

**MINUTES**

**Date of Meeting:** October 24, 2023

**Type of Meeting:** Executive Session

**Place of Meeting:** West Elementary School Faculty Room

**Members Present:** Board President Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.  
Board Vice President Sam Pinto  
Board Member Anne Conway  
Board Member Alexis Pace  
Board Member Nora Bellsey

**Others Present:** Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Janna Ostroff, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction  
Mr. Tom Volz, Atty., Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC

**Absent:** Michael I. DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance and Operations  
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. for Personnel & Administration

Board President Ryan called for a motion to go into executive session at 5:32 PM to discuss district pending legal and personnel matters.

Motion to Go Into  
Executive Session

**Motion by:** Board President Ryan  
**Seconded by:** Board Member Conway  
**Approved:** 5-0

Board President Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:50 PM.

Adjournment

**Motion by:** Board Vice President Pinto  
**Seconded by:** Board Member Bellsey  
**Approved:** 5-0

## MINUTES

- Date of Meeting:** October 24, 2023
- Type of Meeting:** Work Session
- Place of Meeting:** West Elementary School Gymnasium
- Members Present:** Board President Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.  
Board Vice President Sam Pinto  
Board Member Anne Conway  
Board Member Alexis Pace  
Board Member Nora Bellsey
- Others Present:** Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Janna Ostroff, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction  
Mr. Tom Volz, Atty., Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC
- Absent:** Michael I. DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance and Operations  
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. for Personnel & Administration

### I. Superintendent's Opening Remarks/Call to Order

Board President Ryan called the meeting to order and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. He then commented what a wonderful weekend it was last weekend with all of the homecoming festivities, carnival and game, thanked all who had anything to do with putting the day and evening together; Wall of Fame Ceremony was on Saturday, he explained that five people who had served the district or the community were inducted in the Wall of Fame, it was a very nice ceremony, one gentleman was from the class of 1943, nominated posthumously by his nephew, and had been the head of Wide World of Sports and ABC TV; thanks to all who helped in putting that event together. He then turned the meeting over to Dr. Gallagher for the Superintendent's Report.

### II. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Gallagher

Superintendent's Report

- *Board of Education Recognition Week*

Dr. Gallagher started by thanking all for their flexibility – most of tonight's presentations were due to be presented at the October 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The first presentation is in honor of those on the dais, the dedicated Board of Education, who are volunteers and give a tremendous amount of their time. So, in honor of Board of Education Recognition Week, she introduced Mikayla Berga, an eighth grader and co-President of Junior Tri-M, who sang "Tightrope". The Board thanked Mikayla, and thanked the PTA's

and Union Reps for their thoughtful gifts. Dr. Gallagher called for a five minute break for coffee and refreshments that the PTA had brought.

- *Student Showcase: TV Film and Production*

Dr. Gallagher then introduced Eric Krywe, who presented the Student Showcase on TV Film and Production. Mr. Krywe started by giving an overview of the history of the program, going back to 1971 with the black and white photo lab, on to the early 2000's, which saw the addition of camcorders and Mac computers, and finally, in 2014, the construction and opening of the TV studio, which enables students to learn using industry standard equipment and software. Mr. Krywe showed a video presentation of the program, and several students spoke about the importance of the program to them. Dr. Ryan asked if there was anything the program needed, and Mr. Krywe replied that more funding for competitions and 4K cameras would be most helpful.

- *Presentation: CTE Programs and Internships – Dr. Janna Ostroff*

Dr. Ostroff presented on career and technical education programs and student internships, explaining that the district currently offers the following state approved CTE programs: Medical Assisting, Automotive Technology, TV & Film, Metalworking and Innovation and Design. Potential additional programs that could be added in the future include Police Science, Performing Arts and Music, Business Management, EMT, Carpentry, Teaching and Aquaculture.

*The complete presentation, "Career and Technical Education – Student Internships" can be found on the District website and in the office of the District Clerk.*

### III. President Ryan called for Board of Education Comments

BOE Comments

- Board Vice President Pinto said that this the CTE programs and internships are a great way to prepare children to be successful adults and be prepared for work in the real world.
- Board Member Conway stated that pathways such as these open doors.
- Board Member Bellsey stated that these programs creatively provide pathways that are inclusive.
- Board Member Pace echoed all of their sentiments, adding only that she would also like to see the addition of physical health, ie, physical therapy.
- Board President Ryan added that college isn't for everybody, and these programs help to make students as ready as possible to go out into the world whether on to college or out into the working world, and he applauds the Superintendent and Dr. Ostroff for helping to make students better prepared.

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

- None

Questions/Comments from  
Public – Items on Work  
Session Topic Only

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

- None

Board of Ed – Additional  
Comments

**VI. Questions and Comments from the Public**

**Questions and Comments  
from the Public**

- A member of the public expressed concern over the cost of numerous school-related costs to families of seniors, i.e., IB and AP tests, yearbook, graduation photos and driver’s education. Board Member Conway dittoed that sentiment. Dr. Gallagher replied that driver’s education is out of the district’s control, but would look into the other costs mentioned and see if there are any cost-cutting measures that can be taken next year. Dr. Ryan asked if the photographer contract goes out to bid, and Dr. Gallagher said she would look into how the photographer is selected.

**VII. Announcements**

**Announcements**

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers’ Association – Keith Harvey thanked all of the presenters; thank you to all past and present School Board members.
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group –Keith Biesma thanked Mikayla Berga for her performance; thanks to School Board members for their commitment; thanks to all presenters.
3. LBPS Group C Employees Association – None.
4. Parent/Teacher Association – None.

**VIII. Adjournment**

**Adjournment**

**President Ryan called for a motion to adjourn at 8:22 PM.**

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

**Minutes submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Dolan, District Clerk  
October 24, 2023