

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: February 25, 2020

Type of Meeting: Executive Session

Place of Meeting: Administration Building Conference Room

Members Present: President Maureen Vrona, Esq.
Vice President Tina Posterli
Board Member Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.
Board Member Anne Conway arrived late

Members Absent: Board Member Sam Pinto

Others Present: Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Paul Romanelli, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. For Personnel & Administration
Mr. Michael DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance & Operations
Ms. Amy Dirolf, West School Principal
Ms. Karen Sauter, Lindell School Principal
Ms. Kathleen Connolly, East School Principal
Dr. Ivelisse Hernandez, Lido School Principal
Dr. Lorraine Radice, Director, Literacy Pre-K - 12
Ms. Julia Lang-Shapiro, Dir., Media, Visual & Performing Arts
Dr. Patrick Kiley-Rendon, Director, Instructional Technology
Mr. Joseph Lilly, Atty., Frazer & Feldman, LLP arrived at 6 PM

President Vrona called for a motion to go into executive session at 5:01 PM to discuss district pending legal and personnel matters.

Motion to Go Into Executive Session

Motion by: Board Member Ryan
Seconded by: Vice President Posterli
Approved: 4-0

President Vrona called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:52 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by: Vice President Posterli
Seconded by: Board Member Conway
Approved: 4-0

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: February 25, 2020

Type of Meeting: Work Session

Place of Meeting: Lido Elementary School Multipurpose Room B

Members Present: President Maureen Vrona, Esq.
Vice President Tina Posterli
Board Member Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.
Board Member Anne Conway

Members Absent: Board Member Sam Pinto

Others Present: Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Paul Romanelli, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Michael DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance & Operations
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. For Personnel & Administration
Mr. Joseph Lilly, Attorney, Frazer & Feldman
Ms. Carole Butler, District Clerk
Members of the Public

Pledge/
Opening Remarks

I. Pledge of Allegiance/Call to Order/Opening Remarks

President Vrona opened the meeting at 7:00 PM, led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance and discussed the Newsday article about the MS testing scores. Board Member Conway noted that the hockey team won the counties and were to state and thanked the coaches, praised the wrestling students, Black History Month at the MS. MS students spoke to City Council about MLK plaque on boardwalk.

Superintendent's Report

II. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Gallagher

- *Presentation –2020-2021 Budget Preparation –Elementary Program– Michael DeVito*

Highlights include: Budgets for Curriculum, Teaching, Programs, Library, Computers, and Social Work

This presentation can be located on the district website or in the office of the District Clerk.

BOE Comments

III. President Vrona called for Board of Education Comments

- Board Member Ryan asked about the permanency of the mindfulness position or if it was going to be taken over by teachers (grant funded by special ed – at least one

more year is anticipated); questioned PE 15 minutes since there is a push for literacy and academics – ½ hour loss of reading/math instruction (students more productive); Columbia \$100k are there hidden/soft costs (six 90 minute training sessions which are manageable to cover; training in classrooms); Dr. Ryan appreciative of candor at BOE meeting with principals; praised current model; aren't we already using Columbia methods for literacy libraries and writing (elements are based on philosophy, strong coaches research based program updating standards, developing lifelong skills, best program); will we do even better; concerned with lead teacher idea; overall budget increase 4%; priority decisions – Columbia or AVID; what is ideal certification for STEM teachers (elementary with STEM background); furniture at Lindell library (yes); just because we have money does not mean we have to spend it.

- President Vrona commended Mr. DeVito on his excellent presentation; questioned BOE activity calendar (go home Friday); under the impression that budget had already been formulated and that pieces of it were being studied at each meeting.
- Vice President Posterli asked about state aid; NYSSBA asking districts for call to action; \$1 billion short; lowest increase since 2013-14; what actions are appropriate? (post on website, speak to local legislators).
- Board Member Conway suggested posting on PTA websites and placing link asking for more money.
- Mrs. Vrona supports new PE an new breaks; concerned about extra ½ hour when elementary teachers don't have enough time now; are students more productive with extra PE (yes); STEM exciting for elementary; 4 FT teachers necessary (yes); innovation labs are a great idea; are STEM teachers trained for that (partnerships, resources, Cradle of Aviation, science kits – curriculum will be developed by September); didn't we have teachers leaders before (teachers in charge- these are paid by stipend); computer assisted instruction has four (4) FT TAs – what are they doing (run labs, testing, other projects with tech support); hoping for 1.81% but budget not exact yet.
- Ms. Posterli asked about elementary enrichment cluster (block of time for small groups to delve more deeply into projects (money is for supplies).
- Mrs. Conway thanked the presenters; appreciates transparency and honesty; works at TC school; confirmed that we have leveled libraries already; teachers work together already so no need for lead teachers (share folders across district); love STEM, kits, important to utilize materials properly; more play in Kindergarten (best for all in buildings); mindfulness so beneficial; can it be incorporated into PE (discussion); writing for TC does not include grammar (have some systems in place for year two (2)); how do we bridge the gap for 6th grader difficulties (Lexile conversion, two benchmarking systems, APPR, best tools, NWEA contractual).
- Dr. Ryan suggested that TC coaches be screened well.

IV. President Vrona called for Questions and Comments From the Public – Work Session Topic Only

Questions/Comments from Public –Work Session Topic

- Alexis Pace – 660 E. Olive St – questioned getting rid of instructional coaches; TC program has large price tag; one time try (yes); tailored to the district (no- adopting curriculum); supports mindfulness.
- Elise Parker – 335 West Chester – curriculum committee member and PE teacher, movement helps with behavior; she incorporates Google.docs for sharing.

Board of Ed – Addt'l Comment

V. Board of Education – Additional New/Old Business, if any

- Board Member Conway asked for a greenhouse update (discovered hard surface as they were trying to drill, former site of safety town, cement pad – moving money from health savings for contractor).
- President Vrona asked for an update on the Coronavirus letter (no issue now but staying on top of this).

VI. Announcements

Announcements

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers' Association - None
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group –None
3. LBPS Group C Employees Association – None
4. Parent/Teacher Association – None
5. Student Association- None

VIII. President Vrona called for a motion to adjourn at 8:21 PM.

Motion by: Board Member Conway
Seconded by: Vice President Posterli
Approved: 5-0

Adjournment

Minutes submitted by:

Carole Butler, District Clerk
March 10, 2020