

**MINUTES**

**Date of Meeting:** January 23, 2024

**Type of Meeting:** Executive Session

**Place of Meeting:** Administration Building Conference Room

**Members Present:** Board President Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.  
Board Vice President Sam Pinto  
Board Member Anne Conway  
Board Member Alexis Pace  
Board Member Nora Bellsey

**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

Board President Ryan 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 Conway  
**Approved:** 5-0

Board President Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:50 PM.

Adjournment

**Motion by:** Board Member Conway  
**Seconded by:** Board Member Bellsey  
**Approved:** 5-0

## MINUTES

**Date of Meeting:** January 23, 2024  
**Type of Meeting:** Work Session  
**Place of Meeting:** West Elementary School Gymnasium

**Members Present:** Board President Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.  
Board Vice President Sam Pinto  
Board Member Anne Conway  
Board Member Alexis Pace  
Board Member Nora Bellsey

**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. Superintendent's Opening Remarks/Call to Order

Board President Ryan called the meeting to order and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Dr. Ryan thanked Ms. Ragona for bringing it to the Board's attention that they should switch the meeting venue to the Middle School; the Middle School Musical was a success, thanked all who were involved. He then turned the meeting over to Dr. Gallagher for the Superintendent's Report.

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

Superintendent's Report

- *Student Showcase: Odyssey of the Mind Recognition*

Dr. Gallagher asked the Odyssey of the Mind coaches to come up and distribute Certificates of Recognition to all of the students.

**OM Coaches: Jennifer Donovan, Douglas MacConnell, Andie Techera**

#### **Elementary Schools**

##### **NYS Champs / 7<sup>th</sup> in Worlds**

David Cory  
Mavis Fox  
Palmer Gallo  
Jett Michel  
Ledger Nafte  
Matthew Ragona  
Aiden Shered

#### **Middle School**

##### **2nd in NY State / 5<sup>th</sup> in Worlds**

Maven Aull  
Arlo Fox  
Stella Gonzalez  
Patrick Maguire  
Camila Ramon  
Callie Spitz  
Jackson Spitz

**2<sup>nd</sup> in NYS/ 24<sup>th</sup> in Worlds**

Abe Jackowitz  
Mia Kupchik  
Isla Lomitola  
Cody O'Connell  
Ella Pederson  
Kyveli Pefani DeLaRosa  
Zoey Pinto

**1<sup>st</sup> in NY State / 2<sup>nd</sup> in Worlds**

Sydney Bergstein  
Kate Ragona  
Leia Sacks  
Jordan Soriano  
Mia Techera  
Aaliyah Trichter  
Kasper Yanowitch

**3<sup>rd</sup> in States/ 14<sup>th</sup> in Worlds**

Savana Bardales  
Henry Chambers  
Camila Coad  
Brendan Salem  
Allison Salem  
Quinn Siegel

**1<sup>st</sup> in Regionals**

Jolynne Baker Gonzalez  
Hudson Christine  
Maya Cohen  
Charlotte DePalma  
Octavio (Fernando ) Dorán  
Shayna Tozer  
Anaya Crystal  
Sofia Crystal

- *Student Showcase: Elementary STEM*

Dr. Gallagher then introduced Ms. Tursi to present the “Elementary STEM Program” presentation. Student presenters were Blythe and Seager Aull – Robotics, Coding and Engineering; Waverly and Summer Schaffer – Balloons Over Broadway; Josh Moreno – March Madness; and Paxton, Presley and Phoenix Cavallo – STEAM Night. Elementary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) teachers: Ms. Gallo, Mr. Jones, Ms. Nicholls and Ms. Rundo. Dr. Gallagher thanked the student presenters and teachers. Mr. Pinto also thanked everyone, especially Ms. Rundo, adding that he has two of those projects at home, and the kids really love playing with them; Mrs. Conway also thanked the teachers and presenters.

- *Presentation: Budget and Bond Proposals – Central Administration Support Services*

Dr. Gallagher then introduced Mr. DeVito to present on the Central Administration support functions. Mr. DeVito started by explaining that Central Support pertains to the Board of Education, the District Clerk, Legal Services, Records Management, Facilities, Central Printing, Insurance and BOCES. He stated further that the proposed budget includes a 13% insurance premium increase, BoardDocs software, electronic signature books for the annual election and contractual salary increases, as well as a 2%-3% increase in BOCES costs. The proposed Operations budget includes funding for overtime and per diem subs, a 5% price escalation increase for natural gas and electricity, along with an increase in recurring operational and maintenance costs based on building needs.

*The complete presentation, “Budget and Bond Proposals – Central Administration Support Services” can be found on the District website and in the office of the District Clerk.*

**III. President Ryan called for Board of Education Comments**

BOE Comments

- Dr. Ryan asked if the district was sufficiently covered with cyber insurance and Mr. DeVito replied yes. Dr. Ryan asked, regarding legal services, how often we have to go out to bid, and Mr. DeVito replied that there is no requirement to go out to bid for legal services; only a requirement to obtain a Request for Proposal for the external auditor every five years.
- Dr. Ryan asked, in terms of the Bond vote, in light of drastic cuts in State aid, what is the recommendation with regard to moving forward, and Mr. DeVito replied that he recommends waiting until next year. Dr. Ryan stated that he supports that recommendation and asked for a consensus among the Board.
- Mrs. Conway asked if a 2-3% increase in BOCES costs is unusual and Mr. DeVito replied no, it is typical. She also asked about the insurance increases, and Mr. DeVito replied that the increase is a function of all of the insurance claims filed and high jury awards. Mrs. Conway stated that she also supports Mr. DeVito's recommendation to wait on the Bond vote.
- Board Vice President Pinto glad to hear finally getting rid of temporary boiler, and also supports Mr. DeVito's recommendation to wait on the Bond vote.
- Ms. Pace and Ms. Bellsey also support the recommendation to wait on the Bond vote.

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

Questions/Comments from Public – Items on Work Session Topic Only

- None

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

Board of Ed – Additional Comments

- Mr. Pinto stated that he loved the Odyssey of the Mind and Elementary STEM presentations and that it is important to keep these programs in place.
- Mrs. Conway stated that she went to the Middle School play and there was not a seat to be had! Mr. Hue was amazing – a wonderful play.

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

Questions and Comments from the Public

- A member of the public asked about the greenhouse. Dr. Gallagher stated that we are probably not going to move forward with the new and "improved" greenhouse due to the proposed state aid cuts.
- A member of the public stated that it is important to keep our music, art and theatre programs and asked if there were any thoughts on math in the high school that children don't have to pay for (referring to AP and IB)? Dr. Gallagher replied that they had given it lots of thought, and agrees that we have to make clear to parents what courses you have to pay for, and with regards to the college classes, students can take them for free for enrichment purposes, but don't have to pay for the credits if they don't want to.

**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

**VIII. Adjournment**

**Adjournment**

President Ryan called for a motion to adjourn at 7:46 PM.

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

Minutes submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Dolan, District Clerk  
January 23, 2024