

## MINUTES

**Date of Meeting:** April 2, 2014

**Type of Meeting:** Special Meeting - Work Session

**Place of Meeting:** Long Beach Middle School Auditorium

**Members Present:** President Patrick E. Gallagher  
Vice President Dennis Ryan  
Board Member Darlene Tangney  
Board Member Stewart Mininsky  
Board Member Roy Lester

**Others Present:** Mr. David Weiss, Superintendent  
Dr. Kenneth Graham, Assistant Superintendent –  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Michael DeVito, Chief Operating Officer  
Ms. Carole Butler, District Clerk

**I. Call to Order/Pledge-Board President**

Call to Order/Pledge

President Gallagher called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM and led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Report of the Superintendent**

Report of the  
Superintendent

- Presenting a recap, final presentation to the BOE; 3 year budget plan; includes changes in state aid; additional presentations will be made at PTA meetings, locally; core mission is education of children; prepare children for adult lives.

**Presentation – Long Beach Public Schools Superintendent’s 2014-2015 Draft Budget – Presenters: Superintendent David Weiss; COO Michael DeVito**

Highlights include: Budget and Tax Levy Goals, Elementary, MS and HS Budgets, 1<sup>st</sup> Draft Summary, General Support Budget, Benefit and Debt Service Codes, Bond Debt Service, Impact of Debt Service on Tax Levy, Ran Interest, Budget History, Recent Budget Reductions, Additional Budget Reductions, Elementary and Secondary Programs, Revenue Projections, Multi-Year Financial Projections, History of State Aid, Other Revenue, Tax Cap, Shift in Tax Burden to Class 1, Budget Prep Timeline. Presentation is posted on line and in the office of the District Clerk.

President Gallagher noted that the next meeting may be at the HS. (Did not happen)

### III. Board Discussion of Work Session Topics

- President Gallagher noted that the next meeting may be at the HS. (Did not happen); reminded attendees about public speaking policy.

### IV. Questions and Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only

<b>Questions and Comments from Public</b>
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- Eddie Vrona – 7 Oswego Ave – EAB – looking at rollover budget and now asking for cuts 6 days before budget adoption creates an issue of transparency; last year one month was given to review budget; asked whether state aid was higher; supports cutting FLES and health; suggested BOE cut monies from Gifted and Talents programs for more equity among students; increase in food prices too large for portion size; disagrees with REACH cuts.
- Steve Freeman – CTA President – reiterated his position that the district has more money; questioned location of unassigned fund balances; asked about uncollected monies from other districts; where will collected monies go.
- Matthew Adler – 410 E. Broadway – agreed with EV about timetable; does not agree with REACH cutting; asked about building aid; does budget include potential gains in stock market; effect of Superblock; HALB sale; noted positive trend in past 3 years in state aid.
- Maureen Vrona – 7 Oswego Ave – cannot fight cuts since we need to trim budget; restructuring could have saved money but the BOE chose not to do so; asked when decision on administration building will be (4-8-14); options are unclear; advocating for cheapest option of separate building.
- Joanne Rea – 90 Connecticut Ave – Group C – reiterated her stance on the importance of bus matrons on the Pre-K buses; cost is only about \$66,000; asked about salvaging damaged vehicles from Hurricane Sandy; department heads having cars; and new routing system.
- Karen Bloom – 8 Doyle St – thanks for keeping almost everything; supports AP/SUPA classes over IB for costs to parents; REACH should not be cut; asked about changes to Guidance; commented on ELL, class size, and Pre-K matrons.
- Carol Henck – 135 Harding Ave – voiced concerns about decrease in REACH position due to increased needs in mental health.
- Brett Ocampo – 160 Riverside Blvd – asked about construction, bid process; suggested more comprehensive bids in the future to decrease change orders; questioned remaining balance on RAN monies.

### Questions and Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only (continued)

- Julie Sims – 26 W. Broadway – voiced concerns about loss of ½ VP position after already losing Director of Guidance; noted little community input on decision for administration; assumed different guidelines than for students; ideal would be all administrators together but restraints are a factor.
- Barbara Vahey – CSEA and MS Secretary – asked about the \$250 cut to food service (increase cost of food)

### V. Board of Education Comments

- Board Member Mininsky commented that the Superintendent was asked to cut \$500,000 - \$1,000,000; thanked them for doing so. Need time to digest information; differential of matron costs (\$63K + 21% benefits).
- Board Member Tangney commented that elimination of HS Guidance Director was bad decision; wants it restored; not in favor of cutting bus matrons; concerns about reducing REACH contract.
- Board Member Lester supports increase in food prices for those who pay; we continue to accrue expenses without additional revenue sources; people protest every time a cut is suggested; 52 other counties do not have bus matrons; never had a debtor save too much money; cuts will always hurt somebody; do not want to impact programs but we do not have unlimited funds; money has to come from somewhere; we can't keep raising taxes.
- Vice President Ryan noted that only 3 of the proposed cuts were his; most cuts are benign; concerned with matrons, HS staff can absorb REACH contract; deferring to others regarding ELL and FLES but reassured no major cuts; prefers combining 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams, elimination of MS summer school and CPSE chairperson; MYP administrator should be absorbed into current administrative positions; IB must understand tax cap – look at restructuring; thanked Mr. DeVito for his patience; 2 years ago when Guidance and Special Ed were cut did not support decisions; need FT Guidance Director (agree with Mrs. Tangney). Position is vital.
- President Gallagher thanked administrators for presentation; does not support making any program cuts at this time; recommend next year to follow FAC with monthly reports; bus matrons should remain for now; REACH should stay; must discuss cuts with community beforehand. Must make systematic changes – where is the money coming from?
- Board Member Lester does not understand negativity of combining teams with 15-18 on each baseball team; 4 & 5 grade chess club.
- Vice President Ryan asserted that clubs need to be more substantial; science research vs. fluff; clubs should feed into MS and HS academic success. Encouraged \$50K in cuts to extracurriculars.

**VI. President Gallagher Called for Announcements**

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers' Association – Steve Freeman –CTA  
President – does not support making changes now; average club costs \$1,700 per year; clubs are for fun not fluff and kids need them.
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group – None
3. LBPS Group C Employees Association – Joanne Rea thanked the BOE for reconsidering elimination of bus matrons; Transportation Supervisor and Safety Officer have cars
4. Parent/Teacher Association – No Comment
5. Student Organization – No Comment

President Gallagher announced that he will not be running again for the position of School Board Trustee after serving for 12 years.

**Adjournment**

**VII. President Gallagher called for a motion to adjourn at 10:48 PM.**

**Motion by:** Board Member Mininsky  
**Seconded by:** Board Member Tangney  
**Approved:** 5-0

Minutes submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Carole Butler, District Clerk  
May 13, 2014