

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 9, 2025 – Beach Street Middle School

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

ABSENT: Mrs. Brown, Mr. McCann

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

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

Meeting called to order at 7:39 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Student Representative Report

Krista Williams spoke about the success of the Student Senate Holiday party. Taylor Riley thanked the Board on behalf of the student body for taking into consideration their request to keep AP & SUPA classes for the upcoming school year. The hallways will be decorated in a purple theme to raise awareness and show support for P.S. I Love You Day.

Mr. Tussie remarked on the fantastic job by the student body for advocating and sharing their thoughts and concerns.

DISCUSSION

Pre-Kindergarten Program

Dr. Romanelli welcomed everyone and wished them a happy New Year. Dr. Romanelli gave a presentation on Pre-Kindergarten, focusing on both looking forward and looking back in relation to the 2024-2025 budget creation. Dr. Romanelli reviewed the hot topics from the previous budget cycle, including Foundation Aid, inflation and rising costs in areas like transportation and healthcare. Some impacts from the 2024-2025 budget were the absorption of multiple teacher retirements, elimination of 19 Aide positions, 5 Teaching Assistants, Library Media Specialist, a Social Worker position, transportation to alternative high school, in-district summer school program and delayed implementation of Elementary Literacy Program. The District has a very healthy reserve within the confines of what the state allows from which \$4.375 million was allocated from our reserves to balance our budget last year. This is not something that we want to do from year to year and is simply not sustainable. All the budget cuts and the application of the \$4.375 million from the reserves is what really helped to combat inflation, rising costs and the state aid issue to get where we need to be.

Dr. Romanelli recapped last month's Board of Education meeting where he presented the district's enrollment trends over the past 10 years where although enrollment has been down there is an uptick especially at the elementary buildings. There are some challenges due to our elementary schools being filled to capacity. The district receives grant funding for 213 Pre-K students. Building space is a real issue that we must confront and we are utilizing creative solutions such as a BOCES enrollment study, capping Pre-K enrollment for 2025-2026 at 213 and are considering a full shift of classes from district buildings to South Shore Children's Center. A postcard regarding a Pre-Kindergarten interest survey was sent to the entire community and as of tonight 225 families indicated that they are interested in our Pre-K program for 2025-2026. This is not a definitive number but it is a good number to go by to make decisions. The definitive number is the number of students that complete the registration process. Dr. Romanelli stated that five different scenarios were discussed along with the financial and space implications.

Mr. Tussie stated that it is the Board's responsibility to make decisions that are in the best interest of the district as a whole, taking into account finances, fiscal considerations, programming, parent concerns, and space limitations. He expressed full support for the shift to South Shore Children's Center, which has a maximum capacity of 224 students. Mr. Tussie also noted that since the state only covers up to 213 students, the district will assume the cost for the additional 11 students needed to reach the 224 student capacity, but this arrangement will apply for the 2025-2026 school year only. In subsequent years, the program will be capped at the number of students covered in the UPK grant (currently 213) from the New York State Education Department.

Dr. Romanelli stated that a lottery system would need to take place if enrollment is over the 224 student maximum capacity and begin a waitlist if necessary. Mrs. Morrison stated that if necessary, the lottery drawing will take place on January 23, 2025.

School Calendar 2025-2026

Dr. Romanelli presented six options for the 2025-2026 school calendar. Dr. Romanelli advised that the calendar would be discussed further with administrators and the teachers' union and a final recommendation will be made and presented to the Board next month.

INVITATION TO PUBLIC

Daniel Trione ~ Mr. Trione thanked the Board for volunteering their time and all they do. Mr. Trione questioned why the Pre-K cap of 213 was not addressed at the last two budgets. He also questioned why funds for the pool renovations and funds in reserve as mentioned in the recent Newsday article could not be used towards Pre-K funding. He questioned if spacing was an issue then why lease the Masera building. Mr. Tussie stated that the pool renovation is not a budget item it is a bond which means we are borrowing money that the community voted to approve. This bond does not impact our budget. The Newsday article was made to seem as if we currently have the extra funds in reserve but the funds are from a timeline of 2016-2017 through 2021. The money that we had in reserves, which was approved by the community, was used to fully fund air conditioning in all the classrooms. Mr. Tussie explained that the Masera building is rented to BOCES for a \$1.00 a year due to BOCES paying the \$12 million to make the necessary renovations that the district would not have been able to do.

Carolyn Buckley ~ Ms. Buckley asked when the Pre-K lottery will take place and if it will be live-streamed. Mrs. Morrison stated if necessary the live-streamed lottery will take place on Wednesday, January 23rd. Ms. Buckley asked if the teachers are employed by South Shore or West Islip School District. Dr. Romanelli stated the teachers are employed by South Shore Children's Center.

Claudia Worley ~ Ms. Worley gave her perspective about her children's experience attending a private UPK program and West Islip's UPK program. Ms. Worley asked if the current Pre-K teachers will remain in district. Dr. Romanelli stated that the district does not anticipate any job loss and intends to keep all of the six Pre-K teachers in district. He stated that over the past few years Mrs. Morrison has done great work collaborating with South Shore Children's Center.

Laura Vetere ~ Ms. Vetere questioned if there was any way to consider not moving the UPK program to South Shore Children's Center. Mr. Tussie stated there was not due to space issues. Ms. Vetere asked how South Shore can accommodate spacing for 224 students. Dr. Romanelli stated that there are enough classrooms for all 224 students.

Josh Madore ~ Mr. Madore spoke about his children not being able to attend the same Elementary school due to moving Pre-K to South Shore.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2024 Regular Meeting and the January 2, 2025 Special Meeting.

RECOGNITION

SCOPE National School Development Council Award for Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning ~ *Emily Podolska and Krista Williams*

Music

April Allegretto, Avianna Bergold, Charlie DellUniversita, Ruslan Ermakov, Leah Gallagher, Sean Koerner, Robby Marrali, Teagan McGuire, Gavin Pollock, Dana Shi, Cara Thaxter, Addison Wilson, Elianna Wolbar

Athletic

Girls Varsity Gymnastics All County ~ *Emily Ball, Amelia DiBenedetto, Zoey Richardelli*
Girls Varsity Tennis All County ~ *Abigail Lam, Julia Evangeliou*
Girls Soccer All County ~ *Erin Palmeri, Julianna Arcoleo, Leah Tomeo*
Boys Varsity Soccer All County ~ *Patrick Keniksmann, Craig (CJ) Marino*
Boys Varsity Soccer All County Academic ~ *Jack Charbonneau*
Boys Varsity Cross County ~ *Gavin DeVito*
Boys Varsity Cross County Academic ~ *Kevin McCabe*
Boys Varsity Volleyball All County ~ *Zachary Thomas, Gannon Klimuszeko*
Boys Varsity Volleyball All County Academic ~ *Gannon Klimuszeko*
Girls Varsity Volleyball All County ~ *Julia Kalinowski, Mia Cuozzo*
Varsity Football All County ~ *TJ Sonnenberg*
Boys Varsity Golf All County ~ *Quinn Reilly*
Varsity Field Hockey All County Honorable Mention ~ *Morgan Bellini*
Game Day Cheer All County ~ *Ashby-Rose Prefontaine, Ellon Murray*
Game Day Cheer Academic All County ~ *Kayla Frangoulis*

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve agreement between West Islip UFSD, WITA Teaching Assistants Chapter and Employee A.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve consent agenda T-1, TA-1, CL-1, CL-2, CL-3, CL-4, CL-5, CL-6 and Other as listed below:

TEACHERS

T-1

LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid)

(Pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993
12-week continuous medical coverage)

Marissa Villani, Special Education
Effective January 22, 2025 through April 15, 2025
(Beach)

Jeremy Johnson, Reading
Effective February 24, 2025 through May 16, 2025
(Paul J Bellew)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

TA-1 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

Kate Trizzino, Special Education
Effective December 19, 2024 to December 18, 2028
(Oquenock; Step 5; replacing Maria Pascarella {resigned})

CIVIL SERVICE

CL-1 PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

LisaMarie Appel, Paraprofessional
Effective January 10, 2025
(High School; Step 1; replacing Sarah Koffsky {resigned})

Nancy Camelliri, Cafeteria Aide
Effective January 10, 2025
(High School Step 1; replacing Craig Nieves {resigned})

Samantha Costanzo, Paraprofessional
Effective January 10, 2025
(Oquenock; Step 1; replacing Lindsay Aumock {resigned})

Kristin Mariano, Paraprofessional
Effective January 14, 2025
(Beach Street; Step 1; replacing Lisa MacInness {reassigned})

CL-2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid)

Susan Ferguson, Paraprofessional
Effective November 18, 2024 – November 17, 2025
(Oquenock)

CL-3 RETIREMENT

Donna Probert, Paraprofessional
Effective January 4, 2025
(29 years)

CL-4 SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN (\$16.50/hr.)

Patrick Magee, effective January 10, 2025

CL-5 SUBSTITUTE GUARD (\$24.20/hr.)

Christopher DelBroccolo, effective January 10, 2025
Richard Zambrano, effective January 10, 2025

CL-6 **SUBSTITUTE PARAPROFESSIONAL** (\$16.50/hr.)

Isabella Governale, effective January 10, 2025
*Zachary Martin, effective January 10, 2025
*Jesse Palmer-Combs, effective January 10, 2025
Lauren Russo, effective January 10, 2025

OTHER

PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$150 per diem)

Lynsey Jensen, effective January 10, 2025 – June 27, 2025

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER (\$130 per diem)

Dina Bartolotta, effective January 10, 2025
*Dana Brown, effective January 10, 2025
Ava Catapano, effective January 21, 2025, *student teacher*
Gabriella Maresco, effective January 10, 2025
Giavanna Perna, effective January 10, 2025
*Thomas Tricoukes, effective January 10, 2025
Siri Willis, effective January 10, 2025

CLUBS/ADVISORS 2024-2025

UDALL ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Geography Club, James Wood
Spirit Club, Jaymee Gagliardi

SWIM PROGRAM AND SWIM TEAMS 2024-2025

Lifeguard

Emma Taliercio-McNamara
Patrick Keniksmann

WINTER 2024-2025 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES

KICKLINE

Jessica Cichy, Volunteer Varsity Coach

SPRING 2025 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES

BASEBALL

Shawn Rush, Varsity Coach
Richard Zeitler, Assistant Varsity Coach
Charles Osburn, J.V. Coach
Joseph LaCova, Varsity Volunteer
Dominick LaFerrera, J.V. Volunteer

**Conditional pending fingerprinting clearance*

OTHER
continued

SPRING 2025 HIGH SCHOOL COACHES, continued

SOFTBALL

Colleen Reilly, Varsity Coach
John T. Denninger, Assistant Varsity Coach
Steve Fasciani, J.V. Coach

BOYS TRACK

Jeremy Robertson, Varsity Coach
John Lavery, Assistant Varsity Coach

GIRLS TRACK

Vincent Melia, Varsity Coach
Sierra Koehler, Assistant Varsity Coach

BOYS LACROSSE

Thomas Corcoran, Varsity Coach
Scott Mattera, Assistant Varsity Coach
Michael Delgado, Varsity Volunteer
Kyle Kerrigan, Varsity Volunteer
Anthony Pellati, J.V. and Varsity Volunteer
Sean McAleavey, J.V. Coach
Greg Schmalenberger, Assistant J.V. Coach

GIRLS LACROSSE

Joseph Nicolosi, Varsity Coach
Brian Cameron, Assistant Varsity Coach
Thomas Powers, J.V. Coach
Jordan Hchert, Assistant J.V. Coach

BOYS TENNIS

George Botsch, Varsity Coach
Alex Giordano, J.V. Coach
Norm Wingert, J.V. and Varsity Volunteer Coach
Amie Crisera, J.V. and Varsity Volunteer Coach

GIRLS GOLF

Thomas Loudon, Varsity Coach

GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL

Greg Ziems, Varsity Coach
Jake Rossi, Assistant Varsity Coach

UNIFIED BASKETBALL

Brandon Cohen, Coordinator
Noreen Matthews, Assistant Coordinator

SPRING 2025 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES

BASEBALL

Nicholas Siano, 7-8 Udall Coach
Frank Valentino, 7-8 Beach Coach

OTHER
continued

SPRING 2025 MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES, continued

SOFTBALL

Bridgette Capozzoli, 7-8 Beach Coach

BOYS TRACK

Kevin Murphy, 7-8 Udall Coach
Christopher Salerno, 7-8 Beach Coach

GIRLS TRACK

Kristen Caulfield, 7-8 Udall Coach
Tara Probert, 7-8 Beach Coach

BOYS LACROSSE

Dennis J. Coleman, 7-8 Udall Coach
Michael Murray, Assistant Beach Coach

GIRLS LACROSSE

Jesse Donnarumma, 7-8 Udall Coach
Giavanna Dushaj, Assistant Udall Coach
Kristen Doherty, 7-8 Beach Coach
Emily Gillen, Assistant Beach Coach

BOYS & GIRLS SWIMMING

Thomas Bruder, 7-8 Udall/Beach B & G Coach
Gabrielle Zollo, Assistant Udall/Beach B & G Coach

BOYS TENNIS

Craig Perrino, 7-8 Udall/Beach Coach

CURRICULUM REPORT

Mrs. Morrison gave a shout out for the great work that is going on throughout the district. The high school recently started an Ambassador Program to welcome new Spanish speaking EL students to the high school. Ambassadors help their new classmates tour the building, engage with the school community and get to know all the wonderful opportunities that await them at the high school.

Mrs. Morrison stated that the IB students recently took part in an in-school field trip in which the students participated in four workshops designed to connect the core of IB to our student learning process. The day was divided into a real world, problem-solving session, an extended essay session and research session, a TOK and CAS community service session. The experience was educational and served as a team building experience for our 11th and 12th grade students.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Health & Wellness Committee: Mrs. Kelly reported on the meeting that was held on 1/7/25. Items reviewed included financial report; 2024 Annual Glow Run's success, which had 225 participants; 2024 Gingerbread House Decorating Event, which had 525 participants. The 6th grade volleyball tournament will be held at the West Islip High School on 3/14/2025 from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. and the 5th grade volleyball tournament will be held at the West Islip High School on 3/15/2025 from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. The committee approved funding to have a D.J. for these tournaments.

The committee approved awarding two graduating seniors a \$500 scholarship. Applications for the Health & Wellness Alliance scholarship will be available on the District's scholarship website page.

The Mental Health Sub-Committee's first Mental Health Newsletter has been released and is posted on the district's website. The committee discussed how to provide information to parents regarding anxiety as this is a problem that impacts students' districtwide.

The Committee approved a \$500 donation to the West Islip High School Student Senate to be used towards the purchase of additional P.S. I Love You Day purple flags and brackets which will be displayed along Udall Road. An informative presentation on "Keeping our Children Safe" will be held at the Beach Street Auditorium on 1/30/2025 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Education Committee: Mrs. Marks reported on the meeting that was held on 1/7/2025. Items reviewed included a proposed change to the Board of Education Policy 7220. The current policy states that all students in grades 9-12 have to complete four credits of math which does not take into account 8th graders taking Algebra. The proposed change to the policy would be that students in grades 9-12 would only need three credits of math instead of four. The committee reviewed Mastery learning for the 2025-2026 school year to have similar procedures and practices within each department subject.

Finance Committee: Mr. Bedell reported on the meeting that was held on 1/7/2025. Items reviewed included treasurer's report; November payroll summary and financial statements, December's internal claims audit report and system manager audit trail; payroll certification for 12/12/24 & 12/23/24; review of warrants; review of board agenda finance items which include approval of budget transfers; approval of service agreements, 2024-2025 contracts and surplus items.

The committee reviewed the presentation for the 1/9/25 public hearing regarding the Volunteer Firefighter & Ambulance Worker Exemption; school tax exemption related to senior citizens and persons with disabilities and limited income. The district is currently at an income threshold of \$29,000. The district recently received information from the Town of Islip regarding the number of exemptions provided by the Town, who is at an income threshold of \$50,000 and the number of exemptions provided by the district. The district will be evaluating the shift in assessed value if the district were to raise the income level.

Building & Grounds Committee: Mr. Antonello reported on the meeting that was held on 1/7/2025. Items reviewed included district office security vestibule, temporary exterior doors, which will be replaced along with the exterior railing and minor punch list items that will be addressed. The high school pool area had a steam leak from a bad pipe in the section of the wall that is going to be replaced during the pool construction. The committee discussed capital reserve ideas including key card access to classrooms; rental income and fees, hourly rates and flat fees for bathrooms, lights, pool, and auditorium. The committee discussed proposed fees for high occupancy indoor gym events and tournaments. There was a cheer event held at the high school that caused sewage problems.

An insurance claim was filed due to a water freeze leak and flood at Manetuck Elementary, which caused damage to the gym floor, as well as the need for concrete demolition and pipe repairs. The gym floor was replaced which included an asbestos sub-floor barrier abatement being installed.

Special Education Committee: Mr. Bedell reported on the meeting that was held on 1/7/2025. Items reviewed included IEP, CSE and CPSE recommendations from respective committees and will be approved at this evening's meeting. The second round of CPSE will begin in early February. Ms. Jeanne Dowling reported on the results of the Quality Assurance Audit from NYSED and reported that the special education department is in full compliance with state standards related to student IEPs. The special education department will hold a CPSE-CSE transition meeting, which will be held in February. Invitations will be sent home to our families of CPSE students later this week with details. Ms. Dowling reported on the success of the Student Senate Holiday Party and expressed extreme gratitude to all stakeholders who were involved in the planning and facilitation of the event. This annual event continues to exemplify our philosophy of providing inclusive opportunities for all students.

SEPTA will be hosting Laura Holland, who will be discussing health and wellness on January 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at Oquenock Elementary School. Tickets for the SEPTA BOWL, which will be held on April 4th, 2025 will go on sale at the end of January.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve 2024-2025 General Fund budget transfers # 4461, 4463-4467 and Capital Fund budget transfer # 4462.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Contracts:

1. Nassau BOCES Health Services Contract 2024-2025
2. Half Hollow Hills Central School District Special Education Contract 2024-2025
3. Smithtown Central School District Special Education Contract 2024-2025

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Surplus items: Miscellaneous Books ~ Bayview Elementary.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Tussie stated that livestreaming of the Board of Education meetings will begin next month.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: destruction of unused ballots from the May 21, 2024 election.

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 all unused ballots.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves, the destruction of unused ballots at the May 21, 2024 election.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Grace Kelly, 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.

Motion was made by Richard Antonello, seconded by Grace Kelly and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Resolution re: Real Property Tax Exemption Section 466-a for eligible Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers.

**RESOLUTION OF THE WEST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
TO GRANT A TAX EXEMPTION TO ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS
AS PROVIDED FOR BY REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW § 466-a**

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2022, the Governor of the State of New York signed into law Chapter 670 of the Laws of 2022, to repeal various provisions of the New York State Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) and added a new §466-a in relation to providing in relation to providing local governments with the option to provide partial property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers; and

WHEREAS, RPTL Section 466-a also allows the School District to provide certain additional benefits applicable to this partial real property exemption for school district taxation purposes so long as the School District, which has authorized the exemption under RPTL Section 466-a, adopts a resolution authorizing such additional benefits; and

WHEREAS, RPTL Section 466-a repeals RPTL Section 466-c as of December 9, 2025, and any local options adopted under RPTL Section 466-c will automatically sunset at that time, unless earlier repealed by the adoption of a partial exemption authorized under RPTL Section 466-a; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education previously adopted a partial exemption for a primary residence owned by volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers pursuant to RPTL Section 466-c; and

WHEREAS, the District has conducted the public hearing required by RPTL Section 466-a and elicited public comment on said topic; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that the granting of a partial exemption under RPTL Section 466-a should provide at least the same exemption benefits previously granted by the Board of Education under RPTL Section 466-c; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that authorizing the partial exemption of a primary residence owned by a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker with a minimum service requirement of two years under RPTL Section 466-a, instead of the minimum service requirement of five years under RPTL Section 466-c, will enhance the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers who own a primary residence within the School District;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the West Islip Union Free School District, pursuant to RPTL Section 466-a, hereby authorizes a 10% real property tax exemption for school district taxation purposes of a primary residence owned by an enrolled volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who meets the eligibility requirements established in this resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the enrolled volunteer member must meet all of the following requirements to be eligible for the tax exemption:

1. The enrolled member must reside in the territory served by such incorporated volunteer fire company or incorporated volunteer fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service;
2. The property must be the primary residence of the enrolled member;
3. The property is used exclusively for residential purposes, provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this section; and
4. The enrolled member has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction over the volunteer as an enrolled member with at least two years of active service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the exemption granted under this Resolution shall continue for the un-remarried spouse of a deceased enrolled member of the incorporated volunteer fire company, incorporated volunteer fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, who is killed in the line of duty upon all of the following conditions:

The un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction over the deceased enrolled member

as the un-remarried spouse of the volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker killed in the line of duty.

1. The deceased enrolled member had been an enrolled member for at least five years, or a shorter minimum period of active service authorized by Section 466-a of the RPTL.
2. The deceased enrolled member had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, incorporated volunteer fire department, or incorporated volunteer ambulance service who accrues more than twenty years of active service, and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction over the enrolled member, shall be granted the 10 percent exemption as authorized by this Resolution for the remainder of his or her life as long as the enrolled members primary residence for which the exemption is sought under this Resolution is located within the county.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such exemption granted under this Resolution shall continue for the un-remarried spouse of a deceased enrolled member of the incorporated volunteer fire company, incorporated volunteer fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service under the following conditions:

1. The un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction over the deceased enrolled member as the un-remarried spouse of the deceased enrolled member.
2. The deceased enrolled member had been an enrolled member for at least twenty years.
3. The deceased enrolled member had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any exemption granted under this Resolution shall be filed with the Town of Islip on the forms designated by the Town; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the School District is directed to provide the Town of Islip with a certified Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be governed by and applied in accordance with Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective as of the date of its adoption. The adoption of the forgoing Resolution was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

Anthony Tussie (aye)

Richard Antonello (aye)

Quinn Bedell (aye)

Grace Kelly (aye)

Christina Marks (aye)

The Resolution was there upon declared duly adopted.

Dated: January 9, 2025
West Islip, New York

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Romanelli spoke about News12 featuring West Islip High School Junior Norah Grim's fundraising efforts for Hurricane Relief being conducted by West Islip High School's Science National Honor Society.

Dr. Romanelli congratulated Courtney Xippolitos for making history by scoring her 1,000th career varsity point. Courtney is the second person in West Islip Basketball history to reach this milestone. She joins Teri Jacabacci in this very select club.

Dr. Romanelli stated that the West Islip AI Vision statement launched this week. Information regarding the incorporation of Artificial Intelligence across the district will be shared with parents via hosting a parent academy with different breakout sessions where parents can experience AI themselves. A video will be created and shared with the community showcasing all the different, great aspects of AI that go on in the classrooms.

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

Corinne Connor ~ Mrs. Connor spoke about an incident that happened on the evening of 1/1/2025 in the area of Bayview Elementary. She stated that there will be a meeting with Good Samaritan Hospital, local legislators and Suffolk County Police Department on Tuesday, 1/14/25 to address the issues with patients being discharged and roaming the surrounding neighborhood. She inquired whether the Suffolk County Police Department was responsible for notifying the school of the incident due to it being an ongoing, active situation the next morning as children were arriving at school.

Dr. Romanelli stated that Sean McAleavey, Director of School Safety is in the process of preparing a full report for the Board. He stated there is a lot of conflicting information but that the school was made aware once the suspect had already been apprehended. Mr. McAleavey has been debriefing with the police department about communication. This incident has given the district an opportunity to review the lockdown protocol and this will be added to the next Safety Committee agenda for discussion.

Mr. Tussie stated that the Board and District have moved forward with many different safety protocols, new methods, new initiatives, and new programs. He stated they will take this situation and go back to the Safety Committee and have additional discussions.

Brittany Ellis-Worth ~ Mrs. Ellis-Worth spoke about a tour she took of South Shore Children's Center and inquired if the center has a nurse on staff, bathrooms in each classroom and if security on site.

Mr. Tussie stated that discussions have already taken place and some of the bathrooms are being renovated.

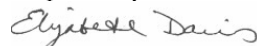
Dr. Romanelli stated that South Shore Children's Center encourages parents to reach out to them directly regarding any concerns about the building.

Motion was made by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:26 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:27 p.m. on motion by Richard Antoniello, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27p.m. on motion by Richard Antoniello, 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.