

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, April 8, 2014, in the Board Room of the Administration Wing adjacent to the Senior High School and in the PAC in the High School.

Those present: Trustees James F. Bocca, Lucy Campasano (left at 10:27 p.m.), Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Diane Thiel, Stacy Villagran and Jennifer Wandasiewicz

Trustees: Diane Klein and Dennis Kranz were absent.

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. 150).

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

**Presentation by the Robotics Team Club with Dr. Vassallo, Mr. Hanley, Mr. O'Leary, Mr. DeSimone, Mr. Bauer and Robotics Club Members: Ronald Bolosan, 12th Grade, Club President - Anthony Lanfranchi, 11th Grade, Blue Team Captain - Michelle Diep, 11th Grade, Gold Team Captain - Justin Hyner, 12th Grade - Mr. John Kryjak, 11th Grade - Mr. Luke Bianco, 10th Grade**

Mr. Cacciola said that he was pleased to see the team here this evening. After distributing a pamphlet about the program to the trustees and administration, the students presented a video explaining the First Tech Challenge. The team shared their passion for the club and demonstrated the techniques used in competition. They noted that in the past the teachers would demonstrate how to make the robots; this year the students were more hands on and designed, built, and programmed their robots. In response to Mr. Cacciola's question about local assistance for the team, Mr. Bauer said that the team intends to speak with ACE Hardware for next year. In addition, a West Babylon alumnus and NYIT graduate in mechanical engineering has assisted the students on Wednesday afternoons. Dr. Vassallo offered her praise to Mr. DeSimone for all of his efforts with this program.

Trustee Scarlatos seconded by Trustee Wandasiewicz made a motion to enter executive session for contract negotiations and matters of personnel at 7:23 p.m.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

The public portion of the meeting reconvened at 8:01 p.m.

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

Trustee Scarlatos seconded by Trustee Wandasiewicz made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 25, 2014

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

**Statement of the Superintendent and/or Board of Education:**

Mr. Cacciola said that approximately 261 students in grades 3-8 did not take the ELA assessments and Forest Avenue and Tooker Avenue exceed the 95% threshold requirement. The math assessments are forthcoming.

The HS math team finished 7<sup>th</sup> out of 16 NYS teams. He said top honors went to Greg Fleury in first place and Anthony Morante in second place. In addition, West Babylon's Gregg Fleury, Ryan Powers, Matt Reyes and Anthony Morante had perfect scores and brought in the Gold. He congratulated the hardworking students and their advisor Mrs. Montalvo.

Mr. Cacciola congratulated Luke Adams for winning the Renzo S. Bianchi scholarship award at Heckscher Museum's awards ceremony for the Young Artists' Exhibit on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Blue and Gold will be held April 24-26 and is sold out. However, the performances can also be viewed each night in the PAC.

Regarding the Budget for 2014-2015, Mr. Cacciola said that he would like an honest open respectful dialogue tonight. He thanked all who attended the April 1 budget meeting. He clarified misinformation about the budget that he has seen on social media recently. He said he understands the concerns and the Board has heard them loud and clear. He thanked the students for sharing their opinions and he understands that it is hard to accept losing highly effective staff members. Mr. Cacciola explained that the district must follow the law in making the decisions.

Mrs. Thiel asked that everyone please remember to speak respectfully during the statement portion of the meeting. As this is a regular meeting, she also asked that statements be kept brief to enable everyone to have an opportunity to speak and for the Board to be able to complete their other necessary work this evening. She asked Mr. Morrell to clarify the concerns about the cutting of personnel.

Mr. Morrell explained that regarding all staff, the Board does not want to affect anyone's life by telling them that they do not have a job. However, when they are faced with the responsibility of making staff cuts, as per law, they must remove staff in order of seniority. He noted that West Babylon is very fortunate to have staff that is hired from within district. However, this fact makes the decisions even more difficult. Education Law is clear and simple, last one in, no matter what their ability, talent, etc. is the first one to be let go. It is very difficult and the Board cannot pick and choose; the law tells the district who to keep.

Mrs. Thiel said that this is the last meeting before the Board will adopt the budget and the Board is here to listen to the community.

**Statement of West Babylon Teachers Association:**

WBTA President Patt Squicciarini explained that when she was first starting out as a teacher she was "excessed" four years in a row. She said the district and community are fighting a battle that they should not have to fight. However, Governor Cuomo has tied everyone's hands so that they do not have a choice. She

said the district cannot let the Governor win. Mrs. Squicciarini said that the district needs to save programs for the students. Speaking on behalf of the WBTA, Mrs. Squicciarini asked that the Board pierce the cap by 2% and allow the community to decide whether or not they support piercing the cap.

**Statement of West Babylon Administrators' Association:**

WBAA President Ellie Levy said that she is in favor of the SEAL program for supporting the whole child. It is the responsibility of the district to take care of students from ages 5-17. She asked that the Board support the whole child in any way that it can.

**Statement of CSEA Representative:**

CSEA President Donna Rocchio said that she can't add much to what has already been said. She asked that the Board pierce the cap to save as many programs and staff members as possible. She said many staff members are residents and the additional \$98 that the governor is proposing to refund those in districts that do not pierce the caps will not make that much difference to the residents, but it will make a difference to the education of the students.

**Statement of Student Association Representative:**

**Statement of PTA Council Representative:**

PTA Council President Jenn Longo said that the PTA is about all of the children. She said that the Board has the best intentions for the community. She shared the results of the completed surveys that the PTAs provided; of the 156 people who responded, 30 respondents want the district to pierce the cap by 5.76%, 38 respondents want the district to pierce the cap by 3.76%, and 88 respondents do not want the district to pierce the cap. Mrs. Thiel thanked Mrs. Longo for providing the results.

**STATEMENT OF RESIDENTS (Agenda Items)**

Residents spoke about the proposed cuts to the programs and urged the trustees to pierce the cap and keep programs. Resident, parent and employee Janet Keuhner asked that the Board pierce the cap. In response to resident Liz Erich's question about when these surveys by the PTAs were done, and her request about using robo-calls, as is done in North Babylon, to notify the district about budget and Board meetings, Mrs. Thiel said that the PTAs made the surveys available at their meetings. Mrs. Thiel explained that districts cannot use district funds to reach out to their community regarding the budget because it only reaches those who have children in the district and not the entire community. Mrs. Thiel said she will reach out to North Babylon to see how they call their residents regarding meetings. Mrs. Thiel said that the district could possibly add a link to the dates on the front of the web page.

Trustee Scarlatos said to Mrs. Longo that the PTAs do a wonderful job but Mrs. Longo is the only one in this room with a survey saying that the people don't want to pierce the cap. He added that there is never anyone here from those PTAs standing in front of the microphones saying that they don't want the Board to pierce the cap.

Mrs. Thiel said that she appreciates Mr. Scarlatos opinion. However, his comments can be considered offensive to the PTAs. She added that Mrs. Longo is the PTA Council President and when she speaks she does represent the PTAs and the district cannot discount the people in these results of the survey even if they are not present. She said that every person in this community counts.

Resident Liz Breiner said she had never been to a budget meeting before the last budget meeting. She left the meeting quite upset and made an appointment with Mrs. Buscemi; she discussed her findings when looking into the district's financial data. She said that her opinion had been that the district should cut the fat in the budget. However, after reviewing the budget she found that there is no fat. She offered comparison's to other districts and reviewed West Babylon's numbers and as an accountant learned that NYS is no funding the districts anymore. She added that West Babylon lost millions through GEA over the last four years. She said that she believes the district should pierce the cap to give our students the same advantages that students in other districts are receiving.

Resident Joe DeGaetano said that he knows first hand and appreciates the work of the Board and administrators. He said he was very disappointed when he left week. He said that he knows the Governor is a bully and you don't back down from a bully. He said that the district cannot operate from fear they should pierce the cap. Deb Serrano asked the Board not to take sports from the kids. She asked that the Board pierce the cap. In response to Trustee Scarlatos' statement about the PTA survey, PTA Council President Jenn Longo said that the Board of Ed. came to the PTAs and requested that the survey be done. All the PTA did was report what the survey reflected. Residents Richard Delmonico, and Daienna Edmunds each spoke and requested that the Board pierce the cap. Resident and Steven Stoehrer complimented resident Liz Breiner's comments and said that all of this outrage must come out in November at the polls. He added that the unfunded mandates and surcharges have been increasing and less people are doing more and more. Mr. Cacciola noted that the irony is that the Governor allocated 3.1 million dollars to technology in the classroom and Pre-k instead of adjusting the GEA and funding the mandates. Resident Collette Reilly suggested that teachers work more hours as well as looking into everything possible to keep the sports and music in the district. Trustee Scarlatos countered Ms. Reilly and stated that teachers work more than forty hours. Mrs. Thiel asked Mr. Scarlatos to please allow her to correct the misinformation without hostility. Resident John Kryjak said that it appears that the community wants to pierce the cap. Resident Kelly Randazzo said that people are forgetting that school is about education and that must come first. She added that teachers work more than 40 hours and are to be commended. Residents Ann Flynn, Ms. Giacomello, Terry Pastore and Dawn Feldman all spoke in favor of piercing the cap. In response to residents Charles DeGennaro's question about why the Board wouldn't want to try to pierce the cap, Mrs. Thiel explained that taxes would be that much higher and the Board has to consider whether or not the community can afford the increase. Resident Jim Prunzion wished the district luck in making this difficult decision. Residents Lori Vandoran and Kristen Catapano each spoke in support of piercing the cap. Trustee Campasano said that the Board has listened to the community this evening and not one member said not to pierce the cap. She said she believes the Board should pierce the cap and give the community the opportunity to pass the budget. Trustee Scarlatos said that he knows how hard Mrs. Buscemi worked on the budget presentation.

Trustee Scarlatos seconded by Trustee Gismervik made a motion to pierce the budget cap by 2%.

Trustee Villagran said that she was voting not to pierce the budget and understands and is fine with the fact that the Board wants the community to make this decision. However, she noted that everyone in this room will need to get out the vote.

Trustee Thiel asked if the Board would allow Mrs. Buscemi to do the presentation before voting. A lengthy conversation ensued.

Trustee Wandasiewicz seconded by Trustee Villagran made a motion to table Mr. Scarlatos motion until after Mrs. Buscemi's presentation

Voting Yes: Trustees Wandasiewicz, Villagran, Thiel Campasano, and Gismervik

No: Trustee Scarlatos

Abstained: Trustee Bocca

The motion was **CARRIED**

Mrs. Buscemi reviewed the budget draft and presented various scenarios and the impact to the tax rate for each, provided the property values remain consistent. The Board discussed the various options — the presentation will be on the district’s website.

Trustee Scarlatos seconded by Trustee Villagran made a motion to remove Mr. Scarlatos motion from the table.

Voting Yes: Trustees Wandasiewicz, Villagran, Thiel Camposano, Scarlatos and Gismervik

Abstained: Trustee Bocca

The motion was **CARRIED**

Dr. Farrelly shared the options for staff retaining if the Board opts to pierce the cap. She explained the changes to the staff needs. In response to Trustee Thiel’s question, Dr. Farrelly said that the staff the district could retain, if the cap is pierced, would enable the district to keep the programs. After further discussion the following motion was made:

Trustee Camposano seconded by Trustee Gismervik made a motion to pierce the cap by 2.25%.

Voting Yes: Trustees Wandasiewicz, Villagran, Thiel Camposano, Scarlatos and Gismervik

Voting No: Trustee Bocca

The motion was **CARRIED**

**Superintendent’s Report/Educational Presentation:** **None**

Trustee Wandasiewicz seconded by Camposano made a motion to approve the **Consent Agenda and addendum #PE-2**

Trustee Camposano was not in the room at this time.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**#BE-1**

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

South Huntington Union Free School District  
Garden City Union Free School District

**#BE-2**

**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:

Uniondale Union Free School District

**PERSONNEL**

**#PE-1**

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

13-P-18 Professional Personnel  
13-C-18 Civil Service Personnel

**SCHEDULE 13-P-18 Professional Personnel Schedule**

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/ AREA	STEP/ SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	COMMENTS
Felice, Bryan	Special Ed. Tchr.	FA		3/3/14 -	Family Medical Leave
Leidel, Elizabeth	Music Tchr.	HS		3/3/14 -	Family Medical Leave

**SCHEDULE 13-P-18 Professional Personnel Schedule**

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/ AREA	STEP/ SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	COMMENTS
<b>Coach:</b>				Spring, 2014	
Mando, Brian	JHS Head	Softball	\$4,139.		
<b>Student Teacher/Observer:</b>				Spring, 2014	
Vogelsang, Jordan	Social Studies	HS			

**SCHEDULE 13-C-18 Civil Service Personnel Schedule**

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/ AREA	STEP/ SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	COMMENTS
Duffy, Thomas	Head Custodian	SB		1/6/14 -	Family Medical Leave
Cassano, Laura	Cook	SA		3/31/14 -	Family Medical Leave
Rafter, Pamela	Sr. Clerk Typist	HS		4/21/14 -	Family Medical Leave
Gibbons, Kathleen	School Bus Driver	Trans.		6/27/14	Resignation to Retire
Conlon, Joseph	Custodial Wrkr. I	SB		6/28/14	Resignation to Retire
Argiros, Christopher	Custodial Wrkr. I	JH		6/29/14	Resignation to Retire
Scherr, Lynn	Paraprofessional (plygd/café aide)	SA		3/24/14	Resignation
<b>Per Diem Substitute: DW</b>		\$9./hr.	2013-2014	Paraprofessional	
Scherr, Lynn					

**ADDENDUM**

**PERSONNEL**

**#PE-2**

**Resolved:** that the attached personnel schedule is approved:  
13-C-18A(a) Civil Service Personnel

**SCHEDULE 13-C-18A Civil Service Personnel Schedule**

**ADDENDUM (a)**

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/ AREA	STEP/ SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	COMMENTS
<b>The following are a result of Civil Service desk audits effective 4/8/14:</b>					
(1.0)	Senior Account Clerk	12-month	Business Office		Abolished
(1.0)	Accountant	12-month	Business Office		Established
[reclassification per C.S. desk audit]					
(1.0)	Senior Clerk Typist	12-month	Student Services		Abolished
(1.0)	Senior Account Clerk	12-month	Student Services		Established
[reclassification per C.S. desk audit]					

**SCHEDULE 13-C-18A Civil Service Personnel Schedule**

**ADDENDUM (a)**

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<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>SCHOOL/ AREA</b>	<b>STEP/ SALARY</b>	<b>BEG/END APPT.</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
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**The following are a result of Civil Service desk audits effective 4/8/14:**

*O'Brisky, Mary Ellen	Accountant	BO	\$70,000. (prorate)	4/17/14	Probationary Appt. C.S. List of Eligibles #11-0221-272 OC
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**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**POLICY:**

**The following policy is on the agenda for first time reading.**

5280: Interscholastic Athletics (Third Time Adoption)

Trustee Scarlatos seconded by Trustee Wandasiewicz made a motion to move the policy to third time adoption.

In response to Trustee Villagran's question, Mrs. Tona explained that Mr. Spinelli meets with students regarding concussion procedures; it is not part of the policy.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

**COMMITTEES:**

**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS: Budget Draft #3 – A. Cacciola and J. Buscemi – done in the earlier portion of the meeting.**

Mrs. Buscemi said that the Board will receive the final draft of the budget on April 18<sup>th</sup> and will discuss and vote on the budget on April 24, 2014.

**STATEMENTS OF RESIDENTS:**

In response to resident Jenn Longo's question, Mr. Cacciola said that the custodial positions previously considered for cutting would be restored.

Resident/Student Eric Donahue thanked the Board and requested replacing JV Golf and starting a varsity volleyball team.

Resident Susan Mahon thanked all who came this evening to support the staff. She thanked the Board and administrators for working so hard.

Resident Dennis Brodmerkel thanked the Board for the hard work and requested keeping the PE teacher who is being excessed.

Trustee Bocca seconded by Trustee Scarlatos made a motion to adjourn at 11:00 p.m.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

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District Clerk