

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2024**

*****The November 19, 2024 Board of Education Meeting can be viewed on YouTube accessed through the West Babylon**

School District website at www.wbschools.org. The minutes of the Board of Education meeting summarize what took place.

***** The November 19, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting, of the West Babylon Union Free School District, Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York, NY was held in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 10 Farmingdale Road, West Babylon, New York
The meeting was held in-person**

Members present

Chris Paolillo, Ray Downey, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, Chirsten Johnson Tymann, Patti Neville, Anthony Raccomandato, Stephan Maucere

Also present:

Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Shawn Hanley, Deputy Superintendent for Human Resources, Mr. Scott Payne, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mrs. Denise Gillis, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Mr. Chris Venator, Esq., School Attorney and Ms. Jailin Parada, District Clerk. Trustee Evola was absent.

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

Presentation: 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 Heads & Chiefs Negotiations and Individual Contracts.

Motion by Anthony Raccomandato, second by Ray Downey.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Chris Paolillo, Ray Downey, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, Chirsten Johnson Tymann, Patti Neville, Anthony Raccomandato, Stephan Maucere

2. PUBLIC SESSION-7:18 PM

Action: A. Approval of Minutes of previous Meeting(s): Regular BOE Meeting of 11/6/24.

Motion to Approve the Minutes of Regular BOE Meeting of 11/6/24.

Motion by Ray Downey, second by Cathy Gismervik.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Chris Paolillo, Ray Downey, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, Chirsten Johnson Tymann, Patti Neville, Anthony Raccomandato, Stephan Maucere

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

Dr. Farrelly expressed gratitude to the community for their participation. She commenced her presentation by noting that there were four comprehensive and informative presentations, and therefore her statements would be brief.

During the Board of Education meeting on November 6th, Dr. Farrelly referenced a discussion held by the Board regarding New York State's regionalization initiative. Per the directives issued by the Board of Education, a letter was drafted and transmitted to the Senior Deputy Commissioner of Education and Regent Tilles. The letter was a joint effort, signed by Dr. Farrelly, the Board President, Mr. Paolillo, Mr. O'Leary, and Mr. Dell'Isola. Copies of the letter can be found in the back of our Board of Education board room as well as on our district website. Additionally, a copy was shared with the district's PTA presidents.

Furthermore, Dr. Farrelly apprised the Board of the Long Range Planning Committee's scheduled meeting the following week, during which the committee will continue its crucial work. As a point of reference, she reminded all in attendance that the committee is responsible for investigating the potential consolidation of elementary schools and identifying strategies to enhance revenue generation and operational efficiency. To facilitate this undertaking, the district has enlisted the services of external consultants who are analyzing enrollment data, facilities, and attendance zones. They will also assess the transportation implications of adopting a Princeton K-2, 3-5 grade band model, as well as the potential impact of consolidating into four buildings using our current grade structure.

Dr. Farrelly proceeded to state that committee members have been engaged in a comprehensive examination of potential alternatives to the existing grade band models and Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program. This has entailed visits to school districts with Princeton elementary educational models and consultations with real estate professionals and other school districts to obtain pertinent data for the Board's consideration.

In the forthcoming committee meetings, scheduled to take place over the next two to three weeks, consultants and committee members will present their findings for discussion by the committee. The committee intends to share all research with the Board of Education in January, at which point the Board will review the information and ask questions. The Board will continue their discussion during the February 11th Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Farrelly addressed an inquiry today regarding the status of the Santapogue Elementary School matter as it relates to the LRP committee's research. It was confirmed that the Board of Education has not yet received a report, discussed, or reached a decision on an elementary consolidation plan. The study has not yet been presented to the committee conducting the research or to the Board of Education, therefore, no decision has been made at this time.

In conclusion, Dr. Farrelly extended her warmest wishes to the West Babylon community, including families, students, staff, and faculty, for a joyous Thanksgiving.

Procedural: C. Statement of West Babylon Teachers Association Representatives

Procedural: D. Statement of School Administrators Association Representatives

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

Procedural: F. Statement of Student Association Representatives

Procedural: G. Statement of PTA Council Representatives

3. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND/OR EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

Presentation: A. Presentation: Benchmark Advance - 1st Grade Readers Theater Presentation, Mr. Charles Germano, Tooker Elementary Principal

With the assistance of Ms. Smith, the first-grade teacher at Tooker Elementary, and Mr. Charles Germano, Tooker Elementary Principal, students presented the Board with the Benchmark program, as well as a Reader's Theater presentation. The Board President, Mr. Paolillo, served as the narrator for the latter. Presentation is available on our school website www.wbschools.org

Presentation: B. Presentation: Budget Overview Presentation- Student Services, Mrs. Denise Gillis, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

Mr. McElheron and Mrs. Gillis delivered a budget presentation for the Student Services Department. The presentation included an analysis of expenditures, a year-to-year comparison of student enrollment receiving student services, staffing, BOCES services, and the percent of the total budget allocated to student services. Presentation is available on our school website www.wbschools.org

Presentation: C. 2023-2024 New York State Assessment Results - Mr. Scott Payne, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Mr. Payne presented the Board and the community with the 2023-2024 State Assessment results for grades 3-12, with a particular focus on English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. The Board posed a series of inquiries, all of which were addressed to satisfaction by Mr. Payne. Presentation is available on our school website www.wbschools.org

Discussion: D. Presentation: Capital Projects Update, Mr. John M. Grillo, JAG Architect PC

Mr. Grillo of JAG Architects presented the board with a budget proposal delineating the costs associated with the renovation of the tennis courts, handball court, and related site improvements at West Babylon Junior High School. Following this presentation, the board engaged in a discussion with Mr. Grillo regarding their desired outcomes for the renovation.

4. STATEMENT OF RESIDENTS - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

Resolution: Motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion by Anthony Raccomandato, second by Ray Downey.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Chris Paolillo, Ray Downey, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, Chirsten Johnson Tymann, Patti Neville, Anthony Raccomandato, Stephan Maucere

6. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action (Consent): A. Contract Approval - Dr. III, Inc.

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education approves Dr. III, Inc. to provide maintenance and repair of our Microfiche machine located in the High School Guidance office. This equipment is necessary to maintain the archived student data records from 1958-2003.

7. PERSONNEL - BOARD OF EDUCATION 23-A-

None

8. PERSONNEL - PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL 23-P-9

Action (Consent): A. Probationary Appointment - DW/FA

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
Sirel	Lianna	Special Education	DW/FA	Step A-1-1/ \$50,993. (prorate)	12/2/24	[certs: ECE B-2, Ch. Ed. 1-6, SWD All Grades, pending BCBA] [pending official transcripts]

Action (Consent): B. Part-Time Appointment - JK/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
Benardos	Hanna	PT/Art (.3)	JK/TA	Step A-1-1/ \$50,993. (prorate @ 30%)	12/16/24-6/30/25, or earlier at district's discretion	[cert: pending Art] [pending official transcripts] [replacing R. Marmaroff]

Action (Consent): C. 2024-2025 Salary Adjustment

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

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME		STEP/SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	DESCRIPTION/COMMENTS
Salary Adjustment:		TO:		2024-2025	
Will	Krystal	A-8-5/\$76,994.			Retroactive to 9/1/24

Action (Consent): D. 2024-2025 Annual Appointments

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

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/AREA	BEG/END APPT.	DESCRIPTION/COMMENTS
Annual Appointments:			DW	2024-2025	
Starke	Heather	Speech Language Pathologist Chairperson		\$5,111.	"

Action (Consent): E. SAT Proctors

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

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/AREA	STEP/SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	COMMENTS
SAT Proctors:			HS	\$24.32/hr.	11/2/24	
Kronenbitter	Linda					3.75 Hours
Ruiz	Lorenzo					3.83 Hours
Jensen	Robin					4.00 Hours
Meinken	Maria					4.00 Hours
Ochs	Lisa					4.05 Hours
Borgo	Danielle					4.17 Hours
Owenburg	Kristina					4.25 Hours
Tichy	Audrey					5.50 Hours
Coleman	Therese					5.50 Hours
Montalvo	Christina	Test Supervisor				7.33 Hours

Action (Consent): F. 2024-2025 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 Teachers:			DW		2024-2025	
				\$150./day		
				\$175./day 11 + days		
Pigliacelli	Lucy					[cert: school social worker]

9. PERSONNEL - CIVIL SERVICE PERSONNEL 23-C-8

Action (Consent): A. Leave of Absence Request - SA

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
Murphy	Derinda	Paraprofessional (special education aide)	SA		9/23/24-6/30/25	Leave of Absence

Action (Consent): B. Resignations/Retirement - SB/DW

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
Papadatos	Katherine	Paraprofessional (special education aide)	SB		11/1/24	Resignation
Cotto-Kurz	Mayra	Paraprofessional (special education aide)	SB		11/19/24	Resignation
D"Angelo	Michael	Maintenance Mechanic II	DW		12/31/24	Resignation to Retire [eff. 1/1/25]

Action (Consent): C. Terminations - JH/TA/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
Catapano	Kristen	Paraprofessional (special education aide)	JH		11/19/24	Specific termination date due to lack of employee resignation documentation
Matris	Joshua	Paraprofessional (special education aide)	TA		11/19/24	"
Ronessi	Diane	Paraprofessional (classroom aide)	SB		11/19/24	"

Action (Consent): D. Probationary Appointment - Food Service Worker B - 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
Akhand	Sadia	Food Service Worker 'B'	SB	Step 1/ \$18.50/hr.	11/20/24	Probationary Appt. [emergency conditional appt.]

Action (Consent): E. Probationary Appointment - School Health Aide - FA

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
Kahl (Peace)	Christina	Paraprofessional (school health aide)	FA	Step 1/ \$18.98/hr.	11/25/24	Probationary Appt. [emergency conditional appt.]

Action (Consent): F. Per Diem Substitute - 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
Per Diem Substitute:					2024-2025	
Mussinán	Danielle	Clerical/Paraprofessional		\$16./hr.		Emergency Conditional Appt.

10. FINANCE

Action (Consent): A. Approval of Claims Auditor Report - October 2024

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the Claims Auditor Report for October 2024.

Action (Consent): B. Obsolete Equipment - SHS

RESOLVED: That the West Babylon Board of Education declare the following unrepairable item obsolete:

1 Metro Food Warmer Cabinet Model # C175-H(I)

Action (Consent): C. Obsolete Equipment - Districtwide Technology

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education declares 141 technology items (list attached), located districtwide, obsolete. The items are outdated and no longer compatible with the network environment or are no longer functional.

Action (Consent): D. Approval of Budget Adjustment

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education authorizes a budget adjustment of \$622.25 to code A1620.4660 (Buildings and Grounds Contract Operation) and to be credited to code A2680 (Insurance Recovery Revenue) based on check received by NYSIR for the electrical breakdown at the High School on August 23, 2024.

Action (Consent): E. Acceptance of Donation - Institute of Education Sciences

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education gratefully accepts a Loyalty Award of \$400 in Debit Cards from the U.S. Census Bureau, Institute of Education Sciences for the School Pulse Panel.

Action (Consent): F. Acceptance of Donation - College Board

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education gratefully accepts an AP Fall Rebate of \$500 from the CollegeBoard to be deposited in the Principals Trust and Agency account.

Action (Consent): G. Acceptance of Donation - Ohiopyle Prints Inc.

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education gratefully accepts a donation of \$48.03 from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc.

Information: H. Schedule of Bills - October 31, 2024 Accounts Payable Check Run

Action (Consent): I. Approval of Budget Transfers

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the Budget Transfers listed on the attachment to cover payroll negative balances due to payroll adjustments.

Action (Consent): J. Approval of Budget Adjustment

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education authorizes a budget adjustment of \$2,315.87 to code A2110.4500-02-16 (Physical Education - Forest Avenue) and to be credited to code A2680 (Insurance Recovery Revenue) based on check received by NYSIR for Forest Avenue sewage backup and repair to gym floor.

Action (Consent): K. Adoption of Energy Performance Contract - Energy Systems Group, LLC

RESOLUTION OF THE WEST BABYLON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, NEW YORK (THE "SCHOOL DISTRICT") DECLARING THE FINDINGS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR THE FINANCING OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PERFORMANCE CONTRACT, AS AMENDED, WITH ENERGY SYSTEMS GROUP, LLC. AND MAKING CERTAIN OTHER DETERMINATIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE WEST BABYLON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK, HEREBY RESOLVES (by a majority vote of all the members of said Board) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Following the solicitation of proposals, the Board of Education of the West Babylon Union Free School District (the "School District") received various proposals from qualified firms to provide financing for the cost

of the energy conservation measures to be implemented under the Performance Contract, as amended (the "Agreement"), between the School District and Energy Systems Group, LLC.

Section 2. Based upon the written recommendation received from Capital Markets Advisors, LLC, the School District's Municipal Advisor, it is hereby determined that the proposal received from TD Equipment Finance, Inc. or its wholly-owned subsidiaries or affiliates (the "Lessor") is hereby accepted subject to the negotiation of one or more lease purchase agreements approved by counsel.

Section 3. The President of the Board of Education, the Vice President of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations and/or District Treasurer (collectively the "Authorized Representatives" and individually, the "Authorized Representative"), acting on behalf of the School District and with the advice of counsel, are hereby authorized to negotiate, enter into, execute, and deliver one or more lease purchase agreements (the "Equipment Lease") with the Lessor and/or its assignee. The Authorized Representatives are hereby further authorized to negotiate, enter into, execute, and deliver such other documents relating to the Equipment Lease (including, but not limited to, escrow agreements), as the Authorized Representatives deem necessary and appropriate with the advice of counsel. All other related contracts and agreements necessary and incidental to the Equipment Lease are hereby authorized, and such documents shall be filed in the office of the District Clerk and made available for public inspection.

Section 4. The aggregate original principal amount of the Equipment Lease shall not exceed the \$9,935,590 and shall bear interest and mature as set forth in the Equipment Lease.

Section 5. The School District's obligations under the Equipment Lease shall be subject to annual appropriation or renewal by the Board of Education of the School District as set forth in each Equipment Lease and the

School District's obligations under the Equipment Lease shall not constitute a general obligation of the School District or indebtedness under the Constitution or laws of the State of New York.

Section 6. The proceeds of the Equipment Lease may be applied to reimburse the School District for expenditures made after the effective date of this resolution for the purpose for which said proceeds are authorized, or on or prior to such date if the Board of Education of the School District has adopted a prior statement of intent to issue lease obligations for such purpose. The foregoing statement of intent with respect to reimbursement is made in conformity with Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 of the United States Treasury Department.

Section 7. The Authorized Representatives are hereby authorized to take any and all other actions necessary in connection with the Agreement, the Equipment Lease, and all matters related thereto.

Section 8. Upon execution of the Equipment Lease and accompanying escrow agreement, the School District designates Webster Bank, as a depository of School District funds for purposes of the Equipment Lease, and further designates The Bank of New York Mellon or such other lending institution designated by an Authorized Representative, as a third party custodian for purposes of holding eligible collateral in a custodial account established for the benefit of the District.

11. CURRICULUM

None

12. FACILITIES

None

13. POLICY REVIEW

Action: A. New Policy: Second Time Reading and Adoption: Policy 0110-E Prohibition Against Sex-Based Harassment-Exhibit

Motion to waive Second Time Reading and Adopt Policy 0110-E as written.

Motion by Ray Downey, second by Patti Neville.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Chris Paolillo, Ray Downey, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, Chirsten Johnson Tymann, Patti Neville, Anthony Raccomandato, Stephan Maucere

14. OLD BUSINESS

None

15. NEW BUSINESS

Information: A. Wellness Committee Update - Mrs. Chirsten Johnson Tymann, Board Representative

Board member Tymann Johnson presented an update from the Wellness Committee. In her report, she outlined the district's activities regarding wellness, one of which was the district-wide Jingle Jog, scheduled for December 7th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sawyer Avenue. Furthermore, the PS I Love You Day initiative will continue this year on February 14th. The Super Bowl event, which was previously held at the elementary level, has been the subject of discussion regarding its potential extension to include junior high school students. Additionally, the possibility of mental health, gratitude, and acceptance as potential themes have been considered. The Fun Run event is scheduled to take place on May 19th. In terms of physical goals, Northwell-South Oaks will implement mental health programs for parents, students, and athletes, with the aim of providing support for athletes.

16. RESIDENTS STATEMENTS

Procedural: A. Statements of Residents

A member of the community has expressed a desire for the district to include the Eid holiday as part of the school calendar. In response, Dr. Farrelly indicated that she is currently engaged in the process of developing the calendar for the forthcoming academic year. She further stated that she is currently meeting with representatives from the region to discuss this and other calendar topics and that the incorporation of the Eid holiday into the calendar is a topic that has been raised and is under consideration.

Another community member raised a concern regarding the speculation that President Trump is considering dismantling the education system and ending all federal funding. The community member inquired about the amount of federal funding the district receives, whether partial or full, and its potential impact on the budget, activities, and educational offerings for students. Dr. Farrelly and Mr. Paolillo responded that the district receives approximately \$1.8 million in federal funding, noting that no notification has been received regarding a change in this funding.

A member of the community expressed concern regarding the rumors that have been circulating regarding the closure of Santapogue Elementary. Dr. Farrelly and Mr. Paolillo reiterated that a decision to close Santapogue has not been made. The LRP committee has been charged with researching the feasibility of doing so. This information will be presented to the BOE in January, at which point, the BOE will consider the information provided.

Finally, a member of the community expressed her concerns regarding NYS's vaccination requirements. She discussed the impact of these regulations on her household, specifically her decision to homeschool her children. She requested that the Board delay implementing vaccine regulations for one year, citing the imminent change in administration in January and the potential for changes to the regulations.

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:58pm.

Motion by Anthony Raccamandato, second by Chirsten Johnson Tymann.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Chris Paolillo, Ray Downey, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, Chirsten Johnson Tymann, Patti Neville, Anthony Raccamandato, Stephan Maucere