

A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education of the West Babylon Union Free School District, of the Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York was held on TUESDAY, February 11, 2014, in the Board Room of the Administration Wing adjacent to the Senior High School.

Those present: Trustees James F. Bocca (left at 10:17 p.m.), Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Diane Klein, Dennis Kranz, Peter Scarlatos, Diane Thiel, Stacy Villagran and Jennifer Wandasiewicz

Also present: Mr. Anthony Cacciola, Superintendent; Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mrs. Christine Tona, Executive Director for Curriculum & Instruction; Mrs. Jennifer Buscemi, Executive Director for Finance & Operations; Mrs. Amy E. Jones, District Clerk; Mr. William C. Morrell, Attorney and residents (audience of approx. 28).

The President opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge to the Flag

WBJHS Presentation: The Bully Proof Club - Scott Payne, Jennifer Carere, Heidi Birr and Cassandra Madurka
Students: Butterfly Project - Isabella Alvino and Jamie Cozzi - Grade 6
Bully Proof Club Reps: Samantha Feldstein, Bryanna Sheppard and Club Members

Mrs. Carere thanked the Board for inviting them to present this evening. She said that the Bully Proof Club was begun through a grant from the Wellness organization and has been sustained and strengthened since its inception. She said that everything we will hear this evening comes directly from the students. Mrs. Carere said that Mrs. Birr and Mrs. Madurka are the adults who assisted in implementing the students' ideas. She turned the meeting over to Isabella Alvino and Jamie Cozzi to explain the project. The students explained that the idea came from a commercial on the Disney Channel. The project involved placing a sticky note on the lockers of the students with a kind word or phrase and a butterfly, which is the symbol of Bully Proof. The butterfly symbolizes that everyone is different and beautiful in their own way. This program had such a positive impact on the 6th graders that the plan is to expand to the older grades. Samantha explained the Bully Proof Club to the Trustees. Mr. Cacciola commended all of the students for doing a wonderful job presenting to the Board. Mr. Cacciola said that he is very proud of all of the students adding that they are role models. He encouraged them to keep the program going. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Wellness Organization, Trustee Lucy Campasano suggested that the JHS apply for another grant to continue this project. President Diane Thiel said the students did an amazing job and the project could benefit adults as well as the students.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:14 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING: Veterans Exemption - Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a

Mrs. Buscemi shared the impact to the district in various scenarios of adopting the Veterans Exemption. She explained that this evening the Board would be holding a hearing to determine if they would be interested in having a resolution on the next agenda to adopt the exemption. She also noted that the deadline for adopting this exemption is March 1, 2014. After she reviewed all of the data presented to the Board (on file in the District Clerk's Office), the Board unanimously agreed that Mrs. Buscemi should place a resolution on the February 25, 2014 agenda for the Board to adopt the Veterans Exemption at the Basic State Maximum.

Statements of Residents: None

The Public Hearing Ended on motion of Trustee Wandasiewicz seconded by Villagran at 7:27 p.m.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

Trustee Bocca seconded by Trustee Gismervik made a motion to enter executive session for contract negotiations and matters of personnel at 7:28 p.m.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

The public portion of the meeting reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

Board President Diane Thiel welcomed everyone and reminded them to silence their cell phones.

Trustee Bocca seconded by Trustee Wandasiewicz made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 28, 2014 and the Special Meeting of February 4, 2014. (Trustees Campasano and Villagran were not in the room at this time).

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

Statement of the Superintendent and/or Board of Education: Board President Diane Thiel said that on this evening's agenda Mr. Cacciola will be tendering his resignation to retire effective January 10, 2015. On behalf of the Board she congratulated and thanked Mr. Cacciola for all of his years dedicated to West Babylon. She wished him the best in whatever he will do in the future and said that wherever he is "Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle". Mr. Cacciola noted that this week is PTA recognition week. He thanked the PTA officers and Council members for all they do each and every day throughout the

year. President Diane Thiel said that the Board will provide desserts for the PTAs at the next meeting. In addition, the Board will donate a basket for the comedy club night that the PTAs will be hosting.

Mr. Cacciola congratulated the High School Students who were recognized at the Old Town Hall in Babylon on February 1, 2014 for their art work. He said that the work of the students will be on display until February 25, 2014.

Mr. Cacciola also congratulated the Science Olympiad student for achieving 13 Medals. He said that they will be moving on to the State competition on March 7, 2014. He thanked Coach Andrea Montalvo noting that she also provides countless hours of her own time, even meeting with the students at Panera Bread to coach them. He noted that it had been incorrectly reported in the local paper that the students met there due to the lack of space available in district. He thanked Ms. Montalvo for going above and beyond for the students.

Statement of West Babylon Teachers Association:

WBTA President Patt Squicciarini congratulated Ms. Montalvo for the students' Science Olympiad medals. She congratulated Ms. Cafiero, Mr. Barone and the staff for the performance of "Anything Goes". Mrs. Squicciarini thanked Mr. Cacciola and wished him well in his retirement.

Statement of West Babylon Administrators' Association: None

Statement of CSEA Representative:

CSEA Donna Rocchio wished Mr. Cacciola a wonderful retirement and thanked him for his many years of service.

Statement of Student Association Representative: None

Statement of PTA Council Representative:

PTA Council President Jenn Longo said that she has worked with Mr. Cacciola for 6 years and wished him the best in his retirement. She also invited all to attend Founder's Day and announced that Council will be presenting Mr. Cacciola with an award.

Statement of Residents (agenda items):

Superintendent's Report/Educational Presentation:

School Aid Specialist Anthony Cashera — Review of State Aid

Mr. Cashera shared information from the Governor's state aid proposal through a PowerPoint Presentation. He explained the items that impact state aid which include; expenditures, income and full value per pupil, tax effort (all the income taxes reported for West Babylon through taxation and finance and real property taxes from residential property), income wealth ratio (all the income taxes reported for West Babylon (taxation and finance), the total number of pupils and the GEA (Gap Elimination Adjustment). There was discussion about the importance parents completing the application process, if they fall within the income levels for free and reduce lunch for their children, to complete the application process.

Trustee Campasano seconded by Wandasiewicz made a motion to approve the **Consent Agenda**.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

BOARD OF EDUCATION

#BE-1

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the following school district to provide health services to West Babylon School District resident students during the 2013-2014 school year:

Massapequa Union Free School District

#BE-2

WHEREAS, a Notice of Claim, dated January 21, 2014, was filed against the District by the New York State United Teachers Association on behalf of a staff member (the "claim"); and

WHEREAS, there exists uncertainty with respect to the outcome of the claim; and

WHEREAS, the cost associated with defending such claim would greatly exceed the cost associated with the claim; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education directs the business office to pay \$3,223.44 to satisfy the claim.

#BE-3

RESOLVED: that the annual school election of the West Babylon Union Free School District, Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York, shall be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, from 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. in the two designated election districts in said school district for the purposes set forth in the Notice of Annual Meeting.

RESOLVED: that the Notice of Annual Meeting be published four times during the seven weeks preceding and beginning 45 days prior to the meeting in the *Babylon Beacon* and *South Bay Newspaper*, two newspapers having general circulation in the district.

RESOLVED: that Diane Klein is designated as permanent chairperson of election in accordance with Section 2026 of the Education Law.

PERSONNEL

#PE-1

RESOLVED: that the following schedules, as attached, are approved:

13-P-14 Professional Personnel

13-C-14 Civil Service Personnel

SCHEDULE 13-P-14 Professional Personnel Schedule

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/ AREA	STEP/ SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	COMMENTS
Cacciola, Anthony	Superintendent of Schools	Admin.		1/10/15	Resignation to Retire
Powers, Daniel	PT/Special Ed. Tchr.(.2) / Per Diem Sub. Tchr.(.8)	JH		12/20/13	Resignation
<u>S.A.T. Proctors:</u>			\$22.30/hr.	1/25/14	
Iaquinto, Christine					4.75 hrs.
Shaffer, Donna					5 hrs.
Simone, Linda					5 hrs.
Powers, Brian					5.5 hrs.
Amaya-Velasquez, Idalia					6 hrs.
Borgo, Danielle					6 hrs.
Heaton, Bryan					6 hrs.
Heaton, Elise					6 hrs.
Kohler, Amy					6 hrs.
McArdle, Patrick					6 hrs.
McGrath, Donna					6 hrs.
Mucaria, Donna					6 hrs.
Ruiz, Lawrence					6 hrs.
Montalvo, Andrea					9 hrs.
Montalvo, Christina	Test Supervisor				9 hrs.

Student Teachers/Observers:

Spring, 2014

Meserole, Elizabeth	Elementary	TA
Palmer, Maria	Elementary	JK

SCHEDULE 13-C-14 Civil Service Personnel Schedule

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/ AREA	STEP/ SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	COMMENTS
McNeil, Kelly	Clerk Typist	TA		1/6/14 -	Family Medical Leave
Cascone, Denise	Food Service Wrkr. 'B'	JK		1/27/14	Resignation
Kilbridge, Jacqueline	Paraprofessional (school monitor)	TA		2/3/14	Resignation
Tomeo, Jesse	Auto Mechanic II	Trans.	Step 2/ \$42,238. (prorate)	7/9/13	Prior Service Credit [experience verified]
<u>Per Diem Substitutes:</u>		DW	\$9./hr.	2013-2014	Clerical
Glennon, Josephine					
Rhatigan, Marion					

FINANCE

#FI-1

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

<i>ACCOUNT CODE</i>	<i>ACCOUNT CODE DESCRIPTION & TRANSFER EXPLANATION</i>	<i>FROM</i>	<i>TO</i>
A2250.4700	Special Education Tuition	\$29,000.00	
	Special Education Professional Services		
A2250.4490	Increased Costs for homebound student		\$29,000.00

POLICY:

The following policies are on the agenda for Third time adoption

9420 – Evaluation of Staff -Not Covered by 3012c of Education Law**9420.1** – Building Principal and Classroom Teacher Evaluation

Trustee Klein Seconded by Trustee Wandasiewicz made a motion to adopt the policies.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present**BOARD OF EDUCATION****COMMITTEES:** Curriculum Committee – Minutes were read (on File in the District Clerk's Office).**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:**

OLD: Discussion of Parent Athlete Meetings – The Board discussed the current procedures in place regarding Parent Athlete Meetings. There was a suggestion that a subcommittee be formed to create a Board Policy to bring to the Board rather than discuss the whole process at a regular meeting, again. After discussion, the Board's general consensus was that a Board Policy should be created for Parent Athlete Meetings and trustees Campasano, Kranz, Scarlatos and Villagran will be on the committee and work with Mr. Cacciola and Mr. Spinelli to develop a policy to bring to the Board for approval.

Trustee Villagran discussed the possibility of notifying parents when progress reports are available on the portal through a connect-ed message. She also discussed problems with the method in which student attendance is taken when a high school student is reporting for testing in a modification setting. She noted that a student could be marked absent when they are actually present. Trustee Villagran asked for the glossary of terms for absences to be explained more clearly for parents. Mrs. Tona explained that the portal is managed through ESchool, so she will speak with Mrs. Nocerino about the concerns. Trustee Wandasiewicz discussed increasing parent involvement and the difficulty of being involved that parents may be facing at building levels. She shared a recent incident. Mr. Cacciola suggested that Trustee Wandasiewicz speak with the building principal.

NEW:

Operations Committee: School Lunch Financial Solvency – Jennifer Buscemi, Executive Director for Finance and Jeannette Frabizio, School Lunch Manager Mr. Cacciola commended Mrs. Frabizio for her work in the school lunch department. Mrs. Frabizio and Mrs. Buscemi provided informational handouts to the trustees pertaining to the lunch departments financial records; surrounding districts' lunch department financial situations and whether they use outside services for their lunch departments or contractual services. There was discussion about the cost to students as well selections of food and the impending changes to what can be served during school hours that are forthcoming. After a brief discussion about the possibility of our district moving towards using an outside service, it was explained that this change could only be done in union negotiations. Other districts' that are using outside food service worked with the unions to make the change through attrition. There is no way to determine how long that would take.

High School Open Campus for Lunch – The High School Administrators and Board held a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of closing the high school campus for lunch. Dr. Vassallo said that each year the program runs a little more smoothly. Concerns about the safety of students crossing the busy highway as well as the fact that students who have left the building for lunch and a lock down happens while they are out, will not be able to get back into the building during the lock-down. Objections to closing the campus included the idea that an exemplary student would feel penalized if not permitted to leave. Mr. Cacciola recommended closing campus. However, he said that this is a Board decision. The Board questioned when this would/could be implemented. After further discussion about safety issues, the following motion was made:

Trustee Dennis Kranz seconded by Trustee Gismervik made a motion to close the high school campus for lunch and charged the high school administration to come up with the date to implement the plan.

Voting Yes: Trustees Campasano, Gismervik, Klein, Kranz, Scarlatos, Thiel, Villagran and Wandasiewicz

Voting No: Trustee Bocca

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

Budget Draft #1 and Anticipated Revenues

Mrs. Buscemi provided hand outs of Budget Draft #1 to the Board (on file in the District Clerk's Office). She reviewed the options the Board may face if the Governor's State Aid proposal remains unchanged. Options included; piercing the cap; cuts to programs/staff and/or a combination of both options. The trustees stated that at this juncture it would seem that there is no choice but to consider piercing the cap. Mrs. Buscemi presented a timeline for the Budget adoption process. On February 25, 2014 the Board will have a line by line budget review.

STATEMENTS OF RESIDENTS:

Resident Maryann Gamba spoke about closing campus for lunch due to safety concerns while her son is not eligible for transportation and has to walk to school from Trolley Line Rd. She also expressed her displeasure that she had to purchase a Volley Ball Uniform.

Resident William Hill spoke about his belief that the district has more funds than they are showing. Upon his becoming disrespectful to the Board, the Board President and the School's Attorney Mr. Morrell admonished him for his behavior and the language he used in speaking to the Board.

Resident Jennifer Longo said that if the Board is considering making the suggested cuts to the JHS Sports program, they may want to revisit the selection classification policy. She also pointed out that some of the sports being considered for cuts are sports that can earn students scholarships.

Resident Dawn Conboy asked how other districts are not paying retirement costs as mentioned during the School Lunch Department presentation. Mrs. Buscemi explained that the districts that use outside companies contract out their kitchen workers do not contribute to the retirement accounts of the lunch department staff. Mrs. Conboy said that last year the district was fine. However, everyone knew the fiscal challenges would be increasing. She said that the district has no choice but to pierce the cap.

Board President Thiel said that no one wants to cut programs, and everyone has the programs that they want to be kept. The Board faces some difficult challenges. Trustee Villagran said the Board has two decisions at this point, 1) whether or not to pierce the cap and then if so, 2) by how much?

Trustee Wandasiewicz seconded by Trustee Scarlatos made a motion to Executive Session for matters of a particular personnel matter at 11:27 p.m.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

Trustee Scarlatos seconded by Trustee Wandasiewicz made a motion to adjourn at 11:45 p.m.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

District Clerk