

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**June 6, 2024 - West Islip High 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. Volz

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Tussie welcomed Ms. Beth Davis as the new District Clerk.

Student Representative Report

Thomas Kerrigan spoke about NYSSMA and the West Islip Music Department. The department has had a positive impact on all students involved and has created a sense of teamwork.

Mr. Tussie thanked Mr. Kerrigan for sharing and congratulated all the members.

Unified Basketball Team

Mr. Brandon Cohen spoke about how the program combines athletes with and without intellectual disabilities to participate together on the same team. It is part of the Special Olympics Unified Sports initiative, which aims to promote social inclusion through shared sports experiences.

Courtney Rindos spoke about being on the team for two seasons and the friendships and bonds with teammates that they created on and off the court. They have shared many fun times on the bus for away games and the dance parties at halftime with the home and away team.

Matthew Daley spoke about being on the team for two years and how he enjoyed being on the team and meeting new people. He loves when people cheer for him. It makes him feel good about himself. He thanked Ms. Matthews, Mr. Cohen and his team for helping him and making sure he had a great time playing on the team and is looking forward to being on the team again next year.

Samantha LiVecchi spoke about how joining the team is a good opportunity for kids with disabilities to participate and was a highlight of her senior year. She enjoyed meeting new people and learning good sportsmanship. She was extremely proud to represent West Islip in the All-Star game.

Caitlin McNamee spoke about how welcoming the coaches and teammates were and going to practices was the highlight of her day. She thought that she would be teaching her teammates about the sport that she loved and in the end, it was each of her teammates who taught her life lessons like patience, empathy and resilience.

Ms. Noreen Matthews presented a video presentation created by Mr. Ron Weber's video production class to the audience.

Mr. Tussie thanked the coaches and the team for a remarkable program and said it was a great way to represent West Islip Athletics.

Partnership with Submarine Industrial Base

Mrs. Morrison spoke about the West Islip Science Engineering Technology Department being the best in its field and the benchmark to which other districts aspire. The program provides real world, hands on learning experiences and career preparation to students across a variety of fields. In the upcoming 2024-2025 school year the district is partnering with the US Navy in collaboration with submarine industrial based workforce development to provide our High School welding and machinery students the opportunity to manufacture submarine parts that will be utilized for Navy nuclear submarines. This field is in need of workers and along with the Navy, we are hopeful this experience will result in some of our students pursuing a pathway to this type of work in the future. This will be an amazing experience for the students knowing that parts manufactured at West Islip High School will be aboard working Navy nuclear submarines. Mrs. Morrison extended a heartfelt thank you to the science engineering technology teachers for facilitating this experience for our students. She also gave a shout out to Mr. Tom Compitello who would have loved that our students have the opportunity to collaborate with the US Navy.

Mr. McCann stated that this is an amazing program to which our students will be exposed and how Mr. Compitello is looking down and smiling down at the students of West Islip after serving 20 years as a Commander in the US Navy.

Achievement Award – Leadership Development Training

Dr. Romanelli spoke about the New York State Board Excellence Recognition program and how it is designed to acknowledge school board members who strive to continually expand their governance, knowledge and skills. The Board of Education members are volunteers who volunteer their time and go above and beyond. Mrs. Debbie Brown was recognized for her commitment to professional development and furthering her own leadership abilities.

DISCUSSION

School Safety ~ Dr. Romanelli gave updates regarding topics that are spoken about regularly at our Board of Education meetings. Security technology in our district include blue light lockdown system; cameras with two command centers in our North and South parts of town; guards and armed guards; different security equipment to keep our district safe which include security vehicles, trucks, bikes, golf carts, radios, and security I-pads with building maps to file incident reports on the spot. Door alarms will be installed at the Elementary and Middle School buildings on unauthorized exit doors. Security vestibules, bullet resistant glass window film. The school safety team participates in a number of different trainings throughout the year. Dr. Romanelli spoke about attending a threat assessment meeting with Sean McAleavey, Directory of School Safety and discussed with the Board about having an outside company come in and give a second opinion regarding our security measures within the district.

Mr. Tussie stated school safety is one of the top priorities; this would be beneficial to the district and gave his full support.

Mr. McCann states we went through an assessment a few years ago and it is time to refresh and see if there are other options to add.

NYSED Board of Regents Proposal ~ Dr. Romanelli states that the Regents have put forward a resolution for review that proposes the elimination of competency testing for mixed competition and permits males to participate in singular female sports such as field hockey, flag football, gymnastics, volleyball and softball should your school not provide a male option. Softball and baseball have been deemed singular by the regions.

The position of the New York State Athletics Administrators Associate Executive Board is that they are united in their resolve to not permit male students free access to female teams and activities.

Mr. Tussie stated that the school board fully supports the concept of inclusivity and supporting safe environments for all however, when it comes to mixed sports competition the Board believes in separating genders in sports to allow fair and safe competition based on physical differences. The Board is in agreement with the New York State Athletic Administration Association and does not support the decision to redefine mixed competition.

Mr. McCann agreed and Dr. Romanelli will draw up a letter.

#### 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 May 21, 2024 Planning Session Meeting.

#### RECOGNITION

Dr. Romanelli congratulated the top 10 academic leaders in the West Islip High School Class of 2024 and through their hard work and persistent dedication earned a spot as one of the top students in the graduating class:

Class of 2024 Top Academic Leaders ~ Aneliese Ammirata, Emerson Ammirata, Bakurie Bekteshi, Danielle Bodner, Angelo Cristadoro, Jake Guttman, Julia Kennedy, Tadhg O'Sullivan-Bakshi, Katherine Pokorney, Daniel Von Thaden

Leadership and Initiative Award ~ West Islip Flag Football ~ Ashlyn Murphy

Director of Athletics, Tim Horan congratulated Ashlyn Murphy on advocating and taking initiative to form the first ever West Islip Varsity Flag Football team and the team making it to playoffs.

Mr. Horan congratulated the following Suffolk Zone Award winners for outstanding leadership, fitness citizenship and excellence in health and physical education.

#### Suffolk Zone Award Winners

West Islip High School	Chris Piropato and Carley Squeglia
Beach Street Middle School	Riley Scavo and Rosie Scavo
Udall Road Middle School	Nate Blind and Leah Tussie
Bayview Elementary	Khloe McAleavey and Andrew Mercante
Paul J. Bellew Elementary	Jordan Harrington, Mason Monteserrato and Amelia Zolciak
Manetuck Elementary	Quinn Garcia and Tess Hogan
Oquenock Elementary	Braelyn Barr and Lucas Dunbar

Virtual Enterprise 2024 Award Recognitions ~ Kort Panzner, Brendan Obloj, Aidan Jordan, Ciaran Pollard, Jake Romeo, Adrian Syku, Ethan Martinez, Joseph Pace, Drew Varvaro, Ryan Hicks, Drew Schiano, Jad Limane, Lucas Scourtos, Ryan Cascino, Calvin Adam, Michael Flynn, Derek Rivera, Anna Kalinowski, Logan Christensen

Virtual Enterprise facilitator Patricia Morgigno spoke about the virtual enterprise classroom allowing students to engage in hands-on learning experiences both inside and outside of the classroom. Students conduct market research, write policies and procedures, and develop comprehensive business plans while working in departments such as Administration, Accounting, Finance, Sales, Marketing, Human Resources and IT. Local, regional and international trade shows and competitions proved opportunities for the students to present their work, experience real-world competition, network with peers and connect with college and business partners. Ms. Morgigno expressed her gratitude to the West Islip Industry Advisory Board for supporting these future entrepreneurs.

## PERSONNEL

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

*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 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.*

## TEACHERS

### **T-1                    TENURE APPOINTMENT**

Gina Castaldo, Elementary  
Effective August 31, 2024

Anna Domingo, World Languages  
Effective August 31, 2024

Michael McCabe, Psychologist  
Effective August 31, 2024

Kaitlyn Crowley, Speech  
Effective September 1, 2024

Denise Lamattina, Library Sciences  
Effective September 1, 2024

Kerry Rivera, Social Worker  
Effective September 1, 2024

### **T-2                    LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid) (Pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993- 12-week continuous medical coverage)**

Kathleen Albreetsen, School Counselor  
Effective May 13, 2024 through June 30, 2024  
(Beach)

**CIVIL**  
**SERVICE**

**CL-1**

**EXCESSED**

Terri Brett, Paraprofessional  
Effective June 27, 2024  
(Paul J. Bellew)

Pyper Ahrens, Paraprofessional  
Effective June 27, 2024  
(Manetuck)

Sabina Collins, Paraprofessional  
Effective June 27, 2024  
(Manetuck)

Rosemarie Maggio, Paraprofessional  
Effective June 27, 2024  
(Beach Street)

Wendy Parks, Paraprofessional  
Effective June 27, 2024  
(High School)

Erin Scileppi, Paraprofessional  
Effective June 27, 2024  
(Beach Street)

Kailey Gross, Paraprofessional  
Effective June 27, 2024  
(Paul J. Bellew)

Judy Abtey, Paraprofessional  
Effective June 27, 2024  
(Paul J. Bellew)

Virginia Gomez, Paraprofessional  
Effective June 27, 2024  
(Udall)

Scarlette Sanchez, Paraprofessional  
Effective June 27, 2024  
(Paul J. Bellew)

Stacy Spisak, Paraprofessional  
Effective June 27, 2024  
(Udall)

**CL-1  
continued**

Nicole Jones, Paraprofessional

Effective June 27, 2024  
(Paul J. Bellew)

Angelina Archer, Paraprofessional

Effective June 27, 2024  
(Udall)

Jennifer Ulrich, Paraprofessional

Effective June 27, 2024  
(Manetuck)

Christina Chiarelli, Paraprofessional

Effective June 27, 2024  
(Oquenock)

Lisette Rodriguez, Paraprofessional

Effective June 27, 2024  
(Beach Street)

Kayla DiMino, Paraprofessional

Effective June 27, 2024  
(Beach Street)

Melissa Schafer, Paraprofessional

Effective June 27, 2024  
(Paul J. Bellew)

Kiersten Comer, Paraprofessional

Effective June 27, 2024  
(Paul J. Bellew)

**OTHER**

**ADULT EDUCATION 2024-2025**

Kevin Murphy, Director (\$4,418/semester)

**ENRICHMENT 2024-2025**

John Ruggerio, Director (\$1,962/semester)

**ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL 2024-2025**

Daniel Marquardt, Co-Coordinator (\$25,016 per year)

John Mullins, Co-Coordinator (\$25,016 per year)

**DEAN 2024-2025**

Richard Ippoliti, High School

**NEW TEACHER PROGRAM COORDINATOR 2024-2025**

Donna Flynn, Co-Coordinator (\$2,861 per year)

Lauren Lay, Co-Coordinator (\$2,861 per year)

**PSAT/SAT/SSD/ACT COORDINATOR 2024-2025**

Justin Arini, Coordinator (\$2,822 per semester)

**SUMMER INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM 2024-2025**

Jeannine DiMaio, Aide

**SPECIAL EDUCATION – ESY RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**SUMMER 2024**

Consultant Teachers

Erin Meade

Jillian Ruffo

Danielle Sadusky

Maureen U Sanchez

Classroom Teachers

Gina Capanelli

Kasey Connelly

Christie Cusanelli

Megan Rooney

Lindsay Simonton (Sub)

Marissa Villani

Speech Therapists

Katherine Bayern

Kathleen Finn

BCBA

Theresa Mercado

Aides

Judy Abtey

Christine Antippas

Margaret Barth

Florence Burns

Sabina Collins

Cathleen Cronin

Patti DiMino

Taylor Dundon

Annemarie Flynn

Jennifer Held

Cortney Kuzmiak

Catherine Lamotte

Rose Maggio

Tara Miller

Amanda Nielsen

Marianna Pascarella

Jean Pozzini

Annette Rossi

Erin Scileppi

Kathleen Slayback

Michele Varley

Substitute Aide

Theresa Gabriele

Nurses

Karen Arigoni (Sub)

Sharon Kerrigan

**SUMMER INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM 2024**

Teachers

Kristen Amoia

Tim Bauernfeind

Danielle Blaise

Michelle Bonkov

Lisa Brush

Olivia Capitano

Ashley Caputo

Gianna Covello

Kayla Covello

Tammy Dragelin

Danielle Ferruggiari

Paige Fogarty

Paige Gillespie

Mollie Healey

Anmarie Katzer

Jade Lawrence

Andrea Miller

Sara Pollack

Jordan Slobodow

ENL Service Provider

Katrina Bausch

## CURRICULUM REPORT

Mrs. Morrison thanked our school community, administrative team, teachers, staff, parents and students for a great school year filled with academic growth and accomplishments. Mrs. Morrison also thanked Dr. Romanelli and the Board of Education for their unwavering commitment to advancing the learning experiences of all students.

Mrs. Morrison gave several updates. The IB Program will have thirteen students receiving an IB diploma on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.; thirteen students attained the Seal of Biliteracy; the Alternative High School will have eighteen students graduate on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. A STEM symposium was held on June 5<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the research conducted in grades 8-12 this school year. Twenty-two graduating seniors had their research finding showcased at the symposium. Summer school will not be offered in West Islip this year; programs are being facilitated at St. John the Baptist HS and by ESBOCES at Bay Shore high School. Information will be shared with all secondary parents within the next week as well as posted on the district website. The Summer Investigations Program for Elementary Students Grade Level Math and ELA skills program will run from July 1-July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Morrison stated the District's newly adopted electronic device policy was shared with all parents/guardians last week. Parent Academies are scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>, June 20<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm at Beach Street Middle School to overview the policies and guidelines.

Mrs. Morrison congratulated the Class of 2024.

## REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEES:

Policy Committee: James Cameron reported on the meeting that took place on 6/4/2024. The following policies were discussed: Series (0000) Philosophy, Goals and Objectives, Community Relations (Series 1000), School Board Governance (Series 2000) and Administration Series (3000) which will become a part of the new policy manual intended for July 9, 2024. Annual policy renewals ahead of the Reorganization meeting on July 9, 2024 No.5412 Purchasing procedures; No. 5421 Procurement of Goods and Services; No. 5610 Insurance; No. 5623 Use of School Owned Materials and Equipment, No. 5683 District Wide Safety committee, No. 6150 Alcohol, Drugs and Other Substances {School Personnel}; No. 7320 Alcohol, Drugs and Other Substances {Students} and Student Code of Conduct. During the 2024-2025 school year, the policy committee intends to review, modify and adopt the Instruction (Series 4000), Student Policies (Series 5000), Fiscal Management (Series 6000), Facilities Development (Series 7000), Support Services (Series 8000) and Personnel Policies (Series 9000). The goal is to be prepared with the entire policy manual for the 2025-2026 school year. Meeting dates for the 2024-2025 school year TBD.

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting held 6/4/2024. Items reviewed included Curriculum and Overview 2023-2024. Starting discussions about best practices: mastery learning, homework and grading practices.

Finance Committee: Christina Marks reported on the meeting held 6/4/2024. Items reviewed included April treasurer's report; school district funds; payroll summary; financial statements; extra-curricular funds; May internal claims audit report; system manager audit trail 5/1/2024-5/29/2024; payroll certification 5/17/2024-5/31/2024; review of warrants; review of Board agenda finance items: budget transfers, scholarship donations; 2024-2025 contracts and surplus equipment.



Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting held 6/5/2024. Items reviewed included IEP, CSE and CPSE recommendations from respective committees and will be approved at this evening's meeting. The district's special education two-year plan has been updated for 2024-2026. Highlights from the 2023-2024 school year include addition of the special education department's section on the district website which includes resources and information on SEPTA, two new in district positions; Speech Language Therapist and districtwide Board Certified Behavioral Analyst Teacher; four teachers trained and certified in Wilson Reading Systems level 1 and SEPTA representative participation in non-confidential portion of committee meetings. Last SEPTA meeting was the end of year dinner where the new board was inducted. Mara D'Amico will be the new SEPTA President. Mrs. Brown thanked all the SEPTA board women for their commitment to the children.

#### 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 4394-4400 and Capital Fund budget transfers 4393.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Fitzgerald Driving School, Inc. Contract 2024-2025.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to surplus: 2-Tier Warming Unit ~ 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 donation resolutions re: Scholarship Donations from Suffolk Association of School Business Officials - \$500 West Islip High School and Suffolk Transportation Service, Inc. - \$3000 West Islip High School.

#### 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 the results of the Annual District Meeting held on May 21, 2024.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve WITA Memorandum of Agreement re: Board Certified Behavior Analyst Teacher.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve WITA Memorandum of Agreement re: Teacher Personal Days.

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: the Board of Education approves the recommendation 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.*

Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: the West Islip UFSD Board of Education nominates Catherine Romano for Area 12 Director of the New York State School Board Association.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Romanelli congratulated all the students that received recognition this evening and the staff that received tenure. Dr. Romanelli stated that after completing his second year as Superintendent for the West Islip School District he is honored to lead this school district every day and is so proud to be a part of West Islip. He will continue working with the Board of Education and Central Administration to continue to do what is best for the students and families of the district.

Mr. Tussie acknowledged the eightieth anniversary of D-Day and thanked all the men and women who sacrificed for our Country. Flag Day will be celebrated 10:00 a.m. June 14<sup>th</sup> at Paul J. Bellew.

The following residents wished to speak during "Invitation to the Public":

Doreen Hantzschel – Mrs. Hantzschel thanked the Board and Administration for recognizing the Class of 2024 with weighted averages. Mrs. Hantzschel asked if the district would consider changing College Day to Career Day. Mr. McCann stated that the district re-implemented career day this year where many careers and trades were represented and it was a great success.

Ellen Sterbens – Mrs. Sterbens spoke about the importance of the UPK program and her disappointment with the lottery system and South Shore Children's Center. Mrs. Sterbens stated that special education children should be prioritized for the UPK placement. Mrs. Morrison thanked Mrs. Sterbens for sharing her concerns and recognized that every parent wants their child in their home building but unfortunately, due to space limitation at this time it is not possible. Mrs. Morrison assured Mrs. Sterbens that meetings are held regularly with South Shore to ensure that our district curriculum is being followed.

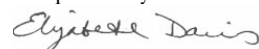
Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:01 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 9:33 p.m. on motion by Peter McCann, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

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 9:33 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. on motion by Richard Antonello, seconded by Debbie Brown and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth Davis  
District Clerk

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