

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: March 25, 2025

Type of Meeting: Executive Session

Place of Meeting: East Elementary Faculty Room

Members Present: Board President Sam Pinto (arr. 5:04pm)
Board Vice President Alexis Pace
Board Member Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.
Board Member Anne Conway
Board Member Nora Bellsey

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. Janna Ostroff, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Sabrina Brancaccio, Exec. Dir. For PPS (arr. 5:36 pm)

Board President Pinto called for a motion to go into executive session at 5:03 PM to discuss district pending legal and personnel matters.

Motion to Go Into Executive Session

Motion by: Board Member Dr. Ryan
Seconded by: Board Vice President Pace
Approved: 4-0

Board President Pinto called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:55 PM.

Adjournment

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

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: March 25, 2025

Type of Meeting: Regular Meeting

Place of Meeting: Long Beach Middle School Auditorium

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

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.
Janna Ostroff, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction
Susannah Familetti, District Clerk
Members of the Public

I. Pledge of Allegiance / Call to Order / Opening Remarks – Board President

Board President Pinto called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Pinto welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Mr. Pinto announced that the Robotic team finished 9th place over the weekend.

II. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Gallagher

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gallagher introduced the Mrs. Northcutt, Middle School Principal, to start the Student Showcase on Middle School and High School Advisory.

Student Showcase: Middle School and High School Advisory

Ms. Northcutt displayed a presentation on screen and explained that the program purpose is to foster community and hands on activities with an emphasis on service. This year's theme is "Belonging" with 3 focus areas in connection with School, Local and Global Community. The format for Advisory is students have an extension of their period 2 class. Another teacher joins their period 2 class and teacher where they have discussion, reflection and activities. Ms. Northcutt started the video and thanked Ms. Brodsky for her work on the video presentation. During the video, a student who is on the school morning show interviewed middle school students about their Advisory experience. Students made a video and cards for Billy Crystal after losing his house in a fire and Mr. Crystal made a video in return, thanking the students. Three Middle school students came up and shared thoughts on their experience with the Advisory program.

Andrew Rossi introduced himself, Dr. Julia Budassi and Ms. Alison Franco. Michelle LaBarbara was absent. Mr. Rossi noted that he and the other 3 teachers were on the high school summer Advisory committee that planned fun and engaging activities for students in September. Mr. Rossi presented slides about the High School program as he narrated. He started with how the program is implemented in the high school and that it is usually once a month, sometimes twice. The purpose of Advisory is to build the community in the high school and promote health social and emotional wellbeing. The activities build rapport and comfort over the school year and improve school culture and promote unity. The activities include games, group discussions, goal setting reflecting and align with the profile of a long Beach high school graduate. The program is tied to the student's 2nd period class which helps promote attendance. Activities are more developmentally appropriate this year and align with school and district priorities. Mr. Rossi played a video of high school students talking about what they like about Advisory.

Dr. Gallagher announced that students from the High School Youth Wellness council that wanted to present to the Board of Education. Karen Bloom introduced the students who requested a Wellness Center. Last week, the students attended the Nassau County Youth Wellness Summit. They shared their reasons why a Wellness Center is so important for students in High School. The teachers also benefit from the students having a space to regulate their emotions and feelings.

Presentation: Secondary Program Budget Proposal

Mr. DeVito began his presentation introducing the Secondary Program consisting of Middle School and High School – Grades 6 through 12. The first slide displayed the High School program's Functions. Listed for each function was the code, description, proposed budget, actual budget and the variance. In dollars and percentage. The 25-26 proposed budget includes step increases for staff, a reduction of .4 in English instruction, a reduction of .2 in ENL Instruction, reduction of .2 Art instruction, providing a staff member on special assignment for the Wellness Center and an increase of .2 in French instruction. The proposed budget also includes adjustments to various line items to reflect historical expenditures, updates and increases to supply line items to reflect the decrease in enrollment, increase in field trip allotment and line item for tests and four new clubs totaling 50 High School clubs.

The Middle School program proposed budget also began with displaying the Middle Schools functions and the codes, description, proposed and actual budget and the variances. The Middle School budget included step increases for staff. There is a reduction of 1.0 instruction in reading, English and science and an increase of .4 in Social Studies instruction. Also same as High School, the Middle School proposed budget includes adjustments to various line items to reflect historical expenditures. There are updates to supply line items to reflect decrease in enrollment and an increase in field trip allotment. There are two new clubs in the Middle school totaling 33 clubs included in the proposed budget. The budget also includes an increase in line items for robotics and the instructional supply line for additional collaborative classroom furniture.

III. Board President Pinto called for Board of Education Comments

- Ms. Conway commented on how the Middle School students came to the meeting and spoke from the heart. She asked the students if they felt if they could improve the program in any way, how would you? The students replied with "once a month combine classes with another teacher from another grade".
- Ms. Bellsey asked about other students who might not be as excited about the program, how do these students get them involved? The students replied with "maybe take suggestions from kids on what they could do" to interest other kids.
- Ms. Pace asked the students if they have been able to use some of the skills they have learned in Advisory classroom in their life outside of school. The students felt the skills have taught them to be more kind and generous to people. They have been able to use the newly learned vocabulary words when communicating outside of school.
- Mr. Pinto shared that he sees a lot of teambuilding and reflection. He commented that Ms. Nurse did a great job MC'ing the Science showcase.
- Ms. Conway thanked Mr. Rossi for the hard work he put into the presentation. She said it was wonderful to hear the students focusing on their goals and discovering what kind of learners they are. They are wonderful gifts to give the students. She asked if there has been a positive change in student to student/student to teacher relationships since starting Advisory? Dr. Budassi replied that she found her students who don't usually talk/work with each other discover they have a lot in common.
- Ms. Bellsey thanked Mr. Rossi for the presentation. She asked the teachers if they have noticed as the program continues, more and more students to be inclined to engage who typically would not. Mr. Rossi answered that as long as they continue to consistently implement the program, there are students who may not say much all day and Advisory is an opportunity to talk.
- Ms. Pace asked if Middle schoolers are transitioning into the high school easier because it is being started in Middle School. Dr. Budassi stated it has a changed slightly from last year. Ms. Pace is curious to see how it evolves.
- Dr. Ryan asked the Youth Wellness students if there are any boys on the council. Students replied "no". Dr. Ryan asked the students what do they think is the reason why. Student reply was they think boys are afraid to talk about their emotions. Dr. Ryan congratulated them on their presentation.
- Ms. Pace thanked the students for their presentation. She agrees that there is a need for a wellness center and asked the students to try to get some boys to join.
- Ms. Conway told the students they were very well spoken and thoroughly researched their presentation.
- Ms. Bellsey thanked the students and told them "we hear you".
- Ms. Bellsey asked Mr. DeVito to clarify what a reduction in a ".1 something" teacher, how does that effect the faculty? Mr. DeVito replied that it doesn't necessarily mean that a teacher has to be let go, the budget tries to stay in sync with the department that has a reduction in the program such as coincide with a retirement or shift from one building to another.
- Ms. Conway thanked Mr. DeVito for the presentation. She asked how many classes are affected by a .4 reduction. Mr. DeVito replied that a .4 reduction is two classes a period. Co-seating a class can achieve reductions in staff. Dr. Gallagher added that it is typically done in elective classes.

- Ms. Conway asked which High School supply line items are being referred to? Mr. DeVito replied he would have to get back to her, he did not have it in front of him. Ms. Conway then commented on the increase in costs and glad to see there are still student clubs and an increase in field trip allotment. She asked if Signage in the parking lot is a high supply cost item? Mr. DeVito explained it's not just supplies in the classroom, it's what the school needs as a whole.
- Dr. Ryan asked about the reduction of staff in the Middle School and enrollment being down, when will that self-correct? Dr. Gallagher replied that decrease in enrollment trend continues but there are fluctuations by grade. Anytime there is a reduction, they try to reduce a section.
- Dr. Ryan asked about discussing Middle School and High School Special Ed at a meeting together? Mr. DeVito replied that it could be done but the meetings are separate to give the Special Ed department more time to calculate their budget since they are still holding annual review meetings at this time. Dr. Ryan made a comment about 50 clubs and that might be overdoing it. He asked if there is a tipping point where it is being overdone. Dr. Gallagher replied "There is" and what the presentation did not express is generally if a school is adding a club, they have to subtract one. The district every year routinely looks at clubs that have low enrollment. Dr. Rya expressed his concerns about the Wellness Room and his points need to be ironed out.
- Ms. Pace asked if the district is "laying out the money" to pay for AP exams and then the parents pay back. Mr. DeVito confirmed that that the District "Lays out" the exam fees.
- Mr. Pinto thanked everyone for being a part of the Secondary Budget presentation.
- Dr. Ryan commended the High School production of "Anything Goes" as being outstanding.
- Mr. Pinto told Mr. Barshak that the next presentation of the Wellness center will have students involved.
- Ms. Pace congratulated Dr. Smith on his appointment as High School Principal and welcomed him aboard.
- Dr. Ryan said it was a great that choosing new High School principal was an easy decision to make. He stated every person was delighted to hear he was chosen.
- Ms. Bellsey told Dr. Smith that she is thrilled for him and the Board is here to support him.
- Ms. Conway thanked Dr. Smith.

IV. Board President Pinto called for Student Organization Announcements

Student Organization Announcements

- Mr. Barshak announced that the final blood drive for the year is April 25th. They are looking at fundraisers for the remainder of the year. The next fundraiser is a bake sale and all profits will be donated to a local house fire. The students have been discussing new ideas and changes to the buildings. Mr. Barshak has personally enjoyed Advisory and thinks involving students in the planning process is a good idea.

V. Board President Pinto called for Questions and Comments from the Public – Items on Today’s Agenda Only

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

- Julianna Carmichael commented on the opportunity of the different clubs, especially for 6th graders who cannot play sports. Ms. Carmichael asked about the district paying for AP/IB exam fees. Dr. Gallagher replied that they tried to include it in the budget a few years ago but at the end of the day they had to take out that expense.

VI. Dr. Gallagher recommended the Approval of Minutes for the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of March 11, 2025.

Board President Pinto called for a motion.

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

Approval of Minutes for Exec. Session and Regular Meeting of March 11, 2025

VII. PRESENTATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

VII.1 Dr. Gallagher recommended the approval of Personnel Matters: Certificated

Board President Pinto called for a motion.

Motion by: Board Member Bellsey
Seconded by: Board Member Conway
Approved: 5-0

Presentations of the Superintendent
Approval of: Personnel Matters:
Certificated

Dr. Gallagher recommended in a combined vote Items VII.2 through Item VII.5

VII.2 Dr. Gallagher recommended the approval of items Personnel Matters: Non-Certificated

President Pinto called for a motion.

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

Approval of Personnel Matters: Non-Certificated

RESOLUTIONS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following personnel actions.

I. CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

(a) Resignation for the Purposes of Retirement

Name: Janet Lotito
Assign./Loc: Special Education Teacher/Long Beach High School
Effective Date: June 30, 2025, close of day

Name: Kristin Combs
Assign./Loc: Teacher Assistant/Long Beach Middle School
Effective Date: June 30, 2025, close of day

(b) Leaves of Absence

Name: Sarah Kugelman
Assign./Loc. Assistant Principal/West School
Effective Dates: April 7, 2025 – May 2, 2025
Reason: FMLA/Medical

Name: Edenia Aristy
Assign./Loc. Elementary Teacher -(WINGS)/Lido School
Effective Dates: March 25, 2025 – June 30, 2025
Reason: Intermittent FMLA/Family Illness

Name: Richard Pellegrini
Assign./Loc. Special Education Teacher/Long Beach Middle School
Effective Dates: March 17, 2025 – March 25, 2025, on or about
Reason: FMLA/Paternity

(c) Rescission

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Shannon Culkin	Per Diem Substitute Teacher

I. CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

(d) Appointment: High School Principal

Name: Andrew Smith
Assign./Loc: Principal/Long Beach High School
Certification: Permanent School Administrator/Supervisor, Permanent School District Administrator, Permanent Social Studies 7-12
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
End Date: June 30, 2028
Tenure Date: July 1, 2028
Tenure Area: High School Principal
Salary Classification: \$200,000
Reason: To fill a vacancy

(e) Appointment: Short Term Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Name: Joseph Malizia
Assign./Loc: Substitute Science Teacher/Long Beach High School
Certification: Permanent – Chemistry and General Science 7-12, Biology 7-12, Physics 7-12
Effective Dates: September 2, 2025 – November 26, 2025, on or about
Salary Classification: \$372.71 per day
Reason: To fill a leave

(f) **Amended Appointment: The following Short Term Substitute Teachers are recommended for approval for the dates below. \$245.84 per day**

Jacquelyn Riccio **Effective Dates:** October 22, 2024 – March 21, 2025
Original Dates: October 22, 2024 – December 10, 2025

Samuel Fiallos **Effective Dates:** December 16, 2024 – May 16, 2025
Original Dates: December 16, 2024 – March 31, 2025

(g) Appointment: Supervisor for the Extended School Year-July 7, 2025-August 15, 2025 (supervisor starts in April)-rate of pay-\$10,000 stipend plus 50 hours preparation, rate as per contract.

Larry Lopez

I. CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

- (h) **Appointment: Sub Club Advisor for Lindell After School Clubs-Rate of Pay \$60.86 per hour.**

Felicia Olewnicki

- (i) **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: LONG BEACH PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE LBCTA**

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement between the negotiating representatives of the Long Beach Public Schools and the Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association, dated March 19, 2025

- (j) **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: LONG BEACH PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE ASPPG**

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement between the negotiating representatives of the Long Beach Public Schools and the Administrative, Supervisory and Pupil Personnel Group, dated March 19, 2025

II. NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

(a) Resignation

Name: Margarita Perez
Assign./Loc: Lunch Aide/Lindell Elementary School
Effective Date: February 28, 2025, close of day

(b) Termination

Name: Cari Howell
Assign./Loc: Teacher Aide/Long Beach Middle School
Effective Date: March 28, 2025, close of day

(c) Amended Leaves of Absence

Name: Jarnita Davis
Assign./Loc. Part Time Teacher Aide/Long Beach High School
Effective Date: February 24, 2025 – June 1, 2025 or earlier at the district's discretion
Original Dates: March 17, 2025 – June 27, 2025
Reason: Maternity

Name: Axavier Jordana Linster
Assign./Loc. Part Time Building Aide/Long Beach Middle School
Effective Date: September 3 ,2024 – June 30, 2025 or earlier at the district's discretion
Original Dates: September 3, 2024 – December 20, 2024
Reason: Family Illness

(d) Appointment Part Time School Nurse

Name: Elena Harder
Assign./Loc.: Part Time (.6) School Nurse – Long Beach Middle School
Effective Date: March 26, 2025 – June 30, 2025
Salary Classification: (.6 of Step 2) \$31,432 per annum, prorated
Reason: To Fill a Vacancy

(e) Amended Appointment Part Time Lunch Aide

Name	Step	Rate	Location	Start Date	Comment
Maria Morales	3	\$19.53	Lido	3/17/25	15 hours per week to 10 hours per week.

II. NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

(f) Appointment Part Time Teacher Aide

Name	Step	Rate	Location	Start Date	<u>Comment</u>
Husana Hasan O'Connell	1	\$17.84	East School	3/26/25	1:1 Aide

(g) Appointment Part Time Teacher Aide 17.5 hours per week for School Year 2024-2025 (or earlier at the district's discretion). Rate according to contract.

Name	Step	Rate	Location	Start Date	<u>Comment</u>
Willy Woo	1	\$17.84	LBHS	3/26/25	

(h) Appointment: Transportation 30-Hour Bus Aide Extra Work

Bus Aide	Position	Hours	Location
Maria Crowley	Lunch aide	10	Lindell

(i) Completion of Probationary Appointments

The staff members listed below have completed their probationary appointments and have received a satisfactory evaluation and are hereby recommended for permanent appointment.

Name: Anthony Bond
Assign./Loc.: Cleaner/West School
Effective Date: April 13, 2025

Name: Nicole Rooney
Assign./Loc.: Cleaner /Long Beach Middle School
Effective Date: April 13, 2025

(j) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: LONG BEACH PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE LONG BEACH SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement between the negotiating representatives of the Long Beach Public Schools and the Long Beach School Employees' Association, dated March 19, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement between the negotiating representatives of the Long Beach Public Schools and the Long Beach School Employees' Association, and an employee discussed in Executive session, dated March 21, 2025.

VII.3 Dr. Gallagher recommended the APPROVAL OF NASSAU BOCES SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM CONTRACT

Approval of Nassau BOCES
Summer School Program
Contract

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the agreement with Nassau BOCES for Regional Summer School Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the contract on its behalf.

VII.4 APPROVAL OF LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the 2025 Legal Notice for the School Board Election and Budget Vote to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, as it appears with the materials accompanying the agenda

VII.5 Dr. Gallagher recommended the ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS

Approval of Acceptance
of Donations

BE IT RESOLVED, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts a donation of \$500 from Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth, Inc. for the GSA club. The Board of Education also accepts donations of \$13,600 from Reworld Waste LLC., \$300 from Beach Restaurant Inc., \$250 from Scotty's Fishing Station Inc. and \$500 from Sutton Place for the Long Beach High School Boys Hockey Team.

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

Board of Ed –
Additional
Comments, New/Old
Business

- Mr. Pinto thanked the public for the donations and especially for the Hockey team donations.
- Ms. Conway said the hockey team donations/fundraising shows what the Long Beach community truly is. She thanked Dr. Gallagher and Mr. Epstein for all they did for the hockey team. Dr. Gallagher said it was really Mr. Epstein and Mr. DeVito who were the champions of this. Ms. Conway thanked Mr. DeVito.
- Ms. Conway commented on the Robotics team and thanked the staff for all of the work they put it to help the students succeed.
- Ms. Conway asked Dr. Gallagher how many hours a day are the secondary students using technology, has there been any issues with the amount screentime, any headaches? Dr. Gallagher did not feel she could give an exact amount of time or an average amount of time. Dr. Gallagher stated there is an effort to balance screen time with hands on activities, discussions, written activities at all levels. The district's use of technology has evolved a lot

- and has been integrated to what the students are doing in the classroom and it is active use, passive use and healthier use. Ms. Conway asked if it's going to change with the new graduation requirements. Dr. Gallagher responded that she thinks the types of work that students are doing will change. Students will have an opportunity to do more constructive long-range projects other than test prep work and knowledge-based activities.
- Ms. Conway said that some parents she has spoke to asked about putting homework on the website. Dr. Gallagher replied that homework is posted in Google Classroom.
- Ms. Conway spoke to Mr. DeVito about transportation, specifically bus stops along Park Avenue and Lido Boulevard that are dangerous. Can students be picked up / dropped off on the side roads where there is traffic? Mr. DeVito replied that the High School students stops are long Park Avenue, but rare that Middle and Elementary School stops are on that Street. Busses are trying to get students to school as quickly as possible, it takes longer to meander through the side streets.
- Ms. Conway spoke about the traffic dangers along Lido Boulevard and Greenway Road. There is police presence on Lido Blvd and they are working on sun shades. Ms. Conway asked the public to spread the word in the community about being aware when driving.
- Ms. Conway gave a shout out to Mr. Krywe and the students who made the PSA video.
- Ms. Conway asked how word about upcoming events get out to the general public and senior citizens. Dr. Gallagher replied that she saw a bus from The Bristol at the show over the weekend.
- Ms. Conway thanked the PTA for taking on the Book Club focused on Mental Health.
- Ms. Pace agreed with Ms. Conway and thanked the PTA.

IX. Questions and Comments from the Public

Questions and Comments
from the Public

- None

X. Announcements

Announcements

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers' Association – Karen Bloom thanked the teachers for their dedication. She also gave a huge congratulations to Dr. Smith. She thanked all for granting Dr. Smith a chance to do this.
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group – none
3. LBPS Group C Employees Association – Karissa Nash thanked Mr. DeVito for his presentation. Ms. Nash stated she liked seeing the students at the meeting. And congratulated Dr. Smith on his new job.
4. Parent/Teacher Association – The PTA's are at a busy time of year. Getting ready for the plant sale fundraiser. For several years the CCPTA has done a mental health forum. This year only 6 parents participated. Going forward, CCPTA is going to organize a hybrid mental health book club. The book is titled "The Anxious Generation". The Forum will be a collaboration between parents and teachers and will give parents a plan of action and people they can talk to.

XI. Adjournment

Adjournment

Board President Pinto called for a motion to adjourn at: 8:05 PM.

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

Minutes submitted by: _____
Susannah Familetti, District Clerk
March 25, 2025