MINUTES

Date of Meeting: January 28, 2020
Type of Meeting: Executive Session
Place of Meeting: Administration Building Conference Room

Members Present: President Maureen Vrona, Esq.
Vice President Tina Posterli
Board Member Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.
Board Member Sam Pinto
Board Member Anne Conway arrived late

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Paul Romanelli, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. For Personnel & Administration
Mr. Michael DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance & Operations
Mr. Joseph Lilly, Atty., Frazer & Feldman, LLP
Mr. Gerald Smith, Atty., Silverman & Asso arrived 5:40-6:15PM

President Vrona called for a motion to go into executive session at 4:43 PM to discuss district pending legal and personnel matters.  

Motion to Go Into Executive Session

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

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

Motion by: Board Member Conway
Seconded by: Vice President Posterli
Approved: 5-0
MINUTES

Date of Meeting: January 28, 2020
Type of Meeting: Work Session
Place of Meeting: Lido Elementary School Multipurpose Room B

Members Present: President Maureen Vrona, Esq.
Vice President Tina Posterli
Board Member Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.
Board Member Sam Pinto
Board Member Anne Conway

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Paul Romanelli, Asst. Supt. For Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Michael DeVito, Asst. Supt. For Finance & Operations
Dr. Michele Natali, Asst. Supt. For Personnel & Administration
Mr. Joseph Lilly, Attorney, Frazer & Feldman
Mr. Gerald Smith, Attorney, Silverman & Associates
Ms. Carole Butler, District Clerk
Members of the Public

I. Pledge of Allegiance/Call to Order/Opening Remarks
President Vrona opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice President Posterli mentioned that she and Board Member Conway attended the MLK event which had good representation of the community. Board Member Conway attended the social studies fair; projects were amazing; historical events; thanked the teachers.

II. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Gallagher


Highlights included: Debt Service Budget Allocation, Benefits, Transportation, and Facilities
This presentation can be located on the district website or in the office of the District Clerk.

III. President Vrona called for Board of Education Comments
- Board Member Ryan thanked Mr. DeVito for the presentation. Asked about the balance owed from FEMA reimbursement ($5 million received, 90% of cost - $3 million from NYS – regarding reimbursement - loaned ourselves the money and will have to empty out fund balance if not reimbursed - $40 million- $33 million – balance from NYS and FEMA). Dr. Ryan inquired about ERS/TRS separate account option (District has a fund – ERS/TRS funds but TRS is not funded yet); asked if there was any way to predict rate (based on markets with 2 year lag); average cost for employees ($30K contribution is $26 – need to check).
- President Vrona noted that it had been seven (7) years (as projects finish, reimbursements come in; FEMA comes every two (2) weeks); Mrs. Vrona asked for a timeline; small leeway on ERS/TRS/benefits; nice job on transportation.
- Board Member Pinto mentioned debt service; bonded money; 2026; air conditioning would have least impact on taxpayer in preparation for 2026; fall-off $4-5 million; other work/savings/dropping budget levels, off until 2026. What percentage of budget is debt service (8.6% of $140 million); what is healthy (never been told; hit debt service limit); helps with rates (we have excellent AA2 rating- at the top- favorable rates, healthy fund balance).
- Vice President Posterli thanked Mr. DeVito on a great presentation; inquired about transportation hard costs – new buses, replacements (different line item – grants for buses, capital fund).
- Dr. Ryan noted that last year we were in financial stress (no longer; we are no designation now); susceptible in the past – PILOT funds were delayed.

IV. President Vrona called for Questions and Comments From the Public – Work Session Topic Only
- Keith Harvey – CTA President – commented on serial bonds - %65 million/$35 millin; 2/3 reduction on the books.

V. Special Discussion on Pending Legislation – HPV Vaccine Mandate
Public Comment
- Katherine Socci- 5 Garden City Avenue, Pt. Lookout- concerned parent; wants to know the district’s stance; 60 school districts against compulsory vaccine; 48 states resistant; 3 states have mandates with exemptions; NYS only state with no exceptions.
- Rebecca Dietrich – 554 East Harrison St – against mandatory vaccine; not airborne; request we send a letter.
- Dr. Jeremy Todd – 2 Vinton St – against mandatory vaccine; Gardasil taken off market for health concerns.
- Alexis Pace – 660 E. Olive St – District doctor, Richheimer who is giving his medical opinion is an allergist; has worked in the pharmaceutical industry for over 20 years; this is the only vaccine she will not give her children; very controversial and kids get sick; they can get vaccinated at older age.
President Vrona is still awaiting a decision.

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

• Board Member Conway requested a greenhouse update (district appreciates PTA gift; will be set up in better weather; transition to permanent structure at cost; SED approvals required; safety requirements; licensed contractors; heat, water, foundations $150K or $250K – capital project separate budget). Mrs. Conway expressed disappointment that greenhouse isn’t up; it has been almost a year; community members offered to put it up; local professionals (insurance against it; need a waiver, regulations, scope of project; will put up in the spring where it can stay until fall; Hearing concerns about midterm week (will discuss with Dr. Gallagher to review procedures).

• President Vrona gave a shout out to Dr. Patrick Kiley-Rendon for keeping our computers safe; shout out to Ms. McMann, head of the Alumni Association which has 500 members already.

• Mrs. Vrona announced that she had misspoken at the last meeting about voting in executive session; no vote was taken.

VII. 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 Association- None

VIII. President Vrona called for a motion to adjourn at 7:58 PM.

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

Minutes submitted by: Carole Butler, District Clerk
February 11, 2020