

**MINUTES**

**Date of Meeting:** February 25, 2025

**Type of Meeting:** Executive Session

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

**Members Present:** Board Member Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.  
Board Member Anne Conway  
Board Member Nora Bellsey

**Absent:** Board President Sam Pinto  
Board Vice President Alexis Pace

**Others Present:** Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Michael DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance & Operations  
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. For Personnel & Administration  
Dr. Janna Ostroff, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction

**Absent:** Mr. Tom Volz, Attorney

Board President Pinto 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 Member Dr. Dennis Ryan  
**Seconded by:** Board Member Ann Conway  
**Approved:** 3-0

Board President Pinto called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:47 PM.

Adjournment

**Motion by:** Board Member Dr. Ryan  
**Seconded by:** Board Member Ms. Nora Bellsey  
**Approved:** 3-0

## MINUTES

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>February 25, 2025</b>
<b>Type of Meeting:</b>	<b>Work Session</b>
<b>Place of Meeting:</b>	<b>Lido Elementary Multipurpose Room</b>
<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Board Member Dennis Ryan, Ph.D. Board Member Anne Conway Board Member Nora Bellsey</b>
<b>Members Absent:</b>	<b>Board President Sam Pinto Board Vice President Alexis Pace</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. Pledge of Allegiance/Superintendent's Opening Remarks/Call to Order

Board Member Dr. Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Dr. Ryan congratulated East school students who assumed the running for a \$100,000 prize and mentioned the sports awards. He extended Mr. Pinto and Mrs. Pace's regrets for not being able to obtain the meeting.

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

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gallagher announced that two tenth grade students are moving to round two of the Long Island Science and Engineering fair. Dr. Gallagher introduced High School Staff and Students to present the AVID program.

#### ***Student Showcase: AVID***

Mrs. Walsh Burger thanked everyone for their time. She spoke about AVID 101 and explained the AVID program. She introduced the teachers and Guidance Counselor who comprise the site team. Mrs. Walsh Bulger discussed what College and Career readiness looks like. Students in the program spoke about how AVID has helped them with Focus notes, helped build friendships, reading and writing skills, skills to help improve

learning. Avid has also helped students explore their future college plans, be organized, advocate for yourself, prepare for college application process, Board Member stated the Board may have a few questions.

- Ms. Bellsey stated she was impressed with the journal / learning log. She asked what kind of community service projects they have been working on. Students replied that they participated in Soles for Souls, Sold waffles as a fundraiser.
- Ms. Conway thanked everyone for the presentation and is happy to hear that the students are all looking forward to their future plans.
- Dr. Ryan thanked the presenters for coming out. He asked students what would your high school experience have been without AVID? Student answered that it helped her be more organized. How big is the AVID class? Ms. Walsh Bulger replied that they currently have 29 applications. Dr. Ryan asked what Staff Development looks like for AVID? Ms. Walsh Burger replied staff has been AVID trained to provide professional development, Monday Committee meetings, training with Regional representative. Dr. Ryan stated that it sounds like the program is based on solid educational instruction.

**Presentation:            *Transportation Budget***

Dr. Gallagher introduced Mr. DeVito. Mr. DeVito introduced the new Director of Transportation, Mr. Paul Weydig. Mr. DeVito explained the transportation service provided is four separate functions: District Transportation, Transportation Garage. Contract Transportation and BOCES Transportation and the cost drivers for the budget. Mr. DeVito then gave upcoming dates for other budgets.

**III. Board of Education Questions and Comments**

**BOE Comments**

- Dr. Ryan asked what the general state of the fleet is. Mr. DeVito replied the buses are in good condition. Dr. Ryan also asked the about the state of the Depot. Mr. DeVito replied that a wall was replaced and painted, installed a new sewer line. Mr. Grillo has not indicated anything that needs immediate attention. Dr. Ryan asked about the shortage of drivers. Mr. DeVito replied they are not comfortable with the amount of drivers. Dr. Ryan thanked Mr. Weydig for the transition that he made.
- Dr. Ryan commented on the first day of school being the most stressful for Transportation. He stated that district is having fewer emergencies.
- Ms. Bellsey asked if the training program for drivers is universal across Long Island. Mr. DeVito stated it's a national problem.
- Mrs. Conway asked how students the district busses? Mr. DeVito replied that its about 2,000 students actually ride, 700 students taken to private school. Ms. Conway asked if the 3 bus driver vacancies are filled, will district be able to reduce the dependency on BOCES? Mr. DeVito replied that he does not think so. Mrs. Conway asked the price of buses purchased this year. Mr/ DeVito replied large buses are about \$200,000.

**IV. Board President Pinto called for Student Organization Announcements**  
None

**Student Organization Announcements**

**V. Board Member Dr. Ryan called for Questions and Comments from the Public – Items on Today’s Work Session Only**

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

- Diane Ferrare asked what kind of Driver’s License do you need to drive the bus?  
Has the district contacted the City of Long Beach drivers about employment?  
Has district through about cutting down on who is offered bussing?

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

Board of Ed – Additional Comments

- Ms. Conway spoke about traffic issues on Lido Blvd. Mrs. Conway met with some officials. She received a letter stating we need more signage, changing some of the signs so they are more visible and increase the amount of police activity in the area. High School students created videos to bring attention to the traffic issues.

**XI. Announcements**

Announcements

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers’ Association – Karen Bloom thanks Mrs. Walsh Bulger, teachers and student for the AVID presentation. Thanked Mr. DeVito for his presentation,
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group – None
3. LBPS Group C Employees Association – None
4. Parent/Teacher Association

**XII. Adjournment**

Adjournment

**Board Member Dr. Ryan called for a motion to adjourn at: 7:45 PM.**

**Motion by: Board Member Bellsey**  
**Seconded by: Board Member Conway**  
**Approved: 3-0**

**Minutes submitted by:**

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Susannah Familetti, District Clerk  
February 25, 2025