

MINUTES OF BABYLON SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: December 12, 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. Ari McKenzie
Mr. Dominick Montalto
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 T. Patiri and seconded by D. Noesi, for the purpose of discussing the employment history of particular individuals and advice from counsel was made. (7-0) Public session resumed at 7:33 p.m. at which time C. Dell’Erba, President, led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Work/Study Meeting of November 28, 2022 were approved on motion by T. Patiri and seconded by D. Montalto. (7-0)

APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S AND BUSINESS OFFICE FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Treasurer’s and Business Office Financial Reports and Extra Curricular Fund Reports for October 2022 were approved on motion by A. McKenzie and seconded by D. Noesi. (7-0)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. McKenzie, Audit Committee chair, reported that they have a meeting on December 14th at 5:30 p.m. Mrs. Jurs, Finance Committee chair, reported that their first meeting has been postponed. They will meet on January 9th at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Montalto, Buildings and Grounds Committee chair, reported that they have their first meeting on January 23rd at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Sonkin, Technology Committee chair, reported that they have had two meetings thus far, one of which was today at 4:30 p.m. There are several items to report on for the K-6 buildings. Kindergarten has been working with Ms. Moran on the web-based platform called Seesaw. 1st grade just completed “I Like Books” on Microsoft PowerPoint. 2nd graders used Microsoft Word to create a “Fun Fact” page. 3rd graders worked on a STEAM project with Ozobots. 5th graders will create feature articles digitally in Microsoft Publisher. 6th graders worked with Ms. Manbhat, the Grade School librarian, researching a holiday of their choice, during library class. Then, in Technology class, the students will take that research and digitally present it using Microsoft Word. Mrs. Noesi, Curriculum Committee chair, reported that they met on November 28th and discussed the history of the curriculum committee, where we have been and where we would like to go. On January 23rd, there will be a presentation for the public after the Work/Study meeting. Mrs. Patiri, Policy Committee chair, reported that they talked about the policies and that they will be sent to NYSSBA to have them reviewed, redlined, and then sent back to the district to review the suggested changes. The first meeting will take place on January 9th at 6:00 p.m.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

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

Senior High Student Council Events:

Student Council is hosting the Jingle Walk on Thursday from 6:30-8:30 at the BHS track. There is a \$5 entry fee which will be donated to Babylon families in need. Additionally, we will be accepting donations for Toys for Tots, doing a coat and food drive, and collecting pet supplies. There will be activities, cookies, and cocoa included in your entry fee. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Fine Arts Department:

Nearly 30 Tri-M Music Honor Society students performed during the Village's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Argyle on Sunday, December 4th.

Members of the National Art Honor Society created 12 portraits for children in Nigeria. This is our 15th year participating.

Thirty-nine Student artists and photographers had their artwork displayed in the NYSATA state conference virtual student art show. You can visit NYSATA.org to view the work.

Six Student artists entered their work into the Grand Central terminal media arts contest. If the students win, their work could be on display on the digital display boards in Grand Central terminal for the opening of the new terminal. We'll keep you posted.

As part of our SEL for our students, the student artists painted windows in the senior high cafeteria after school two weeks ago to help decorate for the holidays. Tomorrow, the student artists will be making their own ugly or pretty holiday sweater during art club.

And today, thirty of our student artists participated in a field trip to the Whitney art museum in NY City to learn about Edward Hopper and his artwork. They then walked the highline to view all the artwork along the way. A great time was had by all.

English Department:

Wednesday, 11/30/22- Students in Mr. Schappert's, Mrs. Jones's, Mr. Cropsey's and Mr. Fasano's 10th grade E.L.A. classes were delighted to experience five hands-on learning stations in the library where they interacted with 1950's "artifacts," decoded secret messages, made survival decisions, built primitive shelter structures, and evaluated democratic and authoritarian styles of command. This immersive introductory lesson provided students with the tools necessary to gain a deeper understanding of the various themes of William Golding's novel, Lord of the Flies. Mrs. Biener, the library media specialist, is thrilled to collaborate with our E.L.A. teachers to bring literature alive!

World Languages:

To expand their vocabulary and speaking abilities, the Spanish 4 students created alebrijes (brightly colored Mexican folk art) and presented them to the class, explaining why they included particular animal parts.

On Friday, December 9, the French National Honor Society hosted Croissants in the Courtyard! Students were invited to start their day the French way with croissants and hot cocoa in a Parisian courtyard setting! This event, in conjunction with a Jeans Friday for staff, has raised \$900 for the Be Like Brit Foundation in Haiti. This home is located in Grand Goave Haiti and provides education housing for 66 children. The home honors the memory of Britney Gengel, who visited the island on a humanitarian mission in January 2010 and perished in the devastating earthquake days later. Recent political events have destroyed Haiti's already precarious economic situation and this donation will help the children and caretakers there celebrate the upcoming holiday season!

Practical Arts Department:

Students in Mrs. Schwartz's Culinary program participated in the Babylon Conklin House Cookie Contest. Student lab groups researched a recipe of their choice, completed a market order and planning packet. They all worked hard to complete a beautiful and delicious cookie. The winners in the 7-9th grade category are Lily Krollage, Delaney Busch and Mikey Vertullo. The winners in the 10-12th grade category are Olivia Forthmuller, Grace Monteleone, Kelly Loodus.

Leo Club:

The Babylon Leo Club members designed and decorated the gathering room at the Conklin House for the holiday tours. The room also featured "Gingerbread Street" which included cardboard gingerbread houses created and decorated by the college child psychology and BHS panther preschool students. In addition, over twenty-five students picked up cookie sewing kits from the FACS department to hand sew felt cookie ornaments to display on the tree. Thank you to all the students involved for making the gathering room a beautiful part of the community tour. The preschool class received their own special tour of the Conklin House during a field trip this week and loved seeing the decorations!

Continuing with the spirit of giving, local senior citizens were invited to come together for the annual dinner and show hosted by the Leo Club and BHS Theatre. The seniors joined the Leo club for a special dinner featuring salad, pasta and meatball, bread, and Jeanmarie's delicious crumb cake. All of the volunteers did an amazing job. The guests noted that the food was good, but the service was better!

Mr. Conboy then reported the following: We have less than two weeks before the holiday break and things have been busy throughout the District. First, we would like to congratulate everyone who took part in the musical over the weekend, which was La Mancha. It was a successful presentation of that humorous play. We also have Parent-Teacher Conferences for the Elementary and Grade Schools later this week. Winter athletics are well underway. Thursday night is our Junior High School Winter Concert at 7:00 p.m. in Rowe Hall. Next week is our High School Winter Concert, which is on the 21st, also at 7:00 p.m.

One of the items on our agenda tonight, number 11, is a donation from the Babylon Youth Lacrosse League, \$5,000 to the Boys lacrosse program and a \$5,000 to the Girls' lacrosse program. We have a representative from the Babylon Youth Lacrosse League, Mr. Paul Doran, with us here tonight. Thank you very much for that very generous donation.

And honestly, most importantly, we wish the entire Babylon community Happy Holidays. The school year is going very quickly this year. We hope that everybody has a restful time off and a successful holiday season and a great New Year. We look forward to everything that will be happening after the New Year for the Babylon School District. Thank you very much.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/
QUESTIONS**

The Board of Education addressed questions/comments from Kelly O'Hara regarding a Family Connect Night as well as her concerns about the report card comments at the Grade School.

OMNIBUS MOTION

On motion by L. Jurs, seconded by D. Noesi, a motion to omnibus Resolutions 1-13 was approved (7-0).

On omnibus motion by D. Sonkin, seconded by D. Montalto, Resolutions 1-13 were approved (7-0).

New Business

1. PER DIEM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER APPOINTMENTS: RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following substitute teachers, effective December 13, 2022. Compensation for this assignment to be at the substitute teacher per diem rate of pay scale: Days: 1-30 \$110.00; Days: 31-60 \$120.00; Days: 61-90 \$130.00; Over 91 days: \$140.00.

High School
Daniel Campanelli

Grade School
Sharon Devenuto

Elementary School
Hunter Howard

2. **SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAL APPOINTMENT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints Jason Withohn as a substitute custodian effective December 13, 2022. Compensation for this position to be \$15.00 per hour.

3. **CHILDCARE LEAVE: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the six (6) week childcare leave of Bernard Jackson, effective November 18, 2022 through January 11, 2023, with congratulations on the birth of his daughter.

4. **CASUAL APPOINTMENTS: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following casual appointments for the 2022-2023 school year. Compensation for this position to be in accordance with the Babylon Teachers' Association Contract for the 2022-2023 school year:

High School Special Teaching Duty

All School Musical Set Construction

Advisor: Linda Napolitano (\$1,566.00)

Drama Production Set Construction

Advisor: Linda Napolitano (\$1,566.00)

5. **APPROVAL FOR EXTERNAL AUDIT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts and approves the Independent Audit of the Babylon Union Free School District as prepared by the external auditing firm of Cullen and Danowski, LLP for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

6. **SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts and approves the agreement between Babylon Union Free School District and the New York State School Board Association for the purpose of providing the following policy services for the District: (1) developing an Essential Policy Manual; and (2) providing the District with the Policy Update subscription service.

7. **HEALTH SERVICE AGREEMENTS: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve health service agreements between the Babylon Union Free School District and the following school districts for the 2022-2023 school year: Bay Shore Union Free School District and Hauppauge Union Free School District.

8. **HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES AGREEMENT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Health and Welfare Services Agreement between the Babylon Union Free School District and the Seaford Union Free School District received for the 2022/2023 school year.

9. **DONATION: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the donation of a Squared 3D Printer – Model AFP128 with six spools of unopened filament from Babylon Village Youth Project, valued at \$2,919.95, with appreciation for this generous gift.

10. **DONATION: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the donation of a pitching machine to the baseball program, donated from the Babylon Booster Club, valued at \$4,100, with appreciation for this generous gift.

11. **DONATION: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the donation of \$5,000 to the boys' and girls' lacrosse programs (\$10,000 total), donated from Babylon Youth Lacrosse League, with appreciation for this generous gift. The boys' program would like to purchase additional helmets and the girls' program would like to purchase outerwear (jackets).

11. **BUDGET REVISION: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the increase to the budget for the donation received from the Babylon Youth Lacrosse League in the amount of \$10,000, increase to revenue code A2705 (Gifts and Donations) and \$5,000 increases to appropriation codes A2856.5315-01-000 (Intersch Activity – Lacrosse/Boys) and A2857.5315-01-000 (Intersch Activity – Lacrosse/Girls).

12. **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: Suffolk County Department of Health Services and Kidz Therapy Services, PLLC, effective October 17, 2022.

13. **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 2, 2022 through December 6, 2022.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS

D. Harkins, PTSA President, approached the Board to report the following: Mrs. Harkins thanked all those who have become PTSA members. She spoke about the cookie dough fundraiser. They made \$2,200 profit. They donated hot chocolate and supplies to the Jingle Walk and will also be volunteering at the Jingle Walk. PTSA is looking into a fun night for the Jr. High School students and a fun night for the upper classmen. They are looking to get input from students. The next PTSA meeting is on January 19th.

Mr. Conboy also spoke about the following: There are a lot of things floating around in the air on Long Island and in New York State. While there is a remote possibility of ever putting mandated mask wearing back in place, we are still encouraging people who are not feeling well or people who have concerns, you are welcome to wear masks in the schools, whether you are a teacher or whether you are a student. Anybody that feels a need to wear a mask, there will be no discrimination against that person; in fact, it would be encouraged. The school district still has supplies of COVID tests. We received thousands of tests from Suffolk County BOCES earlier in the school year, and if we need to distribute those to families, it can be done. Just contact administration with your request.

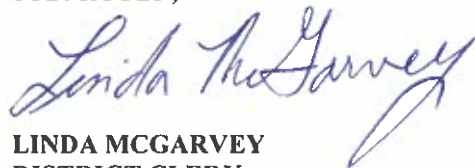
FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education will hold a Regular Business Meeting on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. and a Work/Study Meeting on January 23, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in the library of the Babylon Junior-Senior High School.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by L. Jurs, seconded by D. Sonkin, the Board adjourned the executive session at 7:50 p.m. Approved (7-0)

**RESPECTFULLY
SUBMITTED,**



**LINDA MCGARVEY
DISTRICT CLERK**