

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 3, 2022 – Beach Street Middle School

PRESENT: Mr. Tussie, Mr. Antonello, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Compitello, Mrs. Kelly

ABSENT: Mr. Maginniss, Mr. McCann

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Romanelli, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Pellati, Mr. Taylor

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Tussie thanked the High School, Beach Street and Udall PTA for the social that took place on 11/2/2022.

Veterans Day: On behalf of the district, Mr. Tussie honored veterans in the audience and thanked them for their sacrifice, bravery and example they set for all of us.

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 October 18, 2022 Planning Session.

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members Present voted in favor to approve TEACHING: TENURE APPOINTMENT: Meghan Linderman, Business, effective December 8, 2022.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the 11/3/22 Personnel Agenda as listed below:

T-2 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED)

Megan Rooney, Special Education
Effective August 29, 2022 to August 28, 2025
(Manetuck; change in effective date from August 29, 2022 to August 30, 2025)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

TA-1 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Rachel Garafano, Special Education
Effective November 7, 2022 to November 6, 2026
(Manetuck; Step 5; replacing Melissa Davies {resigned})

CIVIL SERVICE

CL-1 RESIGNATION

Kate Klarikaitis, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective November 3, 2022
(Beach Street)

James Triail, Groundskeeper III
Effective November 21, 2022
(Grounds)

CL-2 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Melanie Jo Earl, School Nurse
Effective November 21, 2022
(Paul J. Bellew; Step 1; new position)

*Erin Houston, Cafeteria Aide
Effective November 21, 2022
(Oquenock; Step 1; replacing Kimberly Richichi {Library})

Kate Klarikaitis, Cafeteria Aide
Effective November 4, 2022
(Beach Street; Step 1; replacing Kim Santangelo {resigned})

*Amanda Neilson, Cafeteria Aide
Effective November 7, 2022
(Oquenock; Step 1; replacing Amy Ingrassia {resigned})

*Mary Ann Reilly-Conway, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective November 7, 2022
(High School; \$15.90 hr; replacing Jeanette Lynch {resigned})

Christina Robiglio, Cafeteria Aide
Effective November 4, 2022
(Manetuck; Step 1; new position)}

CL-3 SUBSTITUTE FOOD SERVICE (\$15/hr)

*Sara Reed, effective November 4, 2022

CL-4 SUBSTITUTE GUARD

Kyle Ferguson, effective November 4, 2022 (\$23.30/hr)
George Wichelns, effective November 4, 2022 (\$19.97/hr)

CL-5 SUBSTITUTE NURSE (\$150 per diem)

Darriel Daniels, effective November 4, 2022

**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

OTHER

NYS SEAL OF BILITERACY ADVISORS

Stephany Camacho
Anna Domingo
Jennifer Suriano
Karen Testa
Sarah Willman

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS 2022-2023 (AMENDED)

Kelly Weisenseel, Math 2 sections/full year
(change in number of sections from 1 to 2)

SUBSTITUTE TEACHING ASSISTANT (\$105 per diem)

Ava Catapano, effective November 4, 2022

PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$150 per diem)

Christina Bonfiglio, Manetuck
Effective November 4, 2022 through June 23, 2023

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem)

*Vincent Grasso, effective November 4, 2022
Taylor-Lee Meyer, effective November 4, 2022
Jessica Nischo, effective November 4, 2022
Kaitlyn Papaccio, effective November 7, 2022
Keith Saunders, Sr., effective November 4, 2022
*Jennifer Tafuri, effective November 4, 2022

**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

CLUBS/ADVISORS 2022-2023

Creation of Club

Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, effective immediately, a *stipend position in the West Islip Public School District be created in the Elementary School Club Area (1 additional Art Club and 1 additional Manetuck Makers at Manetuck Elementary School) of classification.*

MANETUCK

Art Club Grade 2-3, Sophia Stokkeland
Manetuck Makers Grade K-2, Kristyna Acerno

PAUL J BELLEW

Art Club, Danielle Carihfield
Drama Club, Shane O'Neill and Karen McCarthy (shared)
Game Club, Cara Douglas
Geography Club, Cara Douglas and Karen McCarthy (shared)
Mindfulness Club, Darlene Squillante
Spanish Club, Kristen Amoia
STEM Club, Kristen Amoia

INSTRUCTIONAL SWIM & FAMILY SWIM PROGRAMS 2022-2023

Lifeguard \$15 per hour

Michael Johnson
Shane Marshall

CURRICULUM

Mrs. Morrison informed the audience that the first Equity Committee meeting will take place on Monday, 12/5/22. The initial committee consists of approximately 20 members composed of central office administration, principals, directors, staff and parents K-12. The district will be working with Amanda Chansing, a representative from Eastern Suffolk BOCES to define what equity means to West Islip and the district will be setting goals at future meetings using self-assessment tools. Mrs. Morrison advised that this work is not new to West Islip, as opportunities to foster inclusivity are frequently explored and added throughout the district on a regular basis. Tracy Edwards from Western Suffolk BOCES has facilitated numerous professional development sessions for the staff about the importance of ensuring that all students are included in the school community.

Mrs. Morrison advised that Superintendent Conference Day will take place on Tuesday, November 8 and will be a day of learning. West Islip teachers, staff and administration will be facilitating professional development for the staff and there will be a keynote address by George Couros for all staff. Mrs. Morrison thanked everyone for taking part in the day.

Audit Committee: Anthony Tussie reported on the meeting held 10/18/22. The district's external auditors, R.S. Abrams, went over the year-end results and financial statements for the 2021-2022 school year. The district received a clean opinion from the auditors. The auditors advised that the district's reserves are all at appropriate funding levels. There was one comment from the auditors related to excess fund balance in the school lunch fund. This was due to the fact the school meals were free for all students in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 and reimbursed at a significantly higher federal reimbursement rate as compared to years prior. The district will spend down the excess fund balance in the school lunch fund on appropriate purchases and cafeteria improvement projects.

Health and Wellness Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting held 10/11/2022. Items reviewed included financial report, Color Run, researching articles for newsletter and exploring Mobile Device Safety Workshop. Mrs. Brown thanked all the local businesses for their support of the Color Run along with all the adult volunteers. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 15 at 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at P.J. Bellew Elementary School.

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting held 11/1/22. Items reviewed included K-8 Aimseb Plus, Pre-K 2023-2024, approval of Professional Development Plan, CSIP for Class of 2023, Foundations update (Pre K-Grade 1) and Superintendent's Conference Day (11/8/22).

Finance Committee: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting held on 11/1/22. Items reviewed included the June, July and August treasurer's report, September extra-curricular, July payroll summary, October internal claims report, October system manager audit report, payroll certification forms, and surplus. Mrs. Pellati discussed approval of the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) resolution and explained that this resolution will be approved each year at the reorganization meeting. Mrs. Pellati also advised that the next Audit Committee meeting would be on Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will be with the district's internal auditors, Cullen & Danowski to discuss the detailed testing done on the Technology Department and the annual risk assessment for the district.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting that took place on 11/2/22. There was an update regarding student placements and the next meeting will take place on 12/7/22. Mrs. Brown advised that several board members and herself along with Dr. Romanelli, Mrs. Morrison and Mrs. Dowling visited the life skills class classes at Beach Street and Udall Road along with the special education class at Oquenock and Paul J. Bellew. Mrs. Brown shared all the wonderful things that are happening in these classes and what a great experience it was.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. McCann reported on the meeting held 10/18/22 via video. Items reviewed included fire alarms systems in schools, A/C in classrooms district-wide, current conditions and replacement plan for high school pool and the Masera property.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2022-2023 General Fund budget transfers 4246-4257 and Capital Fund budget transfers 4252-4256.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Surplus – miscellaneous books – Beach Street Media Center.

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 Chief Medical Officer salary from \$2,600 to \$5,000 per year.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Tax Anticipation Note resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$25,000,000 Tax Anticipation Notes in anticipation of the receipt of taxes levied or to be levied for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE RESOLUTION OF WEST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, NEW YORK, ADOPTED NOVEMBER 3, 2022, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000,000 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE RECEIPT OF TAXES LEVIED OR TO BE LEVIED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WEST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Tax Anticipation Notes (herein called “Notes”) of West Islip Union Free School District, in the County of Suffolk, New York (herein called “District”), in the principal amount of not to exceed \$25,000,000, and any notes in renewal thereof, are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of Sections 24.00 and 39.00 of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (herein called “Law”).

Section 2. The following additional matters are hereby determined and declared:

(a) The Notes shall be issued in anticipation of the collection of real estate taxes levied or to be levied for school purposes for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, and the proceeds of the Notes shall be used only for the purposes for which said taxes are levied.

(b) The Notes shall mature within the period of one year from the date of their issuance.

(c) The Notes are not issued in renewal of other notes. (d) The total amount of such taxes remains uncollected at the date of adoption of this resolution.

Section 3. The Notes hereby authorized shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and shall be general obligations of the District, and the faith and credit of the District are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes and unless the Notes are otherwise paid or payment provided for, an amount sufficient for such payment shall be inserted in the budget of the District and a tax sufficient to provide for the payment thereof shall be levied and collected.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and the Law, and pursuant to Sections 50.00, 56.00, 60.00 and 61.00 of the Law, the power to sell and issue the Notes authorized pursuant hereto, or any renewals thereof, and to determine the terms, form and contents, including the manner of execution, of such Notes, and to execute tax certifications relative thereto, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District.

Section 5. The Notes shall be executed in the name of the District by the manual signature of the President of the Board of Education, the Vice President of the Board of Education, the District Treasurer, the District Clerk, or such other officer of the District as shall be designated by the chief fiscal officer of the District, and shall have the corporate seal of the District impressed or imprinted thereon which corporate seal may be attested by the manual signature of the District Clerk.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Board Member Thomas Compitello

And duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

The resolution was declared adopted.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Romanelli thanked Mrs. Morrison for all her efforts regarding Superintendent's Conference Day and expressed how it is one of the best plans on Long Island.

Dr. Romanelli advised that the polling place for Election Day is at the high school in cafeteria A and B. Security will be marking parking spaces for voters and staff will park in other locations.

Dr. Romanelli shared his experience visiting the Robotics Club and was amazed with what was going on with the Robotics Team and is so proud of these students. Dr. Romanelli also visited CTE classes with Brian Buonomo and was impressed with the industry partnerships the district has with those classes. Dr. Romanelli expressed how the learning taking place is very relevant and meaningful and the teachers have put together a great program.

Dr. Romanelli also met with some students this week that shared how it is to be a student in West Islip and they were particularly proud of the music and athletic programs and the advice they have received from the guidance counselors.

Dr. Romanelli enjoyed his visits around the district and looks forward to all the great things that can be accomplished working together.

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

Devin Fernandez - Mr. Fernandez asked the board and administrators to consider using the Masera property as an Olympic training center for disabled athletes on Long Island. Mr. Fernandez feels this would benefit the community and businesses in the area.

Fred Cornman - Mr. Cornman spoke about the safety concerns regarding the Barberrry gates being open and suggested having the town recalibrate the red light sequence at Lion’s Path.

Russell Brown - Mr. Brown spoke about the safety concerns regarding the Barberrry gate hours and feels the district should think about the consequences of a serious accident. He asked that the Board listen to all the concerns and think about a decision.

Cara Kelly - Mrs. Kelly spoke about implementation of the Wilson Reading Program. Mrs. Kelly asked that the district allocate funds to train teachers to get Wilson certified so they can become Level II certified.

Sarah Toeller - Mrs. Toeller lives 270 feet from the Barberrry gates and asked what analysis were done regarding keeping the gates open and asked that the board and administration listen with empathy regarding the safety concerns.

Asher Toeller - Asher is a 5th grade student and spoke about not feeling safe anymore on his bike or skate board due to the Barberrry gates being open and worries about his friends in kindergarten and asked the board to please consider their safety.

Alicia Brown - Mrs. Brown had concerns about the Barberrry gates being opened and the well-being of all people living on Barberrry Road, Larkspur Drive, Ivy Court and the people leaving the Barberrry gates at excessive speeds. She is concerned about a tragic accident occurring and feels that Barberrry Road is not designed for this volume of cars. Mrs. Brown sent an e-mail to Dr. Romanelli, but would like more direct answers.

Dr. Romanelli thanked Mrs. Brown for her comments and advised that the last thing anyone wants is a tragic accident and assured Mrs. Brown that he is listening to all the concerns.

James Dell – Mr. Dell is a Barberrry Road resident and spoke about the constant noise from generators and the lights that are shining are blinding and asked the Board to make an effort to close the gates.

Johanna Pellati - Mrs. Pellati was upset with the lack of communication and the decision not to discuss the opening of the Barberrry gates with the people who are affected. Mrs. Pellati advised that she has collected 200 names rejecting the decision to have these gates opened.

Stephen Spiegeleirf - Mr. Spiegeleirf spoke about the diminished quality of life on the block since the Barberrry gates have been opened and how children cannot practice riding a bike, walkers could get hit and having an unmanned gate open could become a school safety issue and does not make sense.

Jeannine Carroll - Mrs. Carroll spoke about the effect the opening of the Barberrry gates have had and how this has been a life-altering event. Mrs. Carroll advised that children cannot play and there is congestion along with cars honking and speeding.

Dr. Romanelli advised the residents that he is hearing everything that they are saying. Mr. Tussie advised that the district and board are listening and taking their concerns seriously. The Board will not be making a decision at this time but will be accessing the situation.

Michelle Alessi - Mrs. Alessi spoke about the CSIP program and is disappointed that the program was suspended for 2022 and in 2023 it is not a graduation requirement. Mrs. Morrison explained that many high school seniors do not have the hours necessary to meet the requirement and this could impede them from graduating. Dr. Romanelli and Mrs. Morrison advised that they recognize the importance of this program and will be discussing this.

Deborah Chaleff - Mrs. Chaleff spoke about the need for anti-bias programs. Dr. Romanelli advised that he has done anti-defamation work in the past and believes that all students should be welcome in schools. He feels that there should be no hate and that this is an important issue that will be worked on this year.

Katherine Abbatiello - Mrs. Abbatiello spoke about the many changes in the Pride community and how all children should be valued. She expressed how these students are at risk for bullying and harassment continues to exist in schools.

Don Henning - Mr. Henning spoke about how dangerous Barberrry is when students get out of school and buses are racing and one child could have been killed. Mr. Henning feels multiple access to the high school is not safe and there should only be one entrance. He expressed that the letter received regarding the opening of the gates was not respectful or fair. Dr. Romanelli advised that he will look at the letter and explained that the decision to have the gates open was made with good intentions. He will consult with the Board and his administrative team and assured the audience that their concerns were heard.

Doreen Hantzschel - Mrs. Hantzschel spoke about the Wilson reading program and has been advocating for this program for a long time. Dr. Romanelli advised that the district is working towards the Wilson reading program.

C. Pellegrino - Mrs. Pellegrino has a senior at the high school and thanked the board for considering a tech center for the Masera property. Mrs. Pellegrino also thanked Dr. Romanelli for adjusting the policy regarding students not having to change into gym cloths if they come to school already prepared for gym. She also thanked the district for the Equity Committee and asked how parents are included. Mrs. Morrison advised that she is working with Easter Suffolk BOCES and no more than 20 people

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:22 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:01 p.m. on motion by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Tom Compitello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m. on a motion by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Tom Compitello 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.