

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**June 10, 2021 – West Islip High School**

PRESENT: Mr. Gellar, Mr. Compitello, Mrs. LaRosa, Mr. Maginniss, Mr. McCann (arrived 8:47 p.m.)  
Mr. Tussie

ABSENT: Mr. Antonello

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

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

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Meeting called to order at 7:31 p.m.

Mr. Gellar announced that the school budget passed, congratulated Mr. Antonello and Mrs. Brown, and thanked the community for its support.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2021 Planning Session.

**RECOGNITION**

The administrative staff and board members recognized Mr. Gellar for his 15 years of service on the school board and for all his dedication and hard work on behalf of the district.

Class of 2021 Top Academic Leaders – *Selena Bello, Alexa Camillery, John DiBenedetto, Amanda Ditaranto, Kieran Farrell, Giavanna Genna, Emily Lau, Mia McCandless, Kevin Rion, Oliva Vice*

Unified Basketball Team – Ryan Foley and Erin Harris

*Brady Akley, Hannah Balkunas, Joseph DiPaola, Dylan Espinola, Brandon Ferrera, Nicholas Ferrera, Matthew Gassmann, Roger Heins III, Carson Heuser, Mason Heuser, Kelli Klein, Caden Krueer, Mark Lu, Vincent Luvera, Vincent Naubeimer, Christopher Pilewski, Dylan Squire, Gary Xavier-Valdez*

Teacher Appreciation – West Islip Teachers' Association

National School Nurses Day – West Islip Nurses' Chapter of WITA

**PERSONNEL**

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: TENURE APPOINTMENT: Craig Gielarowski, Assistant Principal, effective August 27, 2021.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Justin Arini, Director of Counseling, effective June 14, 2021 to June 13, 2025 (High School; \$145,000; replacing L. Director).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE RESIGNATION: Craig Gielarowski, Assistant Principal, effective August 28, 2021 (High School).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED): Ronald Weber, Technology, effective August 29, 2018 to August 28, 2021 (High School; change end date from August 28, 2022).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: TENURE APPOINTMENT: John Guerriero, Psychologist, effective August 29, 2021.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: TENURE APPOINTMENT: Erin Harris, Social Worker, effective August 30, 2021.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: TENURE APPOINTMENT: Patricia Hinchman, Library Media Specialist, effective August 30, 2021.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: TENURE APPOINTMENT: Janine Lalia, Family and Consumer Science, effective August 29, 2021.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: TENURE APPOINTMENT: Erin Meade, Special Education, effective August 29, 2021.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: TENURE APPOINTMENT: Rachel Russell, Social Worker, effective August 30, 2021.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: TENURE APPOINTMENT: Ronald Weber, Technology, effective August 29, 2021.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: TENURE APPOINTMENT: Sarah Willmann, World Languages, effective September 7, 2021.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: TENURE APPOINTMENT: Avery Yurman, Music, effective August 30, 2021.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Gina Castaldo, Elementary, effective September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2024 (Manetuck; Step 3<sup>4</sup>; replacing Susan Marullo {retired}).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Cara Douglas, Elementary, effective September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2024 (Paul J. Bellew; Step 1<sup>4</sup>; replacing Kay Cragg {retired}).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Dana Gillman, Art, effective August 31, 2021 to August 30, 2025 (Bayview; Step 1A<sup>1</sup>; replacing Louise Stephenson {retired}).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Daniel Gschwind, Social Studies, effective August 31, 2021 to August 30, 2025 (High School; Step 1A<sup>1</sup>; replacing James Farnworth {retired}).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Gabrielle Mescia, Elementary, effective August 31, 2021 to August 30, 2025 (Bayview; Step 1A<sup>1</sup>; Pre-K).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Louis Riley, Elementary, effective September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2024 (Manetuck; Step 1<sup>4</sup>; replacing Pamela Diorio {retired}).

*In order to be granted tenure a classroom teacher or building principal shall have received composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Education Law § 3012-d of either effective or highly effective in at least three of the four preceding years and if a classroom teacher or building principal receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period he or she shall not be eligible for tenure at that time.*

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid): Robyn Southard, Psychologist, effective August 31, 2021 through June 30, 2022 (Beach Street).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid): Amanda Sparrow, Guidance, effective August 31, 2021 through June 30, 2022 (High School).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING ASSISTANTS: TENURE APPOINTMENT: Jennifer Delaney, Teaching Assistant, effective September 15, 2021.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: CHANGE IN STATUS: Susan Camilleri, Senior Office Assistant, effective July 1, 2021 (High School; Step 4; change from 12-Month Office Assistant to a 10-month Senior Office Assistant).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: CHANGE IN TITLE: Debra Costantino, Security/Receptionist Aide, effective June 11, 2021 (Bayview; Step 8; change from Special Education Aide; replacing A. McClenahan {resigned}).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: CHANGE IN TITLE: William Delaney, Custodial Worker I, effective May 19, 2021 (Paul J. Bellew; change from Acting Head Custodian).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: CHANGE IN TITLE: Michele Jackala, Part Time Food Service Worker, effective June 11, 2021 (High School; change from Part Time Assistant Cook).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED): Mary Morici, Part Time Food Service Worker, effective May 25, 2021 (Bayview; change start date from May 20, 2021).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT: Diana Taveras, Custodial Worker I, effective August 31, 2021 (17 years).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve CIVIL SERVICE: SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN (\$14.00/hr.): Patricia Flynn, effective June 11, 2021.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SECONDARY SUMMER ACADEMY AND SUMMER SCHOOL 2021: Theresa Robertson, Principal.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: DRIVER EDUCATION 2021-2022: Tim Horan, Coordinator; Patricia Stack, Lecture Instructor.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: SUBSTITUTE TEACHING (\$130 per diem):

*Sarah Birkhoff, effective September 1, 2021, student teacher
*Alysa Brady, effective September 7, 2021, student teacher
*John Cavaluzzi, effective September 7, 2021, student teacher
*Julia Cetta, effective September 1, 2021, student teacher
*Matthew Costantza, effective September 1, 2021, student teacher
*Shannon Culkun, effective September 7, 2021, student teacher
*Paul Donat, effective September 1, 2021, student teacher
*Bridget Fitall, effective September 1, 2021, student teacher
*Michael Giovanniello, effective September 8, 2021, student teacher
*Vincent Harty, effective September 1, 2021, student teacher
*Samantha Howe, effective October 25, 2021, student teacher
*Amanda Kelly, effective September 8, 2021, student teacher
*Sarah Minto, effective September 8, 2021, student teacher
*Ariana Morck, effective September 8, 2021, student teacher
*Erin Reahl, effective October 25, 2021, student teacher
*Danielle Riolo, effective September 8, 2021, student teacher
*Lauren Ryder, effective September 1, 2021, student teacher
*Meaghan Smith, effective October 25, 2021, student teacher
*Jennifer Vonet, effective September 8, 2021, student teacher
*Keith Warns, effective November 1, 2021, student teacher

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: RESIGNATION: Timothy Natsch, Preferred Substitute, effective June 5, 2020.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: ATHLETIC TRAINERS 2021-2022: Kevin Kilkenny; Nicole Perperis.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: EQUIPMENT/UNIFORM COORDINATORS 2021-2022: James Dooley, High School; James Klimkoski, Udall; Brian Cameron, Beach.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: FALL 2021 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES: FOOTBALL: Steve Mileti, Varsity Head Coach; Frank Riviezzo, Assistant Varsity Coach; Phil Kane, Assistant Varsity Coach; Scott Mattera, Varsity Volunteer Coach; Thomas Woodburn, Varsity Volunteer Coach; Mike Bellacosa, Varsity Volunteer Coach; Joseph LaCova, Head J.V. Coach; John T. Denninger, Assistant J.V.Coach; Mark DiCristo, JV Volunteer Coach. GIRLS SOCCER: Nicholas Grieco, Head Varsity Coach; Jeremy Robertson, Assistant Varsity Coach; Lindsay Morgan Valentino, J.V. Coach; Kylie Walsh, Varsity Volunteer Coach. BOYS SOCCER: Edward Pieron, Head Varsity Coach; Brian Cameron, Assistant Varsity Coach; Dennis Mazzalunga, J.V. Coach. GIRLS SWIMMING: Tanya Carbone, Varsity Coach; Meghan LaRocca-Schou, Assistant Varsity Coach. GIRLS GYMNASTICS: MaryAnn McGrade, Varsity Coach; Caitlyn Leibman, Assistant Varsity Coach. GIRLS TENNIS: George Botsch, Varsity Coach; James Dooley, J.V. Coach. FIELD HOCKEY: Josephine Hassett, Varsity Coach; JoAnne Orehosky, Assistant Varsity Coach, Kelly Weisenseel, J.V. Coach. CROSS COUNTRY: Kevin Murphy, Boys Varsity Coach; Michelle Studley-Broderick, Girls Varsity Coach. Kevin Murphy, Boys Varsity Coach; Michelle Studley-Broderick, Girls Varsity Coach. BOYS VOLLEYBALL: John Schrank, Varsity Coach; Erin Harris, Assistant Varsity Coach; Matthew Sullivan, J.V. Coach. GOLF: Frank Rapczyk, Varsity Coach. KICKLINE: Jessica Cichy, Varsity Coach. CHEERLEADING: Dina Barone, Varsity Coach; Lauren Brady, Assistant Varsity Coach; Priscilla McBride, J.V. Coach; Nicole Shaw, Assistant J.V. Coach.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: FALL 2021 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES: FOOTBALL: Scott Mattera, Head 7-8 Udall Coach; Kevin Konarski, Assistant 7-8 Udall Coach; Vincent Luvera, Head 7-8 Beach Coach; Charles (Kevin) Osburn, Assistant 7-8 Beach Coach. GIRLS SOCCER: Edward Jablonski, 7-8 Udall Coach; Colleen Reilly, 7-8 Beach Coach. BOYS SOCCER: Alex Giordano, 7-8 Udall Coach. CROSS COUNTRY: Vincent Melia, Udall Boys & Girls Coach; Joseph Nicolosi, Beach Boys & Girls Coach. FIELD HOCKEY: Kathryn Dranoff-Waters, 7-8 Udall Coach; Daniel Sliwowski, 7-8 Beach Coach. TENNIS: Patrick Tunstead, Girls 7-8 Udall/Beach. CHEERLEADING: Jennifer Basile, Udall 7-8 Coach; Jillian Bohnaker, Beach 7-8 Coach.

## CURRICULUM UPDATE

Mrs. Morrison acknowledged the students, staff, administrators, parents and school board for their collaboration and support of the ongoing academic successes of students PreK-12. Mrs. Morrison also congratulated the Class of 2021 including Alternative High School, Seal of Biliteracy and IB Diploma Graduates.

Mrs. Morrison advised that professional development plans for the 2021-2022 school year are underway. Feedback was gathered from the administrative and teaching staff regarding necessary and requested professional development opportunities.

Education Committee: Anthony Tussie reported on the meeting held on 6/8/2021. Items reviewed included New York State Department Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity Initiative; UPK/Pre K planning for the 2021-2022 school year; K-8 AimsWeb Screening; a potential new elementary math program; the literacy program; AP exams; Summer Investigations/Middle School Academy registration; and the NYS Grade 4 Science Test.

Finance Committee: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting held on 6/8/2021. Items reviewed included the April treasurer's report and extra-curricular report; May payroll summary; April financial statements; May claims audit report; May system manager audit report; payroll certification forms; surplus; donation; change order; contracts and bids. Mrs. Pellati advised that the district's internal auditors, Cullen & Danowski, would be at the Audit Committee meeting on June 22, 2021 to discuss the audit of the extra-classroom activities fund. The

draft-scheduled plan of use for the Federal Stimulus Funds was reviewed. The district has been allocated \$3,695,914 in ARP funding (American Rescue Plan Act). The district must post a plan on the district website on how the ARP funds will be expended by July 1, 2021.

Buildings and Grounds: Ron Maginniss reported on the meeting that took place on 6/8/2021. Items reviewed included existing and ongoing bond/capital projects; decorative fence banners for the middle schools; data/internet access at Manetuck and Udall; permits and insurance requirements for summer activities; placement of an ice machine at Udall; and the replacement of districtwide field signage. Bridges Academy requested permission to install air conditioning units in one or two classrooms and will cover costs, as per their lease agreement. Mr. Gellar informed the audience that Masera was not discussed at the meeting but gave everyone an update, stating that the two potential private schools leases did not work out.

Special Education Committee: Tom Compitello reported on the meeting held 6/9/2021. Items reviewed included the special education services, teacher assignments and outsourcing services not available in the district.

Safety Committee: Tom Compitello reported on the meeting held 5/11/2021. Items reviewed included iPads for school safety vehicles; training on use of the RAVE app; replacement of district signs; checking P.A. system effectiveness; blue lights; vape detectors; threat assessment by Suffolk County Police Department; AED safety officer and school guard training; and districtwide ID badges.

Health and Wellness Committee: Annmarie LaRosa reported on the virtual meeting that took place on 5/11/2021. Items reviewed included the financial report; scholarships; an in-person Color Run scheduled for Sunday, October 17, 2021; gaming systems; social/emotional screeners; and the district's tiered system of student supports.

Student Liaison Committee: Mr. Tussie reported on the meetings that took place on 5/5/2021 for Udall Road MS and on 5/6/2021 for Beach Street MS. Mr. Compitello and Mr. Tussie discussed the role of school board members and the responsibilities of the position. There was also a discussion regarding the characteristics of leadership and a Q & A session regarding the school events that were initiated this year. Mr. Tussie and Mr. Compitello were impressed by the students and commended them for stepping up as leaders.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

The treasurer's report for April was presented: beginning balance \$76,364,597.09; ending balance \$65,194,415.13.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve General Fund budget transfers 4053-4069 and Capital Fund transfer 4056-4064.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Change Order – Spitz, Inc. (\$13,505.04) – WIHS.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Donation from Suffolk Transportation Service, Inc. - \$2,000 - WIUFSD.

## DONATIONS

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of donated funds in the amount of \$2,000.00 from Suffolk Transportation Service, Inc., which have been donated in recognition of West Islip High School students and the football team's Section XI Championship, to be awarded to students selected by the District.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following surplus: tabletop belt sander – Udall Road Middle School.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2021-2022 Contracts/Agreements: Access 7 Services, Inc.; Brookville Center for Children's Services; Da Vinci Education & Research, LLC; Developmental Disabilities Institute; Fitzgerald Driving School; Hillary Gomes, Ph.D.; Health Source Group, Inc.; Home Care Therapies, LLC, d/b/a Horizon Healthcare Staffing; Little Angels Center, Inc.; Long Island Developmental Consulting, Inc. (LIDC); Nassau Suffolk Services for the Autistic, Inc., (NSSA/The Martin C. Barell School); OMNI Services Agreement; The Eden II School for Autistic Children; United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Suffolk, Inc.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2021-2022 Bids: #2111 - Printing of District Newsletters, District Budget Brochure, Graduation Newsletter, Adult Education Brochure, Health and Wellness Newsletter and postcard mailers; #2112 – Gasoline for district vehicles; Base Bid #EC-1 – Electrical – New Generator at Manetuck; Base Bid #PC-1 – Plumbing – New Generator at Manetuck.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the results of the Annual District Meeting held on May 18, 2021.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Emergency Use of Herbicide (resolution in supplemental file).

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve General Counsel Services Agreement and Labor Counsel Services Agreement.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve approval of assignment of contract.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve BOCES Multi-Year Service Agreement 7/1/2021 – 6/30/2024.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Amendment to ESBOCES Leasehold Space Agreement 7/6/2021 – 6/30/2023.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Resolution to bid jointly on Food Service Commodities, Food and Food Service Supplies for the 2021-2022 school year (resolution in supplemental file).

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mrs. Burns informed the audience that although attendance is limited at the high school there have been a number of in person activities, including the one-act plays, concerts, as well as virtual honor society induction ceremonies. There was also a science research symposium held on June 3, representative of the work in the science and research classroom.

Mrs. Burns advised that 138 students were honored as scholar athletes and four athletic teams were honored for their sportsmanship. Mrs. Burns will attend several graduations and moving up ceremonies and congratulated the students and teachers. Mrs. Burns encouraged parents to check the school calendar for a list of school events and summer activities.

Mrs. Burns thanked the Board of Education for all they do and especially Mr. Gellar who was presiding over his last Board meeting.

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

Mr. Marmo, Wilson Place, West Islip – Mr. Marmo asked what the sticking point was regarding the potential leasing offers for Masera and Mr. Gellar advised that they were not willing to pay for repairs. Mr. Marmo had financial questions regarding the sprinklers at Westbrook and asked what Plan B was for Masera. Mr. Gellar advised that the Board of Education will start over; Mrs. LaRosa advised that a community group will be established.

Mrs. Claudia Worley, 403 Howells Road, Bay Shore – Mrs. Worley expressed her concerns regarding her young daughter having to wear a mask all day in school. Mr. Tussie responded as a parent of four daughters and agreed with Mrs. Worley’s concerns but explained that the Board does not make the law but must follow the law and must abide with the Suffolk County Department of Health recommendations. Mr. Tussie also advised that parents writing letters to the governor would be more effective and that the Board will continue to fight for students within the limits of the law. Mr. Gellar advised that the voices of 650 school boards does not mean much to the Governor, but if five million people protested, the governor may listen. Mr. Gellar also advised that the districts that did away with the mask policy received a call from the governor’s office and was told if they did not reinstitute the mask policy, they would lose funding, close schools, and face other sanctions.

Jennifer Lamirata, 31 Cotter Street, West Islip – Mrs. Lamirata feels parents should make the choices for their children and the board should push back and put pressure on the Governor.

Jennifer Thome, 532 Rockaway Street, West Islip – Mrs. Thome state that her daughter attends the PreK program and feels the protocol is abusive. She has pulled her child out of school and feels the district must fight back.

Julia Johnson, 43 Skipper Drive, West Islip – Mrs. Johnson thanked Mr. Gellar for his years of service to West Islip but was sad and confused that the district was losing another valued administrator and asked the Board to “right this wrong”.

Ryan Carlson, 83 Babylon Avenue, West Islip – Mr. Carlson spoke about youth sports and the increase to the liability insurance policy from one million to five million dollars. He feels this is an unjust requirement that will impact the community and the players just when the youth organizations at a critical time.

Cassie Sottile, 803 Tanglewood Rd. West Islip – Mrs. Sottile asked the Board to make decisions to support all children and do what is in their best interest.

Diane Sepe, 608 Peter Paul Drive, West Islip – Mrs. Sepe wanted to be a voice for parents and children with no voice and for freedom of choice. She requested that the Board fight with the parents and stand up to the state.

Kim Kendrick, 1031 Fire Island Avenue, Bay Shore – Mrs. Kendrick asked the Board if foreign exchange students could obtain placement at the high school for September. Mrs. Burns will follow up with Mrs. Kendrick.

Mrs. Jennie Zethner, 112 Adams Street, Centerport – Mrs. Zethner is a pediatric nurse practitioner with 20 years experience who worked during the pandemic. She asked that the Board stand with the community in their fight for freedom of choice.

Mia McCandless, 727 Peter Paul Drive, West Islip – Mia is a high school senior and asked the board to consider having one graduation for all the students. Mr. Gellar advised that everyone would prefer one ceremony and that if the requirements changed, it may be a possibility.



Mr. DeVivo, 718 Union Blvd., West Islip – Mr. De Vivo represents the lacrosse club and spoke about the liability insurance requirements that were increased to five million dollars. Mr. De Vivo asked the Board to consider a previously submitted proposal. Mr. Gellar advised that the insurance requirements were recommended by the district's insurance company and are put in place to protect the district.

Mrs. Ruth Mineo – Mrs. Mineo wanted to thank Mr. Gellar for hearing her concerns throughout the years and appreciates everything he has done for her children. She also thanked Mr. Gellar, Mrs. LaRosa, Mrs. Burns and Mrs. Morrison for a good school year.

Mrs. Kristin Barba, 496 Everdell Avenue, West Islip – Mrs. Barba asked the Board of Education to stick up for their children. Mrs. LaRosa advised that the district does not disagree but are stuck with the current mandates. Mrs. LaRosa has written letters and encouraged parents to do the same. Mr. Gellar expressed that the Board is frustrated and Mr. Tussie advised that the district is advocating for the children but are stuck.

Jessica Christensen, 212 Malts Avenue, West Islip – Mrs. Christensen stated that it is the school district's responsibility to challenge what is wrong. Mr. Gellar explained the governor is responsible and the district must follow the law. The district's school attorney also explained that the governor has the right to issue Executive Orders during a state of emergency.

Chris Florea, 56 Horton Street, West Islip – Mr. Florea spoke about his daughter who returns home with headaches due to wearing a mask all day. He feels the impact of wearing a mask is a greater danger to mental health than the virus. Mrs. Burns advised that masks are optional outside, and students are not required to wear them for field day and will be following up with staff in the morning.

Shannon Davoult – Mrs. Davoult asked about the plan for September regarding masks, vaccines and pods. Mrs. Burns explained that the district does not have the authority to force anyone to be vaccinated, and the course of action in September will depend on circumstances and required protocols at the time. Mrs. Davoult asked about the Critical Race Theory curriculum, and Mrs. Morrison advised that the district does not teach CRT but is putting together a committee of parents, students, teachers, and community members to review the curriculum in the fall.

Angela Demeo – Mrs. Demeo stated that Dr. Zucker advised masks are not needed and that the district's answers did not make sense. Mr. Gellar clarified that per the Governor, the CDC advised that masks are required inside but are optional outside.

Mrs. Sottile, 803 Tanglewood Road, West Islip – Mrs. Sottile spoke again and asked the Board and administrators to work with the parents to do what is in the best interest of the children with compassion and empathy.

Mr. Viari and Mr. Curley, 98 Gladstone Avenue, West Islip – Mr. Viari and Mr. Curley are law enforcement officers and have concerns regarding the Critical Race Theory curriculum. Both Mrs. Burns and Mrs. Morrison explained that the community will be included in any work regarding the curriculum, but for right now it is important to wrap up the school year. Mrs. Burns asked that everyone be patient and promised to keep the community informed and involved about curriculum work in the area of diversity, equity and inclusivity.

Mr. Deabold – Mr. Deabold disagrees with the Board on many issues and feels the district is not required to listen to the governor.

Mrs. Kim Cairns, 1270 Minerva Avenue, West Islip – Mrs. Cairns's child attends half day Pre-K and returns home from school drenched. She feels her child does not need to be in a mask.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 10:23 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 11:57 p.m. on motion by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to suspend 12:00 a.m. curfew.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted to go into Executive Session at 11:58 p.m.

Motion was made by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to go into Super-Executive Session at 12:08 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 12:30 p.m. on motion by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Ron Maginniss, seconded by Peter McCann and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve for all non-represented, confidential and central administrators salary increases and amendments to contracts as presented.

Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m. on motion by Annmarie LaRosa, seconded by Anthony Tussie 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.