

**MINUTES**

**Date of Meeting:** April 28, 2020

**Type of Meeting:** Executive Session

**Place of Meeting:** Remotely – Audio Phone-In

**Members Present:** President Maureen Vrona, Esq.  
Board Member Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.  
Board Member Pinto  
Board Member Anne Conway

**Members Absent:** Vice President Posterli

**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  
Mr. Joseph Lilly, Atty., Frazer & Feldman, LLP  
Mr. Thomas Volz, Atty., Thomas Volz & Associates, LLP

President Vrona called for a motion to go into executive session at 1:30 PM to discuss district pending legal and personnel matters.

**Motion by:** Board Member Ryan

**Seconded by:** President Vrona

**Approved:** 4-0

**Motion to Go Into  
Executive Session**

President Vrona called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 2:50 PM.

**Motion by:** Board Member Ryan

**Seconded by:** Board Member Pinto

**Approved:** 4-0

**Adjournment**

## MINUTES

**Date of Meeting:** April 28, 2020

**Type of Meeting:** Work Session

**Place of Meeting:** Remotely – Audio Phone-In

**Members Present:** President Maureen Vrona, Esq.  
Board Member Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.  
Board Member Pinto  
Board Member Anne Conway

**Members Absent:** Vice President Posterli

**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 3:02 PM and led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent's Report

### II. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Gallagher

- Work Session Topic: Budget Discussion
  - 1.81% tax levy, cuts can be made today

BOE Comments

### III. President Vrona called for Board of Education Comments

- President Vrona asked to remove AP/IS test monies, no JV Hockey team; 2 clerical positions saving \$270K, 1.81% should remain.
- Board Member Pinto agree with suggestions and did not request any additional changes.
- Board Member Conway – voiced concerns about pandemic cuts and the financial future; suggested cutting travel/conference from all budgets; maintenance and custodial overtime (careful not to underfund); special ed consultant (not recommended); was REACH included (no); asked how LB REACH and LB Aware services intertwine (LB Aware is a coalition; REACH is direct support and works when school is not in session also currently grant funded).

- Board Member Ryan thanked everyone for their input on the budget; based cuts on essential/non-essential workers; will grants come with less money (unknown but reductions would come in the following year); voiced pension concerns/health insurance costs; cuts to REACH \$70K – wants evaluation; cuts to mindfulness project - timeline; considers varsity assistant coaches non-essential; elementary guidance counselor question; is Columbia literacy program practical now (yes); special ed costs for additional class; SE/AIS staffing (\$137K); purchase of electric bus (no - \$600K for 3 buses this year).
- Dr. Gallagher reiterated her support for additional mental health expertise which is very effective. Trusts Mr. Epstein that varsity assistant coaches are needed.
- Mrs. Vrona expressed her support for REACH until a replacement is found. Elementary guidance counselor is state mandated.

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

None

Questions/Comments from  
Public –Work Session Topic

**V. President Vrona called for Student Announcements**

None

Student  
Announcements

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

- Board Member Conway thanked the teachers, MS Zoom meeting, administrators, Mr. DeVito on the budget, Dr. Gallagher; stay safe and healthy.
- Board Member Ryan asked if the health and safety committee was planning to meet to discuss protocols (yes the second week in May); will we have masks/supplies.
- President Vrona asked what would happen if the budget is not passed by July 1 (IDK); if there is no trustee vote (IDK); next meeting is May 12 when the budget will be adopted.

Board of Ed – Addt'l Comment

**VII. Announcements**

Announcements

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers' Association – President Harvey thanked everyone for the budget, stay safe
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group – President Epstein mentioned virtual field day; thanks to everyone.
3. LBPS Group C Employees Association – None
4. Parent/Teacher Association – CCPTA Co-President McCarthy thanked everyone: CCPTA election on Thursday at 4 PM
5. Student Association- None

Dr. Gallagher noted that the district was serving 600 meals daily; working on devices, re-opening, trying to plan end of the year events; September with additional restrictions. Dr. Hernandez was selected as an Everyday Hero.

**VIII. President Vrona called for a motion to adjourn at 3:52 PM.**

**Motion by: Board Member Ryan**

**Seconded by: Board Member Pinto**

**Approved: 4-0**

**Adjournment**

**Minutes submitted by:**

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Carole Butler, District Clerk  
May 12, 2020