

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: October 12, 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. Tom 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: President Ryan
Approved: 5-0

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

Adjournment

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

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: October 12, 2021

Type of Meeting: Regular 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. Tom 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. Reminded the public that Saturday, October 16 at 10am is the Wall of Fame inductions, another sign that we are getting back to normal. All invited to attend.

Superintendent's Report

II. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Gallagher

Dr. Gallagher stated before the Wall of Fame ceremony, we have Homecoming Friday night. Come and cheer on your team! Dr. Gallagher stated that we are going to reinstitute the Student Showcase; tonight's showcase was the Middle School Greenhouse Project, have several Middle School students here to talk about it, under the supervision of Principal Lorie Beard and Cristie Tursi, Director of Science. Ms. Beard gave a brief history of the Greenhouse and showed a presentation highlighting how the Middle School students are using the greenhouse, thanked the Board of Ed, Central Administration, and the Middle School PTA for helping develop this project to fruition. Cristie Tursi introduced the students: Tabitha Freeny, Rex Flores, Joe Lattanzi, Cassel Koss, Eva Gargiulo and Sydney Bergstein, who described the projects they were working on. Ms. Beard explained that the students practiced germinating seeds, investigated factors that affected growth, practiced the scientific method. The students told how they helped construct tables for the Greenhouse, using tools to drill in bolts, investigated the effect of radiation on plant growth. Ms. Tursi discussed the 7th grade Earth Science, 8th grade Life Science and Living Environment Curricular alignment.

The Student Showcase Presentation on The Greenhouse Project is on the District Website.

Michael Devito shared the good news that Nassau County has been shifting the tax burden from Class I homeowner for the second year in a row, so you should see a tax decrease of approximately \$100 in your school tax bill.

Dr. Gallagher then presented Mental Health and SEL Supports for Students. Some things that she highlighted were the focus on supporting students return to school; there were tours for virtual students before returning to school, Kindergarten, 6th Grade and 9th Grade Welcome Events, integration of mindfulness practices into classrooms, home visits, check-ins on absentees, which were the lowest in years, outdoor class time, increased PPS support for struggling students, building level SEL committees, and encouragement to join extra-curricular activities; support of community partners such as Northwell Health, REACH and Long Beach Aware. Dr. Gallagher also discussed the full implementation of the Choose Love Program and mindfulness practices in the classroom.

The Mental Health and SEL Supports for Students presentation 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 Pinto stated he participated in the Surf Program for Life Skills students and it was a great experience. Great seeing the High School students mentoring the students.
- Board Member Vrona asked about absenteeism – is it too early to know if the low absenteeism is continuing this year? Dr. Gallagher replied yes. Mrs. Vrona happy to see the SEL Committee made some changes integrating into classrooms; asked about tents, Dr. Gallagher said we are using them; asked about Middle School outdoor activity options, and Lorie Beard described the 3 spaces available to students to play outdoors during recess; asked about monthly check-ins, Kerry Fallon, Director of Guidance, said it could be a survey, could be a google check-in with their guidance counselor, meeting with students in small groups, doing “drop-ins”; what about the “fall through the cracks” kids? Ms. Beard responded that the teachers look for signs like putting head down, noticing behaviors, counselors and deans are looking out for those signs as well.
- Vice President Conway asked about the mindfulness practices in the elementary schools, and Dr. Gallagher said it can be done in every class, and a more in-depth mindfulness class occurs once in the cycle. Dr. Gallagher said that mindfulness is becoming more and more of the Long Beach practice.
- Board Member Pace asked about the Food Pantry in the High School – what about younger students? Dr. Gallagher replied they are looking at the community schools model, idea is that the schools become a hub, look at perhaps offering laundry services, dental services, make sure we are providing all student needs. Ms. Pace also talked about what a wonderful experience it was participating in the Life Skills Surf Program. Thanked Ms. Beard for the Greenhouse presentation.
- Board President Ryan asked about homeschooled students, concern that when kids came back to school that they would have difficulty getting acclimated, and Dr. Gallagher replied yes, there was an increase in mental health support. Dr. Ryan asked about the mental health referrals, that all mental health supports are

collaborating. How is this being coordinated? Dr. Gallagher gave the example of the High School, where there are 2 REACH counselors work with administrators and PPS Coordinators and guidance counselors.

IV. President Ryan called for Student Organization Announcements
None.

Student Organization
Announcements

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

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

- A member of the public asked what outdoor or indoor spaces will be available to students in the colder weather. Dr. Gallagher replied that we are looking into getting larger tents, and no reason students can’t go outside as long as they are dressed sufficiently with coats, etc.
- A member of the public, a student, thanked all, especially Mr. Epstein, for football season and upcoming homecoming event. Asked if there was a way that the committee meetings could be scheduled at a time when more students are available, and Dr. Gallagher said they could certainly do that; the student said that any time after 6:00pm would be best and Dr. Gallagher asked Dr. Romanelli to try to work that in. Board Members Pace and Conway thanked him for speaking and encouraged more students to attend meetings and speak.
- A member of the public spoke about the Honors for All; concerned that daughter’s IB English teacher doesn’t give out homework because students don’t like doing it. Honors for All is really Honors for None.
- A member of the Public spoke about the High School Food Pantry.

VI. Dr. Gallagher recommended the Acceptance of the Treasurers Report for August 2021
No action required.

Acceptance of
Treasurers Report

VII. Dr. Gallagher recommended the Approval of Minutes of Executive Session of September 14, 2021 and Executive Session and Regular Meeting of September 28, 2021

Approval of Minutes for
Exec Sessions, Meetings of
Sept. 14 and Sept. 28, 2021

President Ryan called for a motion.

Motion by: Vice President Conway

Seconded by: Board Member Vrona

Approved: 5-0

VIII. PRESENTATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

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

Presentations of the Superintendent
Approval of: Personnel Matters:
Certificated

President Ryan called for a motion.

Motion by: Vice President Conway

Seconded by: Board Member Pinto

Approved Item VIII.1(a): 4-0 Board Member Pace Abstained

Approved Items VIII.1(b) through VIII.1(z): 5-0

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

Approval of Personnel Matters: Non-Certificated
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President Ryan called for a motion.

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

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) Appointment Part Time Teacher Assistants 17.5 hours per week Start date through June 24, 2022 (or earlier at the district’s discretion). Rate according to contract.

Name	Step	Rate	Location	Reason	Start Date
Susan Buckles	1	18.26	LBHS	IEP	10/27/21

(b) Appointment: School Enrichment Program Instructors for the 2021/2022 School Year-rate of pay \$76.76 per hour-maximum 10 hours each-American Rescue Plan Federal Grant

Instructors	Class	School
Gina Patronaggio	Escape the Classroom (2)	East
Victoria Stanishia	Harry Potter-Reading, Creation and Engineering	Lido
Beth Prostick	The Chose Love Formula	Lido
Eileen Bauer	Book Talk	East

II. NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

(a) Resignation

Name: Ilda Borja
Assign./Loc.: Part Time Bus Aide/Transportation Department
Effective Date: October 13, 2021close of day

(b) Appointment Part Time Teacher Aides 17.5 hours per week Start date through June 24, 2022 (or earlier at the district’s discretion). Rate according to contract.

Name	Step	Rate	Location	Reason	Start Date
Nick Comando	1	17.09	LBHS	IEP	10/27/21
Owen Sculley	1	17.09	LBHS	IEP	10/27/21
Samantha Siderakis	1	17.09	LBMS	IEP	10/27/21

II. NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

(c) Appointment: Probationary Data Specialists (10 months)

Name: Diane Dilello
Assign./Loc.: Data Specialist 10 months/West School
Effective Date: October 25, 2021
Probationary End Date: October 24, 2022
Salary Classification: \$31,013 per annum
Grade/Step: Grade I/Step 5
Reason: To fill a vacancy

Name: Danielle DeStefano
Assign./Loc.: Data Specialist 10 months/East School
Effective Date: October 25, 2021
Probationary End Date: October 24, 2022
Salary Classification: \$31,013 per annum
Grade/Step: Grade I/Step 5
Reason: To fill a vacancy
Comment: Leave of absence from aide position through 6/30/22

(d) Appointment: School Bus Drivers (30 hours)

Name: Yovany Rivas
Assign./Loc.: Bus Driver-30 hours/Transportation
Effective Date: November 1, 2021
Probationary End Date: October 31, 2025
Salary Classification: \$31,225 per annum
Grade/Step: Grade II/Step 6
Reason: To fill a vacancy

Name: Andrew Mesnick
Assign./Loc.: Bus Driver-30 hours/Transportation
Effective Date: November 1, 2021
Probationary End Date: October 31, 2025
Salary Classification: \$31,225 per annum
Grade/Step: Grade II/Step 6
Reason: To fill a vacancy

II. NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

(e) Appointment: Part Time Food Service Worker 17.5 hours per week

Name: Steven Schecter
Assign./Loc.: Part Time Food Service Worker/LBHS
Effective Dates: October 27, 2021
Grade/Step: Grade 1/Step 6
Salary Classification: \$15.77 per hour
Reason: To fill a vacancy

(f) Appointment: Part Time Bus Aide 18.75 hours per week

Name: Gary Telus
Assign./Loc.: Part Time Bus Aide/Transportation Department
Effective Date: November 1, 2021
Grade/Step: Grade 1/Step 1
Salary Classification: \$17.07 per hour
Reason: To meet a district need

(g) **The following Per Diem Substitute is recommended for approval for the 2021-2022 school year.**

Name	Position
Joseph Delaney	Cleaner
Christopher Costanza	Cleaner
Ilda Borja	Bus Aide

(h) **Completion of Probationary Appointments**

The staff member listed below has completed her probationary appointment and has received a satisfactory evaluation and are hereby recommended for permanent appointment.

Name: Kerry Ennis
Assign./Loc.: Senior Data Specialist/PPS
Effective Date: October 27, 2021

VIII.3 Dr. Gallagher recommended the ACCEPTANCE OF UPDATED CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Acceptance of Updated
Corrective Action Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Long Beach City School District, based on the recommendation of the District's Audit Committee, accepts the updated Corrective Action Plan with the implementation date added.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby directs the District Clerk to file a certified copy of this resolution and the District's Corrective Action Plan with the Commissioner of Education and the Office of the State Comptroller.

President Ryan called for a motion.

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

VIII.4 FIRST READING OF REVISED POLICY #3280 PUBLIC USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

No action required.

First Reading of Revised
Policy #3280 Public Use of
School Facilities

Dr. Gallagher recommended in a combined vote Items VIII.5 through VIII.8.

Motion by: Board President Ryan
Seconded by: Board Member Pace

Discussion: Vice President Conway asked why we are using grant money for professional development instead of adding staff and Dr. Gallagher replied that the grant money is tied to the Corrective Action Plan, so money must be used for professional development.

Approved: 5-0

**Award of Bid for
Preventive
Services/Maint. Of CNG
Fueling Site**

**VIII.5. Dr. Gallagher recommended the AWARD OF BID 802-2021
PREVENTIVE SERVICES/SYSTEM MAINTENANCE OF CNG FUELING SITE**

WHEREAS, the District placed a legal notice advertising a bid for Preventive Services/System Maintenance of CNG Fueling Site in the official district papers on September 2, 2021, and provided bid documents to Air & Gas Technologies, Angi International, Clean Energy Fuels, Island Pump & Tank and Trillium CNG; and

WHEREAS, the District, in accordance with Article 5-A of the General Municipal Law, invited bids on a Preventive Services/System Maintenance of CNG Fueling Site which bids were opened publicly on September 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Air & Gas Technologies was the lowest priced responsible bidder (see below) on the Preventive Services/System Maintenance of CNG Fueling Site;

Description	Air & Gas Cost	Clean Energy Cost
Hourly Cost for Mechanic	\$125.00	\$135.00
Service Time in Excess of 8 hrs per day	\$187.50	\$202.50
Saturday	\$187.50	\$202.50
Sunday	\$250.00	\$202.50
National Holiday	\$250.00	\$270.00
Preventative Maintenance (monthly cost w/parts)	\$1,000.00	N/A
Preventative Maintenance (monthly cost without parts)	\$750.00	\$1,330.00
Parts: % over cost	20%	Clean Energy Price list - 10%
Emergency Response Plan Cost (Daily)	\$1,000.00	Clean Energy will offer a \$0.25 per GGE discount at their nearest CNG station as back up in the instance that power or gas service is interrupted for an extended period of time.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby determines that Air & Gas Technologies was

the lowest priced responsible bidder on the Preventive Services/System Maintenance of CNG Fueling Site and approves the award of the Preventive Services/System Maintenance of CNG Fueling Site contract to Air & Gas Technologies, and authorizes the District Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to execute said agreement on its behalf.

VIII.6 Dr. Gallagher recommended the APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT – RJ CONSULTING MATH LLC

Approval of Agreement – RJ Consulting Math LLC

VIII.7 Dr. Gallagher recommended the ACCEPTANCE OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

Acceptance of CSE/CPSE Recommendations

VIII.8 Dr. Gallagher recommended the APPROVAL OF USE OF SCHOOLS APPLICATIONS

Approval of Use of Schools Applications

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the use of schools, as attached, not to conflict with District events. However, please note that events may have to be modified/rescheduled based on building schedules.

APPLICATIONS FOR USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Facility Requested</u>	<u>Date Requested</u>
Long Beach/Lido Little League	Baseball	Lindell Baseball Field	Sept. 17 – November 13, 2021 Mon-Fri 4:00pm – 7:00pm Sat-Sun 9:00am – 6:00pm
Beach Lacrosse	Lacrosse Practice	Middle School Veterans Field	Mondays Sept. 1 – Nov. 30, 2021 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Beach Lacrosse	Lacrosse Practice	Lindell School Field	Saturdays Sept. 1 – Nov. 30, 2021 Mornings

City of Long Beach	Irish Day Family Fun Zone	West School Playground, South School Yard	Saturday Oct. 2, 2021 9:00am – 4:00pm
Cub Scout Pack 51	Cub Scout Meeting – “Movie-Making Adventure”	High School TV Studio	Monday October 18, 2021 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Circulo de la Hispanidad	Memorial for Barbara Bernardino Dubow	Lindell Auditorium and Cafeteria	Saturday November 13, 2021 12:00pm – 4:00pm
Circulo de la Hispanidad	Awards Night	High School Auditorium and Cafeteria	Friday June 10, 2022 6:00pm – 9:30pm
Circulo de la Hispanidad	Sport for Youth	Middle School Gymnasium	Fridays Sept. 28 – May 6, 2022 8:00pm – 9:00pm
Circulo de la Hispanidad	Mother’s Day	Lindell Auditorium, Cafeteria and Teacher’s Cafeteria	Friday May 6, 2022 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Circulo de la Hispanidad	Christmas Show	Lindell Auditorium, Cafeteria and Teacher’s Cafeteria	Friday December 3, 2021 6:00pm – 9:30pm

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

- Vice President Conway asked why elementary enrichment not equal throughout all schools, and Dr. Gallagher replied that this is the first trimester of the first year we are doing this, and we don't necessarily have teachers in all schools able to offer all things. Will look to correct this in second trimester, have teachers go across schools if necessary. Mrs. Conway noticed water damage on some tiles in the High School. Mr. DeVito said that the water infiltration on the north side has been fixed, and awaiting repair of ceiling tiles. There is also water infiltration in some of the towers, a flashing issue, roofing contractor coming in to correct. Mrs. Conway asked if the Names Not Numbers Project would be continuing and Dr. Gallagher replied yes – it will be offered at the High School. Mrs. Conway also asked if the High School has any plans to bring in Veterans/honor Veterans and Dr. Gallagher replied that there are no immediate plans. Mrs. Conway also asked about food services – hearing that the most popular dishes seem to sell out quickly, and Mr. DeVito said that he had not hear that – did hear that some new items that were trialed last week, it was very well received, and did sell out. Mrs. Conway asked about metrics regarding mask mandates? Dr. Gallagher replied that she had reached out to colleagues, and it is certainly fair to ask, as the rates go down, that we do ask for metrics, has not heard back, but will get back to the Board when she does.
- Board Member Vrona asked about the mask mandate and metrics, not hearing anything from the State? Mrs. Vrona suggests a letter from the Board to the Health Commissioner requesting metrics to tell us when we can be done with masks. Dr. Ryan agrees that it is a great idea; all Board members agree, so no vote needed. Mrs. Vrona will draft the letter. Mrs. Vrona asked about work that the City of Long Beach needed to do at the West End Community Center and Mr. DeVito said they are not done with the work, and will terminate the license when work completed. Mrs. Vrona asked about operating surplus for the 2021-22 school year. Mr. DeVito said that the auditors are still working on the budget, and will have it for the first meeting in November. Mrs. Vrona said she read that NSBA sent a letter asking the Federal government for assistance with unruly parents at Board members and requested assistance from the FBI, very disturbing, does not want to chill free speech, nothing that the local police couldn't handle if needed. Mrs. Vrona asked if anyone on the Board was asked for their input on how we felt about this issue and the answer was no. Mrs. Vrona would like to find out how this came about. Dr. Ryan said that in 15 years, never saw such attention on School Boards; the Herald wants to talk about mask mandates, not student achievement.
- Board Member Pace thanked Mr. Epstein and Mr. DeVito and Facilities for expediting repairs to Yoga Room.
- Board President Ryan asked about the no homework policy in the High School IB English class and Dr. Gallagher said that is not the policy and the parent can address that at the building level.

X. Questions and Comments from the Public

- A member of the public stated that she really does appreciate the Board. Asked if, when teachers are absent, can they put up an out of office assistant so that parents know that the teacher might not be able to respond by a certain date. Also asked

about parent teacher conferences being virtual, what percentage of parents requested that? She said Dr. Gallagher could get back to her on that.

- A member of the public thanked Board Member Vrona for raising the issue of mask mandate and metrics for ending requirement. Asked if Board has been contacted by the FBI (No).
- A member of the public thanked Mrs. Vrona for raising the mask mandate issue and asked if masks are necessary on buses, and Dr. Gallagher replied yes. She is happy that Mrs. Vrona and Mrs. Conway will be writing a letter regarding mask mandate metrics. She also raised a concern that the LGBTQ Club was standing in doorway of Middle School and promoting their issues to Middle School students. Dr. Romanelli asked that she reach out to building administrators.
- A member of the public said that regarding the IB English teacher, it is their policy to not give homework. Also expressed concern for Honors for All program.

XI. Announcements

Announcements

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers' Association – Keith Harvey thanked the School Board in honor of School Board Recognition Week.
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group – Keith Biesma also thanked the Board, and thanked Lorie Beard and Cristie Tursi for presentation.
3. LBPS Group C Employees Association – None
4. Parent/Teacher Association – Thanks to the Board, and will recognize them at the next Board meeting. Asked is parents can be resurveyed regarding the virtual parent teacher conferences, thanks for plant sale support.

President Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM.

Adjournment

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

Minutes submitted by: _____
Lori Dolan, District Clerk
October 12, 2021