

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 15, 2024 – Beach Street Middle School

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

ABSENT: Mr. Antonello and Mr. McCann

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

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Vigliotta

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2024 Reorganization Meeting, July 9, 2024 Regular Meeting and July 29, 2024 Special Meeting.

PERSONNEL:

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following personnel consent agenda items A-1, T1, T-2, T-3, TA-1, CL-1, CL-2, CL-3, CL-4, CL-5, Cl-6 and Other as listed below:

ADMINISTRATIVE

A-1 CHANGE IN RATE INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR

Wayne Cronk, Assistant Principal
Effective August 20, 2024
(High School; \$800 per diem)

TEACHERS

T-1 LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid)
(Pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993-
12-week continuous medical coverage)

Danielle Rufrano, English
Effective September 4, 2024 through November 26, 2024
(Beach)

T-2 CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid)

Kathleen Albretsen, Guidance
Effective August 30, 2024 through June 30, 2025
(Beach)

T-3 REGULAR SUBSTITUTE

Jamie Doherty, Guidance
Effective August 30, 2024 through June 30, 2025
(Beach; Step 1A ¹; replacing Kathleen Albretsen {LOA})

T-3 continued

REGULAR SUBSTITUTE

Jaden Mule, World Languages
Effective August 30, 2024 through June 30, 2025
(High School; Step 1A 1; replacing Elizabeth Daddi {LOA})

Craig Perrino, Health
Effective August 30, 2024 through November 7, 2024
(Beach Street, Paul J. Bellew and Bayview; Step 1 1; replacing Shanan Mauro {LOA})

Jacqueline Turcios-Bonilla, ENL
Effective August 30, 2024 through June 30, 2025
(Oquenock and Udall; Step 1A 1; replacing Tatiana Lisica {LOA})

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

TA-1

RESIGNATION

Maria Pascarella, Special Education
Effective July 1, 2024
(Oquenock)

CIVIL SERVICE

CL-1

CHANGE IN TITLE

Melissa Belle, Custodial Worker I
Effective August 19, 2024
(Bayview; Step 1; change from Part-Time Food Service Worker; replacing Joseph Finn {retired})

CHANGE IN TITLE

Paul Quigley, Driver Messenger
Effective August 19, 2024
(Districtwide; Step 12; change from Groundskeeper I; replacing Barry Cronin {retired})

CL-2

RECALL

Christina Chiarelli, Paraprofessional
Effective August 30, 2024
(Paul J. Bellew; Step 2)

Melissa Schafer, Paraprofessional
Effective August 30, 2024
(Paul J. Bellew; Step 2)

CL-3

RESIGNATION

Maria Corso, Paraprofessional
Effective August 2, 2024
(High School)

Constance Jones, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective July 1, 2024
(Bayview)

CL-3 continued RESIGNATION

Catherine Sinchi, Paraprofessional
Effective July 30, 2024
(Oquenock)

Jennifer Ulrich, Paraprofessional
Effective July 26, 2024
(Paul J. Bellew)

CL-4 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

*Jaelyn Acerra, School Nurse
Effective August 29, 2024
(Paul J. Bellew; Step 1; replacing Laurie Farrell-Luquer {retired})

*Barbara Lirosi, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective August 29, 2024
(\$16.54/hr; Udall; replacing Nicole Rosenberg {resigned})

*Patricia Karatnytsky, Senior Office Assistant
Effective August 19, 2024
(High School; Step 1; replacing Pamela Riker {retired})

PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Mary Spilabotte, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective August 29, 2024
(\$16.54/hr; Bayview; replacing Constance Jones {resigned})

CL-5 GUARD I (\$20.74/hr)

*Joseph Pontillo, effective August 16, 2024

CL-6 GUARD II (\$24.20/hr)

*Jeffrey Hill, effective August 16, 2024
John O'Neill, effective August 16, 2024

**Conditional pending fingerprint clearance*

OTHER

ADULT EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS FALL 2024

Marilyn Balkam (Beginner Line Dancing) \$45/hr
Lenny Butler (Community CPR/First Aid) \$35/hr
Jake Caramico (How Money Works) no cost to West Islip
Kim Crichton (Yoga, Stretch, Body Sculpt) \$45/hr
James Grover (Basketball) \$45/hr
Matthew Haszinger (Volleyball) \$45/hr
Phyllis Hintze (Ballroom Dancing) \$35/hr
Evan Levy (Social Security Planning) no cost to West Islip
Bruce Lieberman (Defensive Driving) no cost to West Islip
Jane Loehle (Aquacise) \$45/hr
Matthew Corbett (Lifeguard) \$25/hr
Kaitlin Murphy (Lifeguard) \$25/hr

Other continued ADULT EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS FALL 2024

Diane Sharkey (Beginner Line Dancing) \$45/hr
Nizza Tasayco (Volleyball) \$45/hr
Richard Tesoro (About Boat Safety) no cost to West Islip
Robert Watts (Introduction to Guitar/Piano) \$40/hr

CURRICULUM WRITING 2024-2025

Once Upon a Crime (Melissa Muma and Dawn Divisconti)
Senior Reflections (Virginia Scudder)
World Literature (ACE) (Linda Gifford)
Library K-1 (Danielle Blaise and Gina Hildebrandt)

FALL 2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES

CHEERLEADING

Nikole Aponte, 7-8 Udall Coach
Kaylee Martin, 7-8 Beach Coach

BOYS SOCCER

Nick Pfeiffer, 7-8 Udall Coach

CURRICULUM REPORT

Mrs. Morrison stated that we are looking forward to welcoming 11 new teachers and professional staff members to the District at new teacher orientation on August 27th, 28th and 29th. Orientation includes various instructional technology platforms utilized throughout the District. They will take part in the Stop the Bleed and Active Shooter Training, and have time to meet with Principals and Directors in their home buildings. They will receive an overview of the Teacher Mentor Program, Special Education Department, Curriculum and Instruction, Human Resources and a guided bus tour of the school district. Following new teacher orientation we have two Superintendent's Conference days on August 30th and September 3rd. Throughout the two day event faculty and staff will hear a keynote address from Dr. Romanelli about the importance of human connections, reviewing district safety plans, the IEP/504 documents of their students, complete mandated trainings and classroom preparation, and some welcome back fun. We look forward to welcoming back students on September 4th. We have an exciting year ahead in the area of curriculum and instruction. District initiatives in this regard will be shared shortly via the Education Committee report.

REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEES:

Policy Committee: James Cameron offered the second reading of the code of conduct based on some revisions that were shared at the previous meeting.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adopt the changes to the second reading of the code of conduct.

Education Committee: Christina Marks reported on the meeting that was held on 8/12/24. Items reviewed included the summer investigations that was held this summer for grades 1-5. Data will be sent to each building principal for review. The extended school year was held at Manetuck under our special administrative team and it was a great experience. Superintendent Conference day was discussed and there are 253 students registered for Pre-K for this school year. Initiatives discussed for the upcoming school year include successful implementation of the electronic device policy; continued advancement of the district's literacy initiatives including Foundations starting in grade 3; continued training and piloting sign reading programs; implementation of a pre-k screener for incoming pre-k students; establishment of an attendance policy committee for this year

which will include a Board member with focus on the morning periods; continued awareness regarding Mastery of Learning and Equitable Grading practices; community book talks on pertinent education topics where books will be selected and the community will be invited to read together and discuss; curriculum review for grades K-12 posted will be posted on the website so there awareness as to what will be covered in each class; continuing to embed the Profile of a Graduate into districts daily practices; and professional development opportunities that support our goals and initiatives for this year.

Finance Committee: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting that was held on 8/12/2024. Items presented and accepted by the committee were treasurer's report regarding May's school district funds and May and June's extra-curricular; May's payroll summary and financial statements; internal claims audit report for June and July; system manager audit trail for May, June and July; payroll certification for 6/12/24, 6/24/24, 6/26/24, 7/8/24, 7/10/24, 7/25/24; review of warrants, review of board agenda finance items; budget transfers for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025; tax levy; surplus books; 2024-2025 contracts.

The committee reviewed a memorandum from the Food Services Department regarding a request for an increase in the school breakfast prices for school year 2024-2025. The current price of breakfast in the middle and high school is \$1.50. In light of the rising food prices and current breakfast prices at Long Island districts, the district will be raising the school breakfast price to \$1.75. This increase will be placed on the August planning session for the Board approval.

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Quinn Bedell reported on the meeting that was held on 8/12/2024. The Board went on a tour of Masera which is set to open in September. The work that was completed in a short period was a new roof, parking lot, site work and inside of building. Ground maintenance is ongoing. Several construction projects throughout the district include district office security vestibule; outside vendor redoing three of the baseball fields which have not been done in a number of years; in district employees redoing doors and door seals at the entrances of the buildings; concrete and sidewalk work completed by an outside contractor; paved and patched parking lots; Paul J. Bellew bus depot building entrance has been extended along with filling in a sink hole, grounds department in the process of restriping the parking lots; new goal posts will be installed on Udall's football field; new playground will be installed at Kirdahy; gyms floors redone throughout the district; cleaning of all building will be completed before the start of the school year; grounds department is working hard to get all the fields and outdoors ready.

Mr. Tussie remarked on the Masera tour that the Board took and how astonishing it looks. He toured the building four years ago to consider the options on what to do and it was in really poor shape. Seeing the transformation and how quickly it was done is just incredible and exciting. Mr. Tussie stated a job well done to every person who helped get this moving in the direction that it did. A lot of work by Dr. Romanelli, his team and the Board through the years made this happen and he is very proud of that.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2024-2025 General Fund budget transfers 4424-4432 and 4426-4436 in the Capital Fund.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2024-2025 Contracts:

1. Brookville Center for Children's Services, Inc. Special Education 2024-2025
2. DaVinci Education & Research, LLC Consultant Services 2024-2025
3. Developmental Disabilities Institute Special Education 2024-2025
4. Dragonfly ABA Consultant Services 2024-2025
5. Eden II School for Autistic Children Consultant Services 2024-2025
6. Home Care Therapies, LLC d/b/a Horizon Healthcare Staffing Consultant Services 2024-2025
7. Long Island Developmental Consulting, Inc. (LIDC) Consultant Services 2024-2025
8. Long Island Tutorial Services Consultant Services 2024-2025

9. Metro Therapy, Inc. Consultant Services 2024-2025
10. Milestones in Homecare, Inc. Consultant Services 2024-2025
11. New York Therapy Placement Services, Inc. Consultant Services 2024-2025
12. PPT Therapies of Western Suffolk, PT, OT, SLP, LLP Consultant Services 2024-2025
13. Serene Home Nursing Agency Consultant Services 2024-2025
14. Tender Age Pediatric Therapies Consultant Services 2024-2025

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Surplus: Miscellaneous books – Beach Street Middle School and Udall Road Middle School.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Tax Levy 2024-2025.

RESOLUTION: 2024-2025 TAX LEVY

WHEREAS, the estimated expenditures for the West Islip Union Free School District, for the school year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$138,761,990 proposed in accordance with Section 1716 of the Education Law, were approved by the voters of the District on May 21, 2024, and,

WHEREAS, the estimated expenditures for the West Islip Public Library, for the fiscal year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$4,509,627, proposed in accordance with Section 259 of the Education Law, were approved by the voters of the District on April 9, 2024 for a total approved budget of \$143,271,617 therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2024-2025 tax levy in the amount of \$93,402,547 for the West Islip Union Free School District and \$4,349,627 for the West Islip Public Library, for a combined tax levy of \$97,752,174 be approved and levied upon the real property of the District.

(The tax levy of \$93,402,547 for the School District plus \$45,359,443 other income as estimated on July 1, 2024, including State Aid, \$4,375,000 Appropriated from Reserves and \$850,000 of Appropriated Fund Balance equals a budget of \$138,761,990. The tax levy of \$4,349,627 for the Public Library plus \$160,000 other income as estimated on July 1, 2024 equals a budget of \$4,509,627).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: destruction of unused ballots and full ballot booklets not used at the January 23, 2024 Bond Vote for the High School Pool.

RESOLUTION:

Upon the order of the Commissioner of Education per Education Law §2034(6), when a period of six months from the date of election has elapsed without any proceeding being commenced in regard to such election, the board of education may by written resolution order the destruction of unused ballots and full ballot booklets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves, the destruction of unused ballots and full ballot booklets not used at the January 23, 2024 Bond Vote for the High School Pool.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: State Environmental Quality Review Act – SEQRA Resolution - Proposed Site Improvements and Construction Project (including Kitchen Renovation and Parking Lot) at Masera Middle School.

RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the West Islip Union Free School District the West Islip Union Free School District agrees to approve the following:

SEQRA RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District Board desires to embark upon the following improvements at the Masera Learning Center as set forth herein and as listed in the working budget: (1) the complete renovation of the existing kitchen, and (2) construction of a new 27,000 sf parking lot including curbs, sidewalks, site lighting, drainage, and landscaping (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, said capital improvements are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, the complete renovation of the existing kitchen and construction of a new 27,000 sf parking lot is not classified as a Type I Action or Type II Action as determined under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.4 and 617.5; and

WHEREAS, for Unlisted Actions the lead agency making a determination of significance must: (1) consider the action as defined in Sections 617.2(b) and 617.3(g); (2) review the EAF, the criteria contained in Section 617.7(c) and any other supporting information to identify the relevant areas of environmental concern; (3) thoroughly analyze the identified relevant areas of environmental concern to determine if the action may have a significant adverse impact on the environment; and (4) set forth its determination of significance in a written form containing a reasoned elaboration and providing reference to any supporting documentation; and

WHEREAS, the Board, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the capital improvement project and has determined that the Project is classified as an Unlisted Action and determined pursuant to Section 617.7(c) of the SEQR Regulations that the Project will have no significant adverse impact on the environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby declares that the Project is an Unlisted Action, with a Negative Declaration which require no further review under SEQRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed Project from the New York State Education Department

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Appointment of Board Committees/Liaisons 2024-2025

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Stipulation of Settlement and Release – Student A.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Dr. Romanelli stated that we are very excited about the Superintendent’s Conference days. Our infamous welcome back to school letter to the staff was mailed today and we are at just about the two week mark before the staff reports back to work on August 30th. Students are going to be reporting on September 4th and we are very excited for the first day of school.

Dr. Romanelli congratulated Beach Street Middle School for being named in Association of Middle-Level Education (AMLE) School of Distinction. This was a truly rigorous process and this prestigious award recognizes schools that are actively implementing the essential attributes and characteristics of successful middle-grade schools. It is a great accomplishment and is exciting to celebrate with them as we kickoff this school year. Information is on the AMLE website (my.amle.org/The-Successful-Middle-School/AMLE-Schools-of-Distinction).

Dr. Romanelli stated that the district is focusing on opening up the schools and one of the main focuses besides instruction is school safety. This will be discussed at our upcoming planning session and we will be approving the individual school building safety plans before the start of school as well as the district's required safety plan. The full district safety plan is posted on our district website along with a Google form for community feedback that will be taken into account and discussed with Mr. McAleavey and our safety team.

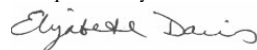
Dr. Romanelli is looking forward to a safe and productive school year.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 8:38 p.m. on motion by Debbie Brown, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m. on motion by Debbie Brown, seconded by Grace Kelly, 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.