

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**March 13, 2025 – Beach Street Middle School**

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

ABSENT: Mr. Bedell

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

ABSENT: None

ATTORNEY: Mr. Volz

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Tussie put on record the following informative statement:

“One of the questions that we are constantly being asked is where are all the excess funds that Newsday reported on four years ago. The Newsday article again is something that we still hear about and it refers to the OSC audit that the district received in the 2021 school year period. The district spent an average of over 95% of its budget in many environments. Keeping within these budget constraints would be admirable however, schools are held to a stricter measure and must remain within 4%. The COVID-19 pandemic introduced significant uncertainty and when preparing the 2021 budget, the state at the time, threatened to withhold up to 20% of state aid. In response, West Islip planned for a 10% reduction in aid and allocated additional funds from reserves. However, the anticipated cuts did not occur and the extra state aid was placed in reserves for future use. The district agreed with the OSC’s finding that the Workers Compensation Fund and unemployment reserves were overfunded largely due to the unpredictability of COVID-19. As more information became available, the district reduced the 2022-2023 budget expenditures for these reserves and appropriated \$250,000 to cover anticipated costs. Excess funds from these reserves, along with additional funds from the ERS Reserve, were used to establish a new capital reserve approved by the community in the May 2022 vote. In January 2023 voters also approved a districtwide air conditioning project to be funded from the new capital reserve. The district's financial decisions including reserve management and budget planning have been focused on sustainability and adaptability to external challenges ensuring that the resources are available and allocated effectively when needed. In addition to all of this, we have both internal and external auditor procedures in place and all reports are published publicly on our website. Another question - why doesn't the district take back a building if space is an issue for UPK? While expanding our district with a new school building is an exciting prospect it is important to consider the financial implications carefully. At this time opening a new building is not financially responsible due to several factors such as ongoing expenses beyond initial costs. Maintaining and operating a new facility involves substantial ongoing expenses including staffing, salaries, health insurance, utilities and maintenance. Budget constraints - our district faces budgetary limitations and must prioritize essential services and programs that directly impact student learning and well-being. In times of economic uncertainty it is crucial to maintain financial flexibility and reserves to address unforeseen challenges. By focusing on and maximizing use of our existing facilities and resources, we can ensure financial stability and continue to provide high quality education without overextending our budget. Why is the district paying \$5,400 a kid to send them to South Shore Children’s Center? The district is not paying \$5,400 per student, instead we are taking the money we receive as part of a Federal Grant and we are sending that to South Shore Children’s Center. The Board of Education decided to subsidize the cost of an extra 11 students this year which would max out the building capacity. We did not have to do this but this is something we opted to do. Why did the district stop budgeting for Pre-K students? The district receives a finite amount of funding for a certain number of students, in our case it is 213. If we had maintained an enrollment number at or below that amount we would have continued to provide this opportunity for all students. As enrollment has escalated this is becoming unsustainable due to budgetary constraints, in-house salary benefits, etc. and of course most importantly our building space. Our increased enrollment has made it impossible to house Pre-K students at our elementary buildings which is why the decision has been made. People ask what can we and what can we not spend our reserve money on? Different reserves

are allocated for different items. For example the Employee Benefits and Liability Reserve was utilized this year to fund a terminal payout for retiring employees as a long-term cost saving measure. Due to the availability of these funds we were able to secure 23 retirements over the next two years not utilizing any District funds or affecting our budget. These funds for example could not have been used to purchase a reading program as that is not an eligible expense. We have also had questions about our pool Bond and our internal transfer to Capital. In January 2024, the community approved the bond proposition for approximately \$13.8 million to fund the renovation and expansion of our high school pool. The district is currently waiting on approval from New York State Education Department and expects to begin the bidding process in April 2025. Thanks to careful financial planning, the pool renovation will not result in any additional increase in taxes, instead the pool project will be funded through the bond and will be cost neutral for all taxpayers. The new pool debt will cost about 1.3 million each year according to estimates from our financial advisors. One of our existing debts was paid off in June 2024 so instead of the overall debt service decreasing until the new pool debt comes due, the district budgeted 1.3 million in the 2024-2025 budget under the internal transfer to capital line. This will fund one-time capital projects including updating six ball fields across the district, repairing sidewalks and steps district-wide and adding additional parking spaces at Manetuck and Oquenock Elementary Schools. These inter-fund capital projects will not only benefit our schools and community but the cost of these projects will act as a placeholder until the first payment for the new pool debt is due in the 2026-2027 school year. In the 2025-2026 budget, the district will again budget for this one-time capital project as a placeholder for pool debt. Starting in the 2026-2027 school year we will budget for the new pool debt and will no longer budget for the one-time capital projects. The tax cap has been in effect for school districts since the 2012-2013 school year. It limits how much the district can increase taxes based on a formula set by the Office of the State Controller. Despite the challenges of high inflation in recent years, for example 2022-2023 school year was a 4.7 inflation factor, followed by an 8% inflation factor and followed by another 4.12% inflation factor, despite all that, the district has never pierced the tax cap and we have always stayed within our allowable tax limit. Hopefully these statements and these questions have been thoroughly answered. If there are any concerns or questions about anything, every single board member up here respectfully requests that you reach out to us. We all know the popularity of Facebook however, too often misinformation is spread on Facebook and what bothers me the most is that as an adult and an educator of 25 years, if there's one thing I try to teach my students it's how to access reliable information and teach them what is reliable and what is not and I'd like to think that other adults would know the difference in that Facebook and with all due respect to West Islip Moms, is not a reliable source of information. Please email us. Email contact information can be found on the district website. Thank you very much.”

### Student Representative Report

Taylor Riley and Krista Williams spoke about how successful P.S. I Love You Day was this year and reported that and founding member Brook Di Palma spoke at the annual assembly. Ms. DiPalma spoke about how she created the organization 14 years ago and how has grown globally since then. The students who attended the Africa educational trip to Eswatini even celebrated P.S. I Love You Day. There will be a corn hole tournament against the senior residents at Our Lady of Consolation in West Islip on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are in need of 20 students. It is going to be one of our best activities we do this year.

Sophia Marker ~ Ms. Marker spoke about the trip to Eswatini and the most impactful takeaway for her was seeing how hard life in Eswatini is for many people. She stated that about 27% of the country does not have access to clean water.

Dana Shi ~ Ms. Shi stated that the turning point on the trip was visiting the orphanage and the children's curiosity and excitement, despite constantly facing challenges, reminded her of the true meaning of service. They showed her that impact isn't always about what you bring but how you show up. These moments made her want to continue working on projects with them.

Julianna Locrotondo ~ Ms. Locrotondo stated that overall the trip to Africa was such an incredible experience and she is so fortunate to have been able to experience this and she will always remember the impact that we make on people and just how important community is.

Olivia Locrotondo ~ Ms. Locrotondo stated that the trip was the best experience of her life and one of the most impactful moments for her was visiting the primary school and seeing how different the classrooms are. There is only one source of water in the entire school and it made her realize how privileged and lucky we are with everything we have in our schools.

Alexcia Ruisi ~ Ms. Ruisi stated that she was able to experience a different culture where they saw daily challenges that most of us have not been exposed to and how they overcame them. They were encouraged to embrace the culture which involved them being including in their celebration in song and dance when the water well was built. She stated it was an amazing experience and she will forever carry this experience throughout the rest of her life.

Austin Hayes ~ Mr. Hayes stated the trip was life-changing and he will never forget it. Specifically, he will remember visiting the primary schools and how the principal introduced them as the American students from the superpower America. He found it interesting how their country and developing countries like them learn about our country as if that is what they should become.

Krista Williams ~ Ms. Williams stated that she is very grateful to have been a part of this trip. She has been a part of Thirst Project for all four years of high school. She said that being able to see what her money, hard work and dedication over these four years worked towards is amazing. They visited three or four water sites that West Islip has funded and were able to see the old water sources. The goal is to raise funds to be able to donate another water well. The project year to date has raised \$8,000 towards the goal of \$12,000. There will be a few upcoming fundraisers to help reach this goal.

Mr. Tussie thanked Mrs. Ferruzzi & Mrs. Nohowec for providing the students with this opportunity and looking out for their safety and well-being.

Dr. Romanelli thanked the students and advisors for all the hard work that the Thirst Project has done over the years and stated how proud he is of the students representing West Islip abroad.

Alexcia Ruisi and Austin Hayes requested to gain support and recognition for the community to bring a club to the West Islip School District named West Islip Light which stands for Learn, Inspire, Grow, Help and Transform. The goal of this club is to bring awareness to unspoken hardships students may face growing up and to empower these students.

Mr. Tussie stated that it this concept and idea is just another testament to the students of West Islip and what they all want to do not just for themselves but for other people. Mr. Tussie stated that a written proposal will need to be submitted to Mr. O'Farrell for approval.

William Tarpey ~ Mr. Tarpey is currently enrolled in Machining Principal of Engineering and Welding and is currently actively participating in the Robotics Club. These experiences have reinforced his role in engineering and shaped his future. They reinforced his passion for engineering, specifically civil engineering which provides him with problem solving design and manufacturing skills. Mr. Tarpey stated that the technology department has been instrumental in preparing him for his future and hopes that other students have the ability to benefit as he has.

Aidan Sapoff ~ Mr. Sapoff spoke about all the different technology classes that he has taken and reported that he has recently started working at an internship for machining. He stated he knows that he wants to continue his career in engineering. He is currently committed to Maritime for Marine Engineering and will continue this career as a U.S. Marine becoming a combat engineer. All of the technology classes have led him to follow a great career path. Mr. Sapoff gave a big thank you to Mr. Buonomo and Mr. Burns for all their support.

Mrs. Morrison extended a thank you to Aidan and William for coming this evening to share their experience with us and also gave a shout out to Mr. Buonomo and Mr. Pope for all the great work going on in our CTE courses at the high school. Mrs. Morrison acknowledged another source of pride for West Islip as the Foundational

Literacy Program which has expanded over the past five years where we are now at the forefront on Long Island in regard to our instruction practices. Mrs. Morrison showed a virtual presentation created by some of the K-3 students showing us what they know. Mrs. Morrison took the opportunity to acknowledge the hard work going on in all of our classrooms. The classroom teachers, students and administrative team work day in and day out to continue to challenge the students and provide them with amazing foundational literacy instruction. Mrs. Morrison thanked Mrs. Musso and Mrs. Crouch for putting together this amazing presentation.

Dr. Romanelli gave a special shout out to Dr. Kiley-Rendon for all his work across the district and for being at the forefront of working to incorporate Artificial Intelligence in our schools. A video presentation was played to highlight some of the work that has been going on.

Mr. Tussie stated that there are a lot of good things going on in the district and stated everyone should be proud to live in this community.

### 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 February 25, 2025 Planning Session.

### PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve consent agenda T-1 as listed below:

#### TEACHERS

##### **T-1**

#### RETIREMENT

Pamela Hergerton, Special Education  
Effective June 30, 2025  
(30 years)

James Kraus, Music  
Effective June 30, 2025  
(36 years)

Darlene Squillante, Elementary  
Effective June 30, 2025  
(26 years)

Janet Renganeschi, Elementary  
Effective July 1, 2025  
(30 years)

Gregory Ziems, Art  
Effective July 1, 2025  
(30 years)

Tina Schaefer, English  
Effective August 19, 2025  
(32 years)

T-1, continued

**RETIREMENT, continued**

Patricia Portnoy, Business  
Effective September 3, 2025  
(28 years)

Lynette Lutz, Elementary  
Effective September 11, 2025  
(27 years)

Dawn Morgan, Business  
Effective October 1, 2025  
(30 years)

Nancy Hedemark, World Languages  
Effective June 30, 2026  
(21 years)

John Lavery, Elementary  
Effective June 30, 2026  
(28 years)

Maura Maynard, English  
Effective June 30, 2026  
(23 years)

Janis McManus, Elementary  
Effective June 30, 2026  
(33 years)

Theresa Mercado, Special Education  
Effective June 30, 2026  
(18 years)

Robin Napolitano, Reading  
Effective June 30, 2026  
(31 years)

Erika Nolan, English  
Effective June 30, 2026  
(28 years)

Camille Persico, Music  
Effective June 30, 2026  
(30 years)

Mary Berger, Elementary  
Effective July 1, 2026  
(37 years)

Amy Harvey, Elementary  
Effective July 1, 2026  
(33 years)

**T-1, continued**

**RETIRMENT, continued**

Eugenia Infantino, Science  
Effective July 1, 2026  
(22 years)

Edward McNamara, Social Studies  
Effective July 1, 2026  
(31 years)

Kevin Murphy, Social Studies  
Effective July 1, 2026  
(32 years)

Jayne Traver, English  
Effective July 1, 2026  
(26 years)

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antoniello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve consent agenda T-2, T-3, CL-1, CL-2, CL-3, CL-4, and Other as listed below:

**T-2**

**CHILD-REARING LEAVE OF ABSENCE (unpaid)**

Marissa Villani, Special Education  
Effective April 15, 2025 through June 30, 2025  
(Beach Street)

**T-3**

**REGULAR SUBSTITUTE**

Rebecca Schwartz, Special Education  
Effective March 3, 2025 through June 30, 2025  
(Beach Street; Step 1A BA; replacing Marissa Villani {LOA})

**CIVIL SERVICE**

**CL-1**

**RESIGNATION**

Mary Spilabotte, Part-Time Food Service Worker  
Effective February 25, 2025  
(Bayview)

**CL-2**

**RETIREMENT**

Jodi Schwartz, Paraprofessional  
Effective June 30, 2025  
(23 years)

Rosalie Vecchione, Paraprofessional  
Effective June 30, 2025  
(21 years)

**CL-3**

**SUBSTITUTE GUARD** (\$20.74/hr.)

Joseph Kennedy, effective March 14, 2025

**CL-4                      SUBSTITUTE OFFICE ASSISTANT (\$20/hr.)**

\*Janel Sylvester, effective March 13, 2025

**OTHER**

**BOYS TRACK**

Matthew Sullivan, Per Diem Assistant Varsity Coach

*\*Pending fingerprinting clearance*

**CURRICULUM REPORT**

Mrs. Morrison stated that the district is in the second year of a MTSS grant with the New York State Education Department. The grant allows for improvement to our MTSS process including tier one instruction and literacy interventions. The grant facilitator has acknowledged the district as a district that is doing great work and has asked the district to present the progress throughout the duration of the grant process with other school districts across the state. Mrs. Morrison extended her thanks to Mrs. Musso, elementary principals, and building level team members for their investment over the past two years in this process.

Mrs. Morrison stated that the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Paul J. Bellevue Elementary recently held a geography bee where they completed against each other's knowledge in regards to land forms, countries, capitals, and landmarks. Mrs. Morrison congratulated the top geography masters Niko Rakamaric, Gianna Bacchi, and Everly O'Neill.

Mrs. Morrison stated that West Islip recently received a Silver Level of Distinction for last school year's AP results. This distinction is based on the number of students that take the test and receive a score of three or higher as well as the percentage of students that take five exams or more in four years. Mrs. Morrison congratulated the AP student and teachers on this important recognition and is looking forward to striving and celebrating a gold level of distinction for the current school year.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Health & Wellness Committee: Grace Kelly reported on the meeting that was held on 3/11/2025. Items reviewed included finance report; 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball tournament being held on 3/14/2025 and 3/15/2025; mental health 5K run series; and 2025 annual glow run taking place November 2025. Mrs. Kelly stated that due to increasing costs, the Health and Wellness newsletter will now be shared via ParentSquare.

The Health and Wellness Committee will award two \$500 scholarships for deserving seniors. The application deadline is 4/15/2025 and the scholarships will be awarded at the West Islip High School Scholarship Awards night on 6/12/2025.

Buildings & Grounds Committee: Peter McCann reported on the meeting that was held on 3/11/2025. Items reviewed included capital improvement project for keyless card readers; BOCES Masera parking lot and kitchen renovation bids which will be paid for by BOCES; Westbrook and Oquenock's baseball field improvements; Manetuck's gym floor replacement, which was covered by NYSIR insurance claim, due to water damage; the high school pool bid, which should be awarded by May; and safety of Westbrook's parking lot and walkways.

Education Committee: Richard Antonello reported on the meeting that was held on 3/11/2025. Items reviewed included presentation of Artificial Intelligence; and Mastery Learning and Equitable Grading Practices.

Finance Committee: Christina Marks reported on the meeting that was held on 3/11/2025. Items reviewed included treasurer's report; school district funds for January; extra-curricular funds for December; payroll summary and financial

statements for January; internal claims audit report and system manager audit trail for February; payroll certification for 2/5/2025 and 2/19/2025; review of warrants; review of board agenda finance items which include approval of budget transfers; approval of resolutions; approval of 2024-2025 Special Education Services Contract and approval of bids.

Policy Committee: James Cameron reported on the meeting that was held on 3/11/2025. Items reviewed included revisions for first reading of Policy 7218 Class Ranking/Weighting of Grades; Policy 3290 Operation of a Motor-Driven Vehicle on District Property; Policy 3310-R Public Access to Records; new policies for consideration which include Policy 1140 Ex-Officio Student Member of Board; and Policy 5684 Extreme Heat Condition Days.

Special Education Committee: Debbie Brown reported on the meeting that was held on 3/11/2025. Items reviewed included IEP, CSE and CPSE recommendations from respective committees and will be approved at this evening's meeting. Ms. Dowling reported that annual reviews have officially begun and the success of the department's recent CPSE and CSE transition. Ms. Dowling also reported on the ongoing partnership with PM Pediatrics which has been a very valuable resource for our students.

Mrs. D'Amico joined for the non-confidential portion of the meeting. Items discussed included ways to utilize a \$5,000 grant that Mrs. D'Amico secured for Creative Kindness. SEPTA Bowl will be held on 4/5/2025 at 7:00 p.m.

#### 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 and School Lunch Fund budget transfers # 4474-4482.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Contract: Sayville Union Free School District Special Education Services 2024-2025.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Donation from West Islip High School PTSA ~ 10 West Islip High School flags, 10 American flags, and 15 flagpoles and brackets ~ Value approximately \$2000.

#### DONATION

*WHEREAS, the West Islip Union Free School District is in receipt of 10 West Islip High School flags, 10 American flags and 15 flag poles and brackets valued at approximately \$2,000 from the West Islip High School PTSA, which has been donated to the West Islip High School.*

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve bid: Base Bid GC-1 W.J. Northridge Corporation \$1,028,740.00 General Construction - Kitchen Renovations at the Masera Middle School.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve bid: Base Bid GC-1 Stasi General Contracting \$545,000.00 General Construction – New Parking Lot at the Masera Middle School.

#### 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 Reorganizational Meeting Date ~ July 2, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. at Beach Street Middle School.

Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve Consultant Services Contract for Vincent Alongi Photography 2024-2025.



Motion was made by Debbie Brown, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Notice of Public Hearing, Budget Vote and Election of the West Islip UFSD Suffolk County, New York.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION  
OF THE WEST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing of the qualified voters of the West Islip Union Free School District, Town of Islip, Suffolk County, New York, will be held in the Beach Street Middle School, in said district on May 6, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., prevailing time, for the transaction of business as authorized by the Education Law, including the following items:

1. To present to the voters a detailed statement of the amount of money which will be required for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
2. To discuss all the items hereinafter set forth to be voted upon by voting machines at the Budget Vote and Election to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting pursuant to Education Law of the State of New York and acts amendatory thereto.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the School District's budget for 2025-2026, exclusive of public moneys, may be obtained by any resident of the District beginning April 29, 2025, between the hours of 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., prevailing time, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays at the Office of the District Clerk, 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795, at the West Islip Public Library and on the District's internet website.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that said Budget Vote and Election will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, in the West Islip High School, between the hours of 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machines upon the following items:

1. To adopt the annual budget of the School District for the fiscal year 2025-2026 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.
2. To elect (3) members of the Board of Education for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2025, and expiring on June 30, 2028 to fill the positions held by Grace Kelly, Christina Marks and Peter McCann, whose terms expire on June 30, 2025.
3. To authorize the West Islip Union Free School District to undertake a capital project to enhance security at the high school by installing electronic locks and card access readers for all classrooms and bathrooms, at an estimated cost not to exceed \$700,000 and to appropriate and expend up to \$700,000 from the General Capital Reserve Fund II for this purpose.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to Section 495 of the Real Property Tax Law, the School District is required to attach to its proposed budget an exemption report. Said exemption report, which will also become part of the final budget, will show how the total assessed value of the final assessment roll used in the budgetary process is exempt from taxation, list every type of exemption granted by the statutory authority, and show the cumulative impact of each type of exemption, the cumulative amount expected to be received as payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) and the cumulative impact of all exemptions granted. In addition, said exemption report shall be posted on any bulletin board maintained by the District for public notices and on any website maintained by the District.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education shall be filed with the Clerk of said School District at her office in 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795, not later than April 21, 2025, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing time. Each petition shall be directed to the Clerk of the District; must be signed by at least thirty-one (31) qualified voters of the District (representing 2% of the number of voters who voted in the 2024 annual election), Vacancies on the Board of Education are not considered separate, specific

offices; candidates run at large. Nominating petitions shall not describe any specific vacancy upon the Board for which the candidate is nominated.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that personal registration of voters is required either pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law, or pursuant to Article 5 of the Election Law. If a voter has heretofore registered pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law and has voted at an annual or special district meeting within the last four (4) calendar years, he or she is eligible to vote at this election. If a voter is registered and eligible to vote under Article 5 of the Election Law, he or she is also eligible to vote at this election. All other persons who wish to vote must register.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, the voters may register with the Clerk of said School District at her office in the District Administration Office, 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. when school is in session at any day on or before May 15, 2025 to add any additional names to the Register to be used at the aforesaid election, at which time any person will be entitled to have his or her name placed on such Register provided that at such meeting with the Clerk of said School District he or she is known or proven to the satisfaction of the Clerk of said School District to be then or thereafter entitled to vote at such election for which the Register is prepared. The Register so prepared pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law will be filed in the Office of the District Clerk, at her office in the District Administration Office, 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795, and will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District beginning on and after Thursday, May 15, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m., prevailing time, on each day prior to the day set for the election, except Sunday, and at the polling place(s) on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law of the State of New York, the Board of Registration will meet on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, at the West Islip High School, to prepare the Register of the School District to be used at the Budget Vote and Election to be held in 2026, and any special district meeting that may be held after the preparation of said Register, at which time any person will be entitled to have his or her name placed on such Register provided that at such meeting of said Board of Registration he or she is known or proven to the satisfaction of such Board of Registration to be then or thereafter entitled to vote at the school election for which said Register is prepared, or any special district meeting held after May 20, 2025.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that military voters who are not currently registered may apply to register as a qualified voter of the school district. An application for registration as a military voter can be requested from Elizabeth Davis, District Clerk, West Islip UFSD, 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795 by mail or e-mail [e.davis@wi.k12.ny.us](mailto:e.davis@wi.k12.ny.us) Monday through Friday when school is in session from 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The application for registration must be received in the office of the clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 24, 2025, which is the day before the last day for transmission of military ballots. In the request for an application for registration, the military voter is permitted to designate his/her preference for receiving the application for registration by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that military voters who are qualified voters of the district may submit an application for a military ballot from Elizabeth Davis, District Clerk, West Islip UFSD, 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795 by mail or e-mail [e.davis@wi.k12.ny.us](mailto:e.davis@wi.k12.ny.us) Monday through Friday when school is in session from 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; in order to receive a military ballot, the military ballot application must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 24, 2025, which is the day preceding the last day for transmission of military ballots. In the request for an application for a military ballot, the military voter is permitted to designate his/her preference for receiving the application for a military ballot, and the military ballot, by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail. All qualified military voters' ballot application and military ballot must be returned by mail or in person. Ballots for military voters shall be distributed to qualified military voters no later than April 25, 2025. Military ballots must be received by the District Clerk (1) before the close of the polls, on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, and must show a cancellation mark of the United States postal service or a foreign country's postal service, or must show a dated endorsement of receipt by another agency of the United States Government; or (2) not later than 5:00 pm on the day of the election and be signed and dated by the military voter and one witness, with a date ascertained to be not later than the day before the election.

A list of persons to whom military ballots are issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District in the Office of the District Clerk on and after Thursday, May 15, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., prevailing time, on each day prior to the day set for the annual election, except Sunday, and on May 20, 2025, the day set for the election. Any qualified voter then present in the polling place may object to the voting of the ballot upon appropriate grounds by making his or her challenge and the reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that applications for early mail ballots and absentee ballots will be obtainable during school business hours from the District Clerk beginning April 21, 2025 completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no earlier than April 21, 2025 and at least seven (7) days before the election, May 13, 2025, if

the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, May 19, 2025, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Early mail ballots and absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

A list of persons to whom early mail ballots and absentee ballots are issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District in the Office of the District Clerk on and after Thursday, May 15, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. prevailing time, on each day prior to the day set for the annual election, except Sunday, and on May 20, 2025, the day set for the election. Any qualified voter then present in the polling place may object to the voting of the ballot upon appropriate grounds by making his or her challenge and the reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls. A challenge to an absentee ballot may not be made on the basis that the voter should have applied for an early mail ballot.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Section 2035 of the Education Law, any referenda or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Education at the District Office, 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795, in sufficient time to permit notice of the proposition to be included with the Notice of the Public Hearing, Budget Vote and Election required by Section 2004 of the Education Law or on or before Friday, March 21, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., prevailing time; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be directed to the Clerk of the School District; must be signed by at least 155 qualified voters of the District (representing 10 percent of the number of voters who voted in the previous annual election); and must legibly state the name of each signer. However, the School Board will not entertain any petition to place before the voters any proposition the purpose of which is not within the powers of the voters to determine, which is unlawful, or any proposition which fails to include a specific appropriation where the expenditure of monies is required by the proposition, or where other valid reason exists for excluding the proposition from the ballot.

Dated: West Islip, New York March 6, 2025

By Order of the  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
West Islip Union Free School District  
West Islip, New York  
Elizabeth Davis, District Clerk

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

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Romanelli reiterated that there are so many great things going on across the district and seeing all the amazing things the students are sharing on the Student Representative Report. Dr. Romanelli gave a shout out to Paul J. Bellew Elementary which has been working together over the past two months to be named a Certified Kindness School. They have written letters of gratitude and showed kindness to each other. After sending all this to the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, they were officially named a Certified Kindness School. This work was led by Ms. Cannon as part of her four-year project for new teachers. All new teachers participate in a new teacher program over the first four years of their career with the district. This work is led by Dr. Flynn and Mrs. Lay and reflects on practice and ways to improve our learning community.

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

Diane Petito ~ Ms. Petito stated she is proud to be a member of the community for 41 years and supporter of the district. She spoke about the letter she sent to each Board member regarding Pre-K, a subsidy proposal and the possibility of forming a committee to create a UPK center.

Mr. Tussie stated that the district is moving towards not paying for any Pre-K in the future and will only be using the allotted grant.

Danika Riccio ~ Ms. Riccio is a 12<sup>th</sup> grade home-schooled student of the West Islip School District and requested to walk across the graduation stage with her peers.

Mr. Tussie stated her request has been noted, the policy will be reviewed and will get back to her.

John Farrell ~ Mr. Farrell spoke about non-profit and often religious affiliated organizations that receive the exemption on property taxes and as a result approximately \$0.69 on the dollar comes out of the district's budget. Mr. Farrell questioned if there has been any engagement with the state senate office or any other measures taken lobby for the district.

Dr. Romanelli stated that the key is advocacy and something that we have really targeted is the fact that our taxpayers in West Islip are funding our levy amount at 90%. It is certainly a topic that has been raised, people will take on and that our legislators will want to talk about. It is something that we really are taking a look at and definitely look forward to partnering with Mr. Farrell and the numerous other people that we have spoken to about this topic that feel the same way and how we can best approach this.

Mr. Farrell asked if the Board is open to forming a working group with representatives from the school, possibly the PTA and other community members who can be fairly represented as part of the working group. Mr. Tussie thanked Mr. Farrell and stated that the Board would be interested and will be in touch.

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 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, and/or litigation.

Meeting reconvened at 10:38 p.m. on motion by Grace Kelly, seconded by Richard Antonello, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor.

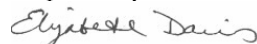
Motion was made by Peter McCann, seconded by Grace Kelly, and carried when all Board members present voted in favor to approve resolution re: Employee A.

#### RESOLUTION

*RESOLVED, that pursuant to §913 of the Education Law, the employee named in executive session and referred to as Employee "A" may be directed by the Superintendent to appear for a psychiatric examination in the office of Dr. Randall Solomon, and it is FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dr. Randall Solomon is hereby appointed school medical inspector pursuant to §913 of the Education Law in order to evaluate said employee's ability to perform his duties as an employee of the District.*

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 p.m. on motion by Richard Antonello, 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.