

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: October 25, 2022
Type of Meeting: Executive Session
Place of Meeting: West Elementary School Faculty Room
Members Present: President Anne Conway
Vice President Sam Pinto
Board Member Maureen Vrona, Esq.
Board Member Alexis Pace

Absent: Board Member Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.

Others Present: Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools
Michael I. DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance and Operations
Dr. Janna Ostroff, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Tom Volz, Atty., Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC

Absent: Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. for Personnel & Administration

Board President Conway called for a motion to go into executive session at 5:00 PM to discuss district pending legal and personnel matters.

Motion to Go Into Executive Session

Motion by: Board Vice President Pinto
Seconded by: Board Member Pace
Approved: 4-0

President Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by: Board Member Pace
Seconded by: Board Vice President Pinto
Approved: 4-0

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: October 25, 2022

Type of Meeting: Work Session Meeting

Place of Meeting: West Elementary School Gymnasium

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

Absent: Board Member Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.

Others Present: Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools
Michael I. DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance and Operations
Dr. Janna Ostroff, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Tom Volz, Atty., Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC

Absent: Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. for Personnel & Administration

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

Board President Conway called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the public in the pledge of allegiance. Mrs. Conway sent regrets on behalf of Dr. Ryan, who was unable to attend tonight's Board meeting and welcomed all and turned the meeting over to Dr. Gallagher.

Superintendent's Report

II. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Gallagher

- *Student Supports and Special Education Models*
- *Strategic Plan Update: Instruction*

Dr. Gallagher stated that it was School Board Recognition Week and thanked the Board for their dedication and service to our students, the District and the community. Dr. Gallagher then congratulated Board President Anne Conway and presented her with a Certificate of Recognition from NYS School Boards Association for attaining 75 points of Leadership Training. Dr. Gallagher then noted the lockout situation that occurred at the high school earlier today, adding that it was due to some alert students who saw a concerning social media post. The Nassau County Police and the Long Beach Police Department were notified, and the school was on lockout until their investigation was complete; it was concluded that this was a "copycat" posting and not a credible threat. After-school activities at the high school and middle school were canceled as a precaution.

Dr. Gallagher then introduced Dr. Brancaccio, Executive Director of Pupil Personnel Services, who presented the "Continuum of Support Services" presentation. Dr. Ostroff started with an explanation of the Long Beach response to intervention (RTI) framework to support all students, describing the three tiers of the RTI model. Dr. Brancaccio then presented the Special Ed Continuum. Highlights include the continuum of Special Ed Programs and Services, such as related services (OT, PT, Counseling Services, Parent Counseling and Training, and Vision or Hearing services), Resource Room, Consultant Teacher Services, Integrated Co-Teaching and Special Class. She explained that Long Beach provides all of the services outlined in the Part 200 Regulations that dictates programs and service requirements. Dr. Brancaccio reviewed the current Preschool Special Education Program and Services and trends in Preschool by program and services. Finally, Dr. Brancaccio stated that an application to the NYS Department of Education was made seeking approval for two full day Special Class in an Integrated Setting (SCIS), one full day Special Class 12:1:2, and a Multidisciplinary Evaluation program (MDE). She went on to outline the advantages of Special Education Preschool, noting that most students with special needs achieve better developmental skills when taught in classes or settings attended by typically developing, age-appropriate peers.

Dr. Gallagher then gave an update to the Strategic Plan in terms of Instruction, and noted the key instructional strengths, among them being dedicated teachers and staff, a variety of curricular offerings, a diverse and inclusive community, enrichment opportunities, sports and extracurricular activities, a strong literacy foundation and the expansion of STEM programs. Some considerations for additions or changes include outdoor education programs, more STEM opportunities, greater opportunities for enrichment, examine the quantity and quality of homework assignments, more CTE pathways, keep class sizes small and maintain focus on mental health and wellness. Dr. Gallagher noted upcoming dates for in-person input on November 3rd and 7th, and that there would be another report on progress at the November 8th Board meeting.

The presentation, "Continuum of Support Services and Strategic Plan Update" is on the District Website and in the Office of the District Clerk.

BOE Comments

III. President Conway called for Board of Education Comments

- Board Vice President Pinto thanked Dr. Brancaccio and said that these types of presentations are very helpful in helping us understand what we have to invest tax-payers money into.
- Board Member Vrona always wants to know what, looking forward, is the balance in services while remaining fiscally responsible. Mrs. Vrona expressed concern of another unfunded mandate should the State not fund services shifted from the County to the district in providing Preschool Special Education. Mrs. Vrona asked about the in-person opportunities to participate, how are they being publicized, and Dr. Gallagher replied that we are using social media and have had very good response.
- Board Member Pace thanked Dr. Brancaccio for her presentation and appreciated her "walking us through" the special education process. She added that, with regard to "how many adults should be in the room?", that is age-related and while it's higher with the younger grades, able to reduce for older students.

- Board President Conway asked what advantages we have in place that would make us go in one direction or another. Dr. Gallagher replied that Long Beach has the ninth highest graduation rate in Nassau County, and that is, on some level, a measure that what we have in place works, but that we are always looking at what can be improved. Mrs. Conway asked if Teacher Assistants are certified, and Dr. Brancaccio replied that not all are – it is not a requirement. Mrs. Conway asked Dr. Gallagher how many students answered the survey, and Dr. Gallagher replied well over one thousand.

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

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

- None

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

Board of Ed – Additional
Comments

- Board President Conway thanked her colleagues for volunteering their time, for participating on committees, and thanked Dr. Gallagher for her support.

VI. Questions and Comments from the Public

- A member of the public expressed concern about the lockout for the high school and what that means for the other schools in the area, and Dr. Gallagher replied that it depends; that in this case, it was not deemed a threat to the elementary students or they were able to continue the day as normal. She added that there was a robust response from law enforcement, and they concluded that there was no credible threat.

VII. Announcements

Announcements

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers’ Association – Keith Harvey thanked the Board of Education for their service in honor of School Board Recognition Week.
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group – Keith Biesma thanked Dr. Brancaccio for her presentation and the Board of Education for their service and support. He thanked all staff at the High School and Middle School in light of today’s events concerning the lockout.
3. LBSEA - Group C Employees Association – None
4. Parent/Teacher Association – The PTAs thanked the Board of Education and presented them with gifts in appreciation for the service.

VII. President Conway called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by: Board Vice President Pinto

Seconded by: Board Member Pace

Approved: 4-0

Minutes submitted by:

Lori Dolan, District Clerk
October 25, 2022