

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



Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting
Middle School Library
Monday, February 3, 2025 (7:00 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, Mr. Halsey C. Stevens

Absent: Ms. Jennifer Neumaier

Also present: Carolyn J. Probst, Superintendent of Schools; Lisa Rheume, District Clerk; Jacqueline I. Pirro, Assistant Superintendent for Business; Charisse Miller, Middle School Principal, and approximately 18 attendees.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Arrasate, at 6:06 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Mr. Fay, the board entered into executive session to discuss litigation.

Vote: Yes 4 No 0

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Mr. Fay, the Board of Education to reconvene from Executive Session at 6:38 p.m., to be and hereby is approved.

Vote: Yes 4 No 0

(Ms. Wright and Mr. Stevens were not present at votes)

The public portion was called to order by Ms. Lanni-Hewitt at 7:00 p.m.

The pledge was conducted.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES

Middle School Presentation:

Ms. Miller, along with student, Evan Pereyra, and his teacher, Kelly Massaro, gave a presentation about the YMCA Youth and Government Conference that some of the students in the Youth and Government class attended in Albany in November. The entire conference was led by students. The students in the class prepared a total of seven student generated bills concerning pressing issues. The students researched the bill and made up arguments for each. The students were able to present these bills on the senate floor and learned about how legislation is passed. All seven bills passed through the voting process. Each of the bills passed however, one was vetoed by the 2024 Governor. The students who worked on that bill had to present their case in front of the entire delegation and win a two-thirds majority. The students did overturn that veto. Each year, every delegation is allowed to run a governor, the process of which is difficult. Evan campaigned for the position along with 30-35 other students from other districts in New York. Evan won and was elected governor of the 2025-26 entire delegation!

Student Recognition:

Dr. Probst and the Board of Education recognized 9th grade student Ari Schneider. Ari recently created and installed a little free food pantry which is outside of the Westhampton Beach Free Library. It is fully functional and being donated to and utilized by those in need within our community. Ari saw a need and created a vision and a plan to help people that perhaps may not be able to advocate for themselves.

Elementary Academic Support:

Dr. Probst gave an update on the implementation of some additional academic supports in the elementary school. Invitations and notification have been sent to children in the elementary school who may be in need of some additional math and ELA support that will start before school. There will also be additional support added into the school day. A professional developer will be in the district to work with elementary teachers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Ms. Wright, the minutes of the January 13, 2025 regular board meeting, to be and are hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

SPECIAL EDUCATION

On motion of Mr. Stevens, 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 CSE meetings of 1/6, 1/7, 1/9, 1/13, 1/15, 1/16, 1/17, 1/21, 1/22, 1/23 and CPSE 1/6, 1/15 & 1/22, to be and hereby are approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

NYCOSS WINTER INSTITUTE

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Bennett, the request for Carolyn Probst to attend the NYCOSS Winter Institute in Albany, New York on March 2-4, 2025, as submitted, to be and hereby is adopted.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

2025-26 SCHOOL CALENDAR

On motion of Ms. Wright, second by Mr. Stevens, the recommendation to adopt the 2025-2026 School Calendar, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

BUDGET TRANSFERS

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Fay, the recommendation to approve the following budget transfers, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

	From		To		Amount
	Code Number	Code Title	Code Number	Code Title	
1.	1680-400-00-05	Repair & Licensing, Districtwide	1680-490-00-08	BOCES Expenses	\$40,000
2.	2630-403-00-05	Repairs & Service Contracts, DW	1680-490-00-08	BOCES Expenses	\$16,400
3.	2630-403-00-01	Repairs & Service Contracts, HS	1680-490-00-08	BOCES Expenses	\$6,600
4.	2630-403-00-02	Repairs & Service Contracts, MS	1680-490-00-08	BOCES Expenses	\$5,500
5.	2630-403-00-03	Repairs & Service Contracts, ES	1680-490-00-08	BOCES Expenses	\$5,500
6.	2110-470-00-05	Tuition - Charter School	2110-480-41-01	Science Textbooks - HS	\$7,500

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

FIELD TRIP

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Bennett, the recommendation to approve the field trip for the Key Club to participate in the Key Club International Leadership Conference in Albany, NY on March 28-30, 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

OUT EAST THERAPY

On motion of Ms. Wright, second by Mr. Stevens, the recommendation to approve a consultant services contract with Out East Therapy of New York from February 10, 2025 through June 30, 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION CONTRACT

On motion of Mr. Bennett, second by Mr. Fay, the recommendation to authorize an individual student educational instruction contract with the Quogue UFSD for the 2024-25, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

KERRIANNE BEAVER

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Fay, the resignation of Kerriane Beaver from her position as an Elementary School Fourth Grade Teacher for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2025, with retirement beginning on July 1, 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

KOREY WILLIAMS

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Bennett, the resignation of Korey Williams from his position as a High School Social Studies Teacher for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2025, with retirement beginning on July 1, 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

ADDITIONAL CLASS SECTIONS

On motion of Mr. Bennett, second by Ms. Arrasate, the recommendation to appoint the following teacher to additional class sections in the Elementary School, effective February 4, 2025 through May 30, 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Eileen Comer	0.2 FTE Grades K-5 Reading and Writing/Mathematics Support
Tara Tepper	0.2 FTE Grades K-5 Reading and Writing/Mathematics Support

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

ES BEFORE-SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT GRADES 2-5

On motion of Ms. Wright, second by Mr. Stevens, the recommendation that all elementary teaching and professional staff be considered eligible to provide Before-School Instructional Support for Grades 2-5, for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year at the professional rate of pay of \$51.22 per hour, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

RICHARD HARRIS

On motion of Mr. Fay, second by Mr. Stevens, the recommendation to appoint Richard Harris as a Permanent Substitute Teacher assigned to the High School, effective February 4, 2025 through June 6, 2025, at \$160 per day, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

TAYLOR BAKER

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Bennett, the recommendation to appoint Taylor Baker as a Teacher Aide assigned to the Middle School, effective February 4, 2025, at a salary of \$21,500 (prorated), as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

SUBSTITUTES

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Fay, the recommendation to approve the following substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year, pending fingerprint clearance, as submitted to be and is hereby approved.

Substitute Clerical, Nurses, Aides, Guards, Custodial, Food Service, Monitors:

Courtney Gaylord Substitute Guard
Karen Jonson Substitute Guard

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

VOLUNTEER COACH

On motion of Mr. Bennett, second by Mr. Fay, the recommendation to appoint Darren Yancey as a Volunteer Coach for the 2024-2025 school year, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

TEACHER COLUMN MOVEMENT

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Bennett, the recommendation to approve the salary step increases for the following teachers, effective February 1, 2025, as submitted, to be and are hereby approved.

Name	Prior Column	New Column
Griffin, Ellen	MA+10 (E), \$73,258	MA+20(F), \$75,112

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

LAUREN GOMEZ

On motion of Mr. Bennett, second by Mr. Stevens, the recommendation to appoint Lauren Gomez as a Home Instruction Special Education Teacher for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, at a rate of \$51.22 per hour for three hours per week, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

LEIGH MACHADO

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Ms. Arrasate, the recommendation to appoint Leigh Machado as a Permanent Substitute Teacher assigned to the Middle School, effective January 31, 2025 through June 6, 2025, at a rate of \$160 per day, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two community members spoke to the board about the extra help that will be provided to the elementary school students.

REPORTS

Personnel postings were noted.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business on the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Short presentations were given to the board on the following 2025-26 Budgets:

1. Tax Cap
2. Middle School
3. Pupil Personnel Services
4. Athletics

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Ms. Wright, second by Ms. Wright, the Board of Education convened into Executive Session at 8:21 p.m. to discuss negotiations.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

On motion of Ms. Wright, second by Mr. Bennett, the Board of Education to reconvene from Executive Session at 9:30 p.m., to be and hereby is approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Ms. Wright, second by Mr. Bennett, all business being completed, Ms. Lanni-Hewitt declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0



Lisa Rheume, District Clerk