

WESTHAMPTON BEACH UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

340 Mill Road

Westhampton Beach, NY 11978



Board Meeting – Mar 23 2026 Minutes

Monday, March 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM

High School Library

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

Members Absent: Daniel A. Bennett

Ex-Officio Board Members Present: Emily Edwards and Nico Grazina

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lanni-Hewitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

3. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES

3.1 Ex-Officio Board Member

Emily Edwards: The girls basketball team recently won the Long Island Championship for the first time since 2005. Brady Schultz and Noor Sohail recently placed first in the biomedical and health sciences category at the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair. They'll be moving on to the prestigious Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in May. Recently, at the 2026 Key Club leadership training conference in Albany, Abby Haleran was recently elected as the New York State Key Club Governor and Ava Summer was named the Regional Lieutenant Governor. Additionally, Mrs. Russell was also acknowledged as a distinguished key club adviser.

Nico Grazina: This past Friday, student government restocked the hospice pantry with the funds raised from the recent volleyball tournament that we hosted three Wednesdays ago. Youth and Government also had their second annual trip to YNCA Youth and Government Conference where students were able to draft their own bills to amend current New York State legislation. Students have spent the last six months researching important issues to present about. All bills which were submitted by students at Westhampton Beach were approved, restricting strong engagement in civic leader learning in the legislative process. And then finally, this past weekend, the WHB theater department put on the production of the Spongebob musical. The cast and pit band put on an amazing performance.

3.2 2026-27 Budget Presentation

Dr. Probst that the development of a school budget is a lengthy process. The public portion started in early February but the work that goes into building the budget starts well before then. She shared the district currently has an allowable budget increase of 1.82% for next year. The district is in year fifteen of the property tax cap and each year, the district feels the constraints of that cap. The district is seeing increasing costs in every area of the budget as well as a decline in student enrollment. Some of the increases include health insurance costs at almost 12%, supplies and materials 4-5%, utilities 5-25%, general insurance just over 13% and transportation costs of possibly as much as 15-20%.

4. MINUTES

4.1 Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2026

RESOLVED, that the Board accepted the minutes of the March 9, 2026 board meeting.

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

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

5. SPECIAL EDUCATION

5.1 CSE & CPSE Meeting Recommendations

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the recommendations from the following meeting dates: 1/12, 1/15, 1/16, 1/23, 1/27, 1/28, 2/6, 2/9, 2/10, 2/25, 3/2, 3/3, 3/5, 3/9, 3/10, 3/11 and CPSE 3/4.

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

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

6. FINANCIALS

Consent Action

A motion was made to approve all financial reports as a block.

6.1 Audited and Paid Claims

The Board approves warrants #0061-0079.

6.2 Budget Status Report as of February 28, 2026

The Board approves the Budget Status Report as of February 28, 2026.

6.3 Budget Transfer Report January and February 2026

The Board approves the Budget Transfer Report for January and February 2026.

6.4 Claims Audit Report 2nd Quarter

The Board approves the Claims Audit Report for 2nd quarter of 2026.

6.5 Extraclass Activities Reports for December 2025 and January 2026.

The Board approves the Extraclass Activities Reports for December 2025 and January 2026.

6.6 Monthly Treasurer's Reports for January and February 2026

The Board approves the Monthly Treasurer's Reports for January and February 2026.

6.7 Revenue Status Report as of February 28, 2026

The Board approves the Revenue Status Report as of February 28, 2026.

6.8 Trial Balances as of February 28, 2026

The Board approves the Trial Balances as of February 28, 2026.

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

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

7.1 Approval of Legal Notice for School Budget Vote and Election

RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing (Budget Hearing) shall be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Westhampton Beach High School library in said District for the purposes set forth in the annexed notice; and **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, said legal notice will be published four times within the seven weeks preceding the Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election in the Southampton Press Western Edition and the Long Island Business News (two newspapers having general circulation in the District), both in English and in Spanish; the first notice appearing at least 45 days prior to the date of the vote as required; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the District Clerk is hereby authorized to amend and/or supplement either of these notices hereinafter set forth from time to time as in her discretion such amendment may be required.

[WHB Legal Notice - English.pdf](#) [WHB Legal Notice - Spanish.pdf](#)

Moved by: Heather A. Wright, Seconded by: Dawn Arrasate

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

7.2 Appointment of Vote Workers for Annual Budget and Election on May 19, 2026

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Westhampton Beach UFSD appoints the following persons for the Annual Budget Vote and Election of May 19, 2026:

Chairperson: Lisa Rheume

Chief Election Inspector: Thomas Betjemann

Inspectors of Election: Marth-ann Betjemann, Doreen Croser, Gloria Meyer, Korey Williams, Patricia Ziparo

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the rate of compensation for the Chief Election Inspectors and Inspectors of Election be set at \$16.50 per hour.

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

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

7.3 2025-2026 Data Services Contract

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves a consultant data services contract with NCS Pearson, Inc., for the 2025-2026 school year.

Moved by: Heather A. Wright, Seconded by: Jennifer Neumaier

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

7.4 Approval of Budget Transfer

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education awards the printing of the Cupola newsletters to Phoenix Business Products, Inc. and the printing of the district calendar to Courier Printing Corp., for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year with the option for renewal up to four years. Pricing is as follows:

	From		To		Amount
	Code Number	Code Title	Code Number	Code Title	
1.	1620-411-00-01	Electricity – HS	1620-416-00-01	Natural Gas HS	\$25,000
			1620-416-00-02	Natural Gas MS	\$15,000
			1620-416-00-03	Natural Gas ES	\$15,000

Moved by: Ryan M. Fay, Seconded by: Dawn Arrasate

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

7.5 Approval of Health Services Contract

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve a Health and Welfare Service agreement with the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District 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, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

7.6 Field Trip Request/Robotics Club Tech Valley Regional, Albany, NY, April 15-18, 2026

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves a field trip request for the Robotics Club to attend the Tech Valley Robotics Regional at MVP Arena in Albany, NY, on April 15-18, 2026.

Moved by: Jennifer Neumaier, Seconded by: Heather A. Wright

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

7.7 Approval of IMA Transportation Robotics

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves an intermunicipal agreement with Southold UFSD to provide transportation for our students to attend the Robotics competition in Albany, NY on April 15-18, 2026.

Moved by: Ryan M. Fay, Seconded by: Halsey C. Stevens

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

7.8 Approval of Consultant Services Contracts - UPK

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves two consultant services contracts with SCOPE and St. Mark's Bright Beginnings for Universal Pre-K for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Jennifer Neumaier, Seconded by: Dawn Arrasate

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

8. PERSONNEL

[Personnel Action Report 3.23.2026.pdf](#)

8.1 Request for Childcare Leave of Absence/HS School Counselor/Jaclyn Olivotti

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the request from Jaclyn Olivotti for a childcare leave of absence beginning on or about September 1, 2026, and continuing through June 30, 2027. Ms. Olivotti is expected to return to her teaching position on the first day of the 2027-2028 school year.

Moved by: Jennifer Neumaier, Seconded by: Ryan M. Fay

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

8.2 Appointment Extension/HS Science Leave Replacement Teacher/Maria Pepey

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation to extend the appointment of Maria Pepey as a Science Leave Replacement Teacher assigned to the High School through June 30, 2026. Dr. Pepey will remain at MA, Step 1Dm \$63,577 (prorated).

Moved by: Ryan M. Fay, Seconded by: Heather A. Wright

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

8.3 Request for Medical Leave of Absence/MS Sixth Grade Teacher/Cynthia Hart

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the request from Cynthia Hart for a medical leave of absence beginning March 30, 2026 through May 8, 2026, with an expected return to her teaching position on May 11, 2026.

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

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

8.4 Appointment/Volunteer Coaching Recommendation

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation to appoint the following volunteer coach for the 2025-2026 school year.

Kenneth Miller – Varsity Girls Softball

Moved by: Ryan M. Fay, Seconded by: Halsey C. Stevens

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

8.5 Request for Medical Leave of Absence Revision/MS Special Education Teacher/Laurie Ardito

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the request to revise the start date for Laurie Ardito's medical leave of absence to January 12, 2026 from the previously approved date of December 18, 2026.

Moved by: Jennifer Neumaier, Seconded by: Heather A. Wright

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

8.6 Appointment/MS Sixth Grade Leave Replacement Teacher/Ryan Santiago

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the recommendation to appoint Ryan Santiago as a Sixth Grade Leave Replacement Teacher assigned to the Middle School, effective March 30, 2026 through May 8, 2026, at a rate of \$160 per day.

Moved by: Jennifer Neumaier, Seconded by: Ryan M. Fay

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, 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

11.1 2026-27 Budget: Athletics

A short presentation was given to the board on the 2026-27 Athletics Budget.

11.2 2026-27 Budget: Buildings & Grounds

A short presentation was given to the board on the 2026-27 Buildings & Ground Budget.

11.3 2026-27 Budget: Transportation

A short presentation was given to the board on the 2026-27 Transportation Budget.

11.4 2026-27 Budget: Special Education

A short presentation was given to the board on the 2026-27 Special Education Budget.

12. PUBLICATION PARTICIPATION

There were eleven (11) comments.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

13.1 Motion to Recess into Executive Session

The Board recessed into executive session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

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

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

13.2 Motion to Return to Open Session

The Board returned to open session at 9:13 p.m.

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

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Aye Elizabeth T. Lanni-Hewitt, Heather A. Wright, Dawn Arrasate, Ryan M. Fay, Jennifer Neumaier and Halsey C. Stevens

Carried 6-0



District Clerk