

May 11, 2010

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A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education of the West Babylon Union Free School District, of the Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York was held on TUESDAY, May 11, 2010, in the Board Room of the Administration Wing adjacent to the Senior High School.

Those present:

Trustees; Lucy Campasano, Wendy DeGaetano, Patrick M. Farrell, Carmine Galletta, Kathleen Jennings, Diane Klein, Jerry Nocera and Diane Thiel  
Trustees; Jerry Nocera and Joseph Romano were absent

Also present: Mr. Anthony Cacciola, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Dominick Palma, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Student Services; Mr. Mark A. Flower, Assistant Superintendent for Finance; Mrs. Yiendhy Farrelly, Executive Director for Human Resources; Mrs. Amy E. Jones, District Clerk; Mr. William C. Morrell, Attorney; and residents

The President opened the meeting at 7:15 pm and led those present in the Pledge to the Flag.

Trustee Jennings seconded by trustee Campasano made a motion to executive session for matters of negotiations at 7:16 pm.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

**Presentation: 2010-2011 Budget Hearing - Mark Flower, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations**

Mr. Flower presented the budget hearing for the community. He reminded everyone that the budget to budget increase is 2.08% making the tax rate increase 7.13%. If the budget is defeated and the district is on a contingent budget, the budget to budget increase would be .43% and the tax rate would increase 4.40%. The difference to the tax rate between the proposed budget and a contingent budget is 2.73%. He reviewed the expenditure allocations and answered questions from the community. Mr. Flower explained that if the district is forced to use a contingent budget and the state aid is restored, the district cannot come off contingency. In response to a resident's comment that West Babylon's increase to the tax rate is higher than the surrounding districts' budget Trustee Klein responded that other districts, including the one in which she is employed and from which she is being exceeded next year, are cutting programs and staff and West Babylon is not. In closing he encouraged everyone to vote on May 18, between the hours of 9:00 am - 9:00 pm. The budget hearing ended at 8:07. The meeting recessed until the regularly scheduled 8:30 meeting.

The public portion began at 8:33 pm.

Trustee Campasano seconded by trustee Thiel made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 27, 2010 and the Special Meeting of May 4, 2010.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

**Statement of the Superintendent and/or Board of Education:**

Mr. Cacciola said that since April 21 the district has had seven stranger incidents. He said that the district is extremely concerned and has taken a number of actions including having the principals of each of the buildings addressing the matter with staff and students. He commended the staff for the actions they have taken including; review of "Stranger Danger", short assemblies, and teachers discussing the incidents with their individual classes. In addition, Mr. Cacciola has been in touch with Cornelius McKenna of the First Precinct and has met on two occasions with Dr. Palma and Officer Alias. Copies of all letters regarding strangers are sent to the police, as well as staff and parents. Mr. Cacciola said that all matters are taken seriously and that some of the cases are closed. However, the incident that occurred at 7 Eleven in which someone rode on a student's bike has been taken very seriously. Trustee Galletta noted that the video surveillance at his place of business is being reviewed, as well as the video surveillance at the video store near 7 Eleven. Mr. Cacciola said that the police would like students to attempt to get a license plate number if at all possible to offer the best lead. A suggestion was also made to send a copy of our letters to neighboring districts.

Mr. Cacciola said that there will be a special Board meeting on Monday, May 17, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the JHS's Eagle Hall to discuss the South Bay School reconstruction project. Mr. Cacciola said that the Fire Marshall's report was submitted to the district on April 30, 2010. He said it was his original intention to have the report on the district's website. However, the Town of Babylon has said that this is a confidential document and therefore, needs to be requested through the Freedom of Information Law process.

**Statement of West Babylon Teachers Association:**

WBTA President Patt Squicciarini said that she and her association are disappointed at what she believes to be a lack of communication between the Board of Ed., Administration and the Teachers' Union. She was also disappointed that many of the cuts suggested for a contingent budget directly hit the classrooms. She requested that the WBTA be invited into future discussions regarding cuts.

**Statement of West Babylon Administrators' Association:** **None**

**Statement of CSEA Representative:** **None**

**Statement of Student Association Representative:** **None**

**Statement of PTA Council Representative:** **None**

**Statement of Residents:**

Resident Raymond Cody commented about the cap on Charter Schools.

Resident Mrs. Pesiri spoke about her concerns regarding students being released from a bus without a parent present to receive the child. Mr. Cacciola explained that it would be extremely difficult for the driver to monitor every student. Parents should have alternate plans in place if they are unable to pick up their children. However, kindergarten children are supposed to have someone meet them at their stop. In addition, if a child told the driver that he/she is concerned that no one is at the stop to meet them, the driver would return the child to the school and a parent or guardian would be notified.

In response to Resident Ray Cody's question, Mr. Flower said that there is no ESF money available to retain jobs.

Resident Carmella Turner expressed her concern about the proposed 7.13% tax rate increase. In response to her questions, Mr. Morrell said that past practice items are not always written. However, they occur over a number of years and then must be negotiated out of contracts. In response to Mrs. Turner's question about "give backs", Mr. Cacciola explained that when he negotiated his contract as Superintendent, he did give back. Items that he gave back include; lifetime 100% paid insurance (which he had in his previous contract as Assistant Superintendent), changed his retirement sick days payment from a per diem rate to a flat rate, his \$5,000 annual raise has been returned to the district annually (see various Agenda items over the years). Trustee Campasano also added that Mr. Cacciola does not receive a car allowance. Mr. Cacciola invited anyone to view [www.seethroughNY.net](http://www.seethroughNY.net) to compare his contract with the contracts of other Superintendents.

Mr. Cody said that employees are not aware that they are entitled to join the retirement system. Mr. Cacciola explained that since 1992, all employees have been invited to join the retirement system when they are hired. Each employee who declines signs a waiver stating that they are not interested. He added that if any employee has a question about this, they may ask to see the document in their file.

**Superintendent's Report/Educational Presentation:**

Trustee Jennings seconded by Trustee Campasano made a motion to approve the **Consent Agenda and addenda #PE-2, #BE-2, #BE-3, #BE-4** and the addition of the **Elementary Summer Math Assignment Presentation** to this evening's **Agenda**

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present.

**#BE-1**

**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education hereby abolishes five positions; three in the elementary education teacher tenure area and two in the teaching assistant tenure area effective June 30, 2010; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the least senior persons in such positions shall be excessed in accordance with law.

**#PE-1**

**RESOLVED:** that the following schedules, as attached, are approved:

- 09-P-20 Professional Personnel
- 09-C-19 Civil Service Personnel

**SCHEDULE 09-P-20 Professional Personnel Schedule**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>SCHOOL/ AREA</b>	<b>STEP/ SALARY</b>	<b>BEG/END APPT.</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Kozak,John	Elementary Tchr.	TA		5/10/10 -	Family Medical Leave
Greenspan,Joshua	Business Tchr.	HS		6/30/10	Resignation
Weintraub,Rhonda	Library Media Specialist	FA		6/30/10	Resignation to Retire
Mahoney,Debra	Elementary Tchr.	JK		6/30/10	Excessed
LoSardo,Deborah	Elementary Tchr.	JK		6/30/10	Excessed
Pino,Louise	Elementary Tchr.	TA		6/30/10	Excessed
Palazzo,Samantha	Teaching Asst.	JH		6/30/10	Excessed
Serviss,Tiffany	Teaching Asst.	JH		6/30/10	Excessed
Wronsky-Haintz, Natalie	English Tchr.	JH		First Semester, 2010-2011	Leave of Absence Extension [2nd LOA]
Mercardante,Nicole	Elementary Tchr.			9/1/10	Returning from LOA
Gross,Maria	Elementary Tchr.			9/1/10	Returning from LOA
<b>S.A.T. Proctors:</b>		HS	\$21.06/hr.	5/1/10	
Borgo,Danielle					6 hrs.
Iaquinto,Christine					6 hrs.
Kinlan,Patricia					6 hrs.
Romeo,Marta					6 hrs.
Ruiz,Lawrence					6 hrs.
Shelor,Lisa					6 hrs.
Simone,Linda					6 hrs.
Heaton,Bryan					6.5 hrs.
Heaton,Elise					6.5 hrs.
McArdle,Patrick					6.5 hrs
Powers,Daniel					6.5 hrs.
Velasquez,Idalia					6.5 hrs.
Sanchelli,Joy					7 hrs.
Montalvo,Andrea					9 hrs.
Montalvo,Christina	Test Supervisor				9 hrs.
<b>Clubs &amp; Advisors:</b>				2009-2010	
Young,Melanie	GSA Advisor	HS	\$435.20		Salary Correction
Prizzi,Theresa	"	HS	\$652.80		[amounts adjusted to advisory time]

**The following club is established for the 2009-2010 school year:**

(1.0)	Mural Club	High School	\$1,088.	
Montalvo,Andrea	Mural Club Advisor	HS	\$1,088.	2009-2010

**Per Diem Substitute:** DW \$90./hr. 2009-2010  
Vessa,Tricia

**SCHEDULE 09-C-19 Civil Service Personnel Schedule**

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NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/ AREA	STEP/ SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	COMMENTS
Liguori,Donna	Clerk Typist	FA	Step 1/ \$28,774. (prorate)	5/12/10	Probationary Appt. C.S. List of Eligibles #10SR069

**Per Diem Substitutes:** DW \$9./hr. 2009-2010

*Fay,Debra	Food Service
*Flores,Bianca	"
*Ippolito,Kristine	"
*Simpson,Karen	"
*Flores,Bianca	Clerical
Bensen,Colleen	Clerical/Para
*Ippolito,Kristine	Paraprofessional
*Simpson,Karen	"

\*Emergency Conditional Appointment

**Emergency Conditional Appointment Extensions:**

Esposito,Theresa

**#FI-1**  
**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education gratefully accepts a grant issued to Santapogue School's Student Council in the amount of \$125 from "NewsdayFuture Corp."

**#CU-1**  
**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education endorses the establishment of the Senior High School "Mural Painting Club".

**#FA-1**  
**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education gratefully accepts the following donation to the West Babylon Junior High School Baseball Team from Mr. Carmine A. Demeri, West Babylon Graduate-Class of 2005 and former West Babylon Varsity Baseball Captain:

a catered event acknowledging the team and a t-shirts/sweatshirts presentation

**ADDENDA:**

**#BE-2**  
**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education adopts the "Master Addendum to the Lease Agreement" between The Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Grace and the West Babylon Union Free School District.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the President of the West Babylon Board of Education is authorized to sign said agreement.

**#BE-3**

**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education waives the use of facilities fees for the West Babylon Lax Club during the week of August 9, 2010 through August 13, 2010.

**#BE-4**

**RESOLVED:** Pending approval by District counsel, the President of the West Babylon Board of Education is authorized to sign the agreement with Belfor to perform restoration at the South Bay School.

**#PE-2**

**RESOLVED:** that the attached personnel schedules are approved:

09-P-20A(a) Professional Personnel

09-C-19A(a) Civil Service Personnel

**SCHEDULE 09 -P-20A, Professional Personnel Schedule**

**ADDENDUM (a)**

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL/ AREA	STEP/ SALARY	BEG/END APPT.	COMMENTS
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**Grades 6-12 Summer School Program - July 12-August 20, 2010 (5 hrs/29 days)\***

**\*Contingent, pending NYSED approval and sufficient enrollment**

McGrath, Donna	Principal	HS	\$7,348.		
<b><u>Bilingual/ESL Supplementary Intervention Plan:</u></b>			\$34.83/session	2009-2010	Bilingual/ESL Grant
Borgo, Danielle	ESL Tchr.	HS			[up to 10 sessions]
Johnson, Alanna	English Tchr./ Tech Trainer	HS			[up to 10 sessions] [up to 10.5 sessions]
Yturraspe, Kris	ESL Tchr./ Tech Trainer	JH			[up to 10 sessions] [up to 10.5 sessions]
Schafer, Mary	ESL Tchr./ Tech Trainer	Elem.			[up to 10 sessions] [up to 10.5 sessions]
Alexander-Kinnear, Toni	ESL Teacher	Elem.			[up to 2.5 sessions]

**Project PREPARE:** (max. 100 hrs. for total staff) \$34.83/session 2009-2010 Title III Grant

- Borgo, Danielle
- Briody, Donna
- Johnson, Alanna
- Shelor, Lisa

**SCHEDULE 09-C-19A Civil Service Personnel Schedule**

**ADDENDUM (a)**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>SCHOOL/ AREA</b>	<b>STEP/ SALARY</b>	<b>BEG/END APPT.</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Geraghty, Allison	Paraprofessional (school monitor)	FA		6/1/10-10/6/10	Leave of Absence Extension [2nd LOA]
Holm, Marie	Sr. Clerk Typist	Adm.	end of 10% differential	5/11/10	[P.DiMartino returned]
Burrows, Barbara	Acting District Clerk	Adm.	\$34.90/hr.	5/24/10-6/30/10	

**PRESENTATION Addendum: ELEMENTARY SUMMER MATH ASSIGNMENT**

Mrs. JoAnn Scott, Principal, South Bay School and Mrs. Patricia Acocella, Math Chairperson, Junior High School

**POLICY REVIEW - No Review this evening**

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS:**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT(S):**

**School Report Card** - Dr. Dominick Palma, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Student Services

Also present: Mr. C. Germano, Mrs. C. Varsalona, Ms. M. Tobin, Mrs. C. Tona, Mr. G. Cunningham, Mrs. E. Levy, Mrs. J. Scott, Dr. J. Hickey, Mr. S. Payne and Dr. E. Vassallo

Dr. Palma offered a PowerPoint presentation of the district's school report card. He reviewed the test scores for the past several years and offered explanations about the scoring process. Dr. Palma also explained which schools are similar schools and how the similar schools are chosen as similar. Charles German also explained how the use of technology and data will assist staff in raising students' scores. Dr. Palma said that it is safe to say that there is room for improvement in the scores. However, the district is competitive with other schools.

**Elementary Summer Math Assignment Presentation** - JoAnn Scott, South Bay School Principal and Patricia Acocella - K-8 Math Chairperson  
Ms. Scott explained that she and Mrs. Acocella, at Dr. Palma's request, have served as a committee to determine the benefits of a summer math assignment similar to the reading assignment the district currently has in place. They have determined that there is a loss of knowledge during the summer months. They are recommending that the district put in place a math packet which would be mandatory for students to complete over the 10 weeks of summer. The packets would or could be sent home in the students report card envelopes and could also be available on line. Students who complete the packet would receive a letter of commendation and certificate of completion. Trustee Thiel and Trustee DeGaetano were hesitant about making the packet mandatory from the start. They would prefer to see the data after the first year to make a determination about making it mandatory. Trustee DeGaetano was told that there was no reaching out to parents regarding this matter, in response to her question. Several trustees stated that they thought the decision should be left in the hands of the staff, and suggested that the idea be tried. Trustee Campasano suggested sending a reminder to students/parents mid summer. Trustee Thiel suggested the students might be more inclined to participate if they received a free homework pass instead of, or in addition to the certificates. Trustee Galletta said that he understands the points that Trustee DeGaetano and Trustee Thiel are trying to make, however, he believes that the educators bring recommendations to the Board with their expertise and the Board should, unless there is some strong reason not to, support the educators' recommendation. Trustee Jennings said that she agrees with trustee Galletta and supports the committee's request.

Trustee Jennings seconded by Trustee Campasano made a motion to implement the Elementary Summer Math Assignment.

**VOTING YES:** Trustee Campasano, DeGaetano, Farrell, Galletta, Jennings, Klein

**VOTING NO:**

**ABSTENTIONS:** Trustee Thiel

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The motion was **Carried**.

**Committee Reports:**

Trustee Diane Klein read from the minutes of the May 4 policy committee meeting on file in the District Clerk's office. The next meeting of the policy committee will be held on May 25.

President Farrell announced that the Fab Faux concert raised \$21,723.00 for the South Bay Fire Relief Fund. In addition, there is a little over \$43,000.00 in the fund. Mr. Farrell thanked Mr. Cacciola and C&J for providing food for the day of the concert.

**STATEMENT OF RESIDENTS:**

Resident William Hill thanked everyone for the school report card presentation. He expressed his displeasure with West Babylon's students being compared with schools Upstate. He said that Long Island students will compete with other Long Island students in the job market. Mr. Hill also noted that none of our overall Regents grade scores are in the top one third. Dr. Palma said that as part of the strategic plan the district is pushing students to strive for higher Regents scores. Mr. Cacciola the testing and scoring needs are being addressed in the strategic plan. He added that they are not disagreeing with Mr. Hill. They are just providing the information the way that it is provided.

In response to Resident Renee Elder's question Dr. Palma said that the test standards are being raised not lowered.

Trustee Jennings seconded by Trustee Campasano made a motion to adjourn to executive session for negotiation matters at 11:00 pm.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

Trustee Galletta seconded by Trustee Jennings made a motion to adjourn at 11:37 pm.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

Attested to: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Clerk