

**WESTHAMPTON BEACH UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**340 Mill Road**

**Westhampton Beach, NY 11978**



**Board Meeting – Dec 8 2025 Minutes**

Monday, December 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM

High School Library

Members Present: Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Members Absent: Ryan M. Fay

Ex-Officio Board Members Present: Emily Edwards

Also Present: Carolyn Probst, William Fisher, Jacqueline Pirro, and Lisa Rheame

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Lanni-Hewitt called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

**3. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES**

**3.1 Apple Distinguished Schools**

Paul Vasik from Apple Education was in attendance. He explained that the Apple Distinguished School program on behalf of Apple, recognizes schools around the world that use technology in innovative ways to transform learning. The program started about twenty years ago and currently has a thousand members in forty different countries. Schools need to apply for this designation by presenting a video that shows the way they are using technology in innovative ways to transform learning. Mr. Vasik announced that all three Westhampton Beach schools have earned the Apple Distinguished School awards this year. He presented each principal with a plaque. He also stated that it is very rare that every school in a district receive the award and presented another plaque to the district.

**3.2 High School Course Proposals**

Dr. Herr spoke about the recommendation to add three new courses to the 2026-2027 course catalog, AP Business, AP Physics 2 and Computer Science Foundations. He added that the high school will also be looking to enhance the computer science program with some additional changes. The high school will also be seeking approval to offer college credit opportunities for students in Spanish IV and French IV through their partnership with St. John's University.

**3.3 Ex-Officio Board Member**

Emily Edwards gave an update on happenings in the high school. The varsity cheer team placed third at the regional competition in Pennsylvania and secured a bid to the nationals this February in Disney. The Key Club has been decorating the lobby for the holidays. The Key Club and Student Government are wrapping gifts for adopt a family supporting local families with presents purchased using funds raised from bake sales and the powderpuff game. The Spring musical has been announced, Spongebob the Musical. Senior Topher Ramos has been selected by the Manhattan School of Music to perform piano at their pre-college concerts. Senior Brady Schultz is competing this week at the ISCA Sailing World Championships in Ecuador after taking first place at the Youth North American Regional Qualifier.

#### 4. MINUTES

##### 4.1 Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2025

RESOLVED, that the Board accepted the minutes of the November 17, 2025 board meeting.

Moved by: Dawn Arrasate, Seconded by: Daniel A. Bennett

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

#### 5. SPECIAL EDUCATION

##### 5.1 CSE and CPSE Recommendations

The Board approve the CSE recommendations from the following meeting dates: 11/12, 11/13, 11/18, 11/20, 12/02 and CPSE 11/12 & 11/21.

Moved by: Daniel A. Bennett, Seconded by: Dawn Arrasate

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

#### 6. FINANCIALS

There were no financial reports.

#### 7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

##### 7.1 2022 Bond Phase 3 (Rebid) & Phase 4 Bid Awards

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the 2022 bond phase 3 (rebid) and phase 4 bid award recommendations.

Moved by: Halsey C. Stevens, Seconded by: Heather A. Wright

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

##### 7.2 Agreement – SCOPE Before/After School Child Care

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves an agreement with SCOPE Education Services for the 2025-2026 before and after school child care program.

Moved by: Dawn Arrasate, Seconded by: Halsey C. Stevens

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

##### 7.3 Agreement for Education Software – Zinc Learning Labs Inc.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves an agreement with Zinc Learning Labs Inc. for the 2025-2026 school year.

Moved by: Jennifer Neumaier, Seconded by: Halsey C. Stevens

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

#### 7.4 Supplemental Agreements for Education Software

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the following Education Law 2-d agreements for software providers for the 2025-2026 school year.

- Discovery Education Inc.
- EPIC Kids Inc.
- Everway LLC
- Renaissance Learning Inc.
- Snorkl Inc.
- Tynker

Moved by: Halsey C. Stevens, Seconded by: Dawn Arrasate

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

#### 7.5 Change Orders – Seaford Avenue Plumbing

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves two change orders for Seaford Avenue Corp. as follows:

1. Change Order No. PL-1 Contract No. 4 relating to plumbing reconstruction at the middle school. The change order is an addition of \$1,677 and a deduct in the amount of \$15,000 for an unused allowance for unforeseen conditions.
2. Change Order No. PL-2 Contract No. 4 relating to plumbing reconstruction at the high school. The change order is an addition of \$1,677 and a deduct in the amount of \$30,000 for an unused allowance for unforeseen conditions.

Moved by: Jennifer Neumaier, Seconded by: Halsey C. Stevens

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

#### 7.6 Budget Transfer

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the following budget transfer:

	From		To		Amount
	Code Number	Code Title	Code Number	Code Title	
1.	9089-800-00-05	Other Employee Benefits	2020-150-00-05	DW Admin. Sal	\$62,000
			2020-150-00-01	HS Admin. Sal	\$112,000
			2020-150-00-02	MS Admin. Sal	\$7,000

Moved by: Heather A. Wright, Seconded by: Daniel A. Bennett

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

#### 7.7 Donation – NFL Football Matching

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts a donation from the NFL Foundation in accordance with the NFL's player matching youth football grant program in the amount of \$5,000 to be used towards strength training equipment for the fitness center.

Moved by: Jennifer Neumaier, Seconded by: Halsey C. Stevens

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

**7.8 Field Trip Request/NYSBDA, Syracuse, New York, March 6-8, 2026**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves a field trip request for four High School Music Students to attend the NYS Band Directors Association (NYSBDA) High School Honor Band Symposium in Syracuse, New York on March 6-8, 2026.

Moved by: Halsey C. Stevens, Seconded by: Jennifer Neumaier

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

**8. PERSONNEL**

[Personnel Action Report 12.8.25.pdf](#) 

**8.1 Appointment/HS Assistant Principal/Alexandra Greenberg**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved the recommendation to appoint Alexandra Greenberg as a High School Assistant Principal, effective December 9, 2025 at an annual salary of \$130,000 (prorated). Ms. Greenberg's three-year probationary period will run from her Interim Assistant Principal start date of August 21, 2025, through August 20, 2028 in the tenure area of Assistant Principal.

Moved by: Jennifer Neumaier, Seconded by: Halsey C. Stevens

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

**8.2 Appointment Extension/0.8 FTE Leave Replacement Speech Teacher/Erin McGrath**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the recommendation to extend the appointment of Erin McGrath as a 0.8 FTE Speech Leave Replacement Teacher through January 23, 2026.

Moved by: Daniel A. Bennett, Seconded by: Dawn Arrasate

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

**8.3 Appointment Extension/Speech Language Leave Replacement Teacher/Katherine Tarantowicz**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the recommendation to extend the appointment of Katherine Tarantowicz as a 1.0 FTE Speech Language Leave Replacement Teacher through January 23, 2026. Ms. Tarantowicz will return to her 0.8 FTE Speech Language Teacher position on January 26, 2026 through June 26, 2026.

Moved by: Jennifer Neumaier, Seconded by: Halsey C. Stevens

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

**8.4 Resignation/Speech Teacher/Diana Dautzenberg**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Diana Dautzenberg from her position as a Speech Language Teacher effective December 23, 2025.

Moved by: Daniel A. Bennett, Seconded by: Halsey C. Stevens

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

**8.5 Resignation/ES Title I Teacher, Per Diem Substitute/Olivia Kneski**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Olivia Kneski as an Elementary School Title I Teacher and Per Diem Substitute Teacher effective December 23, 2025. Ms. Kneski will continue as the JV Girls Basketball Coach for the 2025-2026 season.

Moved by: Jennifer Neumaier, Seconded by: Halsey C. Stevens

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

**8.6 Request for Medical Leave of Absence/ES Teacher/Kristen Gafarian**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the request from Kristen Gararian for a medical leave of absence beginning December 3, 2025 through on or about January 7, 2026, with an anticipated return to her teaching position on January 8, 2026.

Moved by: Dawn Arrasate, Seconded by: Daniel A. Bennett

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

**8.7 Appointment/Substitutes for the 2025-2026 School Year**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the following substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year, pending fingerprint clearance:

**Substitute Custodian:** Brian Block  
Malik Sawyer  
Lawrence Stuchell

**Substitute Teacher:** Kathleen MacLeod

Moved by: Jennifer Neumaier, Seconded by: Halsey C. Stevens

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

**8.8 Resignation/ES Monitor/Anna Farlow**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Anna Farlow from her position as an Elementary School Monitor effective November 28, 2025.

Moved by: Jennifer Neumaier, Seconded by: Daniel A. Bennett

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

**8.9 Request for Medical Leave of Absence Extension/HS Custodial Worker I/Sean Madden**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the request from Sean Madden to extend his unpaid medical leave of absence through on or about January 13, 2026.

Moved by: Halsey C. Stevens, Seconded by: Daniel A. Bennett

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

**8.10 Appointment/ES Winter Recreation Director/Anthony Cappiello**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation to appoint Anthony Cappiello as the Elementary School Winter Recreation Director for the 2025-2026 school year with a stipend of \$1,976.

Moved by: Jennifer Neumaier, Seconded by: Daniel A. Bennett

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

**9. REPORTS**

Postings were received.

**10. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**12. PUBLICATION PARTICIPATION**

There were no comments.

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**13.1 Motion to Recess into Executive Session**

The Board recessed into executive session at 7:26 p.m. to discuss ongoing litigation.

Moved by: Halsey C. Stevens, Seconded by: Daniel Bennett

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

**13.2 Motion to Return to Open Session**

The Board returned to open session at 8:26 p.m.

Moved by: Halsey C. Stevens, Seconded by: Daniel A. Bennett

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

All business being completed, Ms. Lanni-Hewitt adjourned the meeting.

Moved by: Halsey C. Stevens, Seconded by: Daniel A. Bennett

**Aye** Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Daniel A. Bennett, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

**Carried 6-0**

*Lisa Rheume*

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District Clerk