

BABYLON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

APPROVED

DATE: November 13, 2023

PLACE: Babylon Jr./Sr. High School

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Linda Jurs, Ms. Donna Noesi, Ms. Theresa Patiri, Mr. David Sonkin,
Mr. Robert Verdi and Ms. Catherine Wieland

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Carisa Manza, Mr. Jeffrey Haubrich, Ms. Nicole Murphy and Ms. Linda
McGarvey

ABSENT: Mr. Ari McKenzie, Ms. Deirdre Lunetta

I. **Call to Order** – 6:30 p.m.

II. **Executive Session**

Ms. Patiri moved and Ms. Noesi seconded a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss specific collective bargaining, personnel issues, and/or other specific matters appropriate to executive session in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.

III. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Board President

IV. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

Work/Study Meeting of October 23, 2023

Mr. Sonkin moved and Mr. Verdi seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Work/Study Meeting of October 23, 2023, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Motion carried. Vote: 6-yes, 0-no.

V. **Approval of Treasurer's and Business Office Financial Reports and Extra Curricular Fund Reports**

For September 2023.

Ms. Noesi moved and Ms. Wieland seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's and Business Office Financial Reports and Extra Curricular Fund Reports for September 2023.

Motion carried. Vote 6-yes, 0-no.

VI. **Superintendent's Report** – Ms. Manza reported on the following:

- Before starting her comments, Ms. Manza introduced two high school student delegates, Talulah and Brady, who reported on events taking place in the district.
- Ms. Manza went on to state that we are now ten weeks into the school year and that we are making steady progress towards accomplishing the goals established for the 23-24 school year, which are: Student Success, Safety and Security, Communication and Community Engagement, and Fiscal Responsibility and Stability.
- There was a Coffee and Conversation meeting that Ms. Manza and Mr. Haubrich held with community members. The district goals were shared at that meeting. Another survey asking for topics for future discussion will be sent out. The next Coffee and Conversation meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2023.
- Ms. Manza met with the Citizens Advisory Committee and thanked everyone who expressed interest in joining the CAC.

- The district launched two additional technology tools to facilitate increased communication: Parent Square App and Where's the Bus App.
- Superintendent's Conference Day was last week and Ms. Manza thanked Mr. Haubrich and the leadership team for collaborating on a schedule that afforded our faculty and staff members the opportunity to engage in meaningful professional development on that day.
- Mr. Haubrich elaborated on what took place during Superintendent's Conference Day. He also mentioned that the first Curriculum Committee meeting was held today and the Science of Reading was discussed.
- Babylon had a very successful athletic season for our Fall athletes. The Girls Varsity Soccer Team made it to the State Championship for the first time in Babylon history.
- Ms. Manza then, on behalf of the Board of Education, commended six high school students who were selected by their art teachers, Cheryl Schweider and Pat Stork, to showcase their talent at the New York State Art Teacher's Association Art Exhibit at the annual New York State School Boards Association Convention. Ms. Manza also recognized two talented musicians for their accomplishments, as well as Mr. Charlie Leech on being selected to conduct the Finger Lakes Music Education Society All County High School Jazz Ensemble.
- Ms. Manza then wished Babylon families a Happy Thanksgiving and expressed her gratitude for the honor and privilege to serve this special community as your Superintendent.

VII. Representatives of Organizations

Ms. Otomo spoke on behalf of PTSA.

VIII. Questions/Comments from Visitors

As there were no questions/comments from visitors, the meeting moved on to the next item on the agenda.

IX. New Business

Ms. Noesi moved and Ms. Wieland seconded a motion to omnibus Items 1-18.

Motion carried. Vote 6-yes, 0-no.

Mr. Sonkin moved and Ms. Patiri seconded a motion to approve items 1-18.

Motion carried. Vote 6-yes, 0-no.

1. **RESIGNATION: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Cindy Gerdjikian, special education aide at Babylon Elementary School, effective November 6, 2023, with best wishes on her retirement.
2. **FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REQUEST: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a Family and Medical Leave (combination of paid and unpaid) of Margaret Kelland, Food Service Administrative Assistant, effective November 3, 2023 through January 1, 2024.
3. **FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REQUEST: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the eight (8) week Family and Medical Leave Request of Joseph Loudon, maintenance mechanic, to care for the birth of his child. The anticipated start date of the leave is December 1, 2023, pending the birth of his child, through February 1, 2024.
4. **PART-TIME AIDE APPOINTMENTS: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following part-time aide appointments, effective November 14, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Compensation for these positions to be in accordance with the 2023-2024 Aides and Monitors Association contract. (Step 1: \$19.00, Step 2: \$19.31, Step 3: \$19.69)

Elementary School: Rossette Hiotis, Magna Nicotri

Grade School: Laura Morris (reclassified on 10/23/2023, originally appointed a monitor on 9/11/2023)

5. **PART-TIME SECURITY GUARD APPOINTMENTS: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following part-time security guard appointments effective November 14, 2023. Compensation for these appointments to be \$19.00 per hour:

Gregory Plansker
Stephen Petris (pending fingerprint clearance)

6. **CASUAL APPOINTMENT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following coaching/athletic appointment for the Winter 2023-2024 season. Compensation for this appointment to be in accordance with the 2023-2024 Babylon Teachers' Association Contract.

JH Winter Track Intramural Supervisor	Ashley Kniff	\$1,062
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7. **INTERNSHIP: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Internship of the following student for the Fall 2023 semester:

Intern	Field of Study	Cooperating Counselor
Hailey Tarkin	Guidance Counselor	Francesca Castro

8. **RESOLUTION, REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS:**

RESOLVED, that the Babylon Union Free School District ("District") hereby adopts the Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Worker Exemption under Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a, based on the District's administrative recommendation of the following exemption levels: (1) 10% of the assessed value, as determined by the Town Assessor, of the primary residence of a qualifying applicant; and (2) applicant eligibility will be determined by the Town Assessor based on a minimum of two years of applicable service and other statutory requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District hereby adopts the Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Worker Exemption under Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a, based on the District's administrative recommendation of any qualifying applicant, as determined by the Town Assessor, who accrues more than twenty (20) years of active service, and who shall be granted the 10% exemption of the assessed value of their primary residence for the remainder of their life, subject to applicable statutory requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the District, hereby authorizes the District to adopt the Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Tax Exemption under Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a based on the District's administrative recommendation to allow any qualifying un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker killed in the line of duty, as determined by the Town Assessor, to continue to receive the Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Tax exemption or reinstate a pre-existing exemption claimed by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, subject to applicable statutory requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the District, hereby authorizes the District to adopt the Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Tax Exemption under Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a based on the District's administrative recommendation to allow any qualifying un-remarried spouse of a deceased volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker, as determined by the Town Assessor, to continue to receive the Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Tax exemption or reinstate a pre-existing exemption claimed by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, subject to applicable statutory requirements.

9. **VILLAGE OF BABYLON SERVICES AGREEMENT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Services Agreement by and between the Village of Babylon and the Babylon School District for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
 10. **APPROVAL FOR EXTERNAL AUDIT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts and approves the Independent Audit of the Babylon Union Free School District as prepared by the external auditing firm of Cullen & Danowski, LLP for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
 11. **FIRST READING POLICY 6705-FEDERAL FUNDS PURCHASING: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education conducts a first reading of policy 6705-Federal Funds Purchasing.
 12. **FIRST READING POLICY 6230 INTERNAL CONTROLS FOR FEDERALLY-FUNDED PROJECTS/6230-E.1-ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES AND COSTS EXHIBIT/6230-E.2-ASSET MANAGEMENT EXHIBIT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education conducts a first reading of policy 6230 Internal Controls for Federally-Funded Projects/6230-E.1-Allowable Activities and Costs Exhibit/6230-E.2-Asset Management Exhibit.
 13. **DONATION: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the donation of an Argyll Grill gift card, valued at \$150.00, from the Babylon Teachers' Association in honor of Board of Education Appreciation week. Thank you for this very generous donation.
 14. **HEALTH SERVICE AGREEMENTS: RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approve health services agreements between the Babylon UFSD and the following school districts for the 2023-2024 school year: Bay Shore UFSD, Brentwood UFSD, Central Islip UFSD, Commack UFSD, Comsewogue UFSD, Deer Park UFSD, Elmont UFSD, Half Hollow Hills CSD, Hempstead UFSD, Longwood CSD, North Babylon UFSD, and Wyandanch UFSD.
 15. **CONSULTANT SERVICES CONTRACT: RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the consultant services contract between Babylon Union Free School District and Mindcare Tutoring Services for the term of October 25, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
 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 between Babylon Union Free School District and North Babylon Union Free School District for the term of July 3, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
 17. **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 2023-2024 school year between the Board of Education of the Babylon Union Free School District and the following: Cam-Held Enterprises, Inc. dba Just Kinds Early Childhood Learning Center, Nassau Suffolk Services for the Autistic, Inc., Little Angels Center, Kids First Evaluation and Advocacy Center, Leeway School, and Brookville Center for Children's Services, Inc.
 18. **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 August 2, 2023 through November 6, 2023, between Babylon Union Free School District and Massapequa School District.
- X. **Other Business**
As there was no other business to discuss, the meeting moved on to the next item on the agenda.
- XI. **Future Board Meetings**

Ms. Jurs announced the following future board meetings:

- BOE Work/Study Meeting, Monday November 27, 2023, 7:30 p.m. @ high school library
- BOE Regular Business Meeting, Monday, December 11, 2023, 7:30 p.m. @ high school library

XII. Adjournment – 8:07 p.m.

Mr. Sonkin moved and Ms. Noesi seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 6-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda McGarvey
District Clerk