

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 THURSDAY, April 24, 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, Cathy Gismervik, Diane Klein, Peter Scarlatos, Diane Thiel, Stacy Villagran and Jennifer Wandasiewicz

Trustee: Dennis Kranz was absent.

Also present: Mr. Anthony Cacciola, Superintendent; 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. 25).

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

Trustee Gismervik seconded by Trustee Wandasiewicz made a motion to enter executive session for contract negotiations and matters of personnel at 7:01 p.m.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

The public portion of the meeting reconvened at 8:08 p.m.

Trustee Scarlatos seconded by Trustee Klein made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 1, 2014 and the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2014.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

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

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

Board President Diane Thiel noted that this is administrative professionals' week. She thanked Amy Jones, District Clerk on behalf of the Board for all she does for the Board and also thanked the administrative professionals throughout the district for all that they do through the year.

Mr. Cacciola also thanked the administrative professionals in the district for all they do throughout the year, adding that all of them are amazing. He thanked Donna Rocchio, CSEA President and Amy Jones, District Clerk and the clerical staff. He added that without his own secretaries Barbara Burrows and Jane Chiappone, he would not be able to function as well.

Mr. Cacciola congratulated the High School Forensics team for the first time ever winning best digital forensics out of 32 teams in a recent competition. He said the team was led by the captain Mike Leonard, the team solved the crime "The Secret Ingredient". Top honors went to HS Senior Gregg Fleury and he congratulated the team and Coach Peraza for this achievement. Mr. Cacciola also congratulated Samantha Apuzzo for being named as a Newsday player of the week across all sports on April 15, 2014.

**Final Draft of the Budget** — Mr. Cacciola said that he was rearranging his report to present the final budget during this portion of the meeting so that Board members and residents would have the opportunity to speak about the budget before the Board's adoption later in the meeting. Mrs. Buscemi explained the final budget (which will be available on the district's website) to be presented to the community at the budget vote and trustee election on May 20, 2014. This year's total budget will be \$100,595,165.91. Adoption of this budget requires a tax levy increase limit of 3.6100%, which exceeds the tax levy increase limit of 1.3617% for the 2014-2015 school fiscal year and therefore exceeds the state tax cap and must be approved by 60 (sixty %) percent of the qualified voters present and voting. Mr. Bocca asked Mrs. Buscemi to inform those present that the piercing of the cap would not only take the rebate away from residents they also face a tax increase of approximately \$350. Mrs. Campasano explained that the difference would amount to \$250 because the average taxes would still increase by \$100 if the district stayed within the cap. Mrs. Buscemi shared past statistics of voter turn-out and encouraged all to exercise their right to vote. Mr. Bocca stated for the record that he believes it is not a good idea to pierce the cap. He said with all of the information the Board has he doesn't believe the budget will pass. Mr. Scarlatos countered by stating that the Board is here for the public and he believes the community has the right to vote yes or no on the budget. If they do not want the cap pierced the budget will be defeated and the Board will have to make adjustments for the June 17 revote.

Mrs. Thiel reminded all to be respectful in their comments. She said comments will be listened to whether or not they are liked or disliked. The Board must adhere to the Open Meetings Law. She asked that everyone adhere to the policy of 3 minutes per statement. She clarified that at the last meeting when addressing a trustee during the statements of residents, she was not speaking for or against any one group, she was just asking that the comments be kept respectful to all who speak.

**Statement of West Babylon Teachers Association:**

None

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

None

**Statement of CSEA Representative:**

None

**Statement of Student Association Representative:**

None

**Statement of PTA Council Representative:**

PTA Council President Jenn Longo reminded everyone of the district Fun Run and Wellness Fair on May 21 at the JHS Track beginning at 6:00. She also invited all to

attend a fundraiser Comedy Night at Governor's on May 22.

**STATEMENT OF RESIDENTS (Agenda Items)**

Resident George Simolin thanked Mrs. Jones for her assistance in providing information this week. He said that approximately \$914,000.00 of the budget is going toward only 29% of the student body with the clubs JV and varsity sports and activities. He asked if the Board has ever considered a pay to play model, and if not, why not? Mr. Morrell explained that public schools generally cannot use this option legally. Mr. Cacciola added that if the district is on a contingency budget the district can adopt a pay to play plan with some restrictions. Money would have to be raised for all sports for all seasons up front, before any sports are scheduled to begin.

Resident Liz Breiner said that many students receive scholarships based on the addition of sports to their resume. She said that targeting one group will not fix the budget. She added that the district is trying to pass a budget with its hands tied behind its back. Ms. Breiner said the district needs to fight for all of the programs. She expressed concern about the values of homes going down if the district does not continue to offer these and other programs.

In response to resident Ava Donahue's question, Mr. Morrell said that private citizens can do whatever they want to encourage residents to vote provided they are outside of the posted markers for the distance area of the polling places. The Board cannot ask residents to vote yes or no and the district cannot use any funds to encourage voting one way or another. Flyers cannot be placed in teachers mailboxes for distribution to students. In response to Mr. Scarlatos question, the District Clerk would have the complete list of voters which is "FOIL"able. Mrs. Donahue also requested that the JHS Volley Ball team be progressed to the High School level. She suggested combining the JV golf team with the Varsity golf team to have one coach for both teams and transfer the funds from the other coach to begin a JV volleyball team.

Resident Susan Mahon said that she is not as discouraged about the budget as she is hearing others are discouraged. She said out of the last 16 years all of the budgets have passed and 12 of the 16 have passed by more than 60%. Mr. Cacciola noted that there has never been a property tax credit for not piercing the cap in all of those years. Mrs. Mahon added that the district will probably not get everyone out to vote. However, if everyone brought ten people out, it would have a big impact. In response to Mrs. Mahon's other question Mrs. Buscemi and Mr. Cacciola explained that there had been a clerical retirement and then desk audits done by civil service resulting in the title changes. The accountant title was a reclassification which includes the employee working more hours, and the accountant will assist in the closing of the books at the end of the year, eliminating the need for an outside source to do this work.

Resident Wendy DeGaetano said that she doesn't believe one group of kids should be pitted against another and remove one program in favor of another. She said if a program is to be added, add it, but don't take from one group of students to provide for another.

Resident Nancy Kenney said that the Board has had a very difficult year working on this budget. She said that when the PTAs first received the survey, all they saw were numbers they seemed to go for the lowest increase. However, now that they know the impact on programs, many people have changed their view about piercing the cap. She said there is a lot of positive out there, and asked that everyone not be discouraged.

Resident Eric Donahue made a request for a JV volleyball team and offered his suggestions for achieving the team.

**Superintendent's Report/Educational Presentation:**

**None**

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

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

Voting No: Trustee Bocca

The motion was **CARRIED**

**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:

Hicksville Union Free School District

**#BE-2**

**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the following Service Agreement to provide transition services to West Babylon School District resident students, with disabilities, during the 2014-2015 school year:

Abilities, Inc. at The Viscardi Center

**#BE-3**

**RESOLVED:** that the district will, once again, provide one (1) classroom and supportive services for use by the Western Suffolk BOCES Alternate Learning Center Program, for the period September 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. The rental fee will be \$3,000 and the supportive services fee will be \$13,000.

**#BE-4**

**RESOLVED:** that the Board President and the Superintendent of Schools are authorized to sign an Employment Agreement with the Accountant for the period April 17, 2014 through June 30, 2016.

**PERSONNEL**

#PE-1

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

- 13-P-19 Professional Personnel
- 13-C-19 Civil Service Personnel

**SCHEDULE 13-P-19 Professional Personnel Schedule**

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/ AREA	STEP/ SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	COMMENTS
Bellemare, Danielle	FACS Tchr.	HS		4/30/14 -	Family Medical Leave

**The following two (2) probationary English teachers are excessed effective 7/1/14:**

- Ludwig, Christina
- Carson, Jeffrey

**Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following professional personnel who have successfully completed their annual reviews are appointed to tenure as listed below:**

Carere, Jennifer	Assistant Principal			7/1/14	Tenure
Delaney, Christina	Elementary			9/1/14	Tenure

**A.C.T. Proctors:**

Goodwin, Deborah			\$22.30/hr.	4/12/14	4.5 hrs.
Dombo, Stephen					5 hrs.
Powers, Daniel					5 hrs.
Iaquinto, Christine					5.5 hrs.
Ruiz, Lawrence					5.5 hrs.
Amaya-Velasquez, Idalia					6 hrs.
Hickey, Susan					6 hrs.
McArdle, Patrick					6 hrs.
Schaffer, Donna					7.5 hrs.
Satriano, Paul					8 hrs.
Thomas Stephanie	ACT Coordinator				8 hrs.

**Alternative Evening High School:**

Cohen, Lauren	Social Studies (Global 10)		\$34.85/hr.	4/25/14 - 6/30/14	
Fulton, James	Independent Art				

**Student Teacher/Observer:**

Birkmire, Stephen	Social Studies	JH		Spring, 2014	
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**Per Diem Substitute Teachers:**

Galati, Olivia		DW	\$90./day	2013-2014	[cert: Physical Education]
Miller, Justina					[certs: ELA 7-12, SWD English 7-12]

**SCHEDULE 13-C-19 Civil Service Personnel Schedule**

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/ AREA	STEP/ SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	COMMENTS
Rodrigues, Irene	School Bus Driver	Trans.		4/30/14	Resignation to Retire

**SCHEDULE 13-C-19 Civil Service Personnel Schedule**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>SCHOOL/ AREA</b>	<b>STEP/ SALARY</b>	<b>BEG/END APPT.</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Nevola, Emily	Paraprofessional [clerk]	SA		6/30/14	Resignation to Retire
Kelleher, Utilia	Paraprofessional [hall monitor]	JH		4/7/14	Returned from LOA
Cali, Maria	Paraprofessional [hall monitor]	HS		4/24/14	Returned from LOA
Rappa, Rosaria	Paraprofessional [special ed. aide]	FA		4/24/14	Returned from LOA

**FINANCE**

**#FI-1  
RESOLVED:** that the school district budget for the 2014-2015 school year in the amount of **\$100,595,165.91** proposed by the West Babylon Board of Education, in accordance with Section 1716 of the Education Law, be hereby adopted, and that said budget be voted upon by the residents on May 20, 2014.

**#FI-2  
RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education approves Alliance Publishing and Marketing, Inc., as the sole source provider/vendor, for the Grades 2 through 5 student organizers adopted for use during the 2014-2015 school year.

**#FI-3  
RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program Resolution (A) to participate with Eastern Suffolk BOCES in cooperative bids, for the purchase of various supplies, materials and equipment for the 2014-2015 school year as provided by General Municipal Law Section 119-0.

**#FI-4  
RESOLVED:** that as recommended by Mrs. Jennifer Buscemi, Executive Director for Finance & Operations, Lindsay Music, Inc. be awarded the Vintage Tenor Saxophone which was listed as part of Bid OB-167-14, for obsolete equipment and books (declared obsolete at the February 25, 2014 Board of Education meeting).

**CURRICULUM**

**#CU-1  
RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education declares 41 books, located in the Junior High School library, obsolete. These books are damaged and beyond repair.

**BOCES**

**#BC-1  
RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education will cast one vote for each of the two vacancies on the Western Suffolk BOCES Board of Education:

One vote for: Mrs. Jeannette Santos

One vote for: Mr. Peter Wunsch

**#BC-2  
RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the Western Suffolk BOCES 2014-2015 Administrative and Capital Budget in the amount of **\$314,425**.

**POLICY:**

5280-Interscholastic Athletics (Third time Adoption)

Trustee Klein seconded by Trustee Villagran made a motion to adopt the policy.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

**COMMITTEES:**

**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Bocca said that he wanted the Board to reconsider the open lunch policy and allow students to go out for lunch. After discussion, the Board was told the policy will be brought to the Board at the second meeting in May and the Board can review it at that time. In response to Trustee Villagran's question, Mrs. Buscemi said that it was verified that there is enough time/staff for students to have lunch in school. Trustee Wandasiewicz expressed concern about keeping campus open for lunch. She added that the district is responsible for the students while school hours are in session. Mr. Scarlatos suggested that parents should also be listened to in making this decision.

Board President Diane Thiel noted that the Board has received the Superintendent's Evaluation Packet and requested that the completed forms be returned by the May 13 Board meeting.

**STATEMENTS OF RESIDENTS:**

Resident Liz Breiner suggested that the residents be made aware of what the GEA's effect is on the district. She read information she gathered. Mr. Cacciola thanked Ms. Breiner and said that the School Superintendent's Association has been fighting this for years. He said that the information could be placed on the district's website. Ms. Breiner said it is going to be her mission to educate the community. Trustee Thiel thanked Ms. Breiner for her work.

Resident Jenn Longo said that Governor Cuomo will be at Villa Lombardi's on Monday. Teachers are expected to be there to share their reaction to the GEA.

Resident Wendy DeGaetano commended the Board for taking the chance and piercing the cap. She added that the kids deserve this chance and the Board may be surprised. Ms. DeGaetano said on May 21, the district should start thinking about strategies for next year. She said that there needs to be a way. Trustee Campasano suggested that residents need to elect different legislators in November. Trustee Thiel said that Assemblyman Saladino has worked very hard for West Babylon and he can't do it alone. Another legislator who was a friend to West Babylon was Senator Owen Johnson.

Resident Dawn Conboy said that West Babylon is one of five districts in Suffolk County piercing the cap. She said someone has to make the tough decisions i.e. closing a school, or cutting. She asked about the results of the committee that was put together to make suggestions to the Board. Mr. Cacciola said that the committee did an excellent job. However, the district has to get through this budget process before making any changes.

Resident Susan Mahon said that as a teacher at Santapogue, she knows there were surveyors at her building for a full day. So, something is going on. Mrs. Buscemi said that the district is actively moving toward a lot of the recommended goals.

Trustee Scarlatos seconded by Trustee Bocca made a motion to adjourn at 9:42 p.m.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

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District Clerk