

LONG ISLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, May 5, 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, May 5 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. Also present were Board Member Sam Whitener, Lead Teacher Marci Train and Superintendent Barbara Powers. Board Member Paul Thornton was absent.

2. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Whitener moved approval of the April 7, 2021 minutes. Mr. Avignon seconded and the motion passed 2-0.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

5.

There were none.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Teacher Appreciation Week

Mrs. Powers noted that this week is celebrated nationally on behalf of teachers. She brought attention to a Facebook post made for the Town of Long Island's page and also a comment in Weekly Notes thanking Mrs. Train, Mrs. Norton, Ms. Brown and Mr. Murray for their incredible teaching during this most challenging year.

- New superintendent transition

Mrs. Powers reported that Mr. Depatsy really enjoyed his first visit to the school and was very impressed with the facility. He very much enjoyed meeting the staff as well. He will return once more before the end of the school year, when he and Mrs. Powers can go over in more detail several operational aspects of the school. She is also sending him information to save for the 2021-22 school year including the proposed budget, ED279, teacher contract, and all the individual contracts for staff.

- School counselor resignation

Mrs. Powers and Mr. Avignon both received letters of resignation with regret from Cindy Perkins, the school's counselor for the past 5 years. Mrs. Powers will respond on behalf of the board accepting her resignation, thanking her for her thoughtful service, and wishing her well.

- Enrollment update

Finally, she reported that four (4) new children have enrolled in the past week. Two began recently (both in the K-2 classroom) and two more begin this week (one in each classroom). A preschool student has also begun attending during the morning. Mrs. Powers noted that the budget gave her flexibility to rearrange staffing to accommodate these larger numbers, as the youngest learners will need to be relocated for much of their morning instruction to the great room to prevent overcrowding in the K-2 classroom. Mrs. Brown will have additional ed. tech. hours now in the afternoon, and Zalea Rich will be a substitute custodian (taking over Mrs. Brown's custodial duties) for the remainder of the school year.

7. LEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Mrs. Train reported that the children have been carefully constructing birdhouses using recycled plastic bottles and tops made on the 3-D printer as part of their technology classes. Recipients of the birdhouses are going to be individuals on the island who could use a special gift right now.

Air and water quality tests are continuing in science both to check on the efficiency of the air quality ionizers and the potential presence of micro plastics in the drinking water – all as part of their Maine Math and Science Alliance inquiries.

She also reported that Mrs. Norton just completed a unit on poetry and children are assembling books of their favorite compositions. Next they will be writing autobiographies supported by some very special journals purchased to get them thinking about life highlights. This follows a unit on biographies.

Finally, Mrs. Train said that this year's fundraiser for Parent's Club is a calendar raffle. Many items were donated for each day of July and a raffle ticket will be drawn daily for

the lucky winner. Tickets are going on sale right now. While the money raised won't be nearly as much as the auction would typically bring in, it's a safer way to fundraise this year.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Capital improvement update

Mr. Whitener has reached out to enter a contract with Peter's Floors, who gave a very reasonable estimate for refinishing both classrooms and the hallway this summer. This will hopefully be scheduled soon. A volunteer work crew may be needed to move all of the classroom furniture, etc., into the great room as prison work crews have been dealing with COVID. Mrs. Train also said a volunteer work crew would be helpful to replace the 5" x 5" x 12' railway ties holding the playground's sand in place. Parent's Club is prepared to pay for all materials.

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Prior to adjourning, the Town Meeting was discussed, as it will be held live on May 15. Mr. Whitener offered to run again for the school board position, as his term expires this spring. Also, Mrs. Powers noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, which is the date chosen for graduation. The board agreed to meet a week earlier on Wednesday, June 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, May 15: Town Meeting
Wednesday, June 2: Final School Board Meeting for 2020-21
Wednesday, June 9: Graduation