

**MINUTES OF BABYLON SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL MEETING**

**DATE OF MEETING:**

October 29, 2021

**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  
Mrs. Donna Noesi  
Mrs. Theresa Patiri  
Mr. David Sonkin

District Superintendent

Mrs. Linda J. Rozzi

Central Office Administration

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

District Clerk

Carol Feudi

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mrs. Dell'Erba, President. A motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular individual and advice from counsel was made by T. Patiri, seconded by D. Noesi and approved. (6-0) Public session resumed at 7:38 p.m. at which time Mrs. Dell'Erba, President, led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Mrs. Dell'Erba thanked everyone for attending the board meeting. She mentioned that the Board/District is equally frustrated by what we cannot legally share with the public at this time regarding employee disciplinary matters. However, the focus is to always provide pathways for students and staff members to report confidential allegations.

**SUPERINTENENT'S MESSAGE**

Mrs. Rozzi thanked everyone for and attending and mentioned the need for children to always feel safe and to know there is an outlet for them to confidentially report. Due to state and federal privacy laws, it was discussed that the district cannot entertain any public comments about any individual student or employee of the district. She also reported that Mr. Gary Steffanetta and Ms. Karin Lemon, the district's legal counsel, would be addressing the public regarding the legal aspects of an investigation process.

Mr. Davey, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, then shared social/emotional supports for students through guidance services, personal safety presentations planned, as well as anticipated programs for students addressing self-care, stress management and mindfulness. Mr. Davey referred parents to the district's resource guide available on the district's website and the communication and resource guide at [supportservices@babylonufsd.com](mailto:supportservices@babylonufsd.com).

Mr. Gary Steffanetta, legal counsel for the district, shared information about employees in a school district setting as compared to employees in private setting, explaining that school district teachers and administrators are protected by tenure laws. He explained the 3020-a process in detail. He added that anyone who has personal knowledge of an incident may also report. Mr. Steffanetta said that the school board must balance the community's right to know and the employee's right to privacy.

**MOTION TO ENTER NTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At this point in the meeting, a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular individual and advice from counsel was made at 8:03 p.m. by L. Jurs, seconded by D. Noesi and approved. (6-0)

**PUBLIC SESSION REUMED**

Public session resumed at 8:15 p.m. Mrs. Dell'Erba announced that due to information that has just recently been received by the Board, and on advice from counsel, the Board will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Dell'Erba also announced that the Board will vote on a walk-on personnel resolution this evening.

**PROBATIONARY CHEMISTRY**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ian Walsh as Probationary Chemistry Teacher effective November 29, 2021 to November 29, 2025. Compensation for this assignment to be Step 1/BA of the 2021/2022 of

**TEACHING  
APPOINTMENT**

the Babylon Teachers Association Contract (\$57,623 prorated). Mr. Walsh holds initial certification in Chemistry 7-12 and General Science 7-12 Extension. Motion to approve made by T. Patiri, Seconded by Mr. Sonkin (6-0).

**QUESTIONS  
COMMENTS FROM  
VISITORS**

Discussions were held with parents, the Board members and administration regarding the following:

- Probationary appointments on agendas
- Policy on Agenda
- Investigation process when inappropriate behavior by staff is alleged
- Public knowledge of outcomes of hearing officer findings
- Parental notification when students are questioned as witnesses
- Clarification of parental involvement in focus groups
- FOIL
- Upcoming training for staff
- System in place for reporting and statute of limitations for incidents/crimes
- Personnel files of certain teachers
- Coaching and conducting after school activities
- Removal of a teacher from class and notice to parents of such

**OTHER BUSINESS**

As there was no other business, the Board moved on to the next item.

**FUTURE  
BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board of Education will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and a Regular Business meeting on Monday, November 15, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:56 p.m., there being no other items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned on motion by L. Jurs, seconded by T. Patiri and approved (6-0).

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**



**CAROL FEUDI  
DISTRICT CLERK**