

MINUTES OF BABYLON SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: January 9, 2023
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. Ari McKenzie
Mr. Dominick Montalto (absent)
Mrs. Donna Noesi
Mrs. Theresa Patiri
Mr. David Sonkin

APPROVED

Interim Superintendent

Mr. Brian L. Conboy

Central Office Administration

Ms. Deirdre Lunetta, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Ms. Carisa Manza, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

District Clerk

Linda McGarvey

School Attorneys

Doug Spencer
Nicole Murphy

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by C. Dell'Erba, President. A motion to enter executive session by D. Noesi and seconded by L. Jurs, for the purpose of discussing the employment history of particular individuals and advice from counsel was made. (6-0) Public session resumed at 7:35 p.m. at which time C. Dell'Erba, President, led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of December 12, 2022 were approved on motion by L. Jurs and seconded by D. Sonkin. (6-0)

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S AND BUSINESS OFFICE FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Treasurer's and Business Office Financial Reports and Extra Curricular Fund Reports for November 2022 were approved on motion by D. Noesi and seconded by L. Jurs. (6-0)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee: A. McKenzie had no news to report at this time.

Finance Committee: L. Jurs reported that they met tonight. They started discussing the Federal Tax Cap but until the numbers get decided, they really cannot do anything. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13th, unless they meet sooner.

Buildings and Grounds: No news to report at this time.

Technology Committee: D. Sonkin reported that Kindergarteners are working with a web-based platform called Razkids. 1st graders are working on the web-based platform called Seesaw. 4th graders began working on a STEAM project this week. 5th graders are working on a social studies project. 6th graders are also working on a STEAM project.

Curriculum Committee: D. Noesi reported that she will be making a presentation in two weeks at the work/study meeting on January 23rd.

Policy Committee: T. Patiri reported that they met this evening at 6:00 p.m. They were discussing the next steps for the policies that have immediate needs, such as some internal business matters and the education philosophies. They are waiting for additional notes from the State.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Conboy reported that two students from the Jr./Sr. High School, Maeve and Brady, are going to fill us in on various exciting things that are happening at the Jr./Sr. High School. Student Delegates, Maeve and Brady, reported the following:

Senior High Student Council Events:

Planning has begun for this year's BHS Presents! The show is scheduled for Friday, February 10 at 7pm. All community members are invited to come see our talented students perform.

Fine Arts Department:

Vincent Cataldo was a winner in the Grand Central Terminal art contest co-sponsored by the MTA and NYSATA. His artwork will be on display on the large media boards in the terminal. There will be a grand opening ceremony with the date still to be determined. Congratulations to Vincent. Last year, our Art Honor Society students participated in an Art Honor society collaborative with other art honor societies on Long Island. The installation was on display at the Heckscher Museum in the Spring, and is now traveling to all the schools that participated. Babylon will be hosting the installation for the month of January in the Rowe Hall lobby. The students are again participating this year and are currently working on environmentally inspired art for this year's show.

English Honor Society:

Members of the National English Honor Society contributed to this season of giving by making over 100 beautiful and unique cards to be distributed to patients in local nursing homes.

DECA:

Congratulations to our DECA students for participating in this year's Suffolk County DECA Competition! Our students did very well and represented Babylon in multiple categories such as: Entrepreneurship, Travel & Tourism, Business Law & Ethics, Food Marketing, Automotive Marketing, Principles of Business Management and more! Students competed against other Suffolk High School DECA students by testing virtually at their schools. DECA is an international organization with over 200,000 members across the United States and abroad. DECA strives to prepare students to succeed in the workplace and focuses on Entrepreneurship and Marketing topics and careers. Babylon DECA currently has 59 members. We participate in many community service events, including Safe Halloween, Breakfast with Santa, The Jingle Walk and the Superbowl of Caring.

In this competition, 7 students placed in 1st, 2nd or 3rd place, and 27 total students came in the top categories.

The following students received top honors in their events:

First	Last	Event	Place
Logan	Marrin	Principles of Business Management	1 st place
Trevor	Thuma	Principles of Marketing	3 rd place
Lindsay	MacQuarrie	Hotel & Lodging Management	3 rd place
Ashley	Burke	Quick Serve Restaurant Mgt.	3 rd place
Drew	Scheriff	Travel & Tourism Team Event	1 st place
Jameson	Howard	Travel & Tourism Team Event	1 st place
Emily	Hoberman	Retail Merchandising	1 st place

Mr. Conboy then reported the following: This will be the last time I will site Happy New Year. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and had some good relaxing time with family and friends. On the day before the holiday break, it was a pretty interesting weather day. We got word from Suffolk County's Office of Emergency Management that low-level flooding was going to take place on the 23rd of December. So, we did put out a school messenger message to make sure everybody stayed safe. We didn't want people traveling through water to bring their kids to school. That is an excused absence. We monitored that situation throughout the day. The water did get fairly deep down south. We will continue to use that system in the future. It is an extremely efficient way to communicate with everybody. And now that we are in the dead of winter, it is a way to report about snow days and things like that. We also used school messenger just this week to talk about the Let's Talk app, which is now on the home page of our website. It is a way for you to communicate with us. You can click on the tab, and if you want to communicate with us in any way, positive communication as well as concerns, you can express them there. Hopefully, that becomes something that people go to when necessary.

Tomorrow, Governor Hochul will be giving her State of the State message. Traditionally, what happens after the State of the State message is given, is that the State aid runs for each of the school districts are available. We are anxious to see what State aid will be coming our way. As we discussed at prior meetings, we have about an 8% inflation rate right now with a 2% tax cap. So, finding a balance between that inflation and what we can do with the 2% tax cap is what we are dealing with over the next several weeks as we are planning our budget. So, I am very interested and curious to see what the State of the State message will be able to tell us.

On the agenda for tonight is also the approval of the school calendar for to 2023-2024 school year. The State lengthened the school year, making what they call the rating day, which is the last day of school for next year, June 26th. So that gave us a little wiggle room inside the normal calendar dates between Labor Day and June 26th. We get our 180 instructional days and three conference days.

In just a few days, we are going to be at the midpoint of our school year. So, we know that the next six months in this school year, 2022/2023, is going to be very impactful. There's always plenty to do, but there's a lot of decisions that we are going to have to make between now and then. I will also mention that our junior high winter two season begins on Monday. We are also looking to reconvene the school's safety and security committee, likely the week of January 23rd, which is our testing week here at the junior-senior high school. One of the afternoons that week, we are going to put our safety and security committee together again. I know that's a committee that has been in place, so if you have interest in that, just email one of the Board members or me and we can let you know where and when that will be taking place.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/
QUESTIONS**

The Board of Education addressed questions/comments from Danielle Paisley regarding the Let's Talk tab on the district's website.

OMNIBUS MOTION

On motion by D. Sonkin, seconded by A. McKenzie, a motion to omnibus Resolutions 1-14 was approved (6-0).

On omnibus motion by D. Noesi, seconded by T. Patiri, Resolutions 1-14 were approved (6-0).

New Business

1. **RETIREMENT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Patrick Chatterton, custodian at Babylon Elementary School, effective January 4, 2023, with best wishes on his retirement.

2. **RETIREMENT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the retirement of Claire Joseph, special education aide at the Jr./Sr. High School, effective January 16, 2023.

3. **SPECIAL EDUCATION AIDE APPOINTMENT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Claire Joseph as a special education aide at the Jr./Sr. High School, effective January 17, 2023 to June 30, 2023. Compensation for this assignment to be in accordance with the 2022-2023 Aides and Monitors Association contract.

4. **PROBATIONARY READING INTERVENTION SPECIALIST TEACHER: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Ms. Cynthia Ruiz as a Probationary Reading Intervention Specialist Teacher at Babylon Elementary School, effective January 10, 2023 to January 10, 2026*. Compensation for this assignment to be Step 7/MA15 of the 2022-2023 Babylon Teachers' Association contract. Ms. Ruiz holds a Master of Science in Literacy, Students with Disabilities Extension 1-6 Certification requirements, and a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. (\$83,052) Prorated.

5. **PART-TIME SECURITY GUARD APPOINTMENTS: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following part-time security guard appointments, effective January 10, 2023. Compensation for these positions to be at the security guard hourly rate of pay of \$19.00/hour.

Jason Witthohn Brad Fine Dawn Mahoney

6. **PART-TIME AIDE APPOINTMENT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following part-time aide appointment from January 10, 2023 to June 30, 2023. Compensation for this position to be in accordance with the 2022-2023 Aides and Monitors Association contract. (Step 1-\$18.62, Step 2-\$18.93, Step 3-\$19.30)

Elementary School
Carina Rowland

7. **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves a Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Education and John A. Strifolino, as a part-time Administrative Consultant working with the Special Education department at the Babylon Junior Senior High School, effective January 11, 2023 through June 30, 2023, which shall remain in full force and effect, as more fully discussed in executive session, and hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute a contract setting forth such terms on behalf of the Board.

8. **STUDENT TEACHER APPOINTMENT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following student teacher for the Spring 2023 semester:

Student Teacher	Field of Study	Cooperating Teachers
Zachary Wenskus (SUNY Cortland)	Physical Education	Lauren Heck/Christopher Morra

9. **CASUAL APPOINTMENTS: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints the following coaching appointments for the Spring 2023 season. Compensation for these appointments to be in accordance with the 2022/2023 Babylon Teachers' Association Contract.

Varsity Baseball Head Coach	Mike Birnbaum	\$7,583
Varsity Baseball Assist. Coach	Rick Punzone	\$5,996
JV Baseball Coach	Daniel Campanelli	\$5,996
JH Baseball Coach	Patrick Metzger	\$4,862
JH Gymnastics Coach	Steve Silipo	\$4,862
JH Gymnastics Coach	Rosa DiLiberto	\$4,862
Varsity Boys Lacrosse Coach	Kyle Cropsey	\$7,583
Varsity Boys Lacrosse Asst. Coach	Scott Jankow	\$5,996
JV Boys Lacrosse Coach	Tim Halverson	\$5,996
JH Boys Lacrosse Coach	John Greaney	\$4,862
JH Boys Lacrosse Coach	Mike Russo	\$4,862
Varsity Girls Lacrosse Coach	Chris Ryan	\$7,583
Varsity Girls Lacrosse Asst. Coach	Kristin Yevoli	\$5,996
JV Girls Lacrosse Coach	Madeline Lee	\$5,996
JV Girls Lacrosse Coach	Olivia Stegner	\$5,996
JH Girls Lacrosse Coach	Kelsey Ferguson	\$4,862
JH Girls Lacrosse Coach	Brenda Mayo	\$4,862
Varsity Softball Coach	Nicole O'Donnell	\$7,583
JH Softball Coach	Ashley Jones	\$4,862
Varsity Boys Tennis Coach	Mike Sinclair	\$5,911
JV Boys Tennis Coach	Rob Andrews	\$5,048
JH Boys Tennis Coach	Lauren Heck	\$4,862
Varsity Boys Spring Track Coach	Adam Geller	\$7,583
Varsity Boys Spring Track Asst. Coach	Dennis McGovern	\$5,996
Varsity Girls Spring Track Coach	Chris Pedersen	\$7,583
Varsity Girls Spring Track Asst. Coach	Jeffrey Hedberg	\$5,996
JH Track Coach	Melissa Pascarella	\$4,862
Weight Room Supervisor	Danny McHugh	\$1,045

10. **ADOPTION OF 2023/2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the Calendar for the 2023/2024 school year (as attached).

11. **HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICE AGREEMENTS: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves health service

agreements between the Babylon Union Free School District and the following school districts for the 2022-2023 school year: Longwood Central School District, West Islip Union Free School District, and East Islip School District.

12. SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSULTANT SERVICES CONTRACT: RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the special education consultant service contract, effective December 20, 2022 through June 30, 2023, between the Babylon Union Free School District and John L. Ochoa, Ph. D.

13. SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACT FOR RECEIPT OF FEDERAL PART B FLOW-THROUGH ALLOCATIONS: RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Receipt of Federal Part B Flow-Through allocations for the 2022-2023 school year between the Board of Education of the Babylon Union Free School District and the following: The New Interdisciplinary School, and Kids In Action of L.I., Inc., effective October 17, 2022.

14. COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION AND COMMITTEE ON PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION: 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 November 28, 2022 through January 4, 2023.

OTHER BUSINESS

L. Jurs spoke about the search for a new superintendent: In January, we put together a timeline for a search of a new superintendent. We need to get the ad out first and accept applications and resumes. We will then solicit the resumes. It would also be helpful if we did a survey similar to the one we did last time because we want the best person to fill the superintendent's position. After that, we will create community forum and proceed from there.

REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS

Maureen Altieri, a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee, spoke about the mission statement of this new committee. They will be meeting on January 10, 2023.

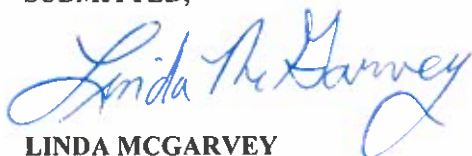
FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education will hold a Work Study Meeting on Monday, January 23, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. and a Regular Business Meeting on February 13, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in the library of the Babylon Junior-Senior High School.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by D. Noesi, seconded by T. Patiri, the Board adjourned the executive session at 7:54 p.m. Approved (6-0)

**RESPECTFULLY
SUBMITTED,**



**LINDA MCGARVEY
DISTRICT CLERK**