

MINUTES OF BABYLON SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING/BUDGET ADOPTION

DATE OF MEETING: April 17, 2023
PLACE: Babylon Junior-Senior High School, 50 Railroad Avenue, Babylon, NY 11702

Members Present

Mrs. Carol Ann Dell'Erba, President
Mrs. Linda Jurs, Vice President
Mr. Ari McKenzie
Mr. Dominick Montalto
Mrs. Donna Noesi
Mrs. Theresa Patiri
Mr. David Sonkin

APPROVED

Interim Superintendent

Mr. Brian L. Conboy

Central Office Administration

Ms. Deirdre Lunetta, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Ms. Carisa Manza, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

District Clerk

Linda McGarvey

School Attorneys

Nicole Murphy – present at executive session
Doug Spencer – present at executive session

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by C. Dell'Erba, President. A motion to enter executive session by D. Noesi and seconded by T. Patiri, for the purpose of discussing the employment history of particular individuals and advice from counsel was made. (7-0) Public session resumed at 7:30 p.m. at which time C. Dell'Erba, President, led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Work/Study Meeting of March 27, 2023 and the Work/Study Meeting of April 10, 2023 were approved on motion by A. McKenzie and seconded by D. Sonkin. (7-0)

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S AND BUSINESS OFFICE FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Treasurer's and Business Office Financial Reports and Extra Curricular Fund Reports for February 2023 were approved on motion by L. Jurs and seconded by D. Noesi. (7-0)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Conboy reported that Kate and Caitlyn, students from the Jr./Sr. High School, are going to fill us in on various exciting things that are happening at the Jr./Sr. High School. Student Delegates, Kate and Caitlyn, reported the following:

Fine Arts: It is that time of the year when we start to have lots of opportunities for our students to enter artwork into a variety of art shows. One student artist entered her artwork into the Heckscher Museum's Long Island's Best Juried Art Show. All students in the Media Arts and Advanced Media Arts Class have entered their work into the Long Island Media Juried art show at Five Towns College. The art club members are creating buttons for Poem in your Pocket Day. The Media Club is starting to put together our Visions Art Magazine.

Practical Arts: The 8th grade FACS students in Mrs. Schwartz's class participated in a Food Truck Challenge this quarter. Students worked diligently over the past 5 weeks to create their own food truck concept, and business plan, as well as creating and designing a 3D mini food truck. Ms. Reilly's business classes came down to judge the mini food trucks on their marketing scheme and overall food truck concept. The 8th grade students enjoyed hearing the feedback from the high school students as well as from Ms. Reilly. The winners of the food truck challenge this quarter are: Vinny DiResta (Sizeable Sushi), Danny Murphy (Western Waffles) and Jack Schmitt (Locals Only). Congratulations to our little entrepreneurs!

World Languages: The French National Honor Society is pleased to announce plans for our annual Student/Teacher Talent Show! The event will take place on Thursday, May 25th at 7 PM in Rowe Hall. The seniors have chosen to donate the proceedings to the Be Like Brit Foundation.

The seniors chose this charity as they have been fundraising on their behalf throughout their time here at BHS, so they would like to do one more event for them! Stay tuned for more details, including surprise guests, an epic lip sync battle and maybe even some masked singers!

Mr. Conboy then thanked everybody for accommodating us for this additional meeting which was not on the district calendar at the start of the year. We needed additional time planning our budget. It has been an extremely challenging budget planning year and a lot of difficult decisions had to be made with regard to that. The budget proposal is on the agenda for tonight for board approval and we are hoping to get a good showing at our budget hearing, which is May 8th, three weeks from tonight. There is a lot to discuss that night.

One of the situations we are in here in Babylon is we need to override the tax cap this year. The reason for that is that the budgets here have not matched the tax levy. I was just sharing with the Board before I came out here that two years ago you had a 1.28% tax levy increase but inflation that year was 4.5%. Last year, Babylon voted on a zero percent tax levy increase and inflation last year was 6%. So, inflation according to the State information we are given, is at 8% this year. What we are trying to do today is, in order to maintain the integrity of this district, and when I say integrity I mean curricular integrity and extra-curricular integrity, is that we are seeking the 2% that you should have gotten last year and the 2.84% that is allowable this year. It's not such a simple math problem, but that's what we are looking for. Your budget wasn't a zero last year. It was budgeted more than a zero and I have a lot of questions about that, but I wasn't superintendent then; however, if 2% was budgeted last year, we wouldn't be in the situation we are in now. That is what we are going to bring forward and I hope people come to the Budget Hearing so that we can convey that more clearly and just show the difference between what a passed budget at 4.84% means and what a failed budget at 4.84% means, because the Board and myself, and the rest of the administration, are not comfortable with a second time at the same budget.

What we are anticipating is if the first budget fails on May 16th, the second budget, which would be the third Tuesday in June, would have to be at the tax cap. We would need to cut an additional \$1 million for it to get to that. I am sure that people who are tuned into the District are going to have a lot of questions about that and what we can preserve and not preserve based on those two budgets. We are going to be open in speaking about that at that time. I am new to this District, but I find this District is a great place to be. You have wonderful students. It is a proud, small District with a lot of good things going for it. We need to maintain that going forward. I know you have been through a lot. I wasn't here when that was going on but we are all moving in the right direction with regard to all that controversy. In order to do that and maintain what we have to maintain, we need some hope about what we are going to be able to do financially going forward. We are looking forward to that.

This is the start of the 4th quarter in the school district. The school year has gone very quickly in my mind and others I have spoken to feel the same way. We have 46 school days left in this school year. There is a lot that has to happen this Spring. We are starting with the ELA assessments next week. We have math assessments and AP exams that are taking place the beginning of May. As I said, the Budget Hearing is May 8th, probably in here, but maybe we will use Rowe Hall for that, we haven't decided about that yet. Next week the Board is meeting but that is on Tuesday and that is only for the BOCES budget vote. There will be no other agenda items that night. The BOCES vote has to be voted on the same night throughout the entire state, and that is Tuesday of next week and that is going to be a very short meeting. The board will be voting on BOCES trustees and the BOCES budget.

Another thing, there is still no New York State Budget right now. April 1st is the deadline for the Legislature to put together the New York State budget and they didn't do it. That budget is 17 days late. No district in New York State can get away with that. We are assuming that we know what our budget numbers are in terms of State aid. Could we get additional State aid? Yes, and I pray for things like that but it normally does not happen. Could there be reductions? Yes, there could be. They need to get that information to us and approved I would say no later than the end of this week. Every single district has to have a budget hearing with accurate numbers, so hopefully that happens.

So again, I will just reiterate, May 8th and May 16th are probably the two most important days in this school year. I am looking forward to seeing a good strong attendance of people there.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/
QUESTIONS**

The Board of Education addressed questions/comments from Danielle Brocco regarding the budget presentation as well as the summer program for special education

OMNIBUS MOTION

On motion by D. Noesi, seconded by D. Montalto, a motion to omnibus resolution 1 was approved (7-0).

On motion by L. Jurs, seconded by D. Sonkin, resolution 1 was approved (7-0).

On motion by D. Sonkin, seconded by A. McKenzie, a motion to omnibus resolutions 1-16 was approved (7-0).

On omnibus motion by D. Montalto, seconded by T. Patiri, resolutions 1-16 were approved (7-0).

New Business

1. **ANNUAL BUDGET: RESOLVED, WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has reviewed the financial needs of the Babylon Union Free School District for the 2023-2024 school year; and **WHEREAS**, a proposed budget has been developed in compliance with section 1716 of the Education Law; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, a proposed total budget for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$59,876,501, with a levy increase of 4.84%, which is above the maximum levy limit of 2.84%, is hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education directs that the proposed budget be presented to the eligible voters of the District for consideration at the May 16, 2023 special district meeting.

2. **PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the Property Tax Report Card as required by State Education Law Sections 1608, 1716(7) and 2601 a(3) for the 2023-2024 school year. Be it further resolved that a copy of said Report Card shall be submitted to the State Education Department by the end of the next business day following this adoption.

3. **CIVIL SERVICE JOB TITLE RECLASSIFICATION: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the civil service job title reclassification for Jeanmarie Sheehan from Office Assistant to Senior Office Assistant effective March 16, 2023 and furthermore, that she be placed in column D step 8 of the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc. salary schedule for the 2022-2023 fiscal year effective March 16, 2023. (\$57,167).

4. **PART-TIME SECURITY GUARD APPOINTMENT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following part-time security guard appointment effective April 18, 2023. Compensation for this position to be at the security guard hourly rate of pay of \$19.00/hour

Thomas Skladel

5. **HEAD CUSTODIAN APPOINTMENT REVISION: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Gregory R. Plansker as Head Custodian, effective April 17, 2023 (not March 28, 2023 as previously indicated on the March 27, 2023 BOE Agenda).

6. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE AMENDED: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the amended unpaid Family and Medical Leave of Absence of Matthew Turk, custodial work at Babylon Memorial Grade School, effective March 27, 2023 through April 19, 2023 (previously was to be through April 21, 2023, as noted on the March 13, 2023 agenda). The Board of Education also approves an additional unpaid Family and Medical Leave of Absence of Matthew Turk effective May 1, 2023 through May 26, 2023.

7. **CASUAL APPOINTMENTS: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints the following coaching appointments

for the Spring 2023 season. Compensation for these appointments to be in accordance with the 2022/2023 Babylon Teachers' Association Contract.

JH Baseball Coach	Alex Marange	\$4,862
Volunteer JV Softball Coach	William Murray	N/A

8. **APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIP: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the establishment of a recurring scholarship for a graduating Babylon High School senior for \$500, namely the Spirit of Giving Scholarship, with appreciation to the Babylon Cove Holiday Light Parade participants and supporters.

9. **AMEND AGREEMENT WITH DR. CARL SORRANO: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves an amendment to the agreement with Dr. Carl Sorrano originally dated July 7, 2022. The amended contract states that the agreement for Dr. Sorrano's services for the 2022-2023 school year is between ProHealth Medical Management, LLC and the Babylon School District through June 23, 2023.

10. **AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Affordable Care Act Administration Agreement between the Babylon Union Free School District and Seneca Consulting Group, Inc. for the 2023-2024 school year, fee structure as per contract (\$11,500).

11. **CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (CAP) AUDIT FROM NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education acknowledges receipt and hereby accepts the Corrective Action Plan for the January 2023 Medicaid Reimbursement Audit conducted by the New York State Office of the State Comptroller.

12. **MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES AGREEMENT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Municipal Financial Advisory Services Agreement between the Babylon Union Free School District and Munistat for the 2023-2024 school year, fee structure as per contract (\$7,700 for TAN issuance and \$2,000 for SEC filings).

13. **HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICE AGREEMENTS: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve health service agreements between the Babylon Union Free School District and the following school districts for the 2022-2023 school year: Deer Park Union Free School District, Syosset Central School District, Hicksville Union Free School District, South Huntington Union Free School District and Hempstead Union Free School District.

14. **PARENT EXECUTED STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the parent executed stipulation of settlement for their student A.R. as presented to the Board of Education for the twelve-month 2023-2024 school year (July 1, 2023-June 30,2024).

15. **SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACT FOR RECEIPT OF FEDERAL PART B FLOW-THROUGH ALLOCATIONS: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Receipt of Federal Part B Flow-Through allocations for the 2022-2023 school year between the Board of Education of the Babylon Union Free School District and Mid Island Therapy Associates, LLC d/b/a All about Kids, effective October 17, 2022.

16. **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CONTRACT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the special

education services contract for the term of July 7, 2022 through August 17, 2022, between the Babylon Union Free School District and Deer Park Union Free School District.

OTHER BUSINESS

As there was no other business to report at this time, the meeting moved on to the next item on the agenda.

REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS

Kim Snyder, PTSA Treasurer, reported on events and happenings at the Jr./Sr. High School

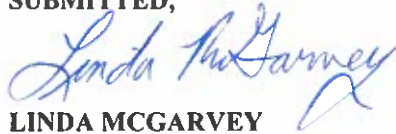
FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Education will hold the BOCES Budget & Election Vote on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., and the Regular Business Meeting and Annual Budget Hearing on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., both in the library of the Babylon Junior-Senior High School.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by L. Jurs, seconded by D. Noesi, the Board adjourned the executive session at 7:49 p.m. Approved (7-0)

**RESPECTFULLY
SUBMITTED,**



**LINDA MCGARVEY
DISTRICT CLERK**