

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: April 23, 2025

Type of Meeting: Executive Session

Place of Meeting: Central Administration 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
Mr. Michael DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance & Operations Arrvd. 6:00 pm
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. For Personnel & Administration Arrvd. 6:00
Dr. Janna Ostroff, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction Arrvd. 6:00 pm

Absent: Mr. Tom Volz, Attorney

Board President Pinto 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: 5-0

Board President Pinto called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:45 PM.

Adjournment

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

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: April 23, 2025

Type of Meeting: Executive Session

Place of Meeting: East Elementary Faculty 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
Mr. Michael I. DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance and Operations (arr. 6:00 pm)
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. for Personnel & Administration (arr. 6:00 pm)
Dr. Janna Ostroff, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction (arr. 6:00 pm)

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

Board President Pinto called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:45 PM.

Adjournment

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

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: April 23, 2025

Type of Meeting: Regular Meeting

Place of Meeting: Long Beach Middle School Auditorium

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

Members Absent: Board Vice President Alexis Pace

Others Present: Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. 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
Members of the Public

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

Board President Pinto called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Pinto welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

II. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Gallagher

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gallagher introduced the Middle School Fine Arts Program

Student Showcase: Middle School Fine Arts

Ms. Lang Shapiro introduced the Middle School students involved in the fine art program. Haley Steier spoke about her favorite subject – Perspective drawing. Leah in 8th grade spoke about being the president of the Tri M Junior honor society. Ava spoke about how she loves taking Studio Art and creating acrylic portraits. A 7th grader spoke about participating in All County and LISPA. Isla spoke about her favorite piece of music she worked on is titled "Easy Street". She thanked all of the music teachers in the Long Beach Music Department. 6th grader Ledger Nafte looks forward to his art class all day. Art class makes him feel free. Mira's favorite piece of music for band is "Fanfare" which she plays flute for. She likes to perform with all her friends and gives her a thrill to perform on stage. Ava who is the Historian for Tri M said her favorite thing was to play in All County and meet other students who play the same instrument as she. She gets a feeling of accomplishment from performing in concerts. At the end Mira sang "Tomorrow".

Presentation: Final Budget Presentation

Mr. DeVito began his presentation introducing the Final Budget Presentation. The district is proposing for the 2025-2026 year a \$158,545,333 budget, a 1.67% increase. The increase is made up of employees moving up salary schedules, a new full time mechanic in the middle school, new AIS Math teacher in Lido, new WINGS teacher at Lindell, new staff member on special assignment at the High School for the Wellness Center, an increase in the general education section in the high school, a Social Studies Director, Assistant Director of Special Education, OT, PT and Speech teachers that were in the grant are now in general fund budget. There was a decrease in the FTE general education budget in the middle school based on enrollment and smaller sections in East School 5th Grade which created offsets. There is a proposed Equipment decrease due to onetime expenditure. The vendor budget has increased due to new Chromebooks, iPads and desktop computer upgrades and replacements. There is a 5% adjustment on the BOCES budget line. The Property and Liability insurance premium has increased. There is a very small increase in Supplies and Materials which includes replacing new flexible furniture, additional space in the High School, furniture for Wellness Center and additional supplies for Robotics. This was offset by some supply decreases overall due to lower enrollment. There was a decrease in employee benefits since premiums had a very small increase. A TRS decrease was offset by an ERS increase. Revenue includes an additional \$500,000 I State Aid, projected revenue and pilots. The surplus from the current year can be applied to the next year. If the Board adopts the budget, the next meeting is the Budget Hearing followed by the Budget Vote.

III. Board President Pinto called for Board of Education Comments

BOE Comments

- Board President Pinto told the Music students they showed tremendous pride and connection to their art abilities and the students were all very impressive during presentation.
- Dr. Ryan stated he was truly impressed with how the students present themselves and congratulated the students on all of their achievements. He looks forward to following their progress and growth into High School. He congratulated Julia Lang Shapiro on her direction and her award as an "Excellent Director" and thanked the teachers for their hard work.
- Ms. Bellsey thanked the students for their presentation. She said their dedication to their craft is wonderful and she looks forward to the spring art show and concerts. She thanked the teachers in the department and Julia Lang Shapiro. She wished the students the best of luck.
- Ms. Conway thanked the students for taking the time to present their talents. She told the students that is why they are here to make sure the students are happy and finding ways to express their feelings and thoughts. She knows the students are going to change the world and make it a better place. She thanked Ms. Lang Shapiro and the teachers.

- Dr. Ryan asked Mr. DeVito what the auditor would say about keeping \$1.5 million in reserves. Mr. DeVito replied that the district may need the money so the district plans for what they think they may need but every dollar does not have to be spent. He would rather end with a surplus. Dr. Ryan asked what last year's surplus was, Mr. DeVito thought it was around 1%. This year will be a little higher operating surplus. Mr. DeVito stated that a mailer about the budget will be going out soon.
- Ms. Bellsey thanked Mr. DeVito for his presentation and she asked to describe the Workplace Learning Director is. Dr. Gallagher explained that district currently has a staff member for internships, a staff member for workplace learning placements and a staff member who works with the Perkins Grant. It makes more sense for one staff member to oversee the three different areas.
- Ms. Conway thanked Mr. DeVito for the presentation. She asked what happens if the District does not receive the Foundation Aid. Mr. DeVito replied that the district would have to use more of the operating surplus, making less to put in the Capital Reserve Fund. Dr. Gallagher stated that the Governor's proposed increase is 2% but the White House proposed increase were 3.25% and 3.5% usually the Governor's proposal is a base of that number. Mrs. Conway asked how much money we receive for each PreK student? Mr. DeVito said the district has been told \$10,000 per child. Mrs. Conway asked how many PreK students are registered for next year. Dr. Gallagher replied that there are 175 students registered. Which Mrs. Conway asked if that number is more than last year. Dr. Gallagher said it is about the same. Mrs. Conway asked if the District is getting new buses, and Mr. DeVito replied yes, and the district is working on an electrification program. Mr. DeVito gave a shout out for "Bus Driver Appreciation Day" and the mechanics.
- Mrs. Conway asked how many Grants the District writes and gets per year? Mr. DeVito named the bulk of the grants and said there may be one or two smaller ones.
- Board President Pinto thanked Mr. DeVito for the presentation and the work he and his team put into it.
- Dr. Gallagher clarified that the budget is not reducing services. District is adding a psychologist and social worker this year. District is not cutting services, it is actually costing district more. In school counseling is to get the kids through the school day.

IV. Board President Pinto called for Student Organization Announcements

**Student
Organization
Announcements**

- Mr. Shroeder announced that the final blood drive for the year on Friday. Students receive scholarships for certain amount of blood collected. Student organization working in fundraiser with local restaurants and recent fundraiser raised money for a local family who had a house fire. The Student Organization is talking about improving the lunch guidelines.

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**

- Joe Smith from Long Beach Reach stated he wanted to continue to articulate the decision to eliminate the workers is short sighted and incomprehensible. LB Reach believes many

youngsters will not benefit from services if they are not available during the school day.

- Jeff Kupferman, a retired social worker from the district, worked mostly in High School, Middle School and NIKE. His relationship with REACH in all the building s was an integrated part of services provided by schools. REACH served as a resource and a referral system. At this year's Middle School Christmas concert, he ran into a former student he worked with and student now works for REACH.
- Ms. Ortsman thanked LB REACH for speaking and wanted to advocate for LB Reach and the school counselors that work with the children. She stated her children rely on these services every day. Asked the Board please do not take away in person counseling.
- Mr. Nigro, Chairperson of LB Reach, suggested to test the program for one year. LB Reach is in the schools in person every day. Thinks the new programs should be vetted. Asked to adopt a budget that included LB REACH.

VI. PRESENTATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

VI.1 Dr. Gallagher recommended in a combined vote Items VI.1 and VI.2 together, the 2025-2026 Budget and the 2025-2026 Property Tax Card

Board President Pinto called for a motion.

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

Presentations of the Superintendent
Approval of Budget and
Property Tax Card

VI.3 Dr. Gallagher recommended the approval of item VI.3 BOCES vote

President Pinto called for a motion.

Motion by: Board Member Dr. Ryan
Seconded by: Board Member Bellsey
Approved: 4-0
Board Member Conway voted "Yes" on 3A but not on 3B

Approval of BOCES Vote

VI.4 Dr. Gallagher recommended the Acceptance of donation for the Boys Hockey Team

President Pinto called for a motion.

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

Acceptance of donation
for Boys Hockey Team

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

- Ms. Conway thanked the public for the donations for the Hockey team.
- Ms. Pinto thanked the public for the donations too.

VIII. Questions and Comments from the Public

Questions and Comments
from the Public

- None

IX. Announcements

Announcements

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers' Association – Karen Bloom congratulated the students who presented and congratulated them on all of their accomplishments. Thanked Mr. DeVito for the hard work on the budget. Ms. Bloom expressed the appreciation for all the working relationships with the Board of Ed and Central Administration.
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group – Keith Biesma thanked Ms. Shapiro, staff and students for the evenings presentation. Thanked Mr. DeVito and Business Office for the hard work on the Budget presentation
3. LBPS Group C Employees Association - none
4. Parent/Teacher Association – Guillian Carmichael gave a reminder about "The Anxious Generation" book club. This is Volunteer Week and next meeting will be after Teacher Appreciation week. Thanked Mr. DeVito for touring the schools to give Budget Presentation.

X. Adjournment

Adjournment

Board President Pinto called for a motion to adjourn at: 8:10 PM.

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

Minutes submitted by:

Susannah Familetti, District Clerk
April 23, 2025