

WESTHAMPTON BEACH UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
340 Mill Road
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978



Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting
High School School Library
Monday, November 18, 2024 (6:00 PM)

Board of Education members present: Ms. Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Ms. Heather A. Wright, Ms. Dawn Arrasate, Mr. Daniel A. Bennett, Mr. Ryan M. Fay, Ms. Jennifer Neumaier, Mr. Halsey C. Stevens.

Also present: Carolyn J. Probst, Superintendent of Schools; Lisa Rheaume, District Clerk; Jacqueline I. Pirro, Assistant Superintendent for Business; Maryanne Ambrosini, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Jason Cohen, Director of Athletics; Chris Herr, High School Principal; and 18 attendees.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Lanni-Hewitt, President at 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Mr. Stevens, the Board of Education convened into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss ongoing negotiations.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

On motion of Ms. Wright, second by Ms. Neumaier, the Board of Education to reconvene from Executive Session at 6:58 p.m.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

The pledge was conducted.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS
HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION

High School Presentation - High School principal, Chris Herr spoke about the Drama Club. He introduced Social Studies teacher and Drama Club advisor, Matt Andrew to speak about the Drama Club.

Matt Andrew spoke about the Drama Club and about the students that are part of the club. He shared his pride in the students and spoke about their passion and dedication to the club. The President and Vice President of the club spoke about the club and explained how the club has grown over the years. They shared all of the different opportunities it provides for students. Seven members of the Drama Club then performed a song called "Book Report" from Charlie Brown.

NEW COURSE PROPOSALS
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Jason Cohen, Athletic Director proposed five new physical education courses and explained each to the board. The new proposed courses and brief descriptions are:

- Team Sports - This semester course provides students with the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge, and strategies for a variety of team sports.
- Fitness & Wellness - This semester course provides students with an understanding of the importance of how physical activity and healthy habits can positively impact their life now and in the future.
- Strength & Conditioning - This semester course provides students with an understanding of proper techniques for a variety of exercises, including both compound and isolation movements that target all major muscle groups.
- Individual / Lifetime Activities - This semester course will include lifelong sport activities that are an important part of a well-rounded physical education curriculum.
- Unified PE - Unified Physical Education creates a positive and inclusive learning environment that benefits all students.

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Mr. Stevens, the new proposed physical education courses listed above be added to the 2025-2026 High School course catalog, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

SPECIAL EDUCATION

MaryAnn Ambrosini, Director of Pupil Personnel Services proposed a new special education course art course - Peer Mentoring Art and explained the course to the board.

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Ms. Arrasate, the new proposed Peer Mentoring Art class be added to the 2025-2026 High School course catalog, to be and hereby is approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Ms. Wright, second by Ms. Arrasate, the minutes of the November 4, 2024 regular board meeting, to be and are hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

SPECIAL EDUCATION

On motion of Ms. Wright, second by Ms. Arrasate, the recommendations and authorization of funds to implement the special education programs and services consistent with such recommendations of the Westhampton Beach UFSD CPSE meetings of 11/13, to be and hereby is approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

FINANCIALS

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Fay, the recommendation to approve audited and paid claims 0065-0086, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Mr. Stevens, the recommendation to approve budget transfer reports for July, August, September and October of 2024, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Fay, the recommendation to approve the extraclass activities for September 2024, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

CHANGE ORDER

On motion of Ms. Wright, second by Ms. Neumaier, the request to approve a change order for PTS General Construction LLC with a deduction of \$20,400 from the original contract, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

TAX LEVY

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Ms. Arrasate, the resolution to approve the 2024-2025 tax levy, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

WHEREAS the voters of the Westhampton Beach Union Free School District approved the 2024-2025 School District Budget on May 21, 2024 and approved the Westhampton Beach Library Budget on May 21, 2024, and approved the Westhampton Historical Museum Budget on May 21, 2024 and authorized the Westhampton Beach Board of Education to levy the necessary tax therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the tax levy for the 2024-2025 school year set at \$34,580,877 for the school district budget, \$2,633,248 collected for the Westhampton Free Library and \$100,000 collected for the Greater Westhampton Historical Museum, for a total tax levy of \$37,314,125.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

JAMES FORD

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Mr. Fay, the request from James Ford to extend his medical leave of absence through the end of November 2024, returning to his position of ES-HS Physical Education Teacher on December 2, 2024, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

MARICA FIGUEROA

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Ms. Neumaier, the request from Marica Figueroa for an additional period of unpaid leave through February 28, 2025, returning to her teaching position on March 3, 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

LISA DANISI

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Fay, the resignation of Lisa Danisi from her position as a Middle School Teacher Aide effective November 26, 2024, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

ADDITIONAL CLASS SECTION EXTENSION

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Ms. Neumaier, the recommendation to extend the appointment of the following teachers to additional class sections at the Middle School through February 28, 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Jennifer Anderson	0.2 FTE Spanish I
Sandra Flores	0.2 FTE Spanish I
Casey O'Hara-Maginier	0.2 FTE Spanish IA
Benjamin Sheldon	0.2 FTE Spanish 6

CHLOE FRANZA

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Fay, the recommendation to appoint Chloe Franza as a Teacher Aide assigned to the Middle School, effective December 2, 2024, with an annual salary of \$21,500, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

JANINE PRATT LAVERY

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Ms. Arrasate, the recommendation to appoint Janine Pratt Lavery as Administrative Temporary ENL Support, effective November 19, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Ms. Pratt Lavery will work on an intermittent basis at a per diem rate of \$700, to be funded by the 2024-2025 School Improvement Grant (SIG). This appointment as submitted is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

NATALIE MOORE

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Ms. Neumaier, the recommendation to appoint Natalie Moore as a Home Tutor, effective November 19, 2024 through June 30, 2025 at a rate of \$30 per hour, as submitted, to be and hereby is approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was a question about whether the state education department planned to abolish school boards and control local school districts. Dr. Probst explained that the Regionalization Initiative set forth by the New York State Education Department is a collaborative planning approach to ensure equitable educational opportunities for all students throughout the state and that the board will remain intact. More information about this initiative can be found at www.nysed.gov/regionalization.

REPORTS

Personnel postings were noted.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business on the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business on the Agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Ms. Wright, the Board of Education convened into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss ongoing negotiations.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

On motion of Ms. Wright, second by Ms. Neumaier, the Board of Education to reconvene from Executive Session at 9:57 p.m., to be and hereby is approved.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Wright, second by Ms. Neumaier, all business being completed, Ms. Lanni-Hewitt declared the meeting adjourned.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0



Lisa Rheume, District Clerk