

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: January 25, 2022

Type of Meeting: Executive Session

Place of Meeting: Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Vice President Anne Conway
Board Member Maureen Vrona, Esq.
Board Member Sam Pinto
Board Member Alexis Pace

Absent: President Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.

Others Present: Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools
Michael I. DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance and Operations
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. for Personnel & Administration
Dr. Paul Romanelli, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Michael Vigliotta, Atty., Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC

Board Vice President Conway 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 Vrona
Seconded by: Board Vice President Conway
Approved: 4-0

President Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:15 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by: Board Member Vrona
Seconded by: Board Member Pinto
Approved: 4-0

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: January 25, 2022

Type of Meeting: Work Session Meeting

Place of Meeting: Remote Meeting -
<https://zoom.us/j/93727576173?pwd=dE11MExzOGV3SWJlc3RZSkRVUWlsdz09>
Passcode: 598060

Members Present: Vice President Anne Conway
Board Member Maureen Vrona, Esq.
Board Member Sam Pinto
Board Member Alexis Pace

Absent: President Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.

Others Present: Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael I. DeVito, Asst. Supt. for Finance and Operations
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. for Personnel & Administration
Dr. Paul Romanelli, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Michael Vigliotta, Atty., Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC
Ms. Lori Dolan, District Clerk
Members of the Public

I. Pledge of Allegiance/Superintendent's Opening Remarks/Call to Order

Mrs. Conway called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the public in the pledge of allegiance. Mrs. Conway welcomed all and highlighted several events for the week; three Long Beach hockey players participating in an All Stars game at UBS Arena, seventh grade Social Studies projects. She then turned meeting over to Dr. Gallagher.

II. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Gallagher

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gallagher stated that we were once again meeting remotely due to several Board members and/or administrators either ill or quarantining. Dr. Gallagher stated that the 2nd appellate court issued a stay on the supreme court's mask mandate issue that was issued yesterday, which had been expected, and she will be sending out a letter to families that we are to continue the state mask mandate. She then introduced Dr. Kiley-Rendon who presented the Student Showcase presentation, "Technology Innovation".

The Student Showcase, "Technology Innovation" is on the District Website.

Dr. Gallagher then handed the meeting over to Mr. DeVito, who presented the 2022-23 Budget Presentation, "General Support Functions, Staff Benefits and Debt Service". Mr. DeVito began by reviewing the codes within General Support Functions, such as Board of Ed, District Clerk, Business Office and Auditing Consultants, noting a decrease in District Clerk code due to reduction in polling locations, a decrease in Business Office function due to possible staff retirements and hiring of lower cost replacements. Another area within General Support Functions include Legal and Human Resources, Central Printing and Insurance, which will have an increase due to increase in flood insurance premium. Mr. DeVito went on to discuss Benefits and the ERS (Employee Retirement System and TRS (Teachers' Retirement System), Social Security and Medicare, Worker's Compensation and Health Insurance, noting that the increase in health insurance premiums will be offset by an increase in employee contributions. Lastly, Mr. DeVito discussed Debt Service, noting a savings in interest payments due to a recent refinancing of the Energy Performance Contract.

The 2022-23 Budget Presentation, "General Support Functions, Staff Benefits and Debt Service" is on the District Website and in the Office of the District Clerk.

BOE Comments

III. President Ryan called for Board of Education Comments

- Board Member Pinto thanked Mr. DeVito for his work on the presentation and explanation of the pension costs.
- Board Member Vrona asked about the cost savings in reduction of polling locations and Mr. DeVito explained that there will be a reduction in staffing, but an increase in marketing cost to notify the public of the new election districts, which offsets the savings this year.
- Board Vice President Conway asked why flood insurance increased 25%. Mr. DeVito stated that it has to do with all of the natural disasters across the country. We don't have flexibility in this area, but do receive certain waivers to maintain appropriate levels.

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

- None

**Questions/Comments from Public –
Items on Tonight's Agenda Only**

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

- None

**Board of Ed – Additional
Comments**

VI. Questions and Comments from the Public

- A member of the public thanked Dr. Gallagher for her communication regarding masks in school. If mask mandate is removed, would district rescind the mandate? Dr. Gallagher stated that she would follow the NYS mandate. However, since quarantine rules have not changed, as per the Nassau County Department of Health, the district would have to quarantine many more students.
- A member of the public spoke in favor of the mask mandate in schools.
- A member of the public spoke in support of the mask mandate.
- A member of the public spoke in support of the mask mandate.

- A member of the public spoke in support of the mask mandate, specifically for students with medical conditions.
- A member of the public spoke in support of the mask mandate, and hopes district will work on repairing air condition at East School. Dr. Gallagher stated that the district did air quality testing at all schools and the air quality at East is fine.
- A member of the public spoke in support of the mask mandate and asked if the social distancing protocol of 6' would be reinstated if the mask mandate was removed and Dr. Gallagher replied possibly.
- A member of the public spoke against the mask mandate in light of the Supreme Court ruling. Dr. Gallagher explained that the Supreme Court decision was based on how Gov. Hochul implemented the mask mandate, not whether it was a violation of students' rights. We were advised that we had legal purview to continue the mask mandate and were advised that we could do so.
- A member of the public spoke in favor of the mask mandate.
- A member of the public spoke in favor of the mask mandate.
- A member of the public asked about information does the district mandate in IEP Direct that generates progress reports and IEPs and Dr. Gallagher replied that we put in session dates and notes that reflect the goals on a student's IEP and progress towards those goals.
- A member of the public spoke in support of mask mandates.

VII. 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

VII. President Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by: Board Member Vrona

Seconded by: Board Member Pinto

Approved: 4-0

Minutes submitted by: _____
Lori Dolan, District Clerk
January 25, 2022