

**MINUTES**

**Date of Meeting:** January 27, 2025

**Type of Meeting:** Executive Session

**Place of Meeting:** Long Beach Middle School Main Office Conference Room

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

Board President Pinto called for a motion to go into executive session at 5:35 PM to discuss district pending legal and personnel matters.

Motion to Go Into  
Executive Session

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

Board President Pinto called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:18 PM.

Adjournment

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

## MINUTES

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>January 27, 2025</b>
<b>Type of Meeting:</b>	<b>Work Session</b>
<b>Place of Meeting:</b>	<b>Long Beach Middle School Auditorium</b>
<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Board President Sam Pinto Board Vice President Alexis Pace Board Member Dennis Ryan, Ph.D. Board Member Anne Conway Board Member Nora Bellsey</b>
<b>Others Present:</b>	<b>Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools Michael I. DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance and Operations Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. for Personnel &amp; Administration Dr. Janna Ostroff, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum &amp; Instruction Susannah Familetti, District Clerk Members of the Public</b>

### I. Superintendent's Opening Remarks/Call to Order

Board President Pinto called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Board President Pinto started with giving a shout out to the Wrestling team was successful at County and will be going to the State Championships. The Middle School did a great performance of "Annie" He said tonight is a Work Session and asked everyone to maintain decorum. He started with the President's report stating the Board of Education will be bringing resolution to the issue at East and then the Superintendent will be giving a presentation. Mr. Pinto stated his position is not to close East School. He gave a shout out to Joanne Kapp, he thanked the entire Board of Ed and the administrative team for helping him make his decision. He thanks Ms. Conway for helping him by giving him her history of being on the other side of the table. Ms. Bellsey stated that the Board of Ed struggled making the decision. She stated that it would be too difficult for the community and she does not think it serves the community at this time to close East School. Ms. Conway thanked the Administrative team and staff for all of their support and guidance. The plan for East school had many questions, not many answers and wasn't a plan she could stand behind. Ms. Conway's resolution is to keep East school open. Dr. Ryan thanked everyone for coming out. He said his opinion is different from his colleagues, he felt it was an educational decision. He stands firm in his belief that East school should be repurposed and not sell it to anyone else. Board Vice President Ms. Pace stated that she had some things prepared to say but honestly is at a loss for what to say. She agreed that community members could not bare repurposing for any reason so her vote is to keep the school open. She added that she appreciated parents like Joanne and her approach and what she witnessed the community do to herself and other fellow board members was disheartening. Mr. Pinto

thanked everyone for maintaining some decorum. Stated if parents want to stay with their kids, they can, If everyone needs a pause to stay or leave or stay and then will move on to the presentation. He turned the meeting over to Dr. Gallagher.

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

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gallagher stated that people reached out and asked for a summary of the process during the year. After tonight's meeting, she will be sending out to all families to review in detail and it will be posted to the website. Dr. Gallagher explained first two slides of Part 1 East School considerations.

**Student Showcase: None**

**Presentation: Option for Retirees**

Mr. DeVito then began his presentation and spoke about the preliminary budget and the Governor's State Aid . Over the next couple of months there will be more Board meetings like this one to propose to the Board.

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

BOE Comments

- Mr. Pinto thanked Dr. Gallagher and Mr. DeVito for the presentations. He asked if there is a trend in the change of State Aid. Mr. DeVito replied it is still a concern.
- Dr. Ryan thanked Dr. Gallagher and Mr. DeVito for the presentations. He spoke about 5 or 6 schools in Nassau and Suffolk were identified as schools with fiscal stress. He gave a shout out to Mr. DeVito and his office for keeping the district on solid ground.
- Ms. Conway thanked Mr. DeVito for his presentation. She stated her concern over the Governor looking at our numbers and not out needs. Asked if its true that our students needs have increased even though enrollment is down. Mr. DeVito replied that it is true and he thinks the Rockefeller Foundation was looking at how to change the formula to make the factors be more relevant.
- Ms. Bellsey thanked Mr. DeVito and found this part the most complicated part of what they do.

**IV. Board President Pinto called for Student Organization Announcements**

Student Organization Announcements

None

**V. Board President Pinto called for Questions and Comments from the Public – Items on Today's Agenda Only**

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

- Mindy Warshaw stated she is a taxpayer, homeowner and alumni and her children attended East. She felt proud of the Board members who voted to keep East school open. She has been on the Budget Advisory committee for many years. Thanked Mr. DeVito for presentation.
- Jillian thanked the Board members for their time and consideration, thanked the teachers, thanked Joann for organizing everything.

- Heather Ricardo thankful to see two kindergarten classes and two PreK classes are being added. Please add a fulltime social worker and Psychologist.
- Melissa said thank you for keeping East School Open and class size does matter.
- Mr. Rogers Asked a question about the vendor contracts on budget proposal. Mr. DeVito replied that it is across all the functions of the district.
- Vassa Senkin said Thank you to everybody and the parents are all very happy. She told Dr. Ryan that class size does matter especially for the kids who need extra, She asked IF East school would get a new playground? Dr. Gallagher replied that its in the bond already. What is the standard for a Board of Ed Member, are there term limits? Mr. Pinto replied that there are no term limits but the rotation in the district is every three years.
- Frank appreciated the Board of Ed decision.
- Matthew Meier bought a house in Long Beach two years ago. The cost to tear down and rebuild were 5 to 6 times the price. Numbers seem way off.
- Ron Paganini felt it was a wise decision to keep the school open. Not the Boards fault, it's the fault of the state.
- Tim Kramer asked about the budget and the debt service compared to last 5 years. He would like to see an effort to that down. Mr. DeVito replied that debt relates to the serial bonds and the community voted in favor of bond in 2009.
- Matthew Dwyer stated the idea of selling East school was completely short sighted.
- Mr. Pinto replied that selling East School was never an option.
- Ms. Pace reiterated Mr. Pinto's comment
- Renee Orsman thanked the board for their time. There is a fundraiser this Friday to celebrate.
- Maureen Alvrado staid Thank you for voting in favor of East school. Is there a resuscitation plan for the community. Dr. Gallagher said her plan is to focus on the wonderful kids in this community. Ms. Pace stated that no one on the board said it was closing. No board member other than Dr. Ryan stated their opinion. Mr. Pinto great first start is to go to the fundraiser and Polar Bear Sunday.
- Joanne Kapp you have all listened to me all year and answered my questions.
- Danielle Brown said thank you for all of the work you have done.

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

**Board of Ed – Additional  
Comments**

- Dr. Ryan welcomed Mrs. Familetti to her first meeting as District Clerk. Asked Superintendent about the Governor's new cell phone policy. Dr. Gallagher replied that schools have an effective cell phone ban and does not know details of how governor is going distribute the money.
- Ms. Conway stated that it would be nice if we do get some money
- Mr. Pinto stated that a lot of people send emails – said he apologies if they didn't get an answer.

**XI. Announcements**

**Announcements**

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers' Association – Karen Bloom stated union truly appreciate the decision they made.

2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group – None
3. LBPS Group C Employees Association – None
4. Parent/Teacher Association – suggested the PTA's get together.

**XII. Adjournment**

<b>Adjournment</b>
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**Board President Pinto called for a motion to adjourn at: 8:21 PM.**

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

**Minutes submitted by:**

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Susannah Familetti, District Clerk  
January 27, 2025