

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 10, 2024 – Beach Street Middle School

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

ABSENT: None

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Student Representative Report

Krista Williams spoke about the new cell phone policy and feels the policy is working. Student Senate is selling T-shirts to raise funds for Breast Cancer Awareness month.

DISCUSSION

Student Board Member – July 2025

Dr. Romanelli emphasized the Board of Education’s commitment to valuing student voices and encouraging student advocacy. Dr. Romanelli spoke about the new legislation that Governor Hochul recently signed which requires every BOCES and every school district that includes high school grades to have at least one student representative on their board of education. This is an annual appointment that will go into effect each year at the Reorganizational meeting in July starting in 2025 and we would be looking to appoint this student at either the May or June meeting this school year.

Dr. Romanelli stated that the legislation requires every district to establish a process for selecting a student board member. Student board members may be a student who has been duly elected as student president of the high school; a student selected by the high school student government; a student selected by the high school principal; a student selected by the superintendent of schools; or a student selected by majority vote of the school board. Student members must have attended high school in the district for at least one year prior to selection therefore; this would only be an opportunity for current 10th or 11th graders.

The Board of Education expressed interest in sharing this information with our HS students and seeing who would be interested and then develop a process regarding how the Board would choose the representative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2024 Planning Session.

RECOGNITION

School Board Recognition Week ~ *West Islip Board of Education*

Dr. Romanelli, Mrs. Pellati, Mrs. Morrison and Mr. Cameron all recognized the Board members for all their efforts on behalf of the students and the district. Dr. Romanelli stated that School Board Recognition Week is a week set aside to recognize school board members to their commitment to New York Public school children. Dr. Romanelli stated that recognizing school board members’ service should be a year round endeavor but designating one week to highlight these volunteers’ efforts ensures they receive some of thanks that they deserve.

School Board Recognition week is an opportunity to raise awareness and understanding about the crucial role school board members have within a school district.

PERSONNEL:

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve WITA Memorandum of Agreement between WITA Chapter, West Islip UFSD, and Employee A.

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

PERSONNEL:

TEACHERS

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

Cara Stern, Elementary
Effective September 30, 2024 through November 3, 2024
(Paul J Bellew; leave cancelled)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

TA-1 **TEACHING ASSISTANT TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT**

Mary Kinsley, Special Education
Effective September 4, 2024 to June 30, 2025
(Udall; Step 5; replacing Kaitlin Graff {resigned})

CIVIL SERVICE

CL-1 **PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT**

Jillian Altheen, Paraprofessional
Effective October 11, 2024
(High School; Step 1; replacing Janine Allegretto {reassigned})

Raymond Conroy IV, Custodial Worker I
Effective October 11, 2024
(High School; Step 1; replacing Mitch Palminteri {reassigned})

Chotimaneé Guandique, Paraprofessional
Effective October 11, 2024
(Paul J. Bellew; step 1; replacing Pyper Ahrens {resigned})

*Kristina Sullivan, Paraprofessional
Effective October 11, 2024
(High School; Step 1; replacing Jacqueline Richardelli {resigned})

**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

CL-2

RESIGNATION

Elizabeth Acosta, Part-Time Food Service Worker
Effective September 30, 2024
(Udall)

CL-3

SUBSTITUTE BIOTECHNOLOGY LAB AIDE (\$19.54/hr.)

John Blank, effective October 11, 2024

CL-4

SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN (\$16/hr.)

Alexander Ilchert, effective October 11, 2024
Anthony Leston, effective October 11, 2024
Kelly Ann Mullins, effective October 3, 2024
Mary Spilabotte, effective October 11, 2024

CL-5

SUBSTITUTE FOOD SERVICE WORKER (\$16/hr.)

*Claudia Worley, effective October 11, 2024

**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve OTHER: MENTOR PROGRAM: Monica Elgut (April Virga, World Languages) and Robyn Southard (Jessica Phillips, Psychology)

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the following personnel consent agenda items OTHER as listed below:

OTHER

CLUBS/ADVISORS 2024-2025

BAYVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Art Club, Sophia Stokkeland
Character Ed Club, Danielle Sugumele & Kelly Minicozzi (shared)
Drama Club, Justin DeMaio
Math Club, Scott Key
Ukulele Club, Victoria Kavitt

PAUL J BELLEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Board Game Club, Alysha Cannon (half club)
Book Club, Jade Lawrence (half Club)
Drama Club, Shane O'Neill and Karen McCarthy (shared)
Geography Club, Cara Stern and Karen McCarthy (shared)
Origami, Mollie Healey
SEL Club, Christine Breslin
Tech Explorers Club, Tiffany Kallman
Unified Basketball, Kasey Connelly and Megan Rooney (shared) (half club)
Young Innovators, Alysha Cannon (half club)

OTHER
continued

CLUBS/ADVISORS 2024-2025, continued

UDALL ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chamber Orchestra, Lynnette Fawess
eSports, Kathryn Waters
Jazz Ensemble, Lu Ann Peskanov

SWIM PROGRAM AND SWIM TEAMS 2024-2025

Lifeguards

Branden Felix
Casey Hillyard
Avery Marks

EARLY WINTER 2024-2025 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Tara Annunziata, 7-8 Udall Coach
Kaitlin Palmieri, 7-8 Beach Coach

BOYS BASKETBALL

Jesse Donnarumma, 7-8 Udall Coach
Jake Rossi, 7-8 Beach Coach

CHEERLEADING

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

WINTER 2024-2025 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Christopher Scharf, Varsity Coach
Kristen Doherty, Assistant Varsity Coach
Erin Meade, J.V. Coach

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thomas Cross, Varsity Coach
Richard Zeitler, Assistant Varsity Coach
John T. Denninger, J.V. Coach

BOYS BASKETBALL continued

Nicholas LaGiglia, Varsity Coach
John Ferrara, Assistant Varsity Coach
Paul Vasaturo, J.V. Coach
Robert Ulrich, Varsity and J.V. Volunteer Coach
Peter Gonzalez, Varsity and J.V. Volunteer Coach

OTHER
continued

WINTER 2024-2025 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES, continued

BOYS SWIMMING

Thomas Loudon, Varsity Coach
Edward Jablonski, Assistant Varsity Coach

BOYS BOWLING

Frank Rapczyk, Varsity Coach

GIRLS BOWLING

Frank Franzone, Varsity Coach

BOYS WINTER TRACK

Vincent Melia, Varsity Coach
Matthew Sullivan, Assistant Varsity Coach

GIRLS WINTER TRACK

Michelle Studley, Varsity Coach
Sierra Koehler, Assistant Varsity Coach

KICKLINE

Emma Iehle, Varsity Coach

CHEERLEADING

Lauren Brady, Varsity Coach
Olivia Gmelch, Assistant Varsity Coach
Marissa McCandless, J.V. Coach
Sophia Clark, Assistant J.V. Coach

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem)

*Sharon Costa, effective October 11, 2024
Michelle Farren, effective October 11, 2024
Nicholas Siano, effective October 11, 2024
Brook Thuma, effective October 11, 2024

**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

CURRICULUM REPORT:

Mrs. Morrison reported that on 10/9/2024 West Islip celebrated our literacy work over the past few years at the first Literacy Forum. The forum had a panel of teachers, administrators and specialists that shared information with attendees about the District's literacy initiatives over the past 6 years; the Science of Reading; Dyslexia; the MTSS process and the resources that the District utilizes to support literacy acquisition skills. Mrs. Morrison was pleased to announce another Literacy Parent Academy is scheduled for November where parents will be invited into the classrooms to interact with the materials the District utilizes to support literacy instruction.

Mrs. Morrison announced the first book talk would be held on three occasions at 7:00 pm at the West Islip High School Media Center on 10/23/2024, 1/2/2025 and 2/26/2025. The title of the book is The Anxious Generation, which addresses the challenges faced by kids in today's fast-paced, high-pressure world filled with technology and how parents, teachers and community members can better support them.

Mrs. Morrison stated that West Islip is continuing the partnership with EF Tours for the 2025-2026 school year to provide our students with travel abroad learning experiences. A travel presentation will be held at 7:00 pm on 10/23/2024 at West Islip High School regarding the travel opportunities for the 2025-2026 school year to the Galapagos Islands in February 2026 and Barcelona and Madrid in April 2026.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Safety Committee: Peter McCann reported on the meeting that was held on 9/17/2024. Items reviewed included technology updates including adding more door alarms; keyless locks, RAVE app system and security new hires. Mr. McCann spoke about traffic due to the current arrival and dismissal procedures. Town Officials and the Department of Public Works observed the High School's traffic pattern on Higbie Lane and will report back with a solution.

Health & Wellness Committee: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting that was held on 9/17/2024. Items reviewed included were the Health & Wellness initiatives of last year as well as the upcoming initiatives for the 2024-2025 school year; financial report; the Mental Health sub-committee's first meeting that will be held on 10/15/2024; first annual Glow Run at 6:30 pm on 11/6/2024; the Health & Wellness Alliance Senior Scholarship; Annual West Islip Breast Cancer Coalition Awareness day on 10/18/2024. The West Islip staff has raised and donated \$47,552 over the years. The third Annual Gingerbread House Decorating event will be held at the West Islip High School on 12/18/2024 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

Mrs. Kelly spoke about the 2024-2025 initiative Islip Goes Purple. This is in memory of those lost, those who are in recovery, those who are struggling and their families throughout the Town of Islip and across Long Island.

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting that was held on 10/8/2024. Items reviewed included the Literacy Forum; Book Talk; IB courses; modeling the Social Studies and English Middle Schools after the High School; exploring 8th grade Humanities; and review of the attendance policy review. Mr. Antonello stated that Pre-K registration process has begun.

Mr. Antonello announced that the next Superintendent's Conference Day is scheduled for Tuesday, 11/5/2024, featuring a keynote address by a former FBI agent who will discuss security measures.

Finance Committee: Christina Marks reported on the meeting that was held on 10/8/2024. Items reviewed included treasurer's report which included school district funds for June, July and August and extra-curricular for July and August; payroll summary for July and August; financial statements for June, July and August; internal claims audit report for September; system manager audit trail for September; payroll certification for 9/19/2024 and 10/2/2024; review of warrants; and review of board agenda finance items, which included the approval of budget transfers.

Mrs. Marks reported on the audit committee meeting that was held on 10/10/2024 with the external auditors R.S. Abrams & Co. Items reviewed were the financial statements and year-end results from last year; District's reserve plan which has been updated for last school year. The District received the highest rating possible from the auditors.

Policy Committee: Quinn Bedell reported on the meeting that was held on 10/8/2024. Items reviewed included Board of Education self-evaluation tool options recommended by NYSSBA; Artificial Intelligence, FOIL Request Notification to Employees; Attendance Policy Committee, Facilities Development Series 7000 and Support Services Series 8000. Mr. Bedell stated that the Philosophy, Goals and Objectives Series 0000, Community Relations 1000, School Board Governance & Operations Series 2000 and Previously Adopted Administration Series 3000 would be adopted at the 11/4/2024 Board of Education meeting.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting that was held on 10/9/2024. Items reviewed included IEP, CSE and CPSE recommendations from respective committees and will be approved at this evening's meeting. Mrs. Brown stated that the Special Education Department continues to work hard with our students and families to support their learning and program needs.

Mrs. Brown acknowledged Dyslexia Awareness month and reported on the informative information that was presented at the Literacy Forum.

Mrs. Brown reported that PM Pediatrics was on site to conduct annual training for the social work and psychology staff in regards to the services they provide and referrals. The District has collaborated with PM Pediatrics in order to provide another layer of mental health support for our students.

Mrs. Brown stated that SEPTA President Mara D'Amico joined the meeting for the non-confidential portion. SEPTA is working on bringing in a variety of speakers for this year's meetings.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2024-2025 General Fund budget transfers 4442-4447 and Capital Fund budget transfer 4441, 4443 and 4444.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Receipt of the Independent Auditors' Report for the year ended June 30, 2024 from R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP.

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the West Islip Union Free School District acknowledges receipt of the Independent Auditors Report for the year ended June 30, 2024 from R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Recommend the Board of Education of the West Islip School District approve the Corrective Action Plan in response to the Independent Auditors' Report for the year ended June 30, 2024, submitted by the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Divine Rhythms Dance, Inc. Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement. September 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Confidential Settlement Agreement with the West Islip UFSD.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution 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 stated that he has really enjoyed touring the buildings across the District with the Board of Education members. Mr. Bedell joined Dr. Romanelli for the first tour at Bayview Elementary where they participated in block building; observed in Foundations lesson; spoke with students firsthand and viewed the prize vending machine purchased by the PTA. The machine will be filled with items like books, pencils and bracelets that students can earn when they are doing positive things in the building.

Dr. Romanelli and Mrs. Brown toured Oquenock Elementary where they played with play-doh, took selfies with birthday students and observed early literacy lessons. The tour was led by Mrs. Harvey. Dr. Romanelli stated that it was a wonderful tour.

Dr. Romanelli, Mr. Bedell and Mrs. Kelly toured Beach Street Middle School and observed students in Tech classes using block coding to develop pong and maze style games; observed math classes where the teacher was using the writable desks by putting inequalities on top of the desk and switching it up so students can solve inequalities across the room; observed a Social Studies classroom where Mr. Bedell was called upon; observed different interpretations of text in an ELA classroom; and viewed fall artwork.

Dr. Romanelli and Mr. McCann toured Udall Road Middle School and observed music classrooms; heard the band play; viewed great art lessons; spoke with numerous teachers about how the year has been going; visited the Command Center to view the school safety hub and viewed cameras across the district in action and observed the fundraiser where students can earn different characters that hang around their ID badge and traded characters with different students.

Dr. Romanelli stated that the remaining tours to the High School, Manetuck and Paul J. Bellew would be completed within the next two weeks.

Dr. Romanelli was proud to announce that the District will be hosting nErDCampLI on Saturday, 11/2/2024 at Beach Street Middle School. This event is a celebration of literacy and book love. We anticipate a few hundred educators across Long Island discussing everything literacy from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. The 12:30 – 1:30 pm session will be for families, which will include a number of different books and approximately 25 accomplished authors to visit with, purchase books or have your own book autographed by the author.

Dr. Romanelli stated that it has been a great month in the school district.

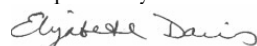
Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m. on motion by Debbie Brown, seconded by Christina Marks, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Christina Marks, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Super-Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m. on motion by Debbie Brown, seconded by Christina Marks, 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.