

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2025**

*****The March 25, 2025 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 March 25, 2025 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, John Evola, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, 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. Victoria Galante, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Mr. Christopher Venator, Esq. School Attorney and Jailin Parada, District Clerk. Trustees Downey and Tymann Johnson were absent.

1. OPENING OF MEETING & EXECUTIVE SESSION- 5:00 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 discuss Individual Contract Negotiations, Heads & Chiefs Contract Negotiations.

Motion by Cathy Gismervik, second by Patti Neville.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Chris Paolillo, John Evola, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, Patti Neville, Anthony Raccomandato, Stephan Maucere

2. PUBLIC SESSION-7:00 PM

Action: A. Approval of Minutes of previous Meeting(s): Regular BOE Meeting of 3/11/25.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of 3/11/25.

Motion by Cathy Gismervik, second by Patti Neville.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Chris Paolillo, John Evola, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, Patti Neville, Anthony Raccomandato, Stephan Maucere

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

Dr. Farrelly expressed his gratitude to the community for their attendance. She initiated her report by extending congratulations to a number of award recipients. She began by extending her congratulations to all those who had been awarded prizes on the occasion of Founder's Day. She also expressed her gratitude to the PTAs for their role in hosting the event.

The previous evening, members of the BOE and Dr. Farrelly convened with representatives from the Nassau and Suffolk school districts to honor Mr. Rogovitz, Mr. Venator, and Mr. Hassell with SCOPE awards. Representing the school district, she expressed gratitude to all those present for their support.

Dr. Farrelly extended congratulations to the art national honor society inductees, who were recently honored in a ceremonial event. She ended by wishing our school lawyer, Mr. Venator, a happy birthday.

During the most recent BOE meeting, it was brought to our attention by a member of the community that the totals for budget lines presented in the program component were not aligned with the totals noted in the presentation. A subsequent review by Mrs. Galante and Dr. Farrelly revealed that the supporting budget lines screenshots had been obtained from two distinct time periods. The erroneous screenshots were consequently rectified, and the corrected versions were published on the website and sent to the community member who pointed out the error. We extend our gratitude once more to all involved.

Attendance Zone Update:

Dr. Farrelly offered the following updates:

- The district is collaborating closely with external consultants to finalize attendance zones. Mr. Hanley and Mr. Payne are conducting meticulous reviews of the projected zones and students in the zones with the following goals in mind:
 - The primary objective is to minimize alterations to the student distribution by preserving the Santapogue walkers at Santapogue and the South Bay students at South Bay.
 - Additionally, the objective is to consolidate an additional section or two, a measure that would enable the reinstatement of generalist teachers for a gifted and talented program without incurring any budgetary implications.

The district continues to express optimism regarding the attainment of several objectives within the subsequent fortnight, thereby enabling the dissemination of the final school attendance zone designations to the relevant families.

UPK Update:

In a subsequent development, Mr. Payne, who had previously provided an update on the Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) program during the previous BOE meeting, convened with the third UPK local provider. The provider indicated that, due to certain limitations, they are no longer able to accommodate any of the UPK sections at their facility, as had been previously communicated. However, they have indicated their willingness to host our UPK program at their facility on Forest Avenue..

Timeline for UPK

Applications must be completed and submitted by 4:00pm on Friday April 11, 2025
Lottery will take place at 10:00 am on Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Procedural: C. Statement of West Babylon Teachers Association Representatives
None

Procedural: D. Statement of School Administrators Association Representatives
None

Procedural: E. Statement of C.S.E.A. Representatives
None

Procedural: F. Statement of Student Association Representatives
None

Procedural: G. Statement of PTA Council Representatives
None

3. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND/OR EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

Information: A. 2025-2026 Budget Timeline Information: Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Farrelly shared the information below regarding the school district budget vote:

2025-2026 BOCES Budget Vote and BOCES Board Trustees Election:

April 22, 2025 -- 7:00 PM -- Administration Building

2025-2026 West Babylon School District Budget Budget Hearing:

May 13, 2025 -- 6:00 PM -- Administration Building

District Budget Vote and Trustees Election:

May 20, 2025 -- 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM -- Administration Building & Santapogue School

Information regarding the voting procedure is available at the rear of the room. Should further clarification be required, please direct your inquiries to the District Clerk, Jailin Parada.

Presentation: B. Presentation: "Empowering Students through the World of Art" Ms. Alfano, Art K-12 Chairperson, JHS Students & Dr. Carlos Falcon, JHS Principal

Mrs. Alfano, the Art Chairperson, presented the Board with a selection of artworks created by students from the JHS. The presentation is available for viewing on the school website, BOE Meeting Presentations [BOE Presentations](#)

Recognition: C. Award Presentation - "Soar like an Eagle" Award, Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly & Mr. Michael Logiudice, Director of Facilities

Michael Logiudice, the Director of Facilities, presented Michael McNamara with the "Soar Like an Eagle" Award in recognition of his invaluable contributions to the district.

Presentation: D. Presentation: Internal Audit Report Food Service Cycle and Risk Assessment Presentation, Ms. Lauren Agunzo and Mr. Michael Reinhart, Nawrocki Smith

Dr. Farrelly introduced Mrs. Agunzo and Mr. Reinhart. They presented the audit report of the food service cycle and risk assessment for June 2024.

Presentation: E. Presentation: 2025-2026 Budget Presentation #3 -Full Revenue and Expenditure, Mrs. Victoria Galante, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

In her capacity as Interim Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, Mrs. Victoria Galante presented the Board with her third budget presentation. During this presentation, she discussed the following topics:

- 2025-2026 Appropriation Budget
- Tax Levy
- 2025-2026 Revenue
- Consolidation
- Reserves
- What is included in the 25-26 budget

The presentation is available for viewing on our school website, under 2025-2026 Budget Information www.wbschools.org

4. STATEMENT OF RESIDENTS - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

A resident expressed his discontent regarding the closure of Forest. He also expressed his discontent regarding the district's decision to rescind the observance of Patriots Day (September 11) as a recognized holiday.

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 Cathy Gismervik, second by Patti Neville.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Chris Paolillo, John Evola, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, Patti Neville, Anthony Raccomandato, Stephan Maucere

6. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action (Consent): A. Acceptance of Board of Education Trustee Resignation

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education accepts the resignation of Trustee Ray Downey, effective immediately.

Action (Consent): B. Approval of Gym Usage Agreement with Elite Gymnastics Center for the JHS Gymnastics Team

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the agreement between the Elite Gymnastics Center, Inc., for the exclusive use of their gym facilities for the Spring Season, at a cost of \$3000 for the West Babylon Middle School gymnastic teams' practices. This agreement shall be in effect from March 24, 2025 through June 7, 2025.

Action (Consent): C. Authorization for Board President and Superintendent of Schools to Sign Employment Agreement- J. Chiappone, Secretary to the Superintendent

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education authorizes the Board President and the Superintendent of Schools to sign an Employment Agreement, with Mrs. Jane Chiappone, Secretary to the Superintendent, for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028.

Action (Consent): D. Authorization for Board President and Superintendent of Schools to sign Employment Agreement- R. Panariello

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education authorizes the Board President and the Superintendent of Schools to sign an Employment Agreement, with Mr. Robert Panariello, Interim Director of PE, Health & Athletics, for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Action (Consent): E. Authorization for Board President to sign the Superintendent of Schools Contract Extension Addendum

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education hereby authorizes and approves the execution of a First Amendment to the Employment Contract with Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly.

7. PERSONNEL - BOARD OF EDUCATION 23-A-10

None

8. PERSONNEL - PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL 23-P-16

Action (Consent): A. Spring Coaching, 2024-2025

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

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/AREA	STEP/SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	COMMENTS
Gordan	Pamela	JV Assistant	Lacrosse (G)	\$4,960.	Spring, 2024-2025	Pending Certs.

Action (Consent): B. Fall Coaching, 2025-2026

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

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/AREA	STEP/SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	COMMENTS
Coaches:					Fall, 2025-2026	Pending Certs.
Patrovich	Joseph	Varsity Head	Football	\$8,535.		
Gorman	Dennis	Varsity Assistant	Football	\$6,979.		
Tilton	Tom	Varsity Assistant	Football	\$6,979.		

Action (Consent): C. Winter Coaching, 2024-2025 Stipend Adjustments

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
Coaches:					Winter, 2024-2025	Stipend Adjustments
Armato	Philip	Varsity Head	Winter Track (G)	\$3,762.50		[shared track & field stipend]
Schlott	Darcie	Varsity Head	Winter Track (G)	\$3,762.50		"
Siefert	Lindsay	Varsity Asst.	Winter Track (G)	\$6,021.		[track and field Varsity Asst. stipend]

Action (Consent): D. 2024-2025 ELA/Math Lab -Title I Grant Funded - JH

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the following teachers to complete additional ELA/Math Lab support to Title I students at the JHS.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/AREA	STEP/SALARY	BEG/END APPT	DESCRIPTION/COMMENTS
2024-25 ELA/Math Lab			JH	\$64.27/hr.	Remainder of the 2024-25 school year	Title I Grant
Cammarano	Bradley					Up to 20 hrs.
Dell'Isola	Robert					"
Heaton	Elise					"
Kalberer	Kelly					"
Karatnytsky	Julia					"
Lulkin	Tara					"
Mattson	Alexandra					"
Takseraas	Robert					"
Cafarelli	Susanna					"
Dominguez	Dania					"

Squires	Joan	Food Service Worker 'B'	HS		1/16/25-6/30/25	Leave of Absence [pending medical documentation]
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Action (Consent): B. Resignation - HS

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
Mendolia	Vincent	Custodial Worker I	HS		3/25/25	Resignation [eff. 3/26/25]

Action (Consent): C. Retirement - HS

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
Niven	Gelsomina	Office Assistant	HS		6/27/25	Resignation to Retire [eff. 6/30/25]

Action (Consent): D. Reclassification Date Correction - BO

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

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	STEP/SALARY	SCHOOL/AREA	BEG/END APPT.	DESCRIPTION/COMMENTS
DiCiero	Maria	Senior Account Clerk	Step 4/ \$55,191. (prorate)	BO	2/14/25	Reclassification Date Correction per CS [from Account Clerk]

Action (Consent): E. Probationary Appointment - DW

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

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	STEP/SALARY	SCHOOL/AREA	BEG/END APPT.	DESCRIPTION/COMMENTS
DiCiero	Maria	Senior Account Clerk	Step 4/ \$55,191. (prorate)	BO	2/14/25	Reclassification Date Correction per CS [from Account Clerk]

10. FINANCE

Action (Consent): A. Donation of Books for Autism Awareness & Neurodiversity Section

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education gratefully accepts the donation of 50 books, valued at \$677.62, to support the establishment of an autism awareness and neurodiversity section at South Bay's Library from the Armato family and their friends.

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

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education gratefully accpets a Loyalty Award of \$600 in Debit Cards from the U.S. Census Bureau, Institute of Education Sciences for the School Pulse Panel.

Action (Consent): C. Donation Resolution - Shutterfly (Lifetouch Photography)

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education gratefully accepts the donation of \$1000 from Shutterfly (Lifetouch Photography).

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

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education gratefully accepts a donation of \$33.80 from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc.

Action (Consent): E. Acceptance of Donation - Tooker Avenue PTA

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education gratefully accepts the donation, from the Tooker Avenue PTA of (10) 6' folding tables to be used for PTA events.

Action (Consent): F. Approval of 2025-2026 Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education approves a resolution to participate with Eastern Suffolk BOCES in cooperative bids for the purchase of various supplies, materials and equipment for the 2025-2026 school year as provided by General Municipal Law Section 119-o and Education Law Section 1950; and

WHEREAS, various educational and municipal corporations located within the State of New York desire to bid jointly for generally needed services and standardized supply and equipment items; and

WHEREAS, the West Babylon UFSD, an educational/municipal corporation (hereinafter the "Participant") is desirous of selectively participating with other educational and/or municipal corporations in the State of New York in joint bidding in the areas mentioned above pursuant to General Municipal Law § 119-o and Education Law Section 1950; and

WHEREAS, the Participant is a municipality within the meaning of General Municipal Law § 119-n and is eligible to participate in the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, First Supervisory District of Suffolk County (hereinafter "Eastern Suffolk BOCES") Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program (hereinafter the "Program") in the areas mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges receipt of the Program description inclusive of Eastern Suffolk BOCES standard bid packet and the general conditions relating to said Program; and

WHEREAS, with respect to all activities conducted by the Program, the Participant wishes to delegate to Eastern Suffolk BOCES the responsibility for drafting of bid specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, awarding the bids, and reporting the results to the Participant.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Participant hereby appoints Eastern Suffolk BOCES to represent it and to act as the lead agent in all matters related to the Program as described above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Participant hereby authorizes Eastern Suffolk BOCES to place all legal advertisements for any required cooperative bidding in *Newsday* which is designated as the official newspaper for the Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Participant Meeting shall be held annually consisting of a representative from each Program Participant. Notice of the meeting shall be given to each representative at least five (5) days prior to such meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an Advisory Committee will be formed consisting of five to ten representatives of Program Participants for a term of three (3) years as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Agreement with the Participant shall be for a term of one (1) year as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant agrees to pay Eastern Suffolk BOCES an annual fee as determined annually by Eastern Suffolk BOCES to act as the lead agent for the Program.

Action (Consent): G. Western Suffolk Boces RFP 22/23-04 P-E51 LH Tutorial and Special Education Services

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education approves a resolution to participate with various educational and municipal corporations located within the State of New York in joint bidding of RFP #22/23-04 P-E51 LH for Tutorial and Special Education Services for students, Western Suffolk BOCES and Component School Districts. The Bid was opened on March 30, 2022; Original Term of Contract: July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 and is hereby extended through June 30, 2024; Second Extension of Contract: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; Third Extension of Contract: July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Information: H. Schedule of Bills - March 13, 2025 Accounts Payable Check Run

Action (Consent): I. Approval of 2024-2025 Garden City Union Free School District Health Services Agreement

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the Health Services Agreement with Garden City UFSD, to provide health services to West Babylon School District resident students, during the 2024-2025 school year.

Action (Consent): J. Approval of 2024-2025 Commack Union Free School District Health Services Agreement

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the Health Services Agreement with Commack UFSD, to provide health services to West Babylon School District resident students, during the 2024-2025 school year.

Action (Consent): K. Approval of Budget Transfer

Account Code	Account Description	From	To
A9060.8000	Health Insurance	50,000.00	
A9064.8000	Insurance Opt Out		50,000.00
	As per WBTA Memorandum of Agreement		

Action (Consent): L. Approval of Treasurer's Report - February 2025

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the Treasurer's Report for the month of February, 2025.

Action (Consent): M. Varsity Boys Lacrosse Videotaping Spring 2025

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education approves payment of \$1,920 to Varsity Media who will videotape 16 varsity boys lacrosse games. Varsity Media will also upload all games to the West Babylon HUDL account. Varsity Media will invoice twice a month after games are completed.

Action (Consent): N. Approval of Budget Transfer

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

Account Code	Account Description	From	To
A 1380.4000	Fiscal Agent Fee	8,200.00	
A 1010.4490	Board of Education Professional Services		8,200.00
	Expenses Related to 2025-2026 Budget Vote		

11. CURRICULUM

Action (Consent): A. Obsolete Library Books - SHS

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education declares the attached list of 1,056 books, located in the Senior High School Library, obsolete. The content is outdated, certain books are worn and others have been replaced with updated editions.

Action (Consent): B. Acceptance of Donation - JHS

RESOLVED: that the West Babylon Board of Education accepts the following donation, to the West Babylon Junior High School, from the West Babylon Junior High PTA:

- Little Library from Scholastic, Inc.

12. FACILITIES

None

13. POLICY REVIEW

Action: A. First Time Reading: Policy 1915 Display of the Flag

Motion to waive First Time Reading and Adopt Policy 1915 as Revised

Motion by Cathy Gismervik, second by Stephan Maucere.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Chris Paolillo, John Evola, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, Patti Neville, Anthony Raccomandato, Stephan Maucere

**Action: B. Consolidate Policy 4311.1R Display of the Flag - Regulation into Revised Policy 1915 Display of the Flag
Motion to consolidate Policy 4311.1-R into revised Policy 1915**

Motion by John Evola, second by Patti Neville.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Chris Paolillo, John Evola, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, Patti Neville, Anthony Raccomandato, Stephan Maucere

**Action: C. First Time Reading: Policy 2300 Board of Education Membership
Motion to waive First Time Reading and Adopt Policy 2300 as Revised**

Motion by Stephan Maucere, second by Cathy Gismervik.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Chris Paolillo, John Evola, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, Patti Neville, Anthony Raccomandato, Stephan Maucere

**Action: D. First Time Reading: Policy 9550 Expression of Breast Milk in the Work Place
Motion to waive First Time Reading and Adopt Policy 9550 as Revised**

Motion by Cathy Gismervik, second by Patti Neville.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Chris Paolillo, John Evola, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, Patti Neville, Anthony Raccomandato, Stephan Maucere

14. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion: A. (N/A)

15. NEW BUSINESS

Board President Mr. Paolillo addressed the situation regarding Trustee Downey's resignation. He expressed his best wishes to Mr. Downey. Mr. Venator, Esq., the school's attorney, provided guidance to the board on the subsequent steps to be taken in the aftermath of Mr. Downey's resignation as board member.

Trustee Maucere suggested that the district should consider consolidating board member positions in the future.

16. RESIDENTS STATEMENTS

Procedural: A. Statements of Residents

No Statement from residents.

*** The March 25, 2025 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.**

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:59pm.

Motion by Roseann Geiger, second by Anthony Raccomandato.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Chris Paolillo, John Evola, Roseann Geiger, Cathy Gismervik, Patti Neville, Anthony Raccomandato, Stephan Maucere