

# **LONG ISLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting

## **MINUTES**

Citizens in the audience are invited to speak during public comment and/or on a topic that is introduced during the course of the meeting under New Business. Each citizen is to be limited to one presentation per citizen, per topic, of not more than three minutes unless the chair gives special permission. Audience participation shall cease on a topic at such time as the chairman calls for board discussion.

Access for the Wednesday, March 3 meeting was made using a Zoom link.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Pierre Avignon called the meeting to order at 7:05. Board member Sam Whitener was also present along with Marci Train, Lead Teacher, and Barbara Powers, Superintendent. Paul Thornton was excused absent.

### **2. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There were none.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- February 3, 2021

Mr. Whitener moved approval of the February 3, 2021 minutes. Mr. Avignon seconded the motion and the motion passed 2-0.

### **4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were none.

### **5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Vaccinations

News just arrived that the state is now willing to prioritize teachers to receive vaccines to assist with more extensive school reopenings. The Wellness Clinic quickly responded by offering first shots to staff next weekend.

- Budget update

Mrs. Powers noted that no further changes to the proposed budget have been made other than the addition of \$10,000 to capital improvement for building updates – painting, floors, etc. It was agreed that she and Mrs. Train would ask for bids on painting the classrooms, hallway and office and refinishing the classroom and hallway floors to see how far the \$10,000 might stretch. A few local people as well as vendors who have worked on the island will be asked to bid. Mr. Whitener agreed to contact the island's police office, Joe Schnopp, to see if he might have a crew of inmates willing to move furniture to make way for this work.

- Staff resignation

Mrs. Rich has now officially resigned at the end of this school year. There will be an opportunity to thank her for her service this spring.

- New position update

There was one applicant for the new position, Office Administrator and Operations Coordinator. Barbara Johnson has expressed sincere interest, is qualified, has passed her Serve Safe certification for operating the lunch program, and is currently studying to take her bus driver exam and driving test.

UPDATE: The position closed on March 5. With no other applicants, Mrs. Johnson has enthusiastically accepted the position.

## **6. LEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Train was happy to report new, rich studies about birds, a new coding site and teaching the children to program Beebots (thanks to another Perloff grant) as well as the restart of the music program during the newly introduced afternoon sessions. No indoor singing is allowed, but Mrs. Norton has again introduced percussion instruments and Apple's garage band to her classes.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

- Consideration of a second School Schedule Revision

Mrs. Powers and Mrs. Train reported that the staff now feels ready to reopen school fully on Monday, March 22, with full days (8:30-3:30) Monday through Thursday and an early dismissal as usual on Friday to allow for appointments and lessons, etc., on the mainland.

The board was assured that safety protocols can still be met with the return of the Great Diamond Island children. Mr. Whitener moved approval of the schedule change and Mr. Avignon seconded the motion, which passed 2-0. Mrs. Powers said she would notify all families by the week's end.

- Enrollment projections through 2026-27 – considerations going forward

The enrollment projects report was then reviewed. It currently reflects all children currently residing on both on Long and Great Diamond Islands, as the GDI families intend to strongly request Portland continue the tuition agreement, which currently expires in SY23. Numbers will begin falling off in two more years and sink to a fairly concerning number by 2027. After discussion about options, it was decided to ask the Comprehensive Plan committee to offer school officials the chance to talk about this concern and ask to be part of a future meeting. Mr. Avignon indicated that his wife serves on the committee so he will ask that she take that message back to the group.

- Review of Portland's Proposed 2021-22 Calendar and possible start time change

The Portland Public School proposed calendar was then quickly reviewed. Mrs. Powers, Mrs. Train and Mrs. Norton will study their dates of impact and have a calendar proposal ready for review at the April board meeting. It was further noted that Portland is currently studying whether to have a later start time (9:00 a.m.) for middle and high school students based on research about teenage attention challenges during early morning hours. Mrs. Powers reported that she notified Supt. Botana about the challenges this will present for Long Island students who will arrive in Portland at 7:25. Peaks Island has a ferry that would work well with this new time while our students do not. This is just in the proposal/discussion stage so no action is required at this time.

## **9. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Unless otherwise posted, School Board meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of every month:

March 20 – 8:00 a.m., Town and School Budget Public Hearing (remote)

May 5 – School Board, 7:00 p.m.

June 9 – School Board, 7:00 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**SPECIAL RULEMAKING FOR REMOTE SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS:**

§ 403-A. Public proceedings through remote access during declaration of state of emergency due to COVID-19

1. Remote access. Notwithstanding any provision of law or municipal charter provision or ordinance to the contrary, during a state of emergency declared by the Governor in accordance with Title 37-B, second 742 due to the outbreak of COVID-19, a body subject to this subchapter may conduct a public proceeding through telephonic, video, electronic or other similar means of remote participation under the following conditions:

A. Notice of the public proceeding has been given in accordance with second 406, and the notice includes the method by which the public may attend in accordance with paragraph C;

B. Each member of the body who is participating in the public proceeding is able to hear and speak to all the other members during the public proceeding and members of the public attending the public proceeding in the location identified in the notice given pursuant to paragraph A are able to hear all members participating at other locations;

C. The body determines that participation by the public is through telephonic, video, electronic or other similar means of remote participation; and

D. All votes taken during the public proceeding are taken by roll call vote.