

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION VIDEO TELECONFERENCE MEETING OF MAY 4, 2021

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 4, 2021 through Zoom.com-Meeting ID#964 3620 1413.

Board of Education Members present

Trustees: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Matthew Amore, Diane Klein, Christopher Paolillo, and Jennifer Wandasiewicz. Board Trustee Ray Downey arrived at 6:08 PM. Board 2nd Vice President Peter Scarlatos and Board Trustee John Evola were not present.

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 32 people logged into the meeting.

1. OPENING OF MEETING & EXECUTIVE SESSION-6:03 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 meet with Alex Kerr from Capital Market Advisors to discuss the Moody's credit rating as it relates to the district's financial stability. This will take place upon the completion of the 2021-2022 Budget Hearing.

Motion by Jennifer Wandasiewicz, second by Cathy Gismervik.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Matthew Amore, Diane Klein, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

2. Public Session-6:08 PM

Information: A. 2021-2022 Budget Hearing: Mrs. Michele Psarakis, CPA, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

Board President Lucy Campasano called the Budget Hearing to Order. Mrs. Psarakis reviewed the General Fund Overview-Budget Hearing PowerPoint presentation. The content of the presentation highlighted: **State Aid; Tax Levy Limit Calculation; Projected Tax Levy of .8546-Proposed Budget; Other Revenues; Revenue Projections based on NYS Adopted Budget; 2021-22 New Budget Expenditures:** including 1 new large bus, 5 new vans - estimated cost \$403,588 amortized over 5 years; new playground at Tooker Avenue - estimated cost \$80,000; Year 1: new musical instruments - \$43,000. The current school aid runs include funds, \$459,000, for a Universal PreK program. Per Dr. Farrelly - we are awaiting more information on whether all districts will be required to utilize these funds specifically for an already established Universal PreK program or whether it is being provided for districts to start a new Universal PreK program. A lengthy discussion took place. If allowable, Dr. Farrelly would like to take advantage of this funding to create a PreK program at no cost for families. She will be looking into the use of SCOPE for a PreK program and will discuss the Universal PreK Program later on in the evening. **Federal Stimulus Funds; Tentative Timeline for Use of Federal Funds; Recommendations for New Expenditures Utilizing Federal Grant Funds; 2021-22 Recurring Budget Based Expenditures; and Budget Appropriations by Object** were all reviewed.

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 (June 15, 2021); 2. submit a revised budget for the statewide budget revote (June 15, 2021); or 3. adopt a contingent budget. If the budget is defeated for a second time, the BOE must adopt a contingent budget. **What is 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, i.e. 1 new large bus and 5 new 30-student vans, Tooker Avenue playground, new musical instruments; 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. The tax levy under a contingent budget can be no greater than the prior year actual tax levy. **A contingent budget requires an additional \$44,169 in appropriated fund balance. The district would not be able to purchase the additional new buses to continue our fleet replacement, not replace the Tooker Avenue playground and not purchase new musical instruments.**

The Next Steps are: hold the May 4, 2021 - school budget hearing and BOE meeting to follow; May 5, 2021 mail budget notice to eligible voters after the budget hearing, but no later than 6 days prior to the Budget Vote day; May 18, 2021 Annual Meeting-Uniform Statewide Budget Vote and Board of Education Trustee Election. The presentation will be posted to the website.

The following question was raised:

1. Are you able to estimate the building aid for next year? Per Mrs. Psarakis - the building aid for 21-22 allocated is roughly \$2.6 million which is roughly the same as this year, unless we closeout current projects. There are five projects that are in the punchlist stage. Mrs. Psarakis said she has a spreadsheet where she has that specific information.

Discussion took place regarding salary line adjustments relating to hiring of staff during COVID-19 remote learning. Discussion also took place relating to the effects of contingency budget.

Upon the conclusion of the Budget Hearing, Board President Lucy Campasano asked for a motion to adjourn the Hearing and for the Board of Education to enter into Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn Budget Hearing and enter into Executive Session

Motion by Jennifer Wandasiewicz, second by Diane Klein.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Matthew Amore, Ray Downey, Diane Klein, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

3. PUBLIC SESSION-7:23 PM

**Action: A. Approval of Minutes of previous Meeting(s): Regular BOE Video Conference Meeting of 4/27/21.
Motion to Approve the Minutes of Regular BOE Video Conference Meeting of 4/27/21.**

Motion by Jennifer Wandasiewicz, second by Christopher Paolillo.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Matthew Amore, Ray Downey, Diane Klein, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

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

Dr. Farrelly welcomed all to the meeting. The week of May 3rd to May 7th is Teachers & Teaching Assistants Recognition week. The week of May 17th to May 21st is Transportation Personnel Recognition Week. Dr. Farrelly asked all to join her in thanking our teachers association for adapting to the required changes - making, in many cases significant changes - to continue to teach and support our students virtually as well as in person. She also thanked the district's transportation department for again, adapting - being so flexible - with the required COVID changes.

To our families of seniors, 8th graders and 5th graders - our building principals will be sending information regarding the end-of-the-year plans for our students. Dr. Farrelly asked that all "bear with us" as we plan, adapt to state requirements changes, and we update/pivot and make necessary changes. At this point, we are definitely making plans for elementary field days, ceremonies, 8th grade dance, proms, the musical, Blue & Gold and graduation ceremonies. These events will not be exactly the same as in the past; however, they will absolutely be welcomed celebrations and programs. Details will be outlined by our building principals via letters/emails.

Procedural: C. Statement of West Babylon Teachers Association Representatives

None

Procedural: D. Statement of School Administrators Association Representatives

Mr. Stephen O'Leary, President of the WBAA, shared that the WBAA would like to thank the Board of Education for their generous gift of an additional personal day for all principals and assistant principals. At the end of the day, our most valuable asset is time and we appreciate the thoughtfulness of this gesture.

Procedural: E. Statement of C.S.E.A. Representatives

None

Procedural: F. Statement of Student Association Representatives

None

Procedural: G. Statement of PTA Council Representatives

Ms. Kristine Hancock, PTA Council President, on behalf of all the PTAs thanked the teachers and teaching assistants as we celebrated Teacher and Teaching Assistants Recognition Week (May 3rd to May 7th) for all they do. Ms. Hancock also reminded everyone that the PTA Council along with Suffolk PTA is hosting a virtual "Meet the Candidates" event for the trustee positions for the Board of Education on May 6, 2021 at 7:30 PM. The flyer is posted to the PTA school website.

Procedural: H. Statement of Residents re: agenda items [15 minutes-limited to 3 minutes per speaker]

None

4. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND/OR EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

Information: A. 2021-2022 Budget Information: Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Farrelly shared the following 21-22 Budget Timeline Information:

2021-2022 West Babylon School District Budget:

Budget Hearing:

May 4, 2021 -- 6:00 PM -- Administration Building

District Budget Vote and Trustees Election:

May 18, 2021 -- 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM -- Administration Building & Santapogue School

Tenga en Cuenta:

2021-2022 Presupuesto del Distrito Escolar West Babylon:

Audiencia de Presupuesto:

Mayo 4, 2021 -- 6:00 PM- Edificio de Administracion

Elección del Presupuesto del Distrito y la Elección del Administrador

Mayo 18, 2021 -- 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM -- Edificio de Administración & Escuela Elemental Santapague

Dr. Farrelly introduced Ms. Burrows, District Clerk. Ms. Burrows reviewed the COVID-19 protocols that will be in place during the May 18, 2021 Budget Vote & Trustee Election as follows:

The district, following CDC guidelines, will implement the below list of COVID-19 protocols which will be in place at both of our voting polling sites: the Administration Bldg-Board Room and Santapogue School

1. A greeter will be at each site. The greeter will ask each resident/voter the following three questions:
 - a. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days?
 - b. Are you experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms?
 - c. Have you had close contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases in the past 14 days?
2. A separate voting area has been set up for anyone who may answer yes to any one of the 3 questions.
3. Several different signs will be posted requesting residents/voters to wear a mask; to maintain proper social distancing; and with information relating to COVID-19 symptoms/procedures.
4. Upon entering the polling site, a resident/voter will be given their own flair pen to sign the registration book and to use to cast their vote(s).
5. Inside the voting area, there will be "X" tape marks on the floor indicating 6' social distancing standing spots.

6. Extra masks for residents/voters will be available, if necessary.
7. Election inspectors will be provided with the proper PPE (face masks, face shields, gloves, sanitizing materials).
8. Election inspectors will be seated 6' apart at each table.
9. Periodically, throughout the course of the day/evening, each of the voting polling sites will be sanitized by the custodial staff.

Dr. Farrelly said Mrs. Psarakis is available to answer any budget questions - please contact her office. Also, check the district website as budget information/presentations are posted.

Information: B. Universal Pre-Kindergarten: Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Farrelly shared the following information:

Universal PreK (UPK) refers to state government funded preschool programs that are free for those who attend it. We have \$459,000 in grants slated for the start of a UPK program. 10% of this amount (\$45,000 is slated to be divided/shared with local preschool programs). That leaves us with \$414,000. This amount allows us to fund for 76 students to attend UPK at no cost to the parents. We would do a transparent - live steamed - lottery process for the selection of the 76 students. We would also select additional students to be placed, in order on a waiting list, should someone withdraw.

This UPK program would be a Full day program; minimum five hours a day (not including nap time and possible lunch/snack); and for 180 days.

As previously discussed, we already have a partnership with SCOPE. A number of years ago, they presented to the Board on their PreK program. SCOPE Education Services is a not-for-profit organization that has provided services to school districts since 1964. SCOPE has been a PreK provider since 1992 and currently has PreK and UPK programs in 17 districts serving over 1,400 students. WB is one of the 17.

- They hire NYS certified teachers
- Classes taught in district buildings.
- Parent Teacher Conferences held annually
- Complies with all NYS Regulations
- Curriculum approved by NYS
- Max 18 students in a class with 1 teacher and 1 TA
- Child must turn four (4) no later than December 1 (or date utilized by district as cut off)
- Parent must provide evidence of appropriate immunization and updated physical*
- Proof of residence

*(Required by NYS)

Since we have an established partnership for PreK with SCOPE, and it has been going well, Dr. Farrelly said she recommends we expand upon this partnership with SCOPE for this UPK opportunity for our families.

Again, this would allow for 76 students to attend a UPK program - on site - (Based on classroom availability - we would likely create 5 sections at various school sites - the location would depend upon classroom space availability and where kids are from). We would have a live streamed lottery. If interested families are not selected during the lottery, and there are classroom spots available, not to exceed 18 students in a class, parents may pay SCOPE \$5,400 for the program.

Dr. Farrelly requested formal Board authorization for her to expand our partnership with SCOPE to offer this UPK program as described. Since it is May, Mr. Payne, Mrs. Psarakis and Dr. Farrelly would need to quickly work on the logistics now.

Discussion was held regarding moving forward with the program including the size of the classes, building locations of the PreK programs, live streamed placement lottery, the district's current partnership with SCOPE and overall costs of the program.

Board President Lucy Campasano made a motion to move forward with the Universal PreK program.

Motion to approve moving forward with the Universal PreKindergarten program.

Motion by Lucy Campasano, second by Jennifer Wandasiewicz.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Matthew Amore, Ray Downey, Diane Klein, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

Abstain: Christopher Paolillo (pending additional financial information)

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Action (Consent): A. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion by Cathy Gismervik, second by Jennifer Wandasiewicz.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Matthew Amore, Ray Downey, Diane Klein, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

6. BOARD OF EDUCATION (N/A)

7. PERSONNEL - BOARD OF EDUCATION 20-A (N/A)

8. PERSONNEL - PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL 20-P-21

Action (Consent): A. Probationary Period Reduction

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
Rao	Megan	Special Education	SB		Probationary Appointment: 9/1/19 Expected Date of Tenure: 9/1/22	Probationary Period Reduct 3 years [prior tenure]

Action (Consent): B. 2020-2021 Student Teacher/Observer/Intern**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
Student Teacher/Observer/Intern:						
Nettuno	Rachel	Music	JHS		2020-2021	
					Spring	

Action (Consent): C. 2020-2021 Per Diem Substitute Teacher**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
Per Diem Substitute Teacher:						
			DW		2020-2021	
				\$125./day		
				\$62.50/day		[half-day]
Palermo	Cami					[pending cert.-max. work 40 days]

9. PERSONNEL - CIVIL SERVICE PERSONNEL 20-C-19**Action (Consent): A. Leave of Absence Request - JH****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
Melia	Marie	Paraprofessional (school monitor)	JH		4/28/21-6/30/21	Leave of Absence

Action (Consent): B. Leave of Absence Request - SB**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
McGann	Arleen	Paraprofessional (classroom aide)	SB		5/19/21-6/30/21	Leave of Absence

Action (Consent): C. Temporary Appointment - TA**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
Neilson	Brian	Head Custodian	TA	Step 7/ \$68,981. (prorate)	5/4/21	[temporary appt. ended]
Neilson	Brian	Custodial Worker I	HS	Step 8/ \$64,084. (prorate)	5/5/21	[returning to CWI post]

Action (Consent): D. Temporary Appointment - TA**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
Aprea	Kenneth	Head Custodian	TA	Step 4/ \$63,132. (prorate)	5/5/21-6/30/21	[Temporary Appointment from CWI-approved by C.S.]

Action (Consent): E. Probationary Appointment - DW**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
Reap	Maria	Food Service Worker 'B'	DW	\$14./hr.	5/5/21	Probationary Appt. Emergency Conditional Appt.

Action (Consent): F. 2021-2022 Security Guards/School Resource Officers - Hourly Rate Increase**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the following:

The hourly rate for Security Guards and per diem substitute Security Guards will be increased to \$20./hr. effective 7/1/21.

The hourly rate for School Resource Officers and per diem substitute School Resource Officers will be increased to \$28.50/hr. effective 7/1/21.

Action (Consent): G. 2020-2021 Per Diem Substitute - School Bus Driver**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
Per Diem Substitute:						
Benitez	Cristobal	School Bus Driver	Trans.	\$17./hr.	2020-2021	

10. FINANCE**Action (Consent): A. Approval of Budget Adjustment****RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education authorizes a budget adjustment to code A1620.4520 (Buildings and Grounds Repair of Buildings) in the amount of \$7,636.87, code A1620.4660 (Buildings and Grounds Contract Operation) in the amount of \$1,022.10 and code A1620.1670 (Buildings and Grounds Overtime) in the amount of \$681.28 for a total adjustment of \$9,340.25 to be credited to code A2680 (Insurance Recovery Revenue) based on insurance recovery check received from NYSIR to repair High School Cafeteria A.**Action (Consent): B. Approval of Budget Transfers****RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the following budget transfers:

Account Code	Account Description	From	To
A2855.4490.04	Officials - High School	44,570.70	

A2855.4500.04	Materials and Supplies - High School		44,570.70
A2855.4300.04	Facility Equipment Rental	8,800.00	
A2855.4490.03	Officials - Junior High School	8,500.00	
A2855.4750	Conferences/Reimbursements	10,000.00	
A2855.4500.04	Materials and Supplies - High School		27,300.00
	Assorted Equipment and Supplies		

Action (Consent): C. Acceptance of Donation Eagle Scout Project- SB

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education gratefully accepts a donation, of two storage carts with shelves and storage space, from Sam Vinetti. This donation was made by Sam as his Eagle Scout project and will be used at the South Bay School for various programs and distribution of materials and supplies.

Action (Consent): D. Acceptance of Claims Auditor's Report - First Quarter 2021

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education accepts the Claims Auditor's Report for the months of January, February and March, 2021.

Information: E. Schedule of Bills - April 21, 2021

11. CURRICULUM (N/A)

12. FACILITIES (N/A)

13. POLICY REVIEW

Action: A. Review: Policy 1230 Public Participation at Board Meetings

Motion to waive reading and approve to continue to follow Policy 1230 as written.

Motion by Jennifer Wandasiewicz, second by Christopher Paolillo.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Matthew Amore, Ray Downey, Diane Klein, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

Action: B. First Time Reading: Policy 1130 News Media Relations

Motion to waive reading and move Policy 1130 to Second Time Discussion.

Motion by Diane Klein, second by Christopher Paolillo.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Matthew Amore, Ray Downey, Diane Klein, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

Action: C. First Time Reading: Policy 1400 Public Complaints

Motion to waive reading and move Policy 1400 Public Complaints to Second Time Discussion.

Motion by Jennifer Wandasiewicz, second by Christopher Paolillo.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Matthew Amore, Ray Downey, Diane Klein, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

14. OLD BUSINESS (N/A)

15. NEW BUSINESS (N/A)

16. RESIDENTS STATEMENTS

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

Several community members submitted questions/statements through the Zoom chat feature as follows:

1. Earlier in the evening, a student raised a question regarding prom, graduation, etc. Dr. Farrelly referred the student to Mr. O'Leary's recent email which provides updates on the plans for prom and graduation. Also, later on during the meeting, these topics were addressed.
2. A resident thanked the Board and administrators for all they have done during the year. The resident asked if there is to be a live lottery drawing for Universal PreK spots when would that take place? Dr. Farrelly shared that, at this time, we do not know when it would take place. She said she would continue to share information through email blasts, the district website, social media, SHS message board, etc.
3. A resident asked how will social distancing effect per school class sizes next year? Dr. Farrelly said next school year we will shift to 3 feet apart which will result in a more traditional setting. We will most likely then not have a preschool in every building.

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:03 PM.

Motion by Jennifer Wandasiewicz, second by Cathy Gismervik.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Matthew Amore, Ray Downey, Diane Klein, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

Attest: _____
District Clerk