

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: April 16, 2024

Type of Meeting: Executive Session

Place of Meeting: Administration Building Conference Room

Members Present: Board President Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.
Board Vice President Sam Pinto (via Zoom)
Board Member Anne Conway
Board Member Alexis Pace
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
Mr. Michael Vigliotta, Atty., Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC

Board President Ryan called for a motion to go into executive session at 5:04 PM to discuss district pending legal and personnel matters.

Motion to Go Into Executive Session

Motion by: Board Member Conway
Seconded by: Board Member Pace
Approved: 4-0

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

Adjournment

Motion by: Board Member Conway
Seconded by: Board Member Pace
Approved: 4-0

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: April 16, 2024

Type of Meeting: Regular Meeting

Place of Meeting: Long Beach Middle School Auditorium

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
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
Mr. Michael Vigliotta, Atty., Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC
Lori Dolan, District Clerk
Members of the Public

I. Superintendent's Opening Remarks/Call to Order

Board President Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Dr. Ryan congratulated those inducted into the Tri-M Honor Society last week; very cute performance at West School; expressed regrets for Sam Pinto not being able to attend tonight's meeting.

II. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Gallagher

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gallagher turned the meeting over to Mr. DeVito for his final budget presentation before the night's budget adoption. Mr. DeVito explained that this is the final draft budget that the Board will vote on, as well as our updated revenue projections. He began with the proposed budget of \$155,946,049; revenue projection (what he calls the "optimistic" projection), predicts slightly lower due to a decrease in tuition from Island Park, offset by funds in the Appropriated Fund Balance; LIPA fluctuates year to year; results in an increase of 1.5%. Mr. DeVito went on to outline what is in the proposed budget: Social worker currently funded in ARP grant, two WINGS teachers, all school assistant (or vice) principals, all AIS teacher positions, STEM and Spanish positions at the elementary schools, LARC, all permanent subs, Arts in Education (BOCES), five assistant coaches, all district field trips, including Frost Valley and Coleman Country Day Camp. Some items that are not in the proposed budget are: one curriculum director position, approximately eight teaching positions (based on enrollment decline),

mindfulness teacher, mechanic, approximately \$160,000 of professional development, musical instrument rentals (replaced with lease to own financing program).

The complete presentation, "2024-25 Final Draft Budget and Revenue Projection" can be found on the District website and in the office of the District Clerk.

BOE Comments

III. President Ryan called for Board of Education Comments

- Ms. Bellsey asked Mr. DeVito to explain the musical instrument lease to own financing program; Mr. DeVito replied that the district finances the purchase of the instruments, a substantial number, and we will own them after three years of payments, it's more cost effective and they are better quality.
- Mrs. Conway asked about the PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes), and Mr. DeVito explained that it's a reduction for a specific entity, not advantageous to the district. The IDA determines the level. Mrs. Conway thanked Mr. DeVito was able to keep the tax levy at 1.5% and keep many things. She asked about the reduction of teaching positions, and Mr. DeVito replied that it is due to a declining enrollment. Mrs. Conway also wanted to make sure that the public is aware that the reduction of the mindfulness teacher does not mean that mindfulness practice will not continue in the classrooms. She asked if Mr. DeVito had any plans to meet with community groups to review the budget and Mr. DeVito replied yes.
- Dr. Ryan asked about the anticipated surplus and whether that was excessive, and Mr. DeVito replied that it's actually very low.
- Mrs. Pace stated that it has been a grueling budget season and thanked Mr. DeVito for his diligence.

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

- None

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

VI. Dr. Gallagher recommended the acceptance of the Treasurer's Report for February 2024 – no action needed.

**Acceptance of the
Treasurer's Report**

VII. Dr. Gallagher recommended the Approval of Minutes for Executive Session and Regular Meeting of March 12, 2024 and the Executive Session and Work Session Meeting of March 26, 2024.

**Approval of Minutes for
Exec Session and Regular
Meeting of Mar. 12, 2024,
and Exec Session and
Work Session Meeting of
Mar. 26, 2024.**

President Ryan called for a motion to approve as amended.

Motion by: Board Member Conway

Seconded by: Board Member Pace

Approved: 4-0

VIII. PRESENTATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Dr. Gallagher asked the District Clerk to read a Walk-on Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the tenured teacher named in Executive Session be suspended with pay effective April 17, 2024, pending the outcome of disciplinary proceedings brought pursuant to the provisions of Section 3020-a of the Education Law of the State of New York.

Board President Ryan called for a motion.

Motion by: Board Member Pace
Seconded by: Board Member Conway
Approved: 4-0

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

Presentations of the Superintendent

Approval of: Personnel Matters:
Certificated

Board President Ryan called for a motion.

Motion by: Board Member Bellsey
Seconded by: Board Member Pace
Discussion: Board Member Conway thanked the retirees for their service.
Approved: 4-0

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

Approval of Personnel
Matters: Non-Certificated

Board President Ryan called for a motion.

Motion by: Board Member Bellsey
Seconded by: Board President Ryan
Approved: 4-0

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) Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement

Name: Rita Miciotta
Assign./Loc. Part Time Teaching Assistant/Long Beach Middle School
Effective Date: June 30, 2024, close of day

Name: Jacqueline Harris
Assign./Loc. Full Time Teaching Assistant/Long Beach High School
Effective Date: June 30, 2024, close of day

(b) Resignation

Name: Nicole Albani
Assign./Loc. Music Teacher/Long Beach High School
Effective Date: June 30, 2024, close of day

(c) Leaves of Absence

Name: Kaitlin Smith
Assign./Loc. Reading Teacher/Long Beach Middle School
Effective Dates: September 1, 2024 – January 24, 2025 on or about
Reason: Maternity

Name: Michelle Smith
Assign./Loc. Part Time Teaching Assistant/East School
Effective Dates: December 11, 2023 – June 30, 2024 or earlier
Reason: Medical

Name: Tara Mele
Assign./Loc. Math Teacher/Long Beach Middle School
Effective Dates: April 8, 2024 – June 26, 2024 or earlier
Reason: Medical/FMLA

Name: Krystal Wildes
Assign./Loc. Special Education Teacher/Long Beach High School
Effective Dates: September 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 on or about
Reason: Childcare/Maternity

I. CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

(d) Appointment: Permanent Substitute Teacher

Name: Sophia Reichert
Assign./Loc.: Permanent Substitute Teacher/West School
Certification: Initial Birth – Grade 2
Initial Childhood Education Grades 1-6
Effective Dates: April 2, 2024 – June 24, 2024
Rate of Pay: \$241.02 per day
Reason: To fill a vacancy

(e) Appointment: Supervisor for the Extended School Year-July 8, 2024-August 16, 2024 (supervisor starts in April)-rate of pay-\$10,000 stipend plus preparation rate as per contract.

Laurence Lopez

(f) Appointment: Supervisor for the ENL Summer Program-July 1, 2024-July 19, 2024 rate of pay-\$3,575 stipend-Title III Grant Funded.

Dana Monti

(g) Appointment: Teachers for the ENL Summer Program-July 1, 2024-July 19, 2024 rate of pay-\$65.48 per hour stipend-Title III Grant Funded.

Leslie Ling
Edith Guzman
Emily Taxin

(h) Amended Appointment

Name: Brianna Dixon
Assign./Loc.: Short-Term Substitute Music Teacher – Lido/Lindell/West
Certification: Initial Music (in process)
Original Effective Dates: February 12, 2024 – May 31, 2024
Amended Effective Dates: February 12, 2024 – June 26, 2024 (or earlier at the district's discretion)

Rate of Pay: \$241.02 per day
Reason: Due to N. Bach's extension

(i) **Appointment Part Time Teacher Assistant-17.5 hours per week Start date -through June 26, 2024 (or earlier at the district's discretion). Rate according to contract**

Name	Step	Rate	Location	Reason	Shift	Start Date
Emma Zimmerman	2	\$ 19.59	Lido	CSE	PM	4/17/24
Maureen Parisa	1	\$ 18.81	Lindell	Resigns from Pre-K AM	AM	4/17/24

I. **CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

(j) **Appointment Part Time Pre K Teacher Assistant – Morning Shift 20 hours per week start date – through June 26, 2024 (or earlier at the district's discretion). Rate according to contract**

Name	Step	Rate	Location	Reason	Shift	Start Date
Theresa Acosta	4	\$ 21.25	Lido	Resigns from PM	Pre-K AM	4/17/24
Linda Wren	28	\$ 31.92	Lindell	Resigns from AM TA	Pre-K AM	4/17/24

II. **NON CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL**

(a) **Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement**

Name: Carolyn Chin
Assign./Loc. Data Specialist/Lindell School
Effective Date: June 30, 2024, close of day

Name: Sylvia Gray
Assign./Loc. Full Time Building Aide/Long Beach High School
Effective Date: December 31, 2024, close of day

Name: Bertha Huffman
Assign./Loc. Part Time Building Aide/Long Beach Middle School
Effective Date: June 30, 2024, close of day

(b) **Resignation**

Name: Angelica Sierra Salcedo
Assign./Loc. Part Time Food Service Worker/Long Beach Middle School
Effective Date: April 19, 2024, close of day

(c) **Termination**

Name: Antonio Robleto
Assign./Loc. Part Time Building Aide/Long Beach High School

Effective Date: April 8, 2024, close of day

(d) Leaves of Absence

Name: Ashrafun Nessa
Assign./Loc. Part Time Teacher Aide/Long Beach High School
Effective Date: March 25, 2024 – May 3, 2024 (on or about)
Reason: Medical

Name: Rosa Lezama
Assign./Loc. 30 Hr. Bus Aide/Transportation
Effective Date: March 29, 2024 – April 9, 2024 (on or about)
Reason: Medical

Name: Robert Post
Assign./Loc. 40 Hr. Bus Driver/Transportation
Effective Date: April 30, 2024 – June 30, 2024 (on or about)
Reason: Medical/FMLA

**II. NON CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL
(d) Leaves of Absence (continued)**

Name: Catherine Clarke
Assign./Loc. Secretary I/Lido PPS
Effective Date: May 1, 2024 – June 23, 2024 (on or about)
Reason: Medical/FMLA

(e) Amended Leave of Absence

Name: Vasiliki Senken
Assign./Loc. Part Time Teacher Aide/Lido School
Original Effective Dates: March 18, 2024 – March 27, 2024
Amended Effective Dates: March 18, 2024 – June 30, 2024, or earlier at the district's discretion
Reason: Personal Leave

(f) Appointment Part Time Teacher Aides 17.5 hours per week Start date-through June 26, 2024 (or earlier at the district's discretion). Rate according to contract

Name	Step	Rate	Location	Reason	Start date	Comment
Michael Breglia	1	17.58	Lido	CSE	4/17/24	Rescind TA

(g) Appointment: Probationary Full Time Night Cleaner

Name: Joshua Trone
Assign./Loc. Probationary Night Cleaner/Long Beach Middle School
Effective Date: April 17, 2024
Probationary End Date: April 16, 2028
Salary Classification: \$41,069 per annum – (pro-rated)
Step: Grade I/Step 3
Reason: To fill a vacancy

- (h) **The following Per Diem Substitute is recommended for approval for the 2023-2024 school year.**

Name	Position
Starleta Draine	Cleaner

- (i) **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 26, 2024.

VIII.3 Dr. Gallagher recommended that the ADOPTION OF THE 2024-2025 BUDGET

**Adoption of the
2024-25 Budget**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the budget for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$155,946,049.

Board President Ryan called for a motion.

Motion by: Board Member Conway

Seconded by: Board Member Bellsey

Discussion: Mrs. Conway read the following statement from Board Vice President Pinto: "Due to a long-standing family commitment he is unable to attend tonight in person and therefore he is unable to vote on the budget. It seems like we have felt annual disruptions from Albany impacting public education. The earlier reported loss of funding could have greatly disrupted our community, and I am glad that because of the advocacy of many, it was replenished, and we now have the time to do our diligence and work as a community for the steps in the future. In regard to this upcoming budget, we need to plan responsibly to balance the needs of the students and the impact on our community. Our schools do more than just educate our children, and we need to continue to focus on promoting student achievements academically, socially and emotionally, while being fiscally responsible on behalf of the community." Mrs. Conway then thanked Mr. DeVito, Dr. Gallagher and Dr. Natali and Brian Oper for working together as a team during this disruptive budget season, while trying to listen to our community, focusing on our students' needs and to maintain the integrity of our programs.

Yes Votes: Board Members Conway, Pace and Bellsey

No Votes: Board President Ryan

Discussion: Dr. Ryan explained that he voted no because, three months ago, there was an option to close East School, and he was the only Board member who supported it. He added that he still supports it because he thinks it is in the best interest of all in the community – those that don't have children, and even the kids at East School; it's been a difficult budget season.

Approved: 3-1

VIII.4 Dr. Gallagher recommended the ADOPTION OF SECTION 1716 OF EDUCATION LAW: 2024-2025 PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

**Approval of 2024-25
Property Tax Report Card**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the 2022-2023 Property Tax Report Card, with a budget of \$155,946,049 and corresponding tax levy of \$109,080,538.

Board President Ryan called for a motion.

Motion by: Board Member Conway

Seconded by: Board Member Bellsey

Discussion: Dr. Ryan asked when the Property Tax Report Card goes out, and Mr. DeVito replied within 24 hours, it will go out tomorrow.

Approved: 4-0

VIII.5 Dr. Gallagher recommended the BOCES VOTE – NASSAU BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

2024-25 Nassau BOCES
Budget Vote

A. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County (“Nassau BOCES”) has proposed and presented its Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2024-25 school year (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Nassau BOCES Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2024-25 school year in the amount of twenty-seven million one hundred thirty one thousand one hundred and seventeen dollars (\$27,131,117) be approved.

B. ELECTION OF THREE CANDIDATES TO THE NASSAU BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (“Nassau BOCES”) BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLVED, that the Board of education of the Long Beach City School District hereby votes for the following candidates to fill three vacancies on the Nassau BOCES Board: Susan Bergtram, Martin Kaye and Michael Weinick.

Board President Ryan called for a motion.

Motion by: Board Member Bellsey

Seconded by: Board President Ryan

Approved: 4-0

Dr. Gallagher recommended in a combined vote Items VIII.6 through Item VIII.10.

Board President Ryan called for a motion.

Motion by: Board President Ryan

Seconded by: Board Member Bellsey

Discussion: Mrs. Conway asked if Dr. Gallagher knew how many students will be in the summer school program yet, and Dr. Gallagher replied not yet.

Approved: 4-0

VIII.6 Dr. Gallagher recommended the APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT – NASSAU BOCES SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Approval of Agreement –
Nassau BOCES Summer
School Program

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Long Beach School District hereby approves the agreement with Nassau BOCES for the provision of Regional Summer School services through the Department of Regional Schools and Instructional Programs, for the period July 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024, at the applicable rates and management fee as set forth therein; and hereby authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board.

VIII.7 Dr. Gallagher recommended the APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT – NASSAU BOCES CHROMEBOOK FINANCE PROJECT # 31-920323

**Approval of Agreement –
Chromebook Finance
Project #31-920323**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Long Beach School District desires to enter into a three year contract with the Nassau BOCES in order for the Regional Information Center to furnish certain services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950(4)(jj), those services being: CoSer 532 Instructional Technology Services; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education finds that (i) the use of the Equipment and the District's participation in the Learning Technology Project Planning project is essential to the District's proper, efficient and economic operation of its education program to be supported by the Equipment, and is necessary to maintain the District's educational program; and that (ii) the expenses arising under this Agreement constitute expenses necessary for providing educational services and the transaction is in the best financial interests of the School District because it enables the District to utilize the equipment in a cost effective and economic manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Long Beach School District agrees to enter into a contract with the Nassau BOCES for the provision of said services to the District not to exceed \$372,737.35 which is inclusive of related estimated borrowing fees, plus yearly Regional Information Center support during the term of this contract, finalized by the Superintendent, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education, for a period from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027.

VIII.8 Dr. Gallagher recommended the APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT – NASSAU BOCES MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FINANCE PROJECT # 1M-831865

**Approval of Agreement –
Musical Instruments Finance
Project #1M-831865**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Long Beach School District 1M-831865 desires to enter into a 3 year contract with the Nassau BOCES in order for the Regional Information Center to furnish certain services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950(4)(jj), those services being: 403 Musical Instruments.

WHEREAS, the Long Beach Board of Education finds that (i) the use of the Musical Instruments and the and the District's participation in the Arts in Education project is essential to the District's proper, efficient and economic operation of its education

program to be supported by the Musical Instruments, and is necessary to maintain the District's educational program, and that (ii) the expenses arising under this Agreement constitute expenses necessary for providing educational services and the transaction is in the best financial interests of the School District because it enables the District to utilize the Musical Instruments in a cost effective and economic manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Long Beach School District agrees to enter into a contract with the Nassau BOCES for the provision of said services to the District not to exceed \$209,704.57 which is inclusive of related estimated borrowing fees, plus yearly Regional Information Center support during the term of this contract, finalized by the Superintendent, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education, for a period from June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2027.

VIII.9 Dr. Gallagher recommended the APPROVAL OF NON-RESIDENT TUITION AGREEMENT

Approval of Non-Resident Tuition Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves non-resident tuition Agreements for the period of September 4, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

VIII.10 Dr. Gallagher recommended the ADOPTION OF AMENDED POLICY #3280 PUBLIC USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Adoption of Amended Policy #3280 Public Use of School Facilities

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby adopts amended Policy #3280 Public Use of School Facilities.

Dr. Gallagher recommended in a combined vote Items VIII.11 through Item VIII.13.

Board President Ryan called for a motion.

Motion by: Board Member Pace
Seconded by: Board Member Bellsey
Approved: 4-0

VIII.11 Dr. Gallagher recommended the ACCEPTANCE OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON PRE-SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION AND COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

CPSE/CSE Recommendations

VIII.12 Dr. Gallagher recommended the PAYMENT OF LEGAL BILLS: LEGAL SERVICES

Approval of Payment of Legal Bills: Legal Services

A) VOLZ & VIGLIOTTA, PLLC

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes expenditures in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC for the monthly retainer for general counsel legal services for the period of May 1, 2024 through May 31, 2024; \$24.50 for general counsel legal services for February 29, 2024;

\$2033.50 for general counsel legal services for March 8, 2024 through March 29, 2024; \$3,583.33 for the monthly retainer for labor counsel legal services for the period of May 1, 2024 through May 31, 2024; \$73.50 for labor counsel services for February 15, 2024; \$122.50 for labor counsel services for November 15, 2023; and \$612.50 for labor counsel services for the period of March 21, 2024 through March 28, 2024.

VIII.13 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 and/or rescheduled based on building schedule.

APPLICATIONS FOR USE OF SCHOOLS

Organization	Purpose	Facility Requested	Dates Requested
Long Beach Rec	Rec Basketball	West Elementary School Gymnasium	Monday April 15, 2024 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Long Beach Civil Service Commission	Civil Service Exam	Middle School Classrooms	Saturday May 4, 2024 8:00am – 2:00pm
Long Beach Basketball Camp	Basketball Camp	High School Gymnasium, Boys Locker Room, Girls Locker Room, Outdoor Basketball Courts	Mon. through Thurs. August 12 – August 15, 2024 8:00am – 12:30pm
Long Beach Youth and Family Services	Daytrippers Camp	East Elementary Cafeteria, Gymnasium, North and South Playground, Music Room	Mon. through Fri. July 1 through August 23, 2024 7:00am – 4:00pm
Long Beach Field Hockey Association	Field Hockey Camp	High School Alumni Field	Mon. through Wed. July 1 through July 3, 2024 8:00am – 12:00pm

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

Board of Ed – Additional Comments

- Dr. Ryan asked for an update on the Advisory Committee, and Dr. Gallagher stated she met with the PTA presidents last week, they will submit two representatives, each

of the three unions will submit two representatives, each Board member has submitted a representative, two Board members and Central Administration will serve on the committee. They will hold the first meeting on May 1st ; there will be two meetings in May, two meetings in June and summer meetings as well.

- Mrs. Pace wanted to clarify that she respects Dr. Ryan’s position on the budget, but she wanted to reiterate that he is in the minority in that opinion and it is not the opinion of the Board.
- Mrs. Conway stated that she is very excited to see the Middle School musical, encouraged the public to come and see. She added that there hasn’t been mention of food services in a long time, and asked Mr. DeVito how it was doing, and Mr. DeVito replied that it’s doing really well, students are happy with the new offerings, great work with the farm to table initiative; Mrs. Conway noticed more fresh fruit offerings.
- Dr. Ryan asked about absenteeism since COVID, and Dr. Gallagher stated that, although she would like to see it decrease more, it is the lowest since she has been with the district; the high school’s absenteeism is down 10% from last year; we’ve made great progress; it’s about engaging students and creating an environment that makes students come to school.

VIII. Questions and Comments from the Public

Questions and Comments from the Public

- A member of tasked for clarification on the musical instrument financing, if that was for all of the schools, and asked about the mechanic position. Mr. DeVito stated that it was a mechanic that was dedicated to the Middle School – he was retiring, so he was not replaced.
- A member of the public asked about the funding for in-district services as per IEPs, and asked how that could be done before IEPs are done, and Dr. Gallagher said we hired people to service the students. The member of the public reminded everyone that the Committee is not just East families, it is for all families; expressed concern about the no vote for the budget.
- A member of the public who spoke previously spoke about the hopes for the committee is to take its time and find the “right answer”.
- A member of the public would like the district to consider where special education classes are offered to reduce transition.

IX. Announcements

Announcements

1. Long Beach Classroom Teachers’ Association – None
2. Administrative, Supervisory and PPS Group – None
3. LBPS Group C Employees Association – None
4. Parent/Teacher Association – Ms. McNichols spoke in support of mental health supports for our students; reminded all of the upcoming Mental Health Forum on Monday, May 6th at the Library.

X. Adjournment

Adjournment

President Ryan called for a motion to adjourn at 7:52 PM.

Motion by: Board Member Pace
Seconded by: Board Member Bellsey
Approved: 4-0

Minutes submitted by:

Lori Dolan, District Clerk
April 16, 2024