

## MINUTES

Date of Meeting: April 8, 2025

Type of Meeting: Executive Session

Place of Meeting: Central Administration Conference Room

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

Absent: Board President Sam Pinto

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 Vice President Pace called for a motion to go into executive session at 5:30 PM to discuss district pending legal and personnel matters.

Motion to Go Into  
Executive Session

Motion by: Board Member Conway  
Seconded by: Board Member Bellsey  
Approved: 4-0

Board Vice President Pace called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:55 PM.

Adjournment

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

## MINUTES

**Date of Meeting:** April 8, 2025

**Type of Meeting:** Regular Meeting

**Place of Meeting:** Lido Elementary Multipurpose Room

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

**Members Absent:** Board President, Sam Pinto

**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  
Susannah Familetti, District Clerk  
Michael Vigliotta, Attorney  
Members of the Public

### I. Pledge of Allegiance / Call to Order / Opening Remarks – Board Vice President

Board Vice President Pace called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

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

<b>Superintendent's Report</b>
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Dr. Gallagher introduced the two mini presentations for the night. The first presentation was on the district's focus on wellness. Dr. Gallagher participated in the wellness committee this year. She summarized the work of the whole team, especially the PPS staff, and addressed the prevention aspect. She stated there is an increased focus on wellness in the world as a result of a few things. We live in an anxious age and there's an increase in mental health issues. What the district does different is it has long had a focus on the whole child making sure the focus is on children who grow in health and mind and body. Committee looked into ways to add to the prevention and skills development and the intervention. Dr. Gallagher spoke about the different supports with district partners in terms of prevention. Dr. Brancaccio spoke about the two levels of intervention, defined as in school intervention and external supports. In school intervention includes school staff from teachers to cafeteria workers, school counselors, psychologists and social workers and nurses. It's meant to be specific and short term. If a student needs more long-term support, then support is moved toward external supports. Some of the external supports are outside referrals to Northwell, REACH and private practice mental health practitioners.

Dr. Gallagher continued talking about the night's PPS budget presentation including some additions to the preventative supports, additional support teams, additional programming and a Wellness Center at the High School. The Wellness center would be a space that would become a hub for preventative wellness programming and activities. The committee wants to bring in the outside partners to do workshops. The PTA is working with members of the Wellness committee to present a book club on "The Anxious Generation". The community garden has been expanded as well as the Farm to Table initiative with hydroponic gardening.

Dr. Brancaccio discussed the proposed additions to interventions which include an addition of a psychologist as a district wide position and building more of the community partnerships to help facilitate connections with therapists and outside providers. Last year they came across The Counclr App. Dr. Brancaccio and Dr. Gallagher looked into the app and spoke with the developer. The app allows the user to reach out at any time of the day to a licensed mental health professional as well as schedule an appointment with a provider. They would like to pilot the app next year in the Middle School and High School.

### ***Presentation: Special Education and PPS Budget Proposal***

Mr. DeVito began his presentation speaking about Special Education being a large function of the budget and the proposed 25-26 budget is \$22 million with a small variance of under 6%. It includes OT 's, PT's and speech teachers that were formerly included in the grant. Also, the addition of the new Assistant Director and new Psychologist. Funding for REACH services has been eliminated. Next year's budget eliminates funding for students who attend programs in public schools in outside districts because they are not projecting any new students to be attending next year. There is an increase in 3 additional students that will attend public school. There is also a decrease in BOCES placement and a reduction of one special education teacher in the High School. The main drivers in the increase/decrease in the codes in Pupil Personnel Services include an increase in contractual nurses and a decrease in social work services by putting in a grant based on eligibility. The next meeting will be Budget adoption. The May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the Budget Hearing. Mr. DeVito thanked Dr. Brancaccio and her team for their help with presentation.

### **III. Board Vice President Pace called for Board of Education Comments**

<b>BOE Comments</b>
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- Ms. Pace asked the Board for questions and comments.
- Ms. Bellsey asked Dr. Brancaccio about the app and asked her to describe how a student would begin the process of navigating the app. Dr. Brancaccio answered that there would materials for families and students educating them on the app and how to access it.
- Ms. Conway asked if there is any AI involved with the app? Will there be a presentation for the students on the app. Dr. Brancaccio answered yes to both questions. Ms. Conway stated that children in elementary school feel very difficult feelings. Dr. Gallagher replied that the district needs to provide parents with resources and a place where they can go for the resources. Ms. Conway asked about elementary families using the app. Dr. Gallagher replied that the app is not available for grade levels below Middle School.

- Ms. Conway asked the student representative if they feel like they have a voice about the cafeteria options. He replied yes. Ms. Conway is please and looking forward to a new psychologist.
- Dr. Ryan thanked Mr. DeVito and Dr. Brancaccio for the presentation He asked how much money is in the grant. Dr. Brancaccio said it fluctuates anywhere between \$1.2 million to \$1.4 million but overall is about \$1.2 million. Dr. Ryan asked if there was concern that any of that money would be intercepted by Washington. Dr. Brancaccio replied that she is not concerned. Dr. Ryan asked where the new psychologist will be house. The answer was that by the end of the school year. There will be a good understating where the need is but not where the person will be housed. Dr. Ryan stated that for the last 10 years it has been his impression there has been difficulty finding placement for students with special needs because the state, county and BOCES haven't provided the programs that the students need. He asked if the district still has a significant number of students who are in search of a program. Dr. Brancaccio replied yes, the district does a couple of different things for those students to provide the programs and services. Dr. Gallagher added the district has created programs for these students.
- Dr. Ryan expressed a concern about a new school psychologist and asks that the district considers drug and alcohol training as a qualification. He also stated a concern about the Wellness Center and the app, if a student signs up to go to Wellness Center, does the students parent get notified? What if a student uses Wellness center to cut a class? Dr Gallagher replied that there would staff to supervise it and have protocol in place.
- Ms. Pace acknowledged the Special Ed department. She asked how to qualify a student is in crisis or the Wellness Center or is using it as an excuse to get out of class. Dr. Gallagher replied to assess if child is going every day at lunch or if student is regularly presenting with anxiety, there is follow up with guidance counselor and PPS staff to identify. Ms. Pace asked about making referrals to outside support. Dr. Gallagher replied staff will delineate between a Wellness center to offer a student a pause or needs external support. Ms. Pace asked about the app assuming a student was not given permission by parent for app. Dr. Gallagher replied app won't work on the student's phone. There are a set of guidelines within the app. Ms. Pace asked if a student is frequently accessing the app, is it tracked? Reply was yes, there is a liaison assigned to the district to monitor. Ms. Pace asked that the district role this out effectively and so that parents have access to it. Ms. Pace asked Mr. DeVito to clarify that district is not losing any social work services. Mr. DeVito replied that there is no reduction in services.

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

Questions/Comments from Public – Items on Tonight's Agenda Only
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- Joe Smith Director of Reach and a community member feels the Wellness Center is a good addition but asked why the relationship between the school district and REACH will be terminated. Dr. Gallagher replied that the services are not being eliminated, just changing the way services are delivered.

- Scott Nigro asked what the district is basing the in school and out of school counseling issue on? Dr. Gallagher replied from the feedback from the district's mental health professionals.
- Carrie Axelson asked if the Counselor app was part of budget or grant? The answer is app is part of the grant. She asked about "contract nurses" line in budget. Mr. DeVito replied that there is a need for nurses on school buses and they are contracted out. She asked about improving on placing students who are not able to be placed. Dr. Gallagher said district got permission to run programs since students cannot be placed outside.

**V. Board Vice President Mrs. Pace called for Student Organization Announcements**

Student  
Organization  
Announcements

- Mr. McCaffrey discussed upcoming events: last blood drive of the year, student fundraiser in local restaurants, bake sale and freshman class hosted 3v3 basketball game. There was a leadership forum to discuss the state of Long Beach High School inclusion, specifically getting teachers getting involved with student's activities.

**VI. Board Vice President Ms. Pace recommended the acceptance of the Treasurer's Report for February 2025**  
– no action needed.

Acceptance of the  
Treasurer's Report

**VII. Board Vice President Pace recommended the Approval of Minutes for the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of March 20, 2025 and Exec Session April 3, 2025**

Approval of Minutes for  
Exec. Session and Regular  
Meeting of March 20,  
2025 and Exec Session  
April 3, 2025

Board President Pinto called for a motion.

Motion by: Board Member Dr. Ryan

Seconded by: Board Member Bellsey

Board Approved: 4-0

**VIII. PRESENTATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

Dr. Gallagher recommended the approval of a Walk-on  
Agenda Item to approve the retention of Christopher Marzuk, Esq.

Approval of Walk On  
Agenda Item

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Long Beach City  
School District hereby approves the retention of Christopher Marzuk, Esq.  
to conduct an investigation into personnel matters at the hourly rate of \$250.

Board Vice President Pace called for a motion.

Motion by: Board Member Dr. Ryan

Seconded by: Board Member Anne Conway

Board Approved: 4-0

**VIII.1 Dr. Gallagher recommended the approval of Personnel Matters: Certificated**

Board Vice President Pace called for a motion.

Motion by: Board Member Conway

Seconded by: Board Member Bellsey

Approved: 4-0

Presentations of the Superintendent  
Approval of: Personnel Matters:  
Certificated

**VIII.2 Dr. Gallagher recommended the approval of items  
Personnel Matters: Non-Certificated**

Board Vice President Pace called for a motion.

Motion by: Board Member Dr. Ryan

Seconded by: Board Member Bellsey

Approved: 4-0

Approval of Personnel  
Matters: Non-Certificated

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools,  
the Board of Education approves the following personnel actions.

**I. CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

**(a) Resignation for the Purposes of Retirement**

Name: Elleen Parks  
Assign./Loc: Elementary Teacher -West School  
Effective Date: June 30, 2025, close of day

**(b) Amended Leave of Absence**

Name: Susanne Paganini  
Assign./Loc: Part Time Teaching Assistant/Long Beach High School  
Effective Dates: December 9, 2024 – June 30, 2025 on or about at the district's discretion  
Original Dates: December 9, 2024 – May 23, 2025  
Reason: Medical Leave

**(c) Appointment: Full Time Teaching Assistant**

Name: Aileen Monahan  
Assign./Loc.: Full Time Teaching Assistant/East School  
Certification: Teaching Assistant Level I  
Effective Date: April 30, 2025  
Salary Classification: \$45,115 per annum-prorated  
Grade/Step: Grade IV/Step 14  
Reason: To meet a district need

- (d) **Appointment: The following Per Diem Substitute is recommended for approval for the 2024-2025 school year**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Linda Farrell	Teacher

- (e) **The following Short term per diem Substitute Teacher is recommended for approval for the dates below. \$245.84 per day**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Jacquelyn Riccio	April 2, 2025 – May 30, 2025
Nina Arlotta	April 8, 2025 - June 30, 2025

**I. CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

- (f) **Appointment: Coach for Spring High School JV Boys Tennis Team**

Spring Sport	Position	Coach	Stipend
Tennis	Junior Varsity	Katherine Dascher	\$6037

- (g) **Amended Appointment: Interscholastic Coaches for the 2024/2025 school year**

SPORT	COACH
8 Girls LAX	<i>Rescind Katherine Dascher</i>
7/8 Girls LAX	<i>Hayley Kosiner</i>

- (h) **Appointment: Sub Club Advisor for Lindell After School Clubs-Rate of Pay \$60.86 per hour.**

Stephanie Cherniak

- (i) **Appointment: Elementary Club Coaches for the 2024/2025 School Year-rate of pay \$60.86 per hour, max 10 hours.**

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ENRICHMENTS	SCHOOL
Ciavarella	Emily	Colors of the Rainbow (Dance)	Lido

- (j) **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: LONG BEACH PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE ASPPG**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement between the negotiating representatives of the Long Beach Public Schools and the Administrative, Supervisory and Pupil Personnel Group for five employees discussed in Executive session dated March 21, 2025 and April 1, 2025.

**I. NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

**(a) Resignation**

Name: Jose Hernandez  
Assign./Loc. 30-hr. Driver / Transportation  
Effective Date: April 4, 2025, close of day

Name: Sandra Hernandez  
Assign./Loc. 30-hr. Driver / Transportation  
Effective Date: April 4, 2025, close of day

Name: Yovany Rivas  
Assign./Loc. 30-hr. Driver / Transportation  
Effective Date: April 4, 2025, close of day

Name: Aileen Monahan  
Assign./Loc. Data Specialist / East School  
Effective Date: April 29, 2025, close of day

**(b) Amended Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement**

Name: Louise Cronolly  
Assign./Loc. Part time Building Aide/Long Beach Middle School  
Effective Date: June 20, 2025, close of day  
Original Date: June 27, 2025, close of day

**(c) Appointment: Part Time Bus Aides (18.75 hours per week)**

Name: Christian Tiburcio  
Assign./Loc.: Part Time Bus Aide/Transportation  
Effective Date: March 31, 2025, on or about  
Salary Classification: \$17.84 per hour Grade I/Step 1  
Reason: To fill a vacancy

Name: Julio Lopez  
Assign./Loc.: Part Time Bus Aide/Transportation  
Effective Date: March 31, 2025, on or about  
Salary Classification: \$17.84 per hour Grade I/Step 1  
Reason: To fill a vacancy

Name: Raquel Turcios  
Assign./Loc.: Part Time Bus Aide/Transportation  
Effective Date: March 31, 2025, on or about  
Salary Classification: \$17.84 per hour Grade I/Step 1  
Reason: To fill a vacancy



**I. NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

**(d) Appointment: Transportation 10-Hour Driver Extra Work**

Driver	Position	Hours	Location
Maria Guardado	Stand-by-driver	10	Transportation
Natividad Doherty	Building Aide	10	LBHS
Linda McCormack	Building Aide	10	LBHS

**(e) Rescind Appointment: Transportation 10-Hour Driver Extra Work**

Driver	Position	Hours	Location
Linda McCormack	Stand-by-driver	10	Transportation

**(f) Appointment: Transportation 18.75-Hour Bus Aides Extra Work**

Bus Aide	Hours
Clara Gonzales	15
Nancy Deras	15
Letreesha Daniels	15

**(g) Appointment: Transportation 30-Hour Bus Aides Extra Work**

Bus Aide	Hours
Daisy Amely	10
Rosa Lezama	5

**(h) Amended Appointment Part Time Lunch Aide**

Name	Step	Rate	Location	Start Date	<u>Comment</u>
Maria Morales	3	\$19.53	Lido	3/31/25	10 hours per week to 15 hours per week.

**(i) The following Per Diem Substitute is recommended for approval for the 2024-2025 school year.**

Name	Position	Rate
Aileen Monahan	Clerical	\$29.76

**I. NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

**(j) Completion of Probationary Appointments**

The staff members listed below have completed their probationary appointments and have received satisfactory evaluation and are hereby recommended for permanent appointment.

Name: Mindy Scanlan  
Assign./Loc.: Secretary II/Lindell School  
Effective Date: May 18, 2025

Name: Kimberly Wynne  
Assign./Loc.: Secretary I/High School  
Effective Date: May 14, 2025

**Dr. Gallagher recommended in a combined vote Items VIII.3 through Item VIII.6**

**Board Vice President Pace called for a motion.**

**Motion by: Board Member Bellsey**  
**Seconded by: Board Member Conway**  
**Approved: 4-0**

**VIII.3 Dr. Gallagher recommended the Approval of Budget Transfer**

**Approval of Budget  
Transfer**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a transfer in the amount of \$92,000 to the Contract Transportation code [A5540-400-00-0000] from the Transportation Bus Drivers code [A5510-160-32-0000] to pay contractors for transportation routes contracted out and for private schools.

**VIII.4 ACCEPTANCE OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON  
PRE-SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION AND COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Acceptance of CPSE  
and CSE  
Recommendations**

**VIII.5 PAYMENT OF LEGAL BILLS: LEGAL SERVICES**

**Approval of Payment of  
Legal Bills: Legal Services**

**A) VOLZ & VIGLIOTTA, PLLC**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes expenditures in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Volz & Vigliotta for the monthly retainer for general counsel legal services for the period of May 1, 2025 through May 31, 2025; and \$3,583.33 for the monthly retainer for labor counsel legal services for the period May 1, 2025 through May 31, 2025.

**Approval of Use of Schools  
Application**

**VIII.6 APPROVAL OF USE OF SCHOOLS APPLICATIONS**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the use of schools as attached, not to conflict with District events. However, please note that events may have to be modified and/or rescheduled based on building schedule.

**APPLICATIONS FOR USE OF SCHOOLS**

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Facility Requested</u>	<u>Dates Requested</u>
Long Beach Theater Guild	Auditions for Annie	Long Beach Middle School Auditorium Lobby	Monday June 16, 2025 5:30 pm – 9:15 pm
Long Beach Theater Guild	Auditions for Annie	Long Beach Middle School Auditorium	Monday June 16, 2025 5:30 pm – 9:15 pm

**Board of Ed –  
Additional  
Comments, New/Old  
Business**

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

- Dr. Ryan asked how many students opted out of ELA State Testing. Dr. Gallagher replied that there were no numbers because the states computer-based testing did not work.
- Ms. Conway gave a shout out to the Middle School play that was fantastic.

**Questions and Comments  
from the Public**

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

- Dad of three kids in district tanked the Board for having the OM program and said the schools did great at the States and 5 groups are moving on to the worlds. It is a privilege for children to attend the schools and for their daughter to participate in OM. Dr. Gallagher announced that the school district will pay for the registration fees to go to World's. Ms. Pace thanked him for coming to meeting and sharing his experience.

**XI. Announcements**

**Announcements**

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers' Association – Karen Bloom thanked for the presentation and are very happy to hear about the Wellness program. She congratulated Ms. Parks on her retirement.
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group – Mr. Biesma congratulated Ms. Parks on her retirement and thanked Mr. DeVito and Dr. Brancaccio for presentation
3. LBPS Group C Employees Association – none
4. Parent/Teacher Association – Guilianna Carmichael announced they have the plant sale going on and the PTA is giving 12 seniors a scholarship. He spoke about the Book Club starting on April 30<sup>th</sup>. She also congratulated Ms. Parks on her retirement.

**XII. Adjournment**

**Adjournment**

**Board Vice President Pace called for a motion to adjourn at:**

**8:20 PM.**

**Motion by:** Board Member Bellsey  
**Seconded by:** Board Member Dr. Ryan  
**Approved:** 4-0

**Minutes submitted by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susannah Familetti, District Clerk  
April 8, 2025