

**MINUTES**

**Date of Meeting:** January 26, 2021

**Type of Meeting:** Executive Session

**Place of Meeting:** Zoom Meeting

**Members Present:** President Tina Posterli  
Vice President Dr. Dennis Ryan  
Board Member Maureen Vrona, Esq.  
Board Member Sam Pinto  
Board Member Anne Conway

**Others Present:** Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. For Personnel & Administration  
Mr. Michael DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance & Operations  
Dr. Paul Romanelli, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction  
Mr. Joseph Lilly, Attorney, Frazer & Feldman

President Posterli called for a motion to go into executive session at 5:34 PM to discuss pending legal and personnel matters.

Motion to Go  
Into  
Executive  
Session

**Motion by:** Board Member Vrona  
**Seconded by:** Board Member Pinto  
**Approved:** 5-0

President Posterli called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

**Motion by:** Board Member Vrona  
**Seconded by:** Vice President Ryan  
**Approved:** 5-0

**MINUTES**

**Date of Meeting:** January 26, 2021

**Type of Meeting:** Work Session

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

**Members Present:** President Tina Posterli  
Vice President Dr. Dennis Ryan  
Board Member Vrona, Esq.  
Board Member Sam Pinto  
Board Member Anne Conway

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

**Absent:** Ms. Lori Dolan, District Clerk

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

President Posterli called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Posterli welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for calling in.

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

Superintendent's Report
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- Dr. Gallagher asked Mr. DeVito to present this evening's budget presentation on Elementary Program.
- Mr. DeVito wanted to bring to the Board and public's attention the NYS Comptroller's Fiscal Stress Score document posted on the district website - explained the stress score of 3.3 which is a very low side of no designation; shows fiscal strength and fiscal health in 4 categories, year end fund balance, operating surplus, cash position, and whether or not the district relies on short-term debt to help with cash flow.

- Highlights of Elementary Program presentation include: description of budget codes, expenditures in Teaching – Regular School, School Library and Audiovisual, Computer Assisted Instruction and Curriculum Development. The variance between the current year’s total budget and next year’s total budget for Elementary Program is 1.89%, or \$457,707. Additions for next year include funding for new carpeting in the Lindell library, continue funding for flexible furniture initiative that provides for two new classrooms a year at each elementary school, funding for books to continue the upgrade of classroom libraries and funding of all approved field trips.

*Full PowerPoint presentation is available on the District Board of Education website and in the office of the District Clerk.*

**III. President Posterli called for Board of Education Discussion on Work Topic**

**BOE Discussion**

- Vice President Ryan asked – regarding Math AIS teachers, additional .5 teacher in each elementary school, intend to make full time next year? (Yes) and Reading is 3 teachers? (Yes). Will mindfulness teachers still be going around next year? (yes). Any intent in making teachers assume responsibility for mindfulness or will this be a continued additional expense (yes, intent is for teachers to assume this role, but takes time for a practice to become embedded). Regarding the district-wide social worker, will that continue? (Yes, invaluable to many families). Noted \$50,000 drop in Teacher’s College expenditure next year.
- Board Member Vrona asked, regarding overall budget increase, that just pertains to elementary program? (Yes) Regarding more movement and play discussion, isn’t that budget neutral? (Yes) What is cost of carpeting at Lindell? (\$16,000). Agrees with Dr. Ryan regarding the mindfulness responsibility shifting to teachers after 5 year period. Do we anticipate having COVID expenses next year (at this point, planning for resuming normal operations).
- Board Member Conway asked cost of flexible furniture initiative (between \$8000-10,000/yr). Cost of field trips and will they be allowed? (will have to see what the restrictions will be regarding travel, but important to keep it as a placeholder.

**IV. President Posterli called for Questions and Comments from the Public – Items on Work Session Topic Only**

**Questions/Comments from Public –Work Session Topic Only**

- None

**V. President Posterli called for Board of Education New/Old Business, if any.**

**BOE New/Old Business**

- Board Member Ryan thanked MLK Center for organizing the march last Monday, nice turnout, and report that he was in the high school yesterday and it was nice to see kids in the pool.
- Board Member Vrona asked if there was money in this year’s budget to re-construct the entrance to the Lido Complex? (\$211,000 add’l funding for traffic reconfiguration) What is status? (in communication with Nassau County, Mr. Grillo

some changes will be included in the county budget to assume some costs. Mr. Grillo will be preparing an update for the Board for next month's Board meeting. When will it be finished (Mr. DeVito will get back to Mrs. Vrona on that). Regarding grant money from Mr. Kaminsky, what is status? (asked Dormitory Authority to change scope to use for sound and lighting in High School and Middle School auditoriums – once received, can move forward with those purchases). Mrs. Vrona asked about State Ed numbers, Mr. DeVito stated foundation aid is at same level, does see COVID 19 supplemental stimulus funding line for next year, but also a local district funding adjustment, took away pandemic adjustment, net result is a reduction in State Aid adjusted with Federal funds. Lastly, how did kindergarten orientation go? Dr. Gallagher said it was wonderful, great feedback from parents. Mrs. Vrona also asked about elementary extra help. Dr. Romanelli replied there are 200 students enrolled, going very well.

- Board Member Conway asked if on the website, would be nice to have website that is current and up to date. District page is wonderful, but many building pages need updating. Dr. Gallagher replied that she would reach out to building principals to update their websites. Mr. Conway also asked about STEM at the Middle School, regarding the greenhouse, any plans to make it a permanent structure? Dr. Gallagher replied that that would be reviewed by the capital projects subcommittee when they meet.
- President Posterli thanked Dr. Kiley-Rendon and all involved in setting up Long Beach Athletics YouTube channel.

**VII. Questions and Comments from the Public**

Questions and Comments from the Public

- None

**XI. Announcements**

Announcements

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers' Association – None
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group – None
3. LBSEA – None
4. Parent/Teacher Association - None

**XII. Adjournment**

Adjournment

**President Posterli called for a motion to adjourn at 8:10 PM.**

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

**Minutes submitted by:**

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Lori Dolan, District Clerk  
January 26, 2021