

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: January 24, 2023

Type of Meeting: Executive Session

Place of Meeting: Lido Elementary Multipurpose Room

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

Absent: Board Member Alexis Pace

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. Janna Ostroff, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction (via phone)
Mr. Tom Volz, Atty., Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC

Board President Conway called for a motion to go into executive session at 5:04 PM to discuss district pending legal and personnel matters.

Motion to Go Into Executive Session

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

President Conway called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:43 PM.

Adjournment

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

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: January 24, 2023

Type of Meeting: Work Session Meeting

Place of Meeting: Lido Elementary Multipurpose Room

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

Absent: Board Member Alexis Pace

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. Janna Ostroff, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Tom Volz, Atty., Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC

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

Board President Conway congratulated Mr. Corrigan of being honored as a 2023 Bright Light honoree; Mrs. Conway is proud of the sixth graders and their spaceflight experiment as part of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education's Student Spaceflight Experiments Program; Mrs. Conway attended the National History Day display at the Middle School.

Superintendent's Report

II. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Gallagher

- *Student Showcase: Elementary Enrichment*
- *Follow-up: Capital Proposals and Budget*

Dr. Gallagher stated that tonight we will begin with a presentation on Elementary Enrichment. Dr. Ostroff is sick but will be joining via a podcast that she put together students described their experience in the enrichment program. Dr. Ostroff explained the goal of the program is to address Covid-19 related learning loss, and to engage students through interdisciplinary academic enrichment beyond the school day. All four schools have three nine-week sessions, and classes meet after school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. 63% of student in kindergarten through grade 5 participate. Dr. Gallagher added that the program is funded by a federal grant specifically to address learning loss as a result of Covid-19 and the district is already looking at ways we can make this a permanent program.

- Dr. Ryan asked prior to this, the elementary schools had clubs. What does this program represent as far as a growth in clubs and Dr. Gallagher replied that it is much more than clubs – clubs don't address academics and the clubs we had before were very limited. Dr. Ryan expressed concern about funding and how we would finance something like this in the future. Dr. Gallagher replied that we are already looking at what we can afford, and work backwards from there, looking to keep those programs that are most beneficial to children. Dr. Ryan asked if we have one more year of funding, and Mr. DeVito replied yes, plus that following summer.
- Board Member Vrona asked if transportation is provided – yes. Will that continue? Yes.

Dr. Gallagher then asked Mr. DeVito to present his "Future Capital Projects" presentation. Mr. DeVito started by explaining that, as a follow-up to the November 2022 capital projects presentation, the subcommittee has met to review building requests and prioritize possible projects. Tonight's presentation presents projects by building with cost estimates and a total not requiring any additional tax levy to support the projects. The proposed capital program is tax neutral. He further stated that, as we consider a future bond issue, we are proposing to separate the projects into two groups so the community has an opportunity to vote on two different subsets of projects; all of the maintenance needs (including ventilation for East School) and HVAC upgrades at all buildings that already have mechanical ventilation. Mr. DeVito then reviewed the projects by building, which have a district total of \$84,454,732.

After reviewing each buildings projects, Mr. DeVito stated that, as we consider a future bond issue, it is important to keep in mind that a school district bond issue is an advantageous way to plan and complete large projects without creating a spike in the annual tax levy. Mr. DeVito added that, if the Board decides to move forward with a bond issue vote prior to 2025-26, the district can take advantage of short-term borrowing with a bond anticipatory note (BAN) so the district can begin the capital work prior to 2025-26 without having to incur a large debt service payment until 2026-27. Mr. DeVito stated further that it may provide greater flexibility and transparency to create two ballot propositions that supports the total bond issue so voters have a choice of a subset of projects; if we placed two bond issue propositions on the ballot, Proposition A could contain all of the district building maintenance needs and ventilation for East School, at a cost of \$63,953,382; Proposition B would contain air conditioning for the Middle School, Lido Elementary, Lindell Elementary and West Elementary, for a total cost of \$20,501,350.

Mr. DeVito added that, as long as the total borrowing amount is under \$87 million, there will be no tax impact.

The presentation, "Future Capital Projects – January 24, 2023" 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 Member Vrona asked to hear from the Capital Projects Subcommittee, and Board Vice President Pinto stated that he, Mrs. Conway, Mr. DeVito, the Director of

Facilities and the architect met; looked at the necessities, priorities, and cost; wanted to do more with outdoor facilities, things that increase the educational experience of the students, while balancing that with the needs of the community. Priority to increase outdoor “green” space at East School and West School; there were infrastructure considerations as well. Tonight’s presentation is the culmination of those meetings and the paring down of prioritized projects.

- Board President Conway asked about items that “can wait”. Mr. DeVito replied that it’s a matter of degree – for example, the turf replacement – it should be replaced in 10-15 years, but if it’s well maintained and there’s not huge wear and tear, maybe we extend that to 17 years, because the district would like to make another project a priority. Mr. DeVito expressed a concern regarding potential cost increases in the future if we wait on the bond vote. Mr. DeVito added that it would take 2-3 summers to do all of the work.
- Board Member Vrona questioned how installing turf surfaces at East and West Schools is considered adding “green space”. Mr. DeVito stated that the surface is more reliable, even, safe and easier to maintain if it’s turf.
- Mrs. Vrona asked, if we pass a bond in May of 2023, when would we do our first borrowing, and Mr. DeVito replied that the drawings would go up to the State, we would then receive our approvals. John Grillo, architect, explained that there is a huge backlog at NYSED. Some work would have to be pushed out 36 weeks. Some of projects that can get approved more quickly, we could start in the summer of 2024, and would need about \$10 million – might want to do some short-term borrowing. Or, maybe wait until the following fiscal year. Mrs. Vrona suggested waiting to do work until summer 2025 so we wouldn’t have to do any short term borrowing. Mrs. Vrona also felt that she wasn’t clear on the priorities. Mr. DeVito said all projects have to be done – either as identified in the Building Condition Survey or in meeting with the buildings and reviewing their requests. Mr. DeVito reiterated if we delay the work, there is more of a risk of increase in costs.
- Dr. Ryan thanked Mr. DeVito for his presentation. Dr. Ryan asked how much we get back in building aid - 42.4% of everything that is aidable. Dr. Ryan asked about the sound system at the High School and Middle School and Mr. DeVito said those are already in process through grant funding.

IV. President Conway 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

- Board Member Ryan attended National History Day, was very Impressed with the presentations.

Board of Ed – Additional
Comments

President Conway called for a motion for the Board of Education to send a letter to the Nassau County Fourth Precinct advocating for a crossing guard at the intersection of Greenway Road and Lido Boulevard.

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

VI. Questions and Comments from the Public

- None

VII. Announcements

Announcements

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

VII. President Conway called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Adjournment

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

Minutes submitted by:

Lori Dolan, District Clerk
January 24, 2023