

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING-VIDEO CONFERENCE OF MAY 5, 2020

A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education of the West Babylon Union Free School District, Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York, was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 through Zoom.com-Meeting ID# 960 0501 3478.

Board of Education Members present

Trustees: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, John Evola, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, and Jennifer Wandasiewicz.

Also present

Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Shawn Hanley, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mrs. Michele Psarakis, CPA, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations; Mr. Scott Payne, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; William C. Morrell, Esq., School Attorney; and Ms. Barbara A. Burrows, District Clerk. There were approx. 26 people who logged into the meeting.

1. OPENING OF MEETING & EXECUTIVE SESSION-6:00 PM

Procedural: A. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Procedural: B. Call to Order by Presiding Officer

Action: C. Executive Session

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss unit personnel and seniority matters.

Motion by Peter Scarlatos, second by Jennifer Wandasiewicz.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, John Evola, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

2. PUBLIC SESSION-7:00 PM

Action: A. Approval of Minutes of previous Meeting(s): Regular Video Cnf. Meeting of 4/28/20 and Special Meeting of 4/30/20
Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Video Cnf. Meeting of 4/28/20 and Special Meeting of 4/30/20
Trustee Christopher Paolillo requested the minutes of the Special Meeting of 4/30/20 be amended to reflect that Second Vice President Peter Scarlatos was in attendance.

Motion by Jennifer Wandasiewicz, second by Peter Scarlatos to adopt minutes of 4/28/20 meeting and amended minutes of 4/30/20 meeting.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, John Evola, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

Procedural: B. Statement of the Board and/or Superintendent

Dr. Farrelly opened the meeting by welcoming all to the Zoom meeting. She continued on as follows:

"As was noted last week, all school buildings are now closed for the remainder of the school year. I'd like to begin by recognizing our teachers, social workers, psychologists and guidance counselors for supporting our students throughout this closure. We know how difficult it is for our teachers to teach, reach out and support our students virtually while balancing all the home situations that currently exist. On behalf of our students and families - we thank you and send our virtual appreciation to all WB teachers.

Throughout this extended closure, we continue with our breakfast/lunch program for families in need at the JHS - Monday to Friday and with our child care offering and our tech support. Huge thank you to all involved in these areas.

The elementary 3rd trimester and the secondary 4th Quarter Grading System was sent out to families last week. If there are any questions, please reach out to your building principal.

Our distance learning plan continues to evolve. Yesterday, school districts were required to resubmit and update their continuity of learning plans. A little later this evening, Mr. Payne will provide an update on our continuity of learning plans and curricular expectations.

I would like to take a moment to thank our parents/guardians for your patience as our distance learning plans continue to evolve, as computerized and other online hiccups occur during live teaching sessions or these types of meetings..., for supporting your children academically and emotionally as you are. These are far from easy days.

I, along with other superintendents, am participating in committees relating to "reopening schools" under social distancing parameters that may still exist in September. I will provide updates as these meetings progress and as we receive them from the state.

On May 1st, we participated in a "lights on" for our 2020 graduates. It was a nice tribute to our graduates... Huge thank you to the Athletic Dept., Mr. Howard, West Babylon and East Farmingdale fire departments, for assisting us that evening. Huge thank you to Jeff Vitkun and Charlie Hyde for putting up 20 flags in front of our SHS - representing our 2020 graduates. A beautiful sign, for our graduates, will be placed at our schools in the near future.

End of Year Celebrations - As previously shared in my parent emails and previous Board meetings, Mr. Payne, and our building administrators, and reps, are working on alternative plans for end of the year celebrations such as graduations.

Same applies for other events such as Blue & Gold and the distribution of scholarships. Of course, all plans will need to adhere to executive orders and social distancing mandates.

3. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND/OR EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

Information: A. 2020-2021 Budget Update: Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools & Mrs. Michele Psarakis, CPA, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

Mrs. Psarakis presented the "General Fund Budget Draft #3". The content of the draft highlighted : **Revenues** - tax levy; projected school property tax; other revenues; state aid; revenue projections; and projected reserves/fund balance.

Expenditures - new budget expenditures; budget appropriations by object; and contingency budget. **Next Steps.** Mrs. Psarakis said, for tonight, she wanted to focus on the revenue side of the budget - starting with the Tax Levy Limit Calculation. The Tax Levy within the tax cap is **5.6308%**. The Board applied \$1,250,000 bond premium to reduce the tax levy to **3.9521%**. The tax levy was filed with the NYS Office of the State Comptroller on March 1, 2020. Mrs. Psarakis reviewed the chart under the projected tax levy-proposed budget section. Homeowners who purchased their home prior to May 1, 2014 will continue to receive the STAR exemption as a reduction to the school district portion of their property taxes. Homeowners who purchased their home after May 1, 2014 will receive a STAR credit in the form of a check. The dollar value of the credit will be the same as the property exemption. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Cuomo has indicated that state aid to schools will be cut by 20% unless the Federal government provides more relief to states. Currently, we do not have any guidance as to how the 20% will be applied. Mrs. Psarakis provided three scenarios: 20% reduction to total aid; 20% reduction to Foundation aid and certain expense based aids; and a 20% reduction to Foundation aid only.

Revenue Projections with Applied Reserves - if state aid is reduced by 20%, the district will still have a budget gap of \$4,753,752, if our Foundation Aid is reduced; \$5,640,301, if Foundation Aid and expensed based aid are reduced; and \$7,029,479, if total state aid is reduced. The **2020-2021 Budget Expenditures** include: maintain all current curricular and co-curricular programs; transfer to capital of \$210,000 to address facilities needs, such as windows, boilers, unit vents, HVAC, floor replacements, site work, etc; 5 new big buses, 2 new 30-student vans, and 1 new wheelchair van - \$720,189.20; additional Chromebooks for students; computer upgrades for Building Management System - \$90,000; and South Bay School whole building water filtration system - \$15,000. The 2020-2021 Budget changes from previous draft include: new playground for Forest Avenue School - \$85,000 (removed); cameras for 5 new buses - \$13,167.10 (removed); GPS system for Transportation Dept. - \$19,740 (removed); Athletics - additional equipment and coaches based on student enrollment (removed); salary reductions to overtime, substitutes, retiree attrition, and increased grant funded positions - \$394,978; Reductions to Professional Services and staff Conference Codes - \$91,302; BOCES reductions - \$84,100; and materials/supplies - \$73,000.

What happens if the budget does not pass? If the proposed budget is defeated, the BOE can do one of the following:

1. submit the defeated budget for the statewide budget revote (no date has been set); 2. submit a revised budget for the statewide budget revote (no date has been set yet); or 3. adopt a contingent budget. If the budget is defeated for a second time, the BOE must adopt a contingent budget. A contingent budget is restricted to ordinary contingent expenses.

Ordinary contingent expenses are those necessary to provide the minimum services legally required to: operate and maintain school buildings and educational programs; preserve the property of the district; and ensure the health & safety of students and staff. **Ordinary contingent expenses do not include** the following: new equipment; public use of school buildings and grounds, except where there is no cost to the district; non-essential maintenance; capital expenditures, i.e. transfer to capital; and consultant services to review district operations and make recommendations necessary for the creation of the budget.

The Next Steps are: May 12, 2020 - BOE meeting (final review and adoption of proposed budget); May 18, 2020 - property tax report card must be submitted to the state; May 26, 2020 - school budget hearing and BOE meeting to follow (budget statement and required attachments must be made available, upon request); June 3, 2020 - mail budget notice to eligible voters; June 9, 2020 - school budget vote and trustee elections by absentee ballot. The presentation will be posted to the district website.

Presentation: B. Update on Distance Learning/Curricular Expectations: Mr. Scott Payne, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Mr. Payne shared that Dr. Farrelly had completed a Contingency Learning Plan in March which was submitted to the NYSED. NYSED recently asked districts to revise and submit this plan focusing on family communication, social emotional support and information relating to ELL, IEP, and homeless students. Student participation is being tracked and we will continue to revise student attendance as it relates to distance learning instruction. Dr. Farrelly and the BOE agreed that online learning is not classroom learning. As a district, we will continue to review our distance learning curricular expectations.

Mr. Payne noted that we will need to revise our curriculum for the 2020-21 school year based on these past few months of online instruction. We will also need to focus on students who may need to "catch up" in all areas. Dr. Farrelly stated that there will be clarification of the participation grade that each teacher gives and how it relates to live online instructional support. She noted that this can vary from teacher to teacher. The information will be shared with parents and students by teachers.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Action (Consent): A. Approval of the Consent Agenda Motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion by Peter Scarlatos, second by Christopher Paolillo.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, John Evola, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

5. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action (Consent): A. Approval of WBAA Retirement Incentive

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education of the West Babylon Union Free School District hereby approves the retirement incentive agreement with the West Babylon Administrators Association ("WBAA") in accordance with the specific provisions set forth in the May 5, 2020 memo from the Superintendent of Schools to the respective Association president.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that such approval is contingent upon the respective association executing an agreement consistent with the May 5, 2020 memo.

Action (Consent): B. Approval of WBTA Retirement Incentive

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education of the West Babylon Union Free School District hereby approves the retirement incentive agreement with the West Babylon Teachers Association ("WBTA") in accordance with the specific provisions set forth in the May 5, 2020 memo from the Superintendent of Schools to the respective Association president.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that such approval is contingent upon the respective association executing an agreement consistent with the May 5, 2020 memo.

Action (Consent): C. Approval of CSEA Non-Instructional Retirement Incentive

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education of the West Babylon Union Free School District hereby approves the retirement incentive agreement with the West Babylon Civil Service Employees Association-Non-Instructional Unit ("CSEA") in accordance with the specific provisions set forth in the May 5, 2020 memo from the Superintendent of Schools to the respective Association president.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that such approval is contingent upon the respective association executing an agreement consistent with the May 5, 2020 memo.

Action (Consent): D. Approval of CSEA Heads & Chiefs Retirement Incentive

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education of the West Babylon Union Free School District hereby approves the retirement incentive agreement with the West Babylon Civil Service Employees Association-Heads & Chiefs Unit ("CSEA") in accordance with the specific provisions set forth in the May 5, 2020 memo from the Superintendent of Schools to the respective Association president.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that such approval is contingent upon the respective association executing an agreement consistent with the May 5, 2020 memo.

6. PERSONNEL - BOARD OF EDUCATION 19-A N/A

7. PERSONNEL - PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL 19-P- N/A

8. PERSONNEL - CIVIL SERVICE PERSONNEL 19-C-16

Action (Consent): A. Retirement - B.O.

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education accepts the following:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/AREA	STEP/SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	DESCRIPTION/COMMENTS
Caruso	Catherine	Account Clerk	B.O.		6/30/20	Resignation to Retire [eff. 7/1/20]

Action (Consent): B. Probationary Appointment - Trans.

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the following:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/AREA	STEP/SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	DESCRIPTION/COMMENTS
Gonzalez	Ismael	Automotive Mechanic IV	Trans.	Step 1/ \$55,898. (prorate)	5/6/20	Probationary Appt. [from Automotive Mechanic III]

9. FINANCE

Action (Consent): A. Approval of Treasurer's Report - February 2020

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2020.

Information: B. Schedule of Bills - March 25, 2020

Information: C. Schedule of Bills - April 14, 2020

Information: D. Schedule of Bills - April 22, 2020

10. CURRICULUM (N/A)

11. FACILITIES (N/A)

12. POLICY REVIEW (N/A)

13. OLD BUSINESS (N/A)

14. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion: A. Discussion: Proposed May/June BOE Meeting Dates: May 12, 2020-for Budget Adoption; 5/20/20-Cancel Regular Scheduled BOE Meeting; 5/26/20-Budget Hearing/BOE Meeting; 6/9/20-Cancel Regular Scheduled BOE Meeting; 6/10/20 Schedule Regular BOE Meeting: Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Farrelly proposed the following changes be made to the May and June Board of Education Meeting schedule: On May 12, 2020, a regular Board meeting will be held to adopt the 2020-2021 Budget; the regular Board meeting scheduled to take place on May 20, 2020 will be cancelled; on May 26, 2020, the Budget Hearing will be held and followed by a Regular Board meeting on that same date; the regular Board meeting scheduled to take place on June 9, 2020 will be cancelled; a regular Board meeting will take place on June 10, 2020. The Board was in agreement with the proposed changes. Dr. Farrelly said an updated list of BOE meetings will be posted to the website. She will also include the information in her May email blast and share with appropriate personnel.

Discussion: B. Discussion: New 2020-2021 Budget Vote and Trustee Election Timeline: Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Farrelly reviewed the new 2020-2021 Budget Vote Timeline highlighting the following:

Changes to May/June BOE Meeting Dates:

- 1. May 12th - Board meeting scheduled to adopt the 2020-2021 budget.**
- 2. May 20th - Cancel scheduled Board meeting**
- 3. May 26th - Budget Hearing scheduled and regular BOE meeting to follow.**
- 4. June 9th - Cancel scheduled Board meeting**
- 5. June 10th - Board meeting scheduled to approve Tabulation of Budget Votes and Election of Trustees**
- 6. June 23rd - Board meeting scheduled**

Budget Vote and Trustee Election Timeline:

Thursday, May 7th - We will post a petition form for Board of Education Candidates on our website

Monday, May 11th - Last day to notify the District Clerk of your intention to run for the Board of Education by submitting the petition via email. Based on the election being held on June 9th, nominating petitions must be filed via email to the District Clerk by 5:00 PM on Monday, May 11, 2020. No minimum number of signatures are required to be obtained under the Governor’s Executive Order. Finally, there will be no drawing of lots for candidate positioning on the ballot. Instead, the names of candidates will appear on the ballot in alphabetical order as required by the Governor’s Executive Order.

May 12th - Special BOE meeting via Zoom - Final Review and Adoption of 2020-21 Proposed Budget

May 26th - School Budget Hearing Date - Via Zoom - Regular BOE meeting to follow

The school district will automatically send absentee ballots to registered voters residents whose names appear on the registration rolls for last year’s vote, as well as any newly registered voters for this election

June 9th - Budget Vote - By mail - Absentee Ballot - All completed absentee ballots must be inserted into an affirmation envelope and mailed to the District Clerk by voters. Postage is a school district charge. The ballot must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 PM on June 9, 2020.

15. RESIDENTS STATEMENTS

Procedural: A. Statements of Residents: Public Statements will be taken using the Chat feature of Zoom.

Several community members submitted questions through the Zoom chat feature on various topics including: grading curricular process; the budget vote/absentee ballot process; last day of the 4th quarter for SHS students; amount of school work students receive; the "no harm policy"; and final exams. Per Dr. Farrelly - with regard to the grading curricular process as well as questions regarding the amount of work students receive, suggested parents reach out to their child's teacher or principal for specifics. Relating to the last day of the 4th quarter for SHS students, Dr. Farrelly said the date is still being worked on by Mr. Payne and the SHS administrators. The district is referring to the "no harm policy" relative to grading. Per Dr. Farrelly and Mr. Payne, there will be no final exams held. Relating to the budget vote & trustee election/absentee ballot process, Dr. Farrelly shared that the absentee ballots must be mailed back to the District Clerk and received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 PM on the date of the vote - June 9, 2020. Specific information relating to the budget process timeline will be posted on the district website. If a resident does not receive an absentee ballot, that resident should contact the district clerk. It will indicate on the absentee ballot when the ballot must be returned by. Per Dr. Farrelly - a resident's name and address must be provided in the Zoom chat question & answer section in order to be read/answered by Dr. Farrelly.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Action: A. Adjourn Meeting (Should take place by 10:00 PM)

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 7:50 pm

Motion by Peter Scarlatos, second by Jennifer Wandasiewicz.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, John Evola, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

Attest: _____
District Clerk