

# **LONG ISLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

3:30 p.m. – Long Island Library Conference Room

## **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.

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

Chair Annie Donovan called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. Also present were board members Sam Whitener and Pierre Avignon as well as Lead Teacher Marci Train and Superintendent Barbara Powers.

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

There were none.

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

Ms. Donovan moved approval of the October 2, 2019 minutes. Sam Whitener seconded her motion, and the motion passed 3-0.

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

There were none.

### **5. SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT FROM DELEGATE ASSEMBLY AT THE MSSA CONFERENCE**

Ms. Donovan reported that the keynote speaker, Donna Beagle, was very interesting. "Communication Across Barriers" was the topic she addressed about communicating across race, poverty, and gender.

She attended one session on a community approach to dealing with adverse childhood experiences. It was reported that these can be predictive but not prederminative, with a suggestion for school professionals to ask "what happened" versus "what's wrong" with a particular child.

The second session was on social media – rules, guidelines, etc. The power of using it in the classroom was emphasized, but every district struggles with inappropriate use. We may want to review our computer use policies closely, and for now be sure pre-school students' parents have signed an agreement for on line posting of photos.

Regional meetings were interesting. Ms. Donovan reported our tuition relationship as a success and the ferry schedule as a challenge!

The delegate assembly was messy and mostly not relevant to the island.

## **6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mrs. Powers then reported that she would be working on the 2020-21 budget proposal, with a hopeful completion by December. It can be reviewed and formally approved by the School Board at the January meeting prior to review by the Finance Committee in late January. She hopes to bring some initial figures to the December meeting for board input.

Also, on Tuesday, November 19, Mrs. Train will be attending a day long workshop on the School Improvement Plan submitted by Long Island Schools a year ago. She will learn how to best keep the document up to date during its five-year duration.

Finally, bar graph results from last year's state testing were shared. Long Island students compare very favorably with state averages in reading, and favorably with state averages in math. These results, along with other measures (NWEAs, DRAs, end of unit assessments, and other teacher-made assessments) were used to guide creation of this year's academic learning goals of 80% proficiency in reading by the end of grade 3 and 50% proficiency in math by the end of grade 5. Mrs. Powers also said that a goal in school culture will be to cut down on classroom disruptions based on teacher anecdotal information. About \$860 is awarded annually to help defray the cost of teacher professional learning through Title II funds, and these goals and measures have now been submitted to the state for review.

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

Mrs. Train reported on her attendance at the Island Institute conference this past month. She attended a follow up literacy workshop with feedback about goal setting with each child. (This built upon a 3-day summer literacy conference experience also sponsored by the Island Institute.) This goal setting approach will be used at conference time, with smart goals identified by children starting next week. Also the new Education Commissioner, Pender Makin, gave a keynote and was very inspiring. She talked about taking pride in the profession.

Mrs. Train and Mrs. Powers then talked about the Mrs. Train's research vessel opportunity. At the invitation of the research sponsors, Ms. Train will be on the boat as

the official education blogger from January 19-March 7, circling the southern tip of Africa. This research is sponsored by Bigelow Labs and Colby College. Maritime workers comp is currently being pursued as Ms. Train is expected to provide personal evidence of coverage. Further the research project with the Maine Math Science Alliance this year will be on the presence of micro plastics in the ocean, so Mrs. Train will also be sampling for that presence during the voyage.

This is a very exciting opportunity for Ms. Train and was requested under the Extended Professional Leave provision of the teacher contract. Mrs. Powers' approval was needed and awarded. Mrs. Train will be responsible for all costs associated with her substitute teacher, Mrs. Lisa Fabiano. Mrs. Powers noted that much effort will be going into program outlines for the sub to follow. Mr. Murry will be assisting with grade 3-5 math instruction, and Mrs. Norton with grade 3-5 writing.

Finally, Mrs. Train reported that the school's Veteran's Day commemoration was very positive. The children sent out 106 thank-you letters. Mark Greene was a guest reader and shared all the copies of notes he has received over the years.

## **8. OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

-Impact of proposed new ferry schedule

Bill Overlock is the representative from Long Island to the CBL board. Mark Greene, Lynn LaMontagne, and James Luedtke are on the sub-committee that was formed when a 30-day review period was established. Mrs. Powers shared highlights of the informational email she sent to a CBL official noting significant concerns with the loss of a noon/12:25 boat. It is hoped that CBL management will recognize the importance of a helpful ferry schedule when it comes to the schooling of island children.

-Potential change in Superintendent/Principal position for 2020-21

Mrs. Powers also asked for board guidance regarding the posting of her position in January of 2020. She noted that Mrs. Train is now certified as a teaching principal, so the job description can be strictly for superintendent responsibilities. She will check on the status of Mr. Dorr to see if he is willing to continue as special education director.

After discussion, there was a consensus expressed by board members to post the position as a 40-day contract as Superintendent. If no responses are received, the current Superintendent/Principal contract will be advertised at 60 days. Mrs. Powers will purchase a two-month block of time from Servingschools.com for advertising purposes. A press release regarding her retirement will also be drafted for placement in the Press

Herald and/or Forecaster so that it will be widely known about the opening. Ms. Donovan and others will think about candidate recruiting possibilities and approach potential applicants.

#### **10. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 4:38.

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

November 26 – Early Release for Parent Teacher Conferences

November 27 – No School, Parent Teacher Conferences (if needed)

November 28 and 29 – No School, Thanksgiving

December 4 – Craft Fair

December 19 – Christmas Program

December 23-January 2 – Christmas Vacation

#### **2019-20 School Board Meetings:**

School Board meetings will occur on the first Wednesday of every month unless otherwise indicated. Upcoming dates:

December 4

January 8

February 5

March 4

April 1 (really!)

May 6

June 3