

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: October 22, 2024

Type of Meeting: Executive Session

Place of Meeting: Administration Building Conference Room

Members Present: Board President Sam Pinto
Board Vice President Alexis Pace
Board Member Anne Conway
Board Member Nora Bellsey

Absent: Board Member Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.

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

Board President Pinto called for a motion to go into executive session at 5:33 PM to discuss district pending legal and personnel matters.

Motion to Go Into
Executive Session

Motion by: Board President Pinto
Seconded by: Board Member Conway
Approved: 4-0

Board President Pinto called for a motion to adjourn the executive session at 6:40 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by: Board President Pinto
Seconded by: Board Member Conway
Approved: 4-0

MINUTES

- Date of Meeting:** October 22, 2024
- Type of Meeting:** Work Session
- Place of Meeting:** West Elementary School Gymnasium
- Members Present:** Board President Sam Pinto
Board Vice President Alexis Pace
Board Member Anne Conway
Board Member Nora Bellsey
- Absent:** Board Member Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.
- 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

I. Superintendent's Opening Remarks/Call to Order

Board President Pinto called the meeting to order and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Pinto stated that we had a great Homecoming, great win, thanked the members of the String Quartet who were performing in recognition of Board of Education Appreciation Week. He then turned the meeting over to Dr. Gallagher.

II. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Gallagher

Superintendent's Report

- *School Board Appreciation Celebration*
- *Student Showcase and Presentation: World Languages and English as a New Language (ENL)*

Dr. Gallagher stated that last week was Board of Education Appreciation Week, and since we didn't have a meeting last week, we are going to honor them tonight. She thanked the Board for all of their hard work and dedication, adding that she is personally grateful to work with such a fantastic Board, and reminding the public that they are volunteers and receive no compensation. Representatives from the PTAs and Unions presented each Board member with small gifts in appreciation for their hard work and support. Mr. Pinto thanked all, noting that the PTA is the hardest volunteer job in the District, and the Board appreciates you. Dr., Gallagher introduced the String Quartet, who performed "Sweet Child of Mine". There was a ten minute refreshment break, courtesy of the PTAs.

Dr. Gallagher then introduced Evelyn Daza, for the Student Showcase presentation of ENL and World Languages. She introduced a fourth grader from Peru, only here for one

year, a fifth grader from Haiti, only here for three months, and an 11th grader from Ukraine (who stated that he came to the district speaking Ukraine and Russian and has learned to speak English and Spanish in only two years); each student spoke about their experience as a student from another country. Another High School student stated that she has learned Mandarin and French, and an eighth grader was currently taking Italian. They gave a demonstration of how translation services are done in the classroom. Each Administrator and Board member received a transmission device and was able to listen both to the student presenter speaking in a foreign language and the interpreter speaking into the device in real time.

The complete presentation, "ENL and World Languages" can be found on the District website and in the office of the District Clerk.

III. Board President Pinto called for Board of Education Comments

BOE Comments

- Board Vice President thanked all of the students, adding that she regrets never having learned a second language; impressed by the bravery of the students who presented that were new English language learners.
- Board Member Bellsey thanked the students, also calling them brave and eager to learn. She asked about ENL students with regard to extracurriculars and sports. Ms. Daza said that the teachers work with Arnie Epstein to make sure the students understand what they need and the process for joining in athletics; students are also members of ASPIRA.
- Board Member Conway stated that the students warmed our hearts, they did an amazing job; commended Ms. Daza and all of the ENL teachers. She asked what is done to ensure incoming Kindergarten students have what they need to perform, since they do not qualify for services in PreK. Ms. Daza replied that, not just for Kindergarten, but for all students, they monitor the students, work closely with building principals and assistant principals. Ms. Conway also asked about plans to work with secondary level – Dr. Gallagher stated that the average percentage of students in Nassau County who advance a grade level is 30%, so 56% for Long Beach is a huge number.
- Board President Pinto stated that he is happy to see ENL integrated across all disciplines; his father, who attended Long Beach High School, knew how to speak six languages, adding that being able to speak the common language of someone strengthens relationships.

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

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

- A member of the public asked if Italian was being phased out (yes); asked about the translation devices, if all of the students have them available in each building (yes).

Board of Ed – Additional
Comments

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

- Ms. Conway stated that she went to Homecoming, and it was amazing; spoke to someone from Robotics, found out they recently had been invited to a competition

where they placed second, and because they did so well, have now been invited to another competition in the spring; she asked Mr. DeVito about playground options at East School, and Mr. DeVito replied that they met with a playground company last week and asked them to come up with some option, and will share those with the Board when available.

**Questions and Comments
from the Public**

VI. Questions and Comments from the Public

- A member of the public stated that East School is hosting its second annual East-a-Thon, a Walk-a-Thon, raised \$9000 so far, it's a 2-mile walk this Friday at 5:45pm.

VII. 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 – None
5. Student Organization – successful Homecoming, win over Sewanhaka; great Pep Rally; upcoming Blood Drive; Trick or Treat for Canned Goods

VIII. Adjournment

Adjournment

Board President Pinto called for a motion to adjourn at 8:04 PM.

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

Minutes submitted by: _____

Lori Dolan, District Clerk
October 22, 2024