

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



**Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
**High School Library**  
**Monday, March 24, 2025 (7:00 PM)**

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

Members absent: Ms. Heather A. Wright

Also present: Carolyn J. Probst, Superintendent of Schools; Lisa Rheaume, District Clerk; William Fisher, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & Instruction, Jacqueline I. Pirro, Assistant Superintendent for Business; and approximately 15 attendees.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Lanni-Hewitt, at 6:03 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Ms. Neumaier, the board entered into executive session to discuss negotiations.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Mr. Stevens, the Board of Education reconvened from Executive Session at 6:57 p.m.

Vote: Yes 7 No 0

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

The pledge was conducted.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES  
GREAT HURRICANE AWARD

The second recipient of the Great Hurricane Award is Maryann Higgins, Special Education Teacher at the High School and coach at the Middle School. A video presentation was shown with sentiments for Ms. Higgins from staff members and students. Ms. Lanni-Hewitt presented Ms. Higgins with a plaque.

HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Dr. Herr spoke about the AP Capstone program, specifically AP Seminar, which is an innovative course designed to enhance students' research, collaboration and presentation skills. He explained that AP Capstone is a two-year program developed by the College Board. It consists of AP Seminar in year one and AP Research in year two. The program helps students develop college level skills in critical thinking, collaboration and communication. Upon completion of both courses along with four additional AP courses, students earn the AP Capstone diploma which separates themselves from

other graduates both locally as well as nationally. Dr. Herr introduced Mr. Malsky, English teacher at the High School. Mr. Malsky spoke more about the course procedures and expectations. He stated that the first task for students is a group presentation where the students explore a real world issue, provide an individual research report of 1,200 words with an oral defense along with an 8-10 minute presentation. Four students from the class then delivered their team media presentation on the topic of "Accommodating Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder". The full presentation can be viewed [here](#).

#### BUDGET PRESENTATION

Dr. Probst gave a presentation on the 2025-2026 proposed budget.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Bennett, second by Mr. Stevens, the minutes of the March 10, 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 3/7, 3/10 & 3/11, to be and hereby are approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

#### FINANCIAL

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Ms. Arrasate, the recommendation to approve audited and paid claims 0113-0122, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Mr. Stevens, the recommendation to approve the budget status reports of January and February 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Fay, the recommendation to approve the revenue status reports January and February 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Mr. Stevens, the recommendation to approve the trial balances for January and February 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

On motion of Mr. Bennett, second by Ms. Arrasate, the recommendation to approve the budget transfer reports for January and February 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Fay, the recommendation to approve the monthly treasurer's reports for January and February 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Mr. Stevens, the recommendation to approve the extraclass activities report for January 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

APPROVAL OF LEGAL NOTICE FOR SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Ms. Neumaier, the approval of the legal notice for the May 20, 2025 School Budget Vote and Election of Board Members, to be and hereby is adopted.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

RESOLUTION / APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON FOR BUDGET VOTE

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Ms. Neumaier, the resolution below to be, and is hereby approved:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education appoint Tom Betjemann as Chairperson for the Annual Budget Vote and Election to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

RESOLUTION / ELECTION INSPECTORS FOR BUDGET VOTE

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Mr. Stevens, the resolution below, to be and hereby is approved:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education appoints the following persons as Election Inspectors for the Annual Budget Vote and Election to be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 during the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., and to authorize the District Clerk to fill an vacancies that occur on or before such date:

Full Day @ \$200 each  
Thomas H. Betjemann (Chief Inspector of Elections)  
Marth-ann Betjemann  
Patricia Gonce  
Doreen Croser  
Stephen Wisnoski  
Joan Scannell  
Bea Allen

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

INTERNAL AUDITOR'S RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Ms. Arrasate, the request to accept the Internal Auditor's Risk Assessment Update Report dated March 19, 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

On motion of Mr. Bennett, second by Mr. Stevens, the recommendation to approve a memorandum of agreement with Michael O'Hare, as submitted, to be and are hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

E-RATE BID AWARD

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Ms. Neumaier, the recommendation to award the E-Rate bid for Universal Service Program for Schools and Libraries to Questivity, as submitted, to be and are hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

FIELD TRIPS

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Ms. Arrasate, the recommendation to approve the field trip for Varsity Girls' Lacrosse players to play a non-league team building game in New Canaan, CT, on April 5-6, 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

MICHAEL O'HARE

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Mr. Bennett, the resignation of Michael O'Hare from his position as an Middle School Science Teacher for the purpose of retirement, effective November 25, 2025, with retirement beginning on November 26, 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

JAMES FORD

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Fay, the request from James Ford to extend his unpaid leave of absence through March 18, 2025, with an expected return to his teaching position on March 19, 2025, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

MS CO-CURRICULAR ADVISORSHIP REVISION

On motion of Mrs. Arrasate, second by Mr. Stevens, the recommendation to approve the following revisions of the advisors for the Environmental Club for the 2024-2025 school year, as submitted to be and is hereby approved.

Environmental Club (half year)	\$610.00 split \$305.00	Greg Izzo
Environmental Club (half year)	\$610.00 split \$350.00	Laurie Ardito

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

COACHING

On motion of Mr. Stevens, second by Mr. Fay, the recommendation to approve the following coaches for the 2024-2025 spring sport season, as submitted, to be and is hereby approved.

GIRLS TRACK	MS	Allen-Morabito, Kyle	1	\$4,193.37
GIRLS LAX	MS	Schmidt, Fallon	1	\$4,193.37
SOFTBALL	MS	Brosnan, Erin	1	\$4,193.37

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

SUBSTITUTE

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

**Substitute Teacher and Proctor:**  
Thomas Hoare School Counselor

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Community members had questions about sending district contracts, when/if the district CPA (auditor) has been changed, and about the progress of the construction at the athletic complex.

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. Arrasate, the Board of Education convened into Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. to discuss negotiations.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

On motion of Ms. Arrasate, second by Mr. Stevens, the Board of Education to reconvene from Executive Session at 9:40 p.m., to be and hereby is approved.

Vote: Yes 6 No 0

ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: Yes 6 No 0



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Lisa Rheume, District Clerk