

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: September 28, 2021

Type of Meeting: Executive Session

Place of Meeting: Long Beach Administration Building Conference Room

Members Present: President Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.
Vice President Anne Conway
Board Member Maureen Vrona, Esq.
Board Member Sam Pinto
Board Member Alexis Pace

Others Present: Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools
Michael I. DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance and Operations
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. for Personnel & Administration
Dr. Paul Romanelli, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Thomas Volz, Atty., Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC

Board member Ryan called for a motion to go into executive session at 5:30 PM to discuss district pending legal and personnel matters.

Motion to Go Into Executive Session

Motion by: Vice President Conway
Seconded by: Board Member Pace
Approved: 5-0

President Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:47 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by: Board Member Pace
Seconded by: Board Member Vrona
Approved: 5-0

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: September 28, 2021

Type of Meeting: Work Session Meeting

Place of Meeting: Long Beach Middle School Auditorium

Members Present: President Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.
Vice President Anne Conway
Board Member Maureen Vrona, Esq.
Board Member Sam Pinto
Board Member Alexis Pace

Others Present: Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael I. DeVito, Asst. Supt. for Finance and Operations
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. for Personnel & Administration
Dr. Paul Romanelli, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Thomas Volz, Atty., Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC
Ms. Lori Dolan, District Clerk
Members of the Public

I. Pledge of Allegiance/Superintendent's Opening Remarks/Call to Order

Dr. Ryan welcomed all for coming. Stated that their will be a brief presentation before the Report of the Superintendent. Dr. Gallagher stated we have a very happy occasion this evening; we have a wonderful High School Auto Repair program, who refurbished a donated Chevy Tahoe and will be presenting it this evening to one of our community Veterans. Mr. Johnsen, the auto teacher explained that two years ago they received the donation of the auto, students repaired it, waxed it, polished it, the students raised all of the money for the parts, worked very hard on it. Dr. Gallagher stated Mrs. Conway was very instrumental in implementing this. Vice President Conway introduced the recipient of the donation, Mr. Joe Braskey, a U.S. Navy Veteran. Mrs. Conway stated that it was Mr. Johnsen who had the idea of donating it to a member of the community, and that Long Beach VFW 1384 Commander Dan McPhee, selected a very worthy recipient. Mrs. Conway thanked Mr. Mark McDonald of the Sable Community Ambulance Company for generous the donation, and a special thank you to the hard-working students and their teacher, Mr. Johnsen. Mr. Braskey thanked the district for the donation and Commander McPhee for selecting him. Commander McPhee thanked the Board for the donation; stated that the VFW is always there to help, and our students are our most valuable resource.

Superintendent's Report

II. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Gallagher

Dr. Gallagher stated that Dr. Romanelli will be presenting the annual Student Performance Data and to discuss the District Action plan and talk about goals for the year.

Dr. Romanelli reviewed some of the student accomplishments of last year, such as achieving a nearly 100% graduation rate, students getting into great colleges, implemented the Teachers College Writing Project, began a Greenhouse program at the Middle School, developed the Long beach Profile of a Graduate, had 56 students complete the Seal of Biliteracy, which was one of the highest in Nassau County, and were able to hold a great deal of in-district events. Reviewed achievement data. At the elementary level, reviewed NWEA growth targets, students in grade 3-5 are 1:1 with chrome books in the classrooms, K-2 students have ipad carts in the classroom; reviewed Grade 8 Regents Exams at the Middle School level, reminded the public that only four regents exams were administered last year: Algebra, Earth Science, Living Environment and English; reviewed i-Ready (new assessment tool) math and reading growth reports. At the High School level, reviewed Regents Exams, AP and IB results. Also reviewed Summer School, stating that 100% of students earned credit for passing coursework.

The Long Beach School District 2020-2021 Student Performance Data and Action Plan is on the District Website and in the Office of the District Clerk.

BOE Comments

III. President Ryan called for Board of Education Comments

- Board Member Pace thanked Dr. Romanelli for the presentation and acknowledging students taking alternative paths.
- Vice President Conway expressed concern regarding reading scores. How are you going to utilize the WRaP Program to support all students? Dr. Romanelli replied they will really emphasize reading at home and get back to instructional practices in the classroom. Mrs. Conway also raised concerns regarding some of the i-Ready and Dr. Gallagher said we are still assessing the i-Ready format as an assessment tool, need to give it a year of implementation before the results will reflect accurately.
- Board Member Pinto stated the results emphasize the importance of in-person instruction. Wants to make sure we are focusing on achieving mastery level. Dr. Romanelli agreed – not satisfied with the results, feels the students are “better” than those numbers.
- Board Member Vrona stated she was disappointed to see low turnout for such an important meeting; feels it’s difficult to follow data – changed assessment tool, i-Ready. Asked if the lower performance results was all because of Covid. Dr. Romanelli replied that the elementary school students did have continuity of instruction, some results are better, there were some breaks in instruction. When we have in-person instruction every day, results will improve. Mrs. Vrona asked what we are trying to achieve, since we really don’t have any regents comparison results. Dr. Gallagher reminded Mrs. Vrona of the low number of students that actually took the regents exams, so may not be reflective of where we really are. Dr. Romanelli stated that we are looking for growth, and we are seeing that trend. Mrs. Vrona asked to see the prior years’ data to more accurately assess growth.
- Board President Ryan stated he was please that the AIS teachers that were hired at the elementary schools did help. Dr. Ryan would like to see data aggregated, concern that boys might be underperforming and underachieving. Also asked, in terms of NYSSMA, how did our students fare, and Dr. Romanelli said he would get that information. Dr. Ryan asked if the NWEA is a good assessment tool, and Dr.

Romanelli replied that NWEA and i-Ready are the two most highly regarded assessment tools in the country.

Questions/Comments from Public –
Items on Tonight’s Agenda Only

IV. President Ryan called for Questions and Comments from the Public – Items on Work Session Topic Only

- A member of the public expressed concern that students are being placed in accelerated classes that don’t necessarily belong there; reading comprehension abilities are not up to that level.
- A member of the public stated that, regarding National Honor Society, should look at how many boys are invited to join versus how many actually want to go through the process, ie community service.
- A member of the public asked about the difference between a Regular Meeting and a Work Session. Dr. Ryan explained that Work Session are public sessions where a certain topic is discussed – nothing gets voted on. He then asked what the difference was between proficiency and master, and Dr. Gallagher replied that proficiency is 65% and mastery is 75%. Dr. Romanelli said that mastery is 85% for some subjects.

V. Board of Education – Additional New/Old Business, if any

Board of Ed – Additional
Comments

- Board Vice President Conway was happy to see a photo of Our Greenhouse in Newsday along with other districts showcasing their agriculture curriculum, great way to shine for our students. Expressed concern regarding girls’ locker room bathroom doors not closing properly. Mr. DeVito replied that new doors and partitions are on order, but that he will make sure they are repaired in the meantime.
- Board President Ryan stated that the Board should add the locker rooms to the annual building tours. Thanked Vice President Conway for implementing the car donation to Mr. Braskey. Wonderful gesture.
- Board Member Vrona asked if tents have been purchased and are they being used on a daily basis? Mr. DeVito replied that the smaller tents were purchased and are being used, but still trying to secure the medium-size tents, will be putting it out to bid again.
- Board Member Pace asked if all of our applications are in for any federal funding that’s available and will meet the deadlines and Mr. DeVito replied yes, and we have already receive 20% of funds from first application. Mrs. Pace also thanked Mrs. Conway and the veterans for their service.
- Board Member Pinto said that parents are happy to see fresh fruit on the menu for both meals per day.

VI. Questions and Comments from the Public

- A member of the public stated there are a lot of programs to see posted grades, do they all integrate with each other? Difficult checking Google classrooms, SchoolTool, etc. to look at assignments and grades.
- A member of the public asked at what point the mask mandate would be lifted, and expressed concern that vaccine mandates for students will be next. Board Member Vrona asked that he forward a copy of the study he cited to the District Clerk.

VII. Announcements

Announcements

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers' Association – Keith Harvey thanked Mr. Johnsen and all of the students in the Auto Program.
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group - None
3. LBPS Group C Employees Association – None
4. Parent/Teacher Association – None

VII. President Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by: Board Member Vrona
Seconded by: Vice President Conway
Approved: 5-0

Minutes submitted by: _____
Lori Dolan, District Clerk
September 28, 2021