

MINUTES OF BABYLON SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

DATE OF MEETING:

May 9, 2022

PLACE:

Babylon Junior-Senior High School, 50 Railroad Avenue, Babylon, NY 11702

Members Present

Mrs. Carol Ann Dell'Erba, President
Mrs. Linda Jurs, Vice President
Mr. Dominick Montalto – absent
Mrs. Donna Noesi
Mrs. Theresa Patiri
Mr. David Sonkin

APPROVED

District Superintendent

Mrs. Linda J. Rozzi

Central Office Administration

Mr. Travis Davey, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction - absent
Ms. Deirdre Lunetta, Assistant Superintendent for Business

District Clerk

Carol Feudi

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mrs. Dell'Erba, President. A motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of particular individuals and advice from counsel was made by D. Noesi, seconded by D. Sonkin and approved. (5-0) Public session resumed at 7:30 p.m. at which time Mrs. Dell'Erba, President, led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of April 11, 2022, Board of Education Work/Study meeting of April 25, 2022, and Board of Education Special Meeting of April 26, 2022 were approved on motion by D. Noesi and seconded by T. Patiri. (5-0)

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S AND BUSINESS OFFICE FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Treasurer's Report and Business Office Financial Reports and Extra Curricular Fund Report for March 2022 were approved on motion by L. Jurs and seconded by D. Sonkin (5-0)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Delegates Report – Students Kate O'Brien and Alyssa Watral reminded all to save the date for the spring carnival being held on Saturday, May 21 at the Grade School. They reported on the Fine Arts department announcing that Shelby Kowalewsky and Vanessa Espinoza, as well as 28 art honor society students, had their artwork chosen to be displayed at the Heckscher Art Museum this month and that several other art students had their artwork displayed at the Babylon Village Then and Now Art Show and the LI Media Art Show. They reported on the world languages department and the upcoming Annual Student/Teacher talent show. The Natural Helpers had its very first student training session and the English Department reports that Sofia Consentino, seventh grader, has been selected as Honorable Mention for her poem "Sun After a Storm" in the annual Walt Whitman Student Poetry Contest. They also reported on the recent, and successful, "Poem in Your Pocket Day," which was held on April 28, 2022.

- Mrs. Rozzi announced that this past school year saw the initial launch of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) for the first time ever in the Babylon School District. With the passage of the State budget this spring, Babylon is now set to receive enough federal funding that allows us to double the size of the current UPK program. The UPK Lottery takes place on May 25, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at the Babylon Elementary School. Interested families who wish to register for the UPK lottery can still register. This year, we will be offering three UPK locations: South Shore Children's Center will run one program housed inside Babylon Elementary School, as well as one program housed in the Early Childhood Center at their East Islip location, which provides wrap-around AM and PM childcare services for working families; Cross of Christ Church will house the third option located at their Deer Park Avenue location right in Babylon Village. Again, to be considered for the UPK lottery, parents and guardians must sign their children up on or before the deadline of May 18, 2022. Registration can be obtained from the district's website.
- Mrs. Rozzi also reported on the updated document that details changes to existing masking procedures. Specifically, if a student is considered to have been exposed to another person infected with COVID, he/she or their parents have the option to mask or not regardless of vaccination status. Although masking is still recommended by health care providers when exposed to COVID,

it is not mandated that a student mask if simply exposed. Additional information has been sent home to families.

- The Babylon Teachers' Association Scholarship night is one of the greatest events of the year. The thought, planning and implementation of the evening is a huge undertaking, honoring those students worthy of recognition for their academic excellence as well as growth. We thank the BTA for planning this annual event, which will take place under the illustrious lights of Walter William Field this season.
- The upcoming School Budget Vote and Trustee Election has once again proposed an educationally strong and fiscally sound budget that delivers excellent value for all Babylon students, families and district taxpayers, while supporting the programs our practitioners have developed over the years. The 2022/2023 proposed budget presents a 0% tax levy increase, the lowest increase since the inception of the Tax Levy Cap legislation. It is a proposed budget that champions the quality education that our Babylon community deserves – strong academic outcomes that drive the college and career success of all students, vibrant music and art programs, as well as all interscholastic sports and extracurricular clubs that match personal student interests. It is one that promotes small class sizes, expands the current UPK program and enhances academic interventions as well as social/emotional supports for students through additional personnel: two new reading specialists, one new math specialist and an additional guidance counselor. It is also a budget that introduces our community to a new transportation provider, Suffolk Transportation Services, which will offer excellent and well-rounded service to all riders. The district's financial rating remains as strong as ever, and our schools remain exemplary. Moreover, we value the strong partnership our schools have enjoyed with the Babylon community over the years. With that, we encourage every employee to vote in his or her local school budget vote and trustee election, universally scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2022.
- Mrs. Rozzi stated that schools must be safe, nurturing spaces where students, as well as employees, are empowered and can feel confidentially heard. The district has spent the last number of months reviewing and revising district policy on fraternization and reporting procedures. We have developed consistent building level protocols expected for detailed follow-through with accountability measures set in place; we have launched the Let's Talk! Platform that ensures new procedures are now assigned and follow-up is tracked. We also brought in additional education programming for all staff on the topic of Sexual Harassment this year. Finally, in partnership with the Suffolk County Executive's Office and the Crime Victim's Center, Babylon has the opportunity to pilot a new Student Ambassador program comprised of a group of current students who bring positive advocacy to very much a national issue. Additionally, any person within our system who may need the confidential support of an advocate, even if it is not school related, can have one through the Center. In addition to this, our partnership will allow for an array of training to school district employees, students and officials focused on disclosures as well as prevention programs, now also including cyber safety. It is our hope that we can lead the way for other districts throughout the county, region and state. On behalf of Babylon Schools, we look forward to closing out the year together as we celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of all students.

BUDGET HEARING PRESENTATION

Mrs. Rozzi turned the floor over to Mrs. Lunetta, Assistant Superintendent for Business, to present the annual budget hearing presentation for the 2022/2023 school year. Mrs. Dell'Erba thanked Mrs. Lunetta for this evening's review of the budget and for all of her hard work on the proposed budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee – no report; Finance Committee – no report; however, Mrs. Jurs encouraged all to go out and vote in this year's budget and trustee election; Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Noesi said the next meeting is scheduled for June 10 at 5:00 p.m. and thanked all teachers, administrators and community members (over 30 people) for their participation in this committee spearheaded by Mr. Davey; Policy Committee – Mrs. Dell'Erba reported that the committee met this evening and will meet again on June 6 to finish up the Fraternization Policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ QUESTIONS

Questions and comments were received from G. Hortsmann, D. Skarulis and A. Campagna regarding reporting procedures for child abuse/sexual misconduct in a school setting and the new program, Let's Talk!, the district's counsel services, Suffolk Transportation Services software for bus routes and fuel charges, elementary librarian, high school assistant principal position and extended school year.

Mrs. Rozzi thanked the three retirees listed on the board agenda this evening and wished them all well. She also recognized both Dr. Campbell and Mrs. Shelbi Feldman who are also listed on the agenda this evening resigning from their positions this year.

OMNIBUS MOTION

On motion by D. Sonkin, seconded by D. Noesi, a motion to omnibus Resolutions 1-27 were approved (6-0).

On omnibus motion by L. Jurs, seconded by D. Noesi, an omnibus motion to approve Resolutions 1-27 were approved (6-0)

RESIGNATION

1. **RESIGNATION: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Dr. Cornelius Campbell, Assistant Principal at the high school, effective June 30, 2022, with best wishes on his future professional endeavors.

RESIGNATION

2. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Lisa Ann Lindeman, Library Media Specialist at the Babylon Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2022, with best wishes on her retirement.

RESIGNATION

3. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of John Robert Michele, Mathematics Teacher at the Babylon Junior-Senior High School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2022, with best wishes on his retirement.

RESIGNATION

4. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Anthony J. Sparacio, Physical Education & Health Teacher at the Babylon Junior-Senior High School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2022, with best wishes on his retirement.

RESIGNATION

5. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Shelbi Feldman, Elementary Teacher at the Babylon Elementary School, effective June 30, 2022, with best wishes on her future professional endeavors.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

6. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the extension of an unpaid child rearing leave for Daniella Pesce, Special Education Teacher at the Grade School, effective September 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

7. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the extension of an unpaid leave of absence for the purpose of child rearing for Olivia Calcado, Mathematics Teacher at the Babylon Jr/Sr High School, effective May 17, 2022 to June 30, 2022.

RESCIND CASUAL APPOINTMENT

8. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves to rescind the appointment of September 13, 2021 of Jordan Hue as All School Musical Production Director for the 2021-2022 School Year.

RECALL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

9. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the recall appointment of Leova Manbhat, Library Media Specialist, at the grade school for a two-year probationary period effective September 1, 2022 to September 1, 2024. Compensation for this appointment to be MA&30, Step 3 in accordance with the Babylon Teachers Association Contract (\$77,215).

PART-TIME SECURITY GUARD APPOINTMENT

10. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints Robert Cropsey as part-time security guard effective May 10, 2022 to June 30, 2022. Compensation for this appointment to be \$18.00 per hour.

11. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the conditional appointment of Anya Hixson as leave replacement math teacher at the

LEAVE REPLACEMENT TEACHER

high school effective May 17, 2022 to June 30, 2022. Compensation for this position is BA, Step 1, in accordance with the Babylon Teachers Association Contract (\$57,623 prorated).

CASUAL APPOINTMENT

12. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following casual appointment for the 2021/2022 School Year:

<u>Jr/Sr High School</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Compensation</u>
All School Musical Production Director	Rebecca Olivieri	\$5806.00

CASUAL APPOINTMENT

13. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Keith Fasano as Principal of the Extended School Year Program from July 7, 2022 to August 17, 2022. Compensation for this position to be a stipend of \$6,000.

CASUAL APPOINTMENT

14. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following casual teacher appointments for the Extended School Year Program from July 7, 2022 to August 17, 2022, contingent upon enrollment. Compensation for these positions to be in accordance with the 2021-2022 Babylon Teachers' Association Contract at \$46.00/hour.

Teachers:	Hannah McGarvey
	Jamie Preziosi
	Nicole Cupo
Specialized Instruction Reading:	Barbara O'Halloran
	Jessica Kurtz
	Nancy Murphy
Specialized Instruction Math:	Caroline Figoski
	Corrine Figoski
Speech Therapy:	Denise Glynn
Nurse:	Nina Burke

EXTENSION OF CONSULTANT SERVICES

15. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education to approve the extension of consultant services of Linda Pesce as Consultant to the District for the Annual Budget Vote preparation and process effective May 18, 2022 to June 30, 2022 at the hourly rate of \$80 per hour.

LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT

16. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Letter of Engagement between the Babylon Union Free School District, the Babylon School Board and the firm of Mulholland Minion Davey McNiff & Beyrer.

UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

17. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Contract for the 2022-2023 School Year between the Babylon Union Free School District and South Shore Children's Center.

SCOPE LICENSE AGREEMENT

18. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the License Agreement between the Babylon Union Free School District and SCOPE Education Services for the purpose of operating a Summer Enrichment Program on the premises of the Babylon Elementary School.

FITZGERALD DRIVING SCHOOL SERVICES

19. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the In-Car Driver Education Instruction Services agreement between the Fitzgerald Driving School and the Babylon Union Free School District for the 2022/2023 School Year at a cost of \$305 per p.m. driving student and \$315 per a.m. driving student (fees to be paid by students).

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT

20. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Affordable Care Act Administration Agreement between the Babylon Union Free School District and Seneca Consulting Group, Inc. for the 2022-2023 school year, fee structure as per contract. (\$10,500).

21. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Business to cancel the month-to-month

**CANCELLATION &
APPROVAL OF
DISTRICT
POSTAGE METERS**

lease with Pitney Bowes effective June 1, 2022 for four postage meters located throughout the district and enter into a 63-month contract with Quadient for four postage meters at a savings to the district of approximately \$8,000.

**JOINT MUNICIPAL
COOPERATIVE
BIDDING
RESOLUTION FOR
TUTORIAL &
SPECIAL
EDUCATION
SERVICES**

22. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following resolution:
WHEREAS, various educational and municipal corporations located within the State of New York desire to bid jointly for Tutorial & Special Education Services for Students, Western Suffolk BOCES & Component School Districts – RFP #22/23-04 P-E5ILH, Opened March 30, 2022, Original Term of Contract: July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; and
WHEREAS, the Babylon Union Free School District, an educational/municipal corporation is desirous of selectively participating with other educational and/or municipal corporations in the State of New York in joint bidding in the areas mentioned above pursuant to General Municipal Law §119-o and Education Law Section 1950; and
WHEREAS, the district is a municipality within the meaning of General Municipal Law §119-n and is eligible to participate in the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Second Supervisory District of Suffolk County (hereinafter western Suffolk BOCES) Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Initiative in the areas mentioned above; and
WHEREAS, with respect to all activities conducted by the Western Suffolk BOCES, the District wishes to delegate to Western Suffolk BOCES the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids/proposals, accepting and opening bids/proposals, tabulating bids/proposals, awarding the bids/proposals, extending awards of bids/proposals, and reporting the results to the district.
BE IT RESOLVED, that the district hereby appoints Western Suffolk BOCES to represent it and to act as the lead agent in all matters related to the services as described above; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the district hereby authorizes Western Suffolk BOCES to place all legal advertisements for any required cooperative bidding in Newsday, which is designated as the official newspaper for Western Suffolk BOCES; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Agreement with the district shall be for a term of one (1) year as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

**CLOSURE OF
FLUSHING BANK
ACCOUNTS**

23. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the closure of the investment account and the workers compensation checking account at Flushing Bank and to transfer those funds to existing accounts at Chase Bank.

**APPROPRIATION
CHANGE**

24. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the appropriation in the 2021/2022 school year of an amount not to exceed \$510,000 from the district's Employee Benefits Accrued Liability Reserve (EBLAR) for payment of accumulated unused sick leave for specific employees upon their retirement from the district effective on or before June 30, 2022.

**HEALTH &
WELFARE
SERVICES
AGREEMENT**

25. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the health and welfare services agreement between the Amityville Union Free School District and the Babylon Union Free School District.

**COMMITTEE ON
SPECIAL
EDUCATION & PRE-
SCHOOL SPECIAL
EDUCATION**

26. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education for cases dated January 31, 2022 to May 2, 2022.

**PURCHASE OF
VEHICLE**

27. **RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the purchase of a new 2022 Chevrolet TR Silverado 3, for the total purchase price of \$65,457.85.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board agreed to hold the Annual Reorganization meeting on July 5, 2022. Mrs. Dell'Erba addressed inquiries made by a community member at the last Board meeting as follows: Board member term of office: this is not something the Board can change; Citizens Advisory Board: after a brief discussion, it was agreed that board members thought it may be a good idea and would look into the possibility of an advisory committee to include parents, students, teachers, Chamber of Commerce. Further discussion can take place at the Reorganization meeting; Line items for Sexual Harassment Training: Mrs. Lunetta stated that there is not a specific line code in the budget for this purpose; rather, funding is taken from several areas, such as Curriculum and Development, Travel and Conferences, etc; Coaching by staff on reassignment: there are no teachers who are on reassignment coaching.

**REPRESENTATIVES
OF
ORGANIZATIONS**

Ms. Angela Campagna, PTA President, first spoke on behalf of Desiree Hawkins, announcing that Desiree is seeking nominating committee members for the high school PTA. Mrs. Campagna reported on the Annual Flocking Event, which raised \$1600.00; the Adventure Land trip on June 1, the visit by Rohan Murphy, kindergarten orientation, Nurse's Day May 12 and the next PTA meeting scheduled for May 12 at 7:00 p.m. where next year's executive board will be announced.

**FUTURE BOARD
MEETINGS**

Mrs. Dell'Erba announced the following future Board meetings:
Annual School Budget Vote & Trustee Election, May 17, 2022, 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
BOE Regular Business Meeting, Monday, June 13, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN
TO EXECUTIVE
SESSION AND
ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by L. Jurs; seconded by T. Patiri, the Board adjourned to executive session at 8:26 p.m.
Approved (5-0)

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
CAROL FEUDI
DISTRICT CLERK**

