

## MINUTES

**Date of Meeting:** October 23, 2012

**Type of Meeting:** Work Session

**Place of Meeting:** Lido Elementary School Cafeteria

**Members Present:** Vice President Darlene Tangney  
Board Member Patrick E. Gallagher  
Board Member Dennis Ryan  
Board Member Stewart Mininsky

**Members Absent:** President Roy J. Lester, Esq.

**Others Present:** Mr. David Weiss, Superintendent  
Dr. Vincent Butera, Assistant Superintendent –  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Michael DeVito, Chief Operating Officer  
Dr. Passi, HS Principal  
Dr. Natali, MS Principal  
Dr. Newman, HS VP Principal  
Mrs. Schneider, West School Principal  
Ms. Carole Butler, District Clerk

**I. Call to Order – President Lester**

Vice President Tangney presided over the work session due to the absence of President Lester. She called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM, led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance, and thanked Mrs. Butler for the work on the voter referendum, and the presenters on the DASA presentation.

Call to Order

**II. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Weiss**

Superintendent's  
Report

**Presentation – The Dignity Act – Mr. Weiss, Dr. Passi, Dr. Natali, Dr. Newman, Mrs. Schneider**

Highlights include: What is the Dignity Act?, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), What is Bullying?, What is Harassment?, Three Tiered Model, Tier 1 – Curriculum, Prevention, Assessments & Interventions, Extra Curricular, Developing Character,

### **Presentation – The Dignity Act (continued)**

Staff & Structures for both Elementary & Secondary Schools, Tier 2 and 3 Social & Emotional /Behavioral Supports, Alleged Reporting/Investigation Process for both Elementary and Secondary Schools, SUSS Grant and On-going Steps.  
Presentation is located on-line and in the office of the District Clerk.

Discussion included the use of teaming as a support for the transitional 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders, use of more positive language, empowerment of students to be good citizens, preventing bullying before it occurs, professional training through the SUSS grant, and Michael DeVito taking over as DASA Coordinator for the District.

### **III. President Lester called for Board of Education Comments**

<b>Board of Education Comments</b>
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- Board Member Ryan thanked the presenters and the staff members for attending and asked about the effectiveness/progress of the social/emotional learning component, whether there was any compromise on education, whether there was in the change in incidences of bullying, and whether students seemed more emotionally fragile today.

Responses from Mrs. Sauter, Mrs. Young, and Mrs. Schneider, elementary principals were: that the schools were providing a better and more positive learning environment; SEL is integrated into the curriculum; knowledge of family life helps in teaching the whole child; bullying is really conflict; students need to feel safe and secure; students are more socially aware now and more willing to share with social worker or adult.

- Board Member Gallagher noted that DASA provided the opportunity to create better and more uniform procedures.

Mr. Weiss said that it was discovered that the District procedures were fairly consistent and were now being clarified.

- Board Member Mininsky asked about the climate survey and its impact.

Mr. DeVito discussed that students feel safe and supported by staff but works need to be done with other students, transition years are difficult and that there will be a work session on the climate survey.

- Board Member Gallagher asked how the District received the SUSS grant and talked about training, DASA coordinators in each school, the anti-bullying club and the peer leaders who are more senior students training underclasspersons.

### **Board of Education Comments (continued)**

Vice Principal Newman explained that contacts from her previous position helped her in obtaining the grant. Dr. Passi mentioned the peer leaders who are providing a more positive role in the climate of the school.

#### **IV. President Lester called for Questions and Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only.**

**Questions and Comments  
from the Public**

- Ari Pine – 159 Magnolia Blvd – asked about statistical evidence on the effectiveness of the program, the measurement of the program on a continuing basis, and whether students were learning actual strategies or merely using others to help them.

Mr. Weiss explained that the programs were new, but research studies indicate that social/emotional learning has a major effect on academic performance. Social Workers Agresta and Durnan talked about community involvement and the goal of having students intervene and that they were learning life skills and internalizing strategies. Dr. Natali explained that there were no bystanders – only “upstanders” – who go to a trusted adult; telling vs. tattling to help a friend, and if you see something, say something.

**Announcements**

#### **V. President Lester called for Announcements.**

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers' Association – No comments
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group – No comments
3. LBPS Group C Employees Association – No comments
4. Parent/Teacher Association – Ms. Dalila Duffy, CCPTA Co-President, Ms. Gusler and Hope Prince thanked the Board for their hard work and presented gifts from all of the PTAs in honor of Board Recognition Week.
5. Student Organization – No Comments

**VI. Vice President Tangney called for Board of Education  
– Additional New/Old Business, if any.**

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

- Vice President Tangney thanked the PTA and thought that they should be honored as parents.
- Board Member Gallagher noted that the subcommittees of the 100 Year Anniversary Committee would be meeting on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon at 4 PM at the Historical Society and that everyone was welcome to join. He also went on to say that it is critical to change the school culture and improve the climate for the students, making sure they feel safe and comfortable learning at school.

**VII. Vice President Tangney called for a motion to adjourn at  
8:39 PM.**

**Adjournment**

**Motion by: Board Member Gallagher**  
**Seconded by: Board Member Mininsky**  
**Approved: 4-0**

Minutes submitted by:

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Carole Butler, District Clerk  
November 27, 2012