

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING-VIDEO CONFERENCE OF JUNE 10, 2020

**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 Wednesday, June 10, 2020 through Zoom.com-Meeting ID# 989 0492 6218.**

### **Board of Education Members present**

**Trustees:** Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, John Evola, Ray Downey, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, and Jennifer Wandasiewicz.

### **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 approx. 88 people who logged into the meeting.

## **1. OPENING OF MEETING & EXECUTIVE SESSION-5:36 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 interview Junior High School principal candidates.**

Motion by Peter Scarlatos, second by Jennifer Wandasiewicz.

### **Final Resolution: Motion Carried**

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, John Evola, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

## **2. PUBLIC SESSION-7:33 PM**

**Procedural: A. Statement of the Board and/or Superintendent**

**At this time, the following Statements were made:**

### **1. Board of Education Trustee Jennifer Wandasiewicz:**

"I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to my fellow Board members and to the community of West Babylon. I made a poor choice of words and posted a comment on my personal Facebook page that offended many people. It was a political statement and in no way meant to be racist in nature or content. I truly apologize from the bottom of my heart. I made a mistake by using a poor analogy. I support and respect all of our West Babylon students and staff and have proudly served the community for the past 8 years as a member of the Board of Education. The comment was in poor taste and I regret that it has hurt and offended people."

### **2. Board President Lucy Campasano:**

"This weekend, a member of our Board of Education posted an inappropriate and insensitive statement on their personal Facebook page. To say we were disheartened when we learned of the post is an understatement. While Dr. Farrelly always welcomes input, it is important for the community to understand the superintendency is distinct and separate from the Board of Education. As Superintendent of Schools, she has executive authority over the school system and the incredible responsibility for its effective functioning in accordance with Board of Education policies, state and federal laws and regulations. She has no legal authority to address trustee behavior. We recognize and celebrate our diverse student and community population. We also acknowledge that we are better and stronger when we work together. It is our job as your Board of Education to foster an environment where all students and their families feel safe, nurtured and respected. Thank you."

### **3. Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools:**

"Tonight, we gather together after what has been an extremely unsettling time in our country, region and our local community. I have heard from many residents over the last several days and have listened to the concerns noted, thoughtful feedback and opinions. While I always welcome input, it is important, as Mrs. Campasano indicated, for the community to understand my role in the district and how it is distinct and separate from our Board of Education. As Mrs. Campasano noted, as superintendent of schools, I have no legal authority to address a trustee from serving.

As your superintendent of our school district representing all of our students, all of our staff and faculty, I will certainly say, that as Mrs. Campasano indicated, any statement that reflects an insensitivity to what continues to occur throughout our country is upsetting and disheartening.

I am proud of the many discussions and programs we have implemented within our schools that promote inclusivity among all of our students - students of all backgrounds, ethnicities, colors, special needs and lifestyles. We are a West Babylon family. We will continue to work together and work as a team to do better and be better for our students and community...to be more sensitive to each other's needs. As your superintendent and as an educator, it is my job to ensure our staff and faculty adhere to our Board vision, mission and policies. And as your superintendent, and as a

parent, it is my job to promote an inclusive environment for all students, staff and faculty that is free from any insensitive statements.

We must all, as human beings, strive to be more compassionate, more humane, more sensitive and more cognizant of the power and impact of our words and actions. I am committed to the oath I took to serve as your superintendent of schools and will continue to examine and evaluate what we do within our school and what we teach within our schools. I value and welcome the input of our residents and look forward to moving forward again in our wonderful school district that we do have and that we continue to serve as a team. Thank you."

**Action: B. Approval of Minutes of previous Meeting(s): Regular Video Cnf. Meeting of 5/26/20  
Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Video Cnf. Meeting of 5/26/20**

Motion by John Evola, second by Peter Scarlatos

**Final Resolution: Motion Carried**

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, John Evola, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

**3. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND/OR EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION**

Dr. Farrelly said she had nothing to report at this time.

**4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**Motion to approve the consent agenda.**

Motion by Christopher Paolillo, second by John Evola.

**Final Resolution: Motion Carried**

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, John Evola, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

**5. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Action (Consent): A. Approval of 2020-2021 Literacy Nassau Instructional Services Service Agreement**

**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the service agreement, with Literacy Nassau's Instructional Services for Children to provide reading services, to West Babylon School District resident special education students, for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Action (Consent): B. Approval of of 2020-2021 Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, Inc. Budget & Slate of Officers and Executive Committee Members**

**WHEREAS,** Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association has submitted its proposed 2020-2021 Budget and proposed 2020-2021 Slate of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee, for the approval of its member boards, the West Babylon Board of Education authorizes the District Clerk to record the outcome of the votes and notify Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association of the results.

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association proposed Budget for the 2020-2021 school year (as accepted by N-SSBA's Executive Committee) be, and hereby is, approved.

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association proposed 2020-2021 Slate of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee (as presented by N-SSBA's Nominating Committee) be, and hereby is, approved.

**6. PERSONNEL - BOARD OF EDUCATION 19-A-5**

**Action (Consent): A. 2019-2020 Election Inspector**

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

<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION APPOINTMENT:</b>		<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>West Babylon UFSD</b>
<b>POSITION</b>	<b>SALARY</b>		
<b>VI. APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION INSPECTOR:</b>			
<b>Additional Election Inspector:</b>			
<b>Administration:</b>			
Parada, Jailin	\$13./hr.		

**7. PERSONNEL - PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL 19-P-18**

**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
Lewis	Jaclyn	Art Teacher	JH		First Semester, 2020-2021	Leave of Absence [last extension]

**Action (Consent): B. Resignation - JH/Elem.**

**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
Scheriff	Kristen	School Counselor	JH/Elem.		6/30/20	Resignation [effective 7/1/20]

**Action (Consent): C. 2019-2020 Senior High School Spring Sports - Prorated Stipends**

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

**The following stipends are adjusted according to amount of work completed prior to COVID-19 School Closure and/or During School Closure:**

Sport	Level	Position	School	Adjusted Amount (prorated at 5% of stipend amount)
Baseball	Varsity	Head	SHS	\$352.80
"	"	Asst.	SHS	\$289.30
"	JV	Head	SHS	\$282.30
"	"	Asst.	SHS	\$231.50
Golf	Varsity	Head	SHS	\$282.30
Lacrosse (B)	Varsity	Head	SHS	\$352.80
"	"	Asst.	SHS	\$282.30
"	JV	Head	SHS	\$282.30
"	"	Asst.	SHS	\$226.85
Lacrosse (G)	Varsity	Head	SHS	\$352.80
"	"	Asst.	SHS	\$282.30
"	JV	Head	SHS	\$282.30
"	"	Asst.	SHS	\$226.85
Softball	Varsity	Head	SHS	\$352.80
"	"	Asst.	SHS	\$289.30
Tennis	Varsity	Head	SHS	\$282.30
Track & Field (B)	Varsity	Head	SHS	\$352.80
"	"	Asst.	SHS	\$282.30
Track & Field (G)	Varsity	Head	SHS	\$352.80
"	"	Asst.	SHS	\$282.30

**The following stipend is adjusted according to the amount of work completed prior to COVID-19 School Closure and/or During School Closure:**

Position	Adjusted Amount (prorated at 75% of stipend amount)
Equipment Manager	\$6,347.

**8. PERSONNEL - CIVIL SERVICE PERSONNEL 19-C- N/A**

**9. FINANCE**

**Action (Consent): A. Levittown Public Schools Bid Awards**

**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the District to participate in Levittown Public Schools Cooperative Bid #LPS-19-004 School Bus, Vehicle and Garage Parts, Supplies and Equipment.

**Action (Consent): B. Approval of Budget Transfer**

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

Account Code	Account Description	From	To
A9060.8000	Health Insurance	25,000.00	
A9062.8000	Medicare Reimbursement		25,000.00

**Action (Consent): C. Approval of Treasurer's Reports - March and April 2020**

**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the Treasurer's Reports for March and April, 2020.

**Action (Consent): D. 2019-2020 Non Calendar Religious Holidays**

**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education designates the following dates as non-calendar religious holidays for the 2019-2020 school year:

9/10/19	Ashura	Islam
9/27/19	Meskel	Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
10/08/19	Dasara	Hindu
10/15/19	Sukkot	Jewish
10/28/19	Jain New Year	Jain
10/29/19	Reformation Day	Protestant Christian
11/01/19	All Saints Day	Christian
11/26/19	Day of the Covenant	Baha'i
12/06/19	St. Nicholas Day	Christian
12/16/19	Posadas Navidenas	Hispanic Christian
1/03/20	Vasant Panchami	Hindu
1/07/20	Feast of the Nativity	Orthodox Christian
1/10/20	Mahayana New Year	Buddhist
1/13/20	Maghi	Sikh
1/17/20	Blessing of the Animals	Hispanic Christian
1/28/20	Tu Bishavat	Jewish
2/05/20	Chinese New Year	Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist
3/03/20	Hindi New Year	Hindu
3/09/20	Magha Puja Day	Buddhist
3/10/20	Hola Mohalla	Sikh

**Action (Consent): E. Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve Fund**

**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education authorizes an appropriation and transfer of funds in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00, from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve Fund, to be used for the cash payment of the monetary value of accumulated or accrued and unused sick leave and/or vacation leave due to employees who retire from the District during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. This reserve was previously authorized in accordance with New York General Municipal Law Section 6-p; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education authorizes these funds to be added to the current 2019-2020 Budget by increasing the appropriation to the A2020.1661 (Non-Instructional Vacation/Sick Pay) in the amount of \$230,000.00 and A2110.1560 (Instructional Retiree Sick Pay) in the amount of \$270,000.00 for a total not to exceed \$500,000.00 from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Fund.

**Action (Consent): F. Acceptance of Athletic Donation**

**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education gratefully accepts a donation from the West Babylon Eagles Booster Club in the amount of \$471.00 for the purchase of jerseys. This donation will be placed in the Athletic Trust and Agency account.

**Information: G. Schedule of Bills - May 20, 2020****10. CURRICULUM N/A****11. FACILITIES N/A****12. POLICY REVIEW N/A****13. OLD BUSINESS****Discussion: A. Discussion: Update - Alternate 2020 Graduation Plans: Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools****GRADUATION:**

Relating to the Governor's current executive order allowing gatherings of up to 150 people, Dr. Farrelly shared we would like to hold elementary moving up ceremonies at the end of June. We would adhere to social distancing, gathering capacity numbers at the end of June and the location would be outdoors on the field.

Regarding 8th and 12th Grade Graduations - Dr. Farrelly, the SHS administrators and Mr. Rogovitz met with 12th grade reps again. Student preference is to now hold off on any type of graduation in June. Planning an in-person graduation ceremony for the end of July was discussed. It is hoped the entire graduating class would be graduating together, as originally planned, with 2 guests per graduate. If not, we would host several in-person graduation ceremonies - outside - in accordance with the NYS gathering mandates at the time. Some colleges are moving their start dates to early August because they plan on ending the semester earlier before flu and other viruses hike up in the winter. As a result, we would coordinate our 8th and 12th grade graduations for the last week of the July. The Board was in agreement with

these plans for 5th, 8th and 12th graders. Also, at this point, the Overlook Beach option will be canceled. A letter to parents/guardians will be prepared to clearly outline graduation plans. Discussion was held regarding graduating students who are entering into the military and may not be available to participate in graduation ceremonies if held in July. Dr. Farrelly said she would look into their dates and try to adjust accordingly.

#### **UPDATES-End of Year Topics:**

Updates regarding other important end of year topics will be provided by the building administration team to families. Dr. Farrelly thanked all who contributed to the graduate signs and end of year celebrations/acknowledgements for our students. She thanked the WBTA and the community groups who contributed to the student scholarships.

#### **Discussion: B. Discussion: 2020-2021 Budget Vote & Trustee Election Update: Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools**

As per the Governor's executive order, the counting of the absentee ballots for the district budget and trustee election will take place on Tuesday, June 16th at 5:00 PM. If there are any questions, please contact the District Clerk, Mrs. Psarakis and/or Dr. Farrelly. Discussion was held as to why the date was changed from June 9th to June 16th. Mr. Morrell, school attorney, said no specific reason was given by the Governor, but it is known that several school districts (not West Babylon) were having difficulty complying with the June 9th deadline. Mr. Morrell also said if the budget is defeated, a revote can be scheduled some time after July 9th. The specific date will be determined in the future.

#### **Discussion: C. Discussion: Selection of BOE Meeting Date for Acceptance of Tabulation of Votes for 20-21 Budget Vote & Trustee Election: Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools**

Due to the date change of the absentee ballot counting date from June 9th to June 16th, we need to schedule a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, June 17th, at 7:00 PM, to accept the Tabulation of Votes. The Board was in agreement to schedule the meeting on June 17th.

#### **Discussion: D. Discussion: Primary Elections-June 23, 2020-West Babylon School District as a Polling Site-JFK, SA, JHS, SHS: Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools**

Since the West Babylon School District is a polling place, the District Clerk was notified that the Primary Election scheduled to take place on June 23, 2020 will be held in the following schools: JFK Elementary, Santapogue School, the Junior High School, and the Senior High School - Gym A.

#### **Discussion: E. Discussion: Replacement trees in front of Santapogue School-Trustee Christopher Paolillo**

Trustee Paolillo raised the issue regarding replenishing of trees, in front of Santapogue School, which were removed. This issue was discussed at the August 27, 2019 Board meeting and was revisited in March. Discussion took place as to whether the decision could be left up to the Santapogue School students. Students could create designs, possibly select types of trees, and be directly involved. The Board was in agreement for Dr. Farrelly to reach out to the Santapogue principal, Jen Carere, to have students engage in this.

#### **Action (Consent): A. Approval of Santapogue School Students to Select Replacement Trees to be Planted on School Grounds**

#### **Motion to approve Santapogue School students to select replacement trees to be planted on school grounds**

Motion by Jennifer Wandasiewicz, second by Peter Scarlatos.

#### **Final Resolution: Motion Carried**

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, John Evola, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

### **14. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Discussion: A. Discussion: Policy 1500-Public Use of Facilities: Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools**

The district is awaiting formal guidance on requirements for school opening. Dr. Farrelly would like to suggest the district suspend or put on hold issuing contracts for use of facilities/grounds until general opening of school requirements are known. Groups can submit applications for Spring use and the applications will be kept "on hold" to see what the future brings. The Board was in agreement with this.

#### **Discussion: B. Summer Food Service Program - Mrs. Jeannette Frabizio, School Lunch Manager; Mrs. Michele Psarakis, CPA, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations**

Mrs. Frabizio presented information relating to the summer food service program. An application is required to be submitted by June 15th. Discussion was held regarding proceeding with the Summer Food Service Program throughout the summer months. The Board was in agreement to continue the program.

### **15. RESIDENTS STATEMENTS**

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

Mrs. Margaret Barrett, PTA Council President, submitted the following statement:

"On behalf of PTA Council - As we are all affected by the turbulence of the past two weeks in the aftermath of George Floyd's killing, our PTAs stand firmly in solidarity with our families of color. Our presidents have shared resources with our members to offer guidance for parents to help children understand these recent events, and to assist in conversations about race and racism, and diversity and inclusion. Although our membership has always been open to anyone who supports our mission, at our council meeting last week, we established a Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and we commit to an earnest effort to ensure that our boards and membership are representative of our community.

Some of the actions we are taking include making certain our planning committees are reflective of our population, reviewing the resources in our books fairs to include diverse and inclusive materials, and bringing in cultural arts programs to further this conversation. We recognize that by bringing together our diverse experiences, we can work as one to make every child's potential a reality."

Several community members submitted questions/statements through the Zoom chat feature on various topics including: JFK drive through on Tuesday and moving up ceremony; 8th grade graduation issue; unprofessional actions of Board trustee; and a statement of support for the Board trustee. Dr. Farrelly shared the JFK drive is scheduled to take place on Tuesday. The 5th grade moving up ceremonies, of all elementary buildings, will be scheduled to take place at the end of June-within the capacity allowed at that time. Details relating to the 8th grade graduation were discussed earlier noting the end of July is when it would occur. Relating to the actions of the Board trustee - statements were made at the beginning of the Board meeting. Ms. Carla Vieira, West Babylon resident, provided supportive comments regarding Board Trustee Jennifer Wandasiewicz. Ms. Vieira has known Trustee Wandasiewicz for the last 10 years and described her as a kind-hearted, giving person always with a positive attitude who has stood by community members in their time of need.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:26 PM**

Motion by Jennifer Wandasiewicz, second by John Evola.

**Final Resolution: Motion Carried**

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, John Evola, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Clerk