

**PLANNING SESSION  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
January 23, 2024 – West Islip High School Library**

PRESENT: Mr. Tussie, Mr. Antonello, Mr. McCann, Mr. Bedell, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Kelly

ABSENT: Mrs. Marks

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Romanelli, Mrs. Pellati, Mr. Cameron

ABSENT: Mrs. Morrison

ATTORNEY: None

---

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

There was a moment of silence for Thomas Compitello.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2024 Regular Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Romanelli announced that a letter would be sent tomorrow on 1/24/2024 to Governor Hochul from the Superintendent and Board of Education, regarding potential state aid cuts to Foundation Aid and the negative impact that will be felt by the students of West Islip. This letter is posted on the district website.

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Grace Kelly and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the personnel consent agenda T-1, CL-1, CL-2, CL-3, CL-4, CL-5, and Other as listed below:

ADMINISTRATIVE

**A-1                      PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED)**

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Grace Kelly and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve ADMINISTRATIVE: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT (AMENDED): Dana Musso, Director of Foundational Literacy and MTSS, effective December 4, 2023 through December 3, 2026 (Districtwide; change in date from December 4, 2023 through December 3, 2027).

TEACHERS

**T-1                      REGULAR SUBSTITUTE**

Scott Mattera, Physical Education  
Effective January 24, 2024 through June 30, 2024  
(Paul J Bellew; Step 1A <sup>1</sup>; reassigned)

Catherine Seale, Social Worker  
Effective January 24, 2024 through March 13, 2024  
(Oquenock; Step 1A 4; Replacing Erin Harris {LoA})

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

**TA-1                    PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT**

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Grace Kelly and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve TEACHING ASSISTANT: PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: Michael Mistretta, Technology, effective January 29, 2024 to January 28, 2028 (Manetuck; Step 1; replacing Caroline Conte {resigned}).

**CIVIL  
SERVICE**

**CL-1                    LEAVE OF ABSENCE, unpaid**

Nicole Jones, Special Education Aide  
Effective November 10, 2023 – November 9, 2024  
(Paul J. Bellew)

**CL-2                    PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT**

\*MaryAnn Bernstein, Part-Time Food Service Worker  
Effective February 9, 2024  
(High School; \$16.22/hr; replacing Kimberlee Koehler {resigned})

Kayla DiMino, Special Education Aide  
Effective January 16, 2024  
(Beach Street; Step 1; replacing Kathrine Martino {resigned})

\*Vivian Naja, Float Nurse  
Effective February 5, 2024  
(District Wide; Step 1; replacing Angelica Ruden {resigned})

Melissa Schafer, Special Education Aide  
Effective January 24, 2024  
(Paul J. Bellew; Step 1; new position)

**CL-3                    RESIGNATION**

Lisa Baynon, Part-Time Office Assistant  
Effective March 1, 2024  
(Alternative School)

*\*Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

**CL-4**                    **SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN** (\$16/hr)

Noreen Armstrong, effective January 24, 2024  
Tammy Kossmann, effective January 24, 2024

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

Bridget Rooney, effective January 24, 2024

**OTHER**

**ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS 2023-2024 (AMENDED)**

Michael Fusaro, Science    2 sections, effective January 29, 2024  
(Replacement for Ashley Smar, Science)

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** (\$130 per diem)

Selena Bello, effective January 24, 2024  
Thomas Conza, effective January 24, 2024  
Jamie Doherty, effective January 24, 2024, *student teacher*  
Crista Kane, effective January 24, 2024  
Shannon Keenan, effective January 24, 2024  
Jake LaRocca, effective January 24, 2024  
Abigail Marquardt, effective January 24, 2024  
Kaylee Martin, effective January 24, 2024  
Grace Mineo, effective January 24, 2024  
\*Kathryn O'Farrell, effective January 24, 2024  
Juliette Rogler, effective January 24, 2024  
\*Matthew Sandoval, effective January 24, 2024  
Brianna Siclari, effective January 24, 2024  
Tracy Sirc-Chandler, effective January 24, 2024  
Isaiah Witherspoon, effective January 24, 2024  
Evan Wolff, effective January 24, 2024

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHER RESIGNATION**

James Miraval, effective December 21, 2023  
(District Wide)

**CLUBS/ADVISORS 2023-2024**

**DISTRICTWIDE (AMENDED)**

Combined Elementary Chorus, Sharon Quinlan  
(change in Advisor from Melissa Senatore)

*\*Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Grace Kelly and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Contracts: Reach for the Stars Tutoring, Inc. Consultant Services ~ January 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024; South Huntington UFSD Special Education Contract ~ July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Grace Kelly and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution: re: the Board of Education hereby suspends Policy #1410 for the January 23, 2024 meeting only and hereby approves Policy #6180 Workplace Violence after the First Reading in order to comply with Labor Law §27-b and its implementing Regulations.

Resolution:

*Be it resolved, that the Board of Education of the West Islip UFSD hereby suspends Policy #1410 for the January 23, 2024 meeting only and hereby approves Policy #6180 Workplace Violence after the First Reading in order to comply with Labor Law §27-b and its implementing Regulations.*

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Grace Kelly and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 8:23 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Grace Kelly and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Grace Kelly and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: the retirement of James McManus and the WITA Memorandum of Agreement dated January 16, 2024 with the West Islip Teachers Association.

Resolution

*Resolved, The Board of Education hereby approves the memorandum of agreement dated January 16, 2024 with the West Islip Teachers Association and James McManus regarding convertibility of unused sick leave, health insurance declination and retirement, and authorizes the Board President to execute it on behalf of the District.*

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Grace Kelly and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: lease agreement between West Islip UFSD and Eastern Suffolk BOCES re: Masera property.

Resolution

*Resolved, The Board of Education hereby approves the lease agreement dated January 23, 2024 with the West Islip UFSD and Eastern Suffolk BOCES regarding the Masera property and authorizes the Board President to execute it on behalf of the District.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Grace Kelly 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.