

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 7, 2021 – Beach Street Middle School

PRESENT: Mr. Tussie, Mr. Antonello, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Compitello, Mrs. LaRosa,
Mr. Maginniss (arrived 8:40 pm), Mr. McCann

ABSENT: None

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

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2021 Planning Session.

RECOGNITION

School Board Recognition Week ~ *West Islip Board of Education*

Mrs. Burns presented Board President, Mr. Tussie, and Vice President, Mr. Antonello, with Certificates of Recognition on behalf of the West Islip School District and the community.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Brian Taylor asked for a motion to approve the 10/7/2021 Personnel Agenda as listed in the agenda backup, with the exception of Veronica Ferrante who withdrew her interest in the position.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the 10/7/2021 Personnel Agenda as listed below:

TEACHERS

T-1 CHANGE IN TITLE

Kimberly Crouch, Instructional Support Services
Effective October 8, 2021
(Districtwide; new position; change from English Teacher)

T-2 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Annmarie Katzer, Reading
Effective October 18, 2021 to October 17, 2025
(Oquenock; Step 1A¹; replacing K. Moon {resigned})

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.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

TA-1 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Mollie Healey, STEM
Effective October 8, 2021 to October 7, 2025
(Paul J Bellew; Step 5; replacing P. Brady {retired})

CIVIL SERVICE

CL-1 RESIGNATION

Mary Perez, Cafeteria Aide
Effective September 17, 2021
(Manetuck)

CL-2 TERMINATION

Louis Marsillo, Security Guard
Effective September 22, 2021
(District Wide)

CL-3 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

*Diana Harkin, Special Education Aide
Effective October 20, 2021
(Beach Street; Step 1; replacing A. Rossi {Teacher Aide})

*Mary Jansons, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective October 18, 2021
(Paul J. Bellew; \$15.13/hr; replacing M. Jackala {Paraprofessional})

*Conditional pending fingerprinting

Caroline LaManna, Cafeteria Aide
Effective October 8, 2021
(Manetuck; Step 1; replacing M. Perez {resigned})

Jennifer Mackin, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective October 12, 2021
(Manetuck; \$15.13/hr; replacing R. Grasso {resigned})

CL-4 SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN (\$15/hr)

Gabriel Eatz, effective October 8, 2021

OTHER

MENTOR PROGRAM 2021-2022

Karen McCarthy, Coordinator

Mentor (\$1030 Stipend)

Robin Caputo (Grace Bolin, Elementary)
Lindsay Simonton (Jamiee Connors, Elementary)
Evelyn Hanlon (Dara Depouli, Counseling)
Mary Berger (Nicole Devine, Elementary)
Jennifer Suriano (Anna Domingo, World Languages)
Brian Haldenwang (Michael Fusaro, Science)

OTHER - continued

Mentor (continued)

Kerri Ierardi (Beth Gewirtz, Elementary)
Kristin Caulfield (Dana Gillman, Art)
Noreen Matthews (Daniel Gschwind, Social Studies)
Caitlin DeGirolamo (Jade Lawrence, Elementary)
Debra Magee (Dana Levine, Psychologist)
Elena Iacobellis (Monica Mangogna, World Languages)
Susan Burkart (Gabriella Mescia, Elementary)
Ryan Vollmuth (Brendan O'Connell, Social Worker)
Theresa Robertson (Carly Racanelli, Social Worker)
Paulina Zarokostas (Alexandra Ragin, Counseling)
Beth Crimi (Daniel Varney, Science)

ENRICHMENT INSTRUCTORS FALL 2021 (\$275 per session)

Justin DeMaio (LEGOS I & II)
Danielle Dischley (Got Science I & II)
Michelle Edgley (Soak & Scrub, Blast Off)
Christine Maniscalco (Coding is Cool, Coding for Kids)
Theresa Robertson (Creative Cooking I & II)

CLUBS/ADVISORS 2021-2022

UDALL ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Art Club, Gregory Ziems
Activities Grade 6, Thomas Loudon
Activities Grade 7 & 8, Kristine Hagens
Chess and Game Club, Thomas Loudon
Costume Director, Shane O'Neill

UDALL ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Current Events, Deborah Pulitano
Drama Director, Justin DeMaio
Drama Director, Shane O'Neill
Homework Club Grade 6, Amy Harvey
Homework Club Grade 7 & 8, Janet Renganeschi
International Club, Kristina Rocco
Mathletes Grade 7 & 8, Lawrence Sciarrino
Mindfulness Club, Melissa Morales
Musical Director, Justin DeMaio
National Junior Honor Society, Danielle Dischley
School Store, Denise LaMattina
Science Olympiads, Kristine Hagens
Set Design, Justin DeMaio & Shane O'Neill {shared}
Student Council Grade 6, Thomas Loudon
Student Council Grade 7-8, Kristine Hagens
Yearbook, Theresa Robertson
Yearbook/Newspaper Photographer, Michael Taranto
Yoga Club, Kristen Finnegan

EARLY WINTER 2021-2022 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Tara Annunziata, 7-8 Udall Coach
Erin Harris, 7-8 Beach Coach

BOYS BASKETBALL

Patrick Tunstead, 7-8 Udall Coach
Christopher Salerno, 7-8 Beach Coach

CHEERLEADING

Jennifer Basile, 7-8 Udall Coach
Jillian Bohnaker, 7-8 Beach Coach

WINTER 2021-2022 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Christopher Scharf, Varsity Coach
Kristen Doherty, Assistant Varsity Coach
Charles (Kevin) Osburn, J.V. Coach

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thomas Cross, Varsity Coach
Richard Zeitler, Assistant Varsity Coach
John T. Denninger, J.V. Coach

WRESTLING

Nicholas LaGiglia, Varsity Coach
John Ferrara, Assistant Varsity Coach
Rob Ulrich, J.V. Coach

BOYS SWIMMING

Thomas Loudon, Varsity Coach
Edward Jablonski, Assistant Varsity Coach

BOYS BOWLING

Frank Rapczyk, Varsity Coach

GIRLS BOWLING

Frank Franzone, Varsity Coach

BOYS WINTER TRACK

Vincent Melia, Varsity Coach

GIRLS WINTER TRACK

Michelle Studley, Varsity Coach
Gregory Ziems, Assistant 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

LATE WINTER 2022 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Christopher Salerno, 7-8 Udall Coach
Patrick Tunstead, 7-8 Beach Coach

WRESTLING

Thomas Longobardi, 7-8 Udall Coach
Paul Vasaturo, 7-8 Beach Coach

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

James Klimkoski, 7-8 Udall Coach
Erin Harris, 7-8 Beach Coach

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Mrs. Morrison advised the audience that the district is moving along well in all areas of curriculum and instruction. Superintendent Conference Day will take place on November 2, 2021 and the administrative and teaching staff will facilitate workshops on a wide range of topics.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting that took place 10/5/2021. Items reviewed included DEI practices in place in the district. Mr. Antonello advised that the district has never taught Critical Race Theory and never will. Other items included 2021-2022 curriculum and instructional goals; 2022-2023 Pre-Kindergarten enrollment; a World Languages update; the Panorama SEL Survey; and the K-12 Comprehensive School Counseling Plan 2021-2022.

Finance Committee: Annmarie LaRosa reported on the meeting held on 10/5/2021. Items reviewed included the June, July and August treasurer reports; July and August extra-curricular reports; June, July and August financial statements; September internal claims audit report; September system manager audit report; payroll certification forms; surplus; change order; resolution and contracts. Mrs. Pellati advised that the Audit Committee would meet with the district's external auditors on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 to discuss the year-end audit results for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Pellati also reviewed the 2020-2021 fund balance allocations with the committee.

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting that took place on 10/5/2021. Items reviewed included an update of facility bond and capital improvement projects. Backup generators for Manetuck and Beach Street will be installed; fencing at P.J. Bellew near Transportation will be replaced; installation of a new service line in the high school cafeteria will take place in November; high school fitness center renovation will take place during April break; the district is in the process of securing funding for the solar roof project. Mr. McCann advised that the deadline to register for the Masera Advisory Committee is 10/8/21 and residents should go on the district website to register.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting that took place on 10/6/2021. Items reviewed were new entrants.

Safety Committee: Tom Compitello reported on the meeting that took place on 9/21/2021. Items discussed included Narcan training for the staff; building emergency response plans; door access; technology; cameras on high school fields.

Health and Wellness: Peter McCann reported on the meeting that took place on 9/20/2021. Past initiatives were reviewed, the Color Run will take place on Sunday, 10/17 at 10:00 a.m. at the West Islip High School. Residents can register on the district website using My School Bucks. Mr. McCann thanked the local businesses for their support of the Color Run and the annual Breast Cancer Staff Awareness Day will take place on October 15. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 10/12/21, at 9:30 a.m. virtually.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The treasurer's report for June, July and August were presented: beginning balance \$48,511,679.84; ending balance \$45,078,380.73.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve General Fund budget transfers 4086-4097 and Capital budget transfers 89-91.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following 2021-2022 Contracts/Agreements: Christine Baudin, M.S. Speech Language Pathologist Consultant Services Contract; East Islip Special Education Services Contract.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve surplus: Music equipment and books – WIHS, Manetuck, Oquenock, Paul J. Bellew.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution: Financing of Energy Performance Contract (Noresco, LLC) with Banc of America Public Capital Corp. (resolution in supplemental file).

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Change Order: Aventura Construction Corp. – (\$3,765.86) West Islip High School.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the 2021-2022 Building Response Plans.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve WITA Memorandum of Agreement re: Pre-K.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Teamsters 237 Clerical Memorandum of Agreement re: title change.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Stipulation of Settlement and Release – Student A.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Burns advised that based on feedback at the Education Committee meeting, the Goals and Objectives have been updated. Mrs. Burns asked for a motion for the approval of the 2021-2022 Goals and Objectives.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the 2021-2022 Goals and Objectives.

Mrs. Burns informed the audience that the school year is in full swing; athletic fields are busy well into the evening; and clubs and activities have begun to meet. The first drama production for the year commenced and students are preparing for the winter concert season.

Mrs. Burns advised that she recently attended a New York State conference for Superintendents. Some of the issues discussed included substitute teacher shortages, mental health and wellness activities, and misunderstandings regarding DEI initiatives. The DEI framework is a recommendation to ensure that all districts create student-centered learning environments that result in positive outcomes for all students. Mrs. Burns explained that this has always been the mission of the West Islip School District.

Mrs. Burns advised that families are asked to complete a Digital Equity Survey to assist the district to understand the level of access students have at home to the Internet and digital devices.

Mrs. Burns advised that the Color Run will take place on Sunday, October 17, Homecoming will take place on October 23, with the parade starting at 1:15 p.m. and the Bellport game at 2:00 p.m.

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

Lisa Curley, West Islip –Mrs. Curley asked about the district’s affiliation with the National Schools Boards Association; Mr. Tussie advised that the district is a member of the New York School Boards Association. Mrs. Curley asked why the board meetings were removed from YouTube; Mrs. Burns explained it was a technology glitch related to Google and the recordings have been reinstated to the playlist. Mrs. Curley asked if the district would join the lawsuit against the state relating to mask mandates; Mr. Tussie advised that the district would not.

Amanda Barbara, West Islip – Mrs. Barbara spoke about critical race theory and stated that Mrs. Burns attended a CRT workshop that was hosted by the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association. Mrs. Burns explained that there is confusion between CRT as culturally responsive training and critical race theory and DEI is not critical race theory.

Nicole Tully, West Islip – Mrs. Tully asked if the district would receive grant money related to DEI; Mrs. Burns explained that the district allocated a small amount of money from CRRSA to provide training and activities that ensure all students are supported. Mrs. Tully asked why money is being spent on new curriculum when students missed out on previous curriculum during COVID; Mrs. Burns explained that money has been appropriated for literacy training and other areas to ensure all students are successful. Mrs. Tully had other questions about expenses and was advised to FOIL the information.

Frank Mercante, West Islip – Mr. Mercante had concerns about the subject matter presented on Brain Pop and requested that his children not have access.

Valerie Rivera, Bay Shore – Mrs. Rivera asked when all COVID restrictions would be lifted; Mrs. Burns advised that the COVID rates on Long Island are decreasing, but the district has not been informed as to when restrictions will change. Mrs. Rivera asked about the percentage of students vaccinated and not vaccinated; Mrs. Burns advised that the district does not have that information. Mrs. Rivera requested the Board to fight against vaccine mandates.

Valerie Wallrapp, West Islip – Mrs. Wallrapp spoke about the differences between the states of New York and Florida regarding education, school taxes, superintendent salaries, and central air conditioning.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello seconded by Tom Compitello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve adjourning for a five minute break from the public session at 8:36 p.m. due to the inappropriate behavior and language of some members of the audience.

The “Invitation to the Public Meeting” resumed at 8:42 p.m.

Jessica Christensen, West Islip – Mrs. Christensen had questions regarding ARP and how the district spends the funds; Mrs. Burns advised that the information is posted on the district website, but would contact Mrs. Christensen to answer other grant questions.

Mr. Montrony, West Islip – Mr. Montrony asked if school grounds would be used to administer the Pfizer vaccine to children when it is available. Mrs. Burns advised that although the district has a contract with Suffolk County to serve as a point of dispensing, the county has not requested access and if it did, the district would never administer vaccines to students without the express written consent of the parent. Mr. Montrony asked about the benchmarks to end mask use.

Catie Florea, West Islip - Mrs. Florea spoke about the emotional impact COVID protocols have had on her daughter and asked about data that is used to identify student needs; Mrs. Morrison advised that students are

benchmarked three times a year. Mrs. Morrison added that there would be a survey administered to Grades 6-12 to assess social-emotional needs. Mrs. LaRosa recommended that the district investigate how to survey elementary students.

Doreen Hantzschel, West Islip - Mrs. Hantzschel spoke about a video, *Miseducated: The Decline of America's Schools* and shared a book about the Pledge of Allegiance with Mrs. Morrison.

Al DiBernardo, 335 Myrtle Avenue, W. Islip – Mr. DiBernardo stated that the environment at the high school is toxic and does not feel students are treated well. The bathroom policy is too restrictive, and Mr. DiBernardo asked the Board to correct this policy. Mrs. Burns advised that she would ask Dr. Bridgeman to call him tomorrow.

Michael DiBernardo, 335 Myrtle Avenue, W. Islip – Michael, a high school senior, stated that the entire student body is being punished because of a few problematic students and the bathroom policy is the breaking point. Mrs. Burns assured Michael that Dr. Bridgeman will contact him tomorrow.

Rob Walsh, 200 Eaton Lane, W. Islip – Mr. Walsh requested that the Board consider air conditioning all school facilities.

Due to inappropriate language and behavior of some audience members, motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:26 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:21 p.m. on motion by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all members present voted in favor to approve Attendance Waiver for Student "A".

Meeting adjourned at 10:21 p.m. on motion by Richard Antonello, 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.