

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 9, 2024 – Beach Street Middle School

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

ABSENT: None

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

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Vigliotta

Meeting called to order at 7:31 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Day:

Mr. Tussie honored the brave men and women who sacrificed for our country and for their service, courage and dedication. On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Tussie expressed his deepest gratitude to all who have served and continue to serve and how their sacrifice will always be remembered.

Teacher Appreciation Week:

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Tussie expressed his gratitude for the incredible work that teachers do every day and for their dedication and commitment to the students.

Dr. Romanelli spoke about Teachers Appreciation Week and how the district wants to express gratitude on behalf of the district to all of the outstanding educators and all the incredible individuals who play vital roles - principals, speech pathologists, school nurses, administrative professionals, school lunch workers and school bus drivers. Dr. Romanelli asked that we honor and celebrate all school heroes with a simple thank you, note of appreciation or small gesture of kindness for all that they do.

Student Representative Report ~ Young Women's Forum

Damiana Beige, founder and President of the first ever Woman's Club spoke about this club run by the students. This women's forum is a student run club organized this year with 75 members. The women have learned about self-defense, woman's health and educating women on endless possibilities. Vice President, Krista Williams, also spoke about having a public speaker from Planned Parenthood, a clothing drive, work force job opportunities and a bake sale that raised \$200.

Mr. Tussie thanked Krista and all the women for all they have done and for being trendsetters. Mr. McCann suggested that the club reach out to WOWI - Women of West Islip, and how it would be great continuity and thanked them for a great job. Dr. Romanelli advised that he and Mrs. Morrison were thankful to be invited to a meeting and were so impressed by their leadership and offered the club their support.

Student Representative Report ~ Belize Trip

A video presentation was presented to the audience on the Belize trip that took place in April. Student, Krista Williams, spoke about how all the students visited a local school and were excited to meet the children. They brought gifts for the kids and the children did the pledge and performed the national anthem. The students also gave the kids school supplies and the whole experience brought much joy to all the students who went on

the trip. Another student, Juliette Keingstein, spoke about how the community has done a great job in opening up these trips for students to go on and how the food was amazing and what a great experience this trip was.

Noah Blumberg spoke about the friendships that came out of the trip and how it was the perfect environment to meet so many new people and what a wonderful experience the trip was. Matthew Corbett spoke about going on the trip with his brother and how it was the most incredible experience he has ever spent anywhere and he will never forget this experience and how proud he was to have done it.

Mr. Tussie thanked everyone for sharing their experiences.

Dr. Romanelli shared how he was impressed with the students and the video and was glad the students had a great time on the trip. Dr. Romanelli thanked Miss Ferruzzi, Ms. Domingo and Mr. Jensen for providing this opportunity to the students.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024 Regular Meeting.

RECOGNITION

District Clerk Retirement – Mary Hock

Dr. Romanelli and the Board of Education extended their heartfelt thank you, congratulations and expressed their sincerest gratitude to Ms. Hock for her exceptional dedication and service to the West Islip UFSD for over 21 years. Ms. Hock's tireless commitment and hard work have undoubtedly left a lasting impact on our community. Her professionalism, kindness and attention to detail have set a standard of excellence that will be remembered for years to come.

Bringing History to Life – Victor Pepitone

Dr. Romanelli and the Board of Education thanked Mr. Pepitone for bringing history to life. Each year Mr. Pepitone sets up a display, brings in military memorabilia from World War I, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War, prepares a real life museum, and brings history to life for the students.

School Bus Driver Appreciation

The Board of Education and Dr. Romanelli presented all the bus drivers with certificates to celebrate School Bus Driver Appreciation. Dr. Romanelli extended his sincere gratitude to all the bus drivers who ensure safe transportation to the students and thanked them for their commitment and diligence. Mr. McCann also thanked the bus drivers for all they do to help the children of West Islip.

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following T-1, CL-1, CL-2, CL-3 as listed in the agenda.

TEACHERS

T-1 **LEAVE OF ABSENCE** (unpaid)
(Pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993-
12-week continuous medical coverage)
Meghan Schou, Health
Effective April 29, 2024 through June 30, 2024
(High School)

**TEACHING
ASSISTANTS**

TA-1 **RESIGNATION**

Michelle Edgley, World Languages
Effective July 1, 2024
(High School)

CIVIL SERVICE

CL-1 **CHANGE IN TITLE**

Colleen Guimaraes, Senior Office Assistant
Effective May 31, 2024
(District Office; Step 1; change from Office Assistant; replacing Elizabeth Davis
{reassigned})

CL-2 **PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT**

*Matthew Triola, Maintenance Mechanic III
Effective May 13, 2024
(Maintenance; Step 1; replacing Louis Serpico {terminated})

CL-3 **RESIGNATION**

Michael DeBatt, Head Custodian
Effective April 29, 2024
(Bayview)

Jean Dunau, School Nurse
Effective June 27, 2024
(Bridges Academy)

Eva Gonzalez, Senior Account Clerk

Effective May 11, 2024
(District Office)

Michelle Jackala, Cafeteria Aide
Effective May 2, 2024
(Paul J Bellew)

**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the CL-4 CIVIL SERVICE: RETIREMENT:

CL-4 Laurie Farrell Luquer, School Nurse
Effective July 1, 2024
(22 years)

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following CL-5 and Other as listed in the agenda:

CL-5 **SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN** (\$16/hr)
Claudia Ventura, effective May 10, 2024

OTHER

REGENTS REVIEW 2023-2024

Biology
Linda Tong

ADULT EDUCATION 2024-2025

Michelle Grover, Secretary (\$3,917/semester)

DRIVER EDUCATION 2024-2025

Lorraine Kolar, Secretary (\$1,410/semester)

ENRICHMENT 2024-2025

Lorraine Kolar, Secretary (\$865/semester)

EXTRA CURRICULAR TREASURER 2024-2025

Shawn Wallace (\$4,869)

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM (ESY) 2024-2025

Jeanne Dowling, Administrator (\$12,045)

OTHER,
continued

SUMMER INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM 2024-2025

Rhonda Pratt, Coordinator (\$5,100)

Teaching Assistants

Nicole Bruckner	Louise Guastella
Jennifer Dolan	Jillian Ruffo

Aides

Janine Allegretto	Linda Daniels	Diane McKeon
Angelina Archer	Kimberly Librizzi	Amanda Neilson
Anne Bello	Abigail Marquardt	Alithea Shono
Ramona Buonadonna		

PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$150 per diem)

Christina Bonfiglio, effective August 30, 2024 through June 27, 2025
Jesse Donnarumma, effective August 30, 2024 through June 27, 2025
Shannon Feminella, effective August 30, 2024 through June 27, 2025
Paige Fogarty, effective August 30, 2024 through June 27, 2025
Emily Gillen, effective August 30, 2024 through June 27, 2025
Alexander Giordano, effective August 30, 2024 through June 27, 2025
Olivia Gmelch, effective August 30, 2024 through June 27, 2025
Sierra Koehler, effective August 30, 2024 through June 27, 2025
Helene Mendez, effective August 30, 2024 through June 27, 2025
Joyce Ronayne, effective August 30, 2024 through June 27, 2025
Jordan Slobodow, effective August 30, 2024 through June 27, 2025

CURRICULUM REPORT

Mrs. Morrison informed the audience that a letter was sent via Parent Square to all Pre-K students regarding Kindergarten screening. The screening will take place throughout the month of June during the school day in the Pre-K classrooms. West Islip teachers will screen Pre-K students that attend South Shore Children's Center of West Islip during their school day. A letter was sent out via Parent Square to parents/guardians of all incoming Pre-K students regarding class placement procedures for the 2024-2025 school year.

Mrs. Morrison advised that between this school year and next, building capacity issues will require the district to relocate one Pre-kindergarten classroom per building to South Shore Children's Center of West Islip. For the upcoming school year, Manetuck and P.J. Bellew will each be reduced by one Pre-K classroom. For the 2025-2026 school year, Oquenock and Bayview will be reduced by one Pre-K classroom. Mrs. Morrison spoke about 2024-2025 Pre-K students that have at least one sibling attending their home school for the 2024-2025 school year will be automatically placed at their home school, space permitting. The district anticipates that Oquenock and Bayview will be able to accommodate the placement of all incoming Pre-kindergarten registrants with siblings; and that there will be a sibling lottery for Manetuck and P.J. Bellew siblings. The buildings that have remaining spots available after the sibling lottery will have a lottery for placement into the remaining Pre-kindergarten spots in each building. Lotteries will be live-streamed on May 22, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. and a link to view the lottery will be placed on the district website one day prior to the event. The district anticipates notifying all parents/guardians of their child's Pre-kindergarten placement the week of June 3, 2024

or sooner, if possible. Additional information about the district's Pre-kindergarten program will be provided throughout the summer.

Mrs. Morrison spoke about the Regents exams. The Algebra I Regents will take place on June 4 followed by English Language Arts and Living Environment on June 14, U.S. History and Global History will be on June 18, Earth Science and Chemistry on June 20, Geometry on June 21, Algebra II on June 24 and Physics on June 25.

Celebrate Education will take place on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at the high school. Events will take place throughout the afternoon and evening that will showcase and celebrate the accomplishments of the 2023-2024 school year. A schedule of events will be shared with parents and guardians by the end of next week. AP/IB testing is underway and will continue through next week.

On May 3, 2024, Beach Street Science Engineering Technology Teacher, Ashley Pope, was awarded the STEM Star Award by the Long Island Stem Education Leadership Association. This award recognizes teachers who provide students with access to high quality learning experiences in STEM.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Policy Committee: James Cameron reported on the meeting that took place on 4/11/24. There was a First Reading on Series 2000 – School Board Governance & Operations and a First Reading on No. 7315 Students and Personal Electronic Devices. Mr. Cameron advised that at the June meeting the committee would be working on the 1000 and 0000 series of the policy manual.

Buildings and Grounds: Peter McCann reported on the meeting held 5/7/24. Items reviewed included substitute custodians being mentored into full time custodians; district finding different places to store furniture and other items; summer camps and activities will be in full force over the summer. Other items reviewed included replacing the roof at Masera, repaving of parking lot, replacing doors, ceiling, and tiles. The Board is also asking for a tour of Masera to see the progress being made. The District Office security vestibule is on schedule for summer/fall and an engineer was hired for the high school masonry crack. The architects are drawing up plans for the high school pool and the project start date is June 2026. The pool will be open for the 2024-2025 school year.

Health & Wellness Committee: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting held 5/8/24. Items reviewed included Financial Report, Health & Wellness scholarships to be awarded on 6/3/2024, the 2024 Glow Run will be November 6, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Islip High School/Family Connect Night, \$75.00 sponsorships are available, pre-registration will open in September on My School Bucks, rain date is Thursday 11/7/24. A Sounds of Silence 5K/10K Run/Walk will take place on 5/18/24. 2024-2025 Family Connect Nights are being explored and there will be an emphasis on Mental Health for the 2024-2025 school year.

Education Committee: Richard Antoniello reported on the meeting held 5/7/2024. Items reviewed included kindergarten screening, pre-kindergarten class placement procedures for 2024-2025, options for summer school were discussed, ESBOCES and Bay Shore will be an option since the district will not be offering summer school, no results yet for the NYS State testing for Grades 3-8 and refusals were down from last year.

Finance Committee: Christina Marks reported on the meeting held 5/7/2024. Items reviewed included the March treasurer's report; March extra-curricular report; March payroll summary; March financial statements; April claims audit report; April system manager audit trail; payroll certifications; budget transfers; donations; and Health Service contract and bids. Mrs. Pellati advised the committee that RS Abrams, the external auditors, would be on-site May 14 to begin the interim testing for the 2023-2024 year end audit.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting held 5/8/2024. IEPs from the CSE and CPSE recommendations were approved. Mrs. Dowling updated the committee on the continued success of the district's partnership with PM Pediatrics. Families gave positive feedback after their CSE and CPSE meetings. Mrs. Brown congratulated Amelia Zolciak who received the Suffolk Zone Physical Education Leadership Award. The unified basketball team had their second win of the season and received compliments from Deer Park about their sportsmanship and embracing the mission of unified basketball. The last home game is on Wednesday, 5/15, at 5:00 p.m. at the high school. SEPTA will be holding their end of the year party at Horace & Sylvia's in Babylon and tickets are \$40 and can be purchased on the member hub.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2023-2024 General Fund budget transfers 4377- 4391 and Capital Fund budget transfers 4383 - 4392.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to Health Services Contract 2023-2024 – Amityville UFSD ~ \$887.35.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve donation resolutions re: Gene HAAS Foundation Scholarship - \$8,000.00 and P.S. I Love You Foundation – Bench for High School valued at \$2,500.00

DONATIONS:

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of \$8,000 from the Gene HAAS Foundation, which has been donated to the West Islip High School to support scholarships and student fees for participating in competitions for our science, technology and engineering students.

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of a bench valued at approximately \$2,500 from P.S. I Love You Foundation, which has been donated to the West Islip High School.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve bids 2024-2025 as listed below:

1. #2402 Madison Avenue Construction Corp.
2. #2403 Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC
3. #2404 Cardinal Control Systems, Inc.
4. #2406 Long Island Geese Control
5. #2407 Tobay Printing Company, Inc.
6. #2408 Winter Bros. Hauling of Long Island, LLC
7. #2409 Sportsman's BSN Sports, Varsity Spirit
8. #2410 Nature Plus Pest Control
9. #2411 Dynasty Elevator Corp.
10. #2413 Fitzgerald's Driving School, Inc.
11. Base Bid #GC – 1 Roof Replacement at the Masera Learning Center

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Rejection of Bid #2405 – Maintenance and Service of Fire Alarm Systems, the Maintenance and Repair of Security Alarm Systems and Central Station Monitoring of Security and Fire Systems Bid.

RESOLUTION: West Islip Bid #2405 - Maintenance and Service of Fire Alarm Systems, the Maintenance and Repair of Security Alarm Systems and Central Station Monitoring of Security and Fire Systems Bid

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent of Business and the Director of Buildings and Grounds the West Islip Board of Education hereby reject all bids with regard to **Bid # 2405** Maintenance and Service of Fire Alarm Systems, the Maintenance and Repair of Security Alarm Systems and Central Station Monitoring of Security and Fire Alarms. Extreme price increase (2x price) over the present service contract as well as a need for specifications modification is the basis for this rejection.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Rejection of Bid #2412 – Athletic Equipment Reconditioning.

RESOLUTION: West Islip Bid #2412 – Athletic Equipment Reconditioning

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent of Business and the Director of Athletics the West Islip Board of Education hereby reject all bids with regard to **Bid # 2412** Athletic Equipment Reconditioning. After careful competitive price evaluation of the bid results of the West Islip Athletic Reconditioning bid (#2412) vs the BOCES Athletic Equipment/Uniform Reconditioning, Recertifying, Repair and Cleaning bid (#2021-600-0811) it has been determined pricing is more favorable to the district using the BOCES bid. Better pricing from the BOCES bid is the basis of rejection.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Broker Services Agreement re: Brown & Brown of Garden City, Inc.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Enrollment Agreement re: Brown & Brown of Garden City, Inc.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Memorandum of Agreement re: Local 237 Clerical – Summer hours.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve re: Local 237 Operations – Summer hours.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve WITA Lease Agreement 6/1/24 - 5/31/25.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve BOCES Multi-Year Service Agreement – Fiber WAN Services (Project #WI-FWAN-050124-2024-2029) - 7/1/2024 to 6/30/2029.

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

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve re: the Board of Education approves the recommendations of the Special Education Committee of students as listed in the District's backup and authorizes the District to arrange for appropriate services.

Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Board of Education of the West Islip UFSD approves the recommendations of the Special Education Committee of students as listed in the District's backup and authorizes the District to arrange for appropriate services.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Romanelli spoke about his cabinet and all the wonderful things they accomplish on a daily basis. He gave a shout out to Mrs. Pellati who had a very challenging budget this year and was impressed with her long-term vision and attention to detail and always prioritizing the students in every decision that she makes. Dr. Romanelli thanked Mrs. Morrison who chairs so many committees from Profile of a Graduate to cell phones as well as curriculum at the elementary and secondary level. Mrs. Morrison has a massive job, comes in, and tackles it every day. Dr. Romanelli is so appreciative of her.

Dr. Romanelli spoke about attending a meeting at A+ Technologies with Mr. McLeavey along with several other Superintendents. At the meeting, they asked how many districts are in compliance with the Work Place Violence Mandate and West Islip was one of the only districts in compliance thanks to Mr. Cameron's initiative regarding this. Mr. Cameron has put the human in Human Resources by making connections and being out there in the buildings and Dr. Romanelli expressed how appreciative he is of his hard work.

Dr. Romanelli also spoke about Dr. Patrick Kiley-Rendon who is part of the central administration team. Dr. Kiely-Rendon and Dr. Romanelli were able to go to the Google Headquarters in New York City to meet about Artificial Intelligence and the connection to education. They were able to see what goes on day to day and see the new technologies that they are coming out with. What Dr. Romanelli and Dr. Kiley-Rendon took out of the visit is to create a statement on artificial intelligence in education for West Islip. Mrs. Morrison, Dr. Kiley-Rendon and Dr. Romanelli will work on this with the Tech Committee in the district and talking about how they see AI in the world of education. The district wants to be in front of this and do a real tour of classrooms that are implementing AI already and how we plan to in the future. Dr. Romanelli would love to have the Board and administrators, teachers, politicians and community members see what is going on in the district. He is very proud of what the district has in place and our infrastructure from the visit to Google.

Mr. Tussie thanked Dr. Romanelli for everything he does and for forming a great team. He thanked the cabinet members for everything they do and for how they make the Board of Education's job so much easier and why the Board has been successful.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 8:51 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Regular Meeting
May 9, 2024

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Super-Executive Session at 8:52 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 9:14 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Hock".

Mary Hock
District Clerk

All correspondence, reports or related materials referred to in these minutes are on file in the District Office.