at a local lab.

Mrs. Jannette Hofmann, 6 Oliva Court, W. Islip - Mrs. Hofmann is the parent of a fifth grader and thanked the Board and Mrs. Burns for hearing parent's concerns regarding fifth grade moving up ceremonies.

Mrs. Alyson Ruane, 1500 Washington Avenue, W. Islip - Mrs. Ruane thanked the Board and Mrs. Burns for addressing the concerns of the fifth grade parents. Mrs. Ruane asked how the results of the survey will influence the moving up activities. Mrs. Burns explained that the decision would be made by each individual building after taking the survey results into consideration.

Mrs. Debbie Brown, 204 Dorothy Road, W. Islip - Mrs. Brown was happy to hear that moving up events are moving forward and thanked Mrs. Burns and the Board for getting the students back to school in a cautious and safe manner. Mrs. Brown complimented the high school seniors for advocating for themselves.

Mrs. LaRosa advised the public that the Board wants as much as possible for the students but must stay within the guidelines regarding end of year activities. Mr. Gellar stated that the Board would do everything they can to make sure the students have the best experience possible while adhering to the state guidelines.

Mr. George Deabold, 162 Simmons Drive, East Islip – Mr. Deabold notified the district of his intent to serve a notice to seek review and additional relief through the courts, as well as his intent to sue the Board and Mrs. Burns. Mr. Deabold submitted service to the District Clerk.

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 8:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:27 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:29 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Annmarie LaRosa 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.