BOARD OF EDUCATION LEVITTOWN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT LEVITTOWN, NY

DATE:FEBRUARY 9, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, was duly called and held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 in the Board Meeting Room of the Levittown Memorial Education Center.

CERTIFICATION:

The District Clerk certified that pursuant to Section 104, Open Meetings Law, notice of meeting was sent to the local newspapers, the Public Library and posted on the district's website. Further, all members of the Board of Education had due notice of said meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Board of Education:

Ms. Peggy Marenghi, President (Excused Absence)

Ms. Jennifer Messina, Vice-President

Mr. James Moran, Secretary

Ms. Marianne Adrian, Trustee

Mr. Dillon Cain, Trustee

Ms. Christina Lang, Trustee

Mr. Michael Pappas, Trustee

Administration:

Dr. Tonie McDonald, Superintendent

Dr. Christopher Dillon, Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Debbie Rifkin, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Todd Winch, Assistant Superintendent

Others:

Mr. Robert Cohen, Attorney

Ms. Suzanne Mallozzi, District Clerk

Recommended Motion: "BE IT RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, move to Executive Session for the purpose of seeking legal advice from the Board's attorney."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]

MOVER: Dillon Cain, Trustee
SECONDER: Marianne Adrian, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

I. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: James Moran, Secretary
SECONDER: Michael Pappas, Trustee

YES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

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A. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>:

Ms. Messina, Vice President of Board of Education, asked those in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by the students of East Broadway Elementary School.

B. Moment of Silence:

Ms. Messina also asked everyone to observe a moment of silence to remember those who serve our Country, at home and abroad. Ms. Messina asked all in attendance to remember two Levittown Employees who have passed away since the last meeting, Mr. Paul Mocko and Mr. John Varlas.

Board of Education Vice-President Jennifer Messina, read the following letter sent to Dr. Mary Bassett, Commissioner, NYS Department of Health on behalf of the Council of School Superintendents:

"Dear Dr. Bassett:

On December 1, we circulated a draft of a letter similar in nature to this among our leadership. At that time, Omicron variant had just emerged and due to the uncertainties around infectiousness and virulence, we decided to delay sending it until more was known about the future of COVID and that variant. You have already acted on other issues we originally planned to write about such as Test-to-Stay, contact tracing, and quarantine rules, the same issues we have discussed with your team at the Department since before the school year began. We than you for this progress.

Student in New York and across the country have experienced a roller coaster 23-months as they have gone from remote education, to hybrid, to almost universal in-person learning that is interrupted by periodic quarantines of students and staff. We believe we have no reached the time where the state needs to transition schools out from a pandemic learning environment.

School district leaders serving these students have advocated time and time again for key changes to guidance and regulations that control how schools handle the pandemic and there has been recent progress. We appreciate the timely and straightforward communications we have experience with Department of Health staff since Governor Hochul took office. We recognize that concrete actions have been taken to help keep students in school and safe in recent weeks.

One major outstanding concern is ongoing mandatory universal masking. We have deferred to public health experts when it comes to universal masking and rules for indoor settings, and we do not seek to engage in a debate on its merits. The critical issue with mandatory masking in schools at this moment is the urgent need for school leaders and parents to know the plan moving forward with concrete assurances from the state.

School leaders, students, teachers, and caregivers have been put through a whirlwind of uncertainty when it comes to masking. This came to a head, once again, after the Nassau County Supreme Court found the masking mandate unconstitutional, only to have that decision stayed 24 hours later through at least early March.

School leaders recognize that nothing about this pandemic has been predictable. We understand the scientific and public health experts have needed to make changes to protocols as we have learned more about the virus and as new variants have emerged.

Yet, despite continued uncertainty regarding Covid-19, the State should provide clear guidance on universal school mask requirements and when and how those will evolve. The best way to do this is to provide reasonable, understandable, and achievable metrics based on recommendations from medical professionals for when masking rules will eventually be

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changed. Absent this clarity, families might assume that current rules and regulations will continue in perpetuity.

We recognize the circumstances arising from the pandemic continually change and so does our understanding of how to effectively combat it. This complicates development of strategies and policies. But we believe thoughtful changes now could help to sustain acceptance of masking and other rules while they remain necessary. It is crucial to recognize the rules which defy common sense or are inconsistently applied threaten to undermine public acceptance of all rules, including those that remain essential.

Thank you for your hard work since taking the helm and we look forward to collaboration in the months ahead."

II. <u>REPORTS</u>

A. Student Presentations

i. Academic Presentation - East Broadway School

Jordan Margolis, Principal at East Broadway Elementary School, introduced the academic presentation by students Justin Albert, Natalia Huerta, Daniel Levy, Caroline Reardon, Brynn Russett, Alyssa Schmutzler and Isabella Stuparich called "Native Garden", with Assistant Principal Andrea Ferrari's help. The students spoke about how the Garden came to be and shared some insight on how the Garden has made an impact on them. The Board and Central Office thanked the students for their participation.

B. Recognition

i. Art Display - Summit Lane

Ms. Messina invited everyone in attendance to admire the beautiful artwork from the students of Summit Lane Elementary School.

ii. National Scholar - MacArthur HS

Mr. Joseph Sheehan, Principal at MacArthur High School, recognized Senior Kayla Coradin for being recognized by College Board as both a National African American Schol but also a National Hispanic Scholar as a result of her spectacular score on last year's PSAT exam and overall academic excellence. Academically, Kayla excels as she is a member of World Language and Art Honor Societies, Renaissance Gold Card holder and AP Scholar with honors. In additional to her incredible academic accomplishments, she is an integral member of our International Club, Autism Awareness Club, Recycling Club and Athletes for a Better Community Club. Congratulations to Kayla and her amazing family and we wish her the best for future success.

C. Superintendent

- 1. Comments and Reports NONE
- 2. Follow-up to Prior Public Be Heard Questions NONE
- 3. Follow-up to Board Questions NONE

D. Board of Education

- 1. Comments and Reports NONE
- 2. Correspondence NONE

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3. Student Liaisons:

Khalil Garrett – MacArthur Student Representative: He updated those in attendance about the Science research team who participated in Northwell Health SPARK challenge, Cornell Invitational and are preparing for the upcoming Science Olympiad this Saturday, February 12th. January saw many events including Winter Concert, mid-term examinations, and voting for Senior awards (Most likely). Upcoming February events include a visit from an executive chef from Johnson & Wales, the Jazz Winter Concert and induction of new members of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, as well as virtual college planning workshops for Juniors and their parents and the musical production of Chicago. In the world of sports, Mac Wrestling made it all the way to the County championships, but were unsuccessful in their match against an extremely tough Wantagh team. Good luck to Mac Cheer, Coach Nessler, and everyone who helped the girls get to the National Tournament being held in Disney World. Best of luck. Junior students Ava Anguli, Hailee Feiler, Marissa Cardon, Jack Longobucco, Jack Maurer and Michael Cassano were chosen to participate in the Student Athlete Leadership Conference. Lastly, Khalil Garrett was selected as a semi-finalist, along with 411 other students from nearly 6,000 appliants from the US, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Island for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke scholarship. Finalists will be announced in April.

Christopher Powers – Division Avenue Student Representative was not present due to a previous commitment to attend an award ceremony for a Princeton Science competition. Trustee Marianne Adrian read his statement which included – Division Avenue's Science Olympiad team placed first in the Pennsylvanian International tournament. L-YOUTH students Sofia Ferreiro, Nabiha Khan, and Emelia Salazar represented Levittown at the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America Conference and Youth Leadership forum in Maryland. Other things happening were the Winter Concert with performances by String Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Concert Choir and Symphonic Band under the leadership of Mr. Martufi, Ms. Sellars and Mr. Rossi. Senior Connor Gentile was accepted to West Point and was also recognized by Nassau County with the National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete Award. Jack Pendergrass and Jeremy Tagger were named All-Conference. And Christopher Stancarone was named All-County for the second time. Girls Varsity Bowling finished in 2nd place at the Nassau County Championships. Finally, Seniors Sean Munoz, Michael Petranell, Carly Zubin and Emma Salazar were honored at the DAHS Competitive March Band dinner this past Friday Night.

II. <u>PUBLIC BE HEARD</u>: The guidelines pertaining to Public Be Heard were read.

Ms. Laura O'Brien, 82 LeeAnn Terrace, Wantagh, - Thanked the Board of Education and Administration for the letter that was sent to NYS Department of Health. She said that "enough is enough, masks are doing more harm than good, and the letter shows the District's true stance. She was happy to see the presentation by EB students, showing that it's time to get back to normal. These kids have lost more than 2 years of their education. And we are done with that too. Thank you very much for everything you've done to help keep the kids and teachers safe. I appreciate it."

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IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes - Approval of Minutes

RESOLUTION # 21-22-536

Recommended Motion: "Make the necessary corrections and move the approval of the minutes of the January 12 regular meeting, the January 26 budget planning meeting and the January 27 special meeting." Mr. Pappas requested that the minutes be pulled from the Consent Agenda. Board agreed 6-0.

RESULT: PULLED Next: 3/9/2022 7:31 PM

2. Warrants RESOLUTION # 21-22-537

Recommended Motion: "WHEREAS, all claims, warrants and charges against the School District have been reviewed by the Claims Auditor and have been certified by the Claims Auditor for payment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the JANUARY 2022 report of the Claims Auditor be accepted."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee
SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

3. Business Office Reports

RESOLUTION # 21-22-538

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the following reports from the Business Office:

- Appropriation and Revenue Reports for the period 7/1/21 to 12/31/21
- Trial Balance Reports for the period 7/1/21 to 12/31/21
- Treasurers Reports for the months ending December 2021
- Credit card statements from Citibank for statements ending 12/6/21, 12/22/21 and 1/22/22"

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee
SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

4. Budget Transfers

RESOLUTION # 21-22-539

Recommended Motion: "WHEREAS, in compliance with New York State Government Accounting practices, the attached budget transfers have been prepared and recommended by the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance,

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<u>Code</u>	Code Description	Amount From	Amount To
2250.4900.00.0000	Spec Ed BOCES Services	\$60,000	
2250.4720.00.3450	Spec Ed Public School Tuition		\$60,000

Reason: There was a rate increase for Roslyn that requires Levittown to increase the purchase order. In addition, a Levittown student was placed in a group home located in the West Hempstead School District; and Levittown will need to reimburse tuition and related costs.

<u>Code</u>	Code Description	Amount From	Amount To
2815.1500.00.0000	Health Services Home Teaching	\$15,000	
2815.4000.00.0000	Health Services Contr Expend		\$15,000

Reason: To adjust for additional nurses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached budget transfers."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee
SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

5. Extra Classroom Activity Fund Treasurer's Reports RESOLUTION # 21-22-540 Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept the attached Extra Classroom Activity Fund Reports for the period October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee
SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

6. Cullen and Danowski Engagement for Financial Statement Preparation

RESOLUTION # 21-22-541

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached engagement letter from Cullen and Danowski dated December 6, 2021 for the preparation of services for the year ending June 30, 2022;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education President and the Assistant Superintendent for Business is, hereby, authorized to execute the contract."

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RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee
SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

7. Wages for Election Workers

RESOLUTION # 21-22-542

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, due to the fact that minimum wage in Nassau County has been increased to \$15.00 effective January 1, 2022, the Board of Education approves the following hourly rates for individuals working the Annual Election of Budget Vote:

Registrars: \$15 per hour

Election Inspectors: \$16 per hour

MOVER: MOTION CARRIED [6-0 MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

8. Wages for Hourly Workers

RESOLUTION #21-22-543

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, in light of New York State raising the minimum hourly wage to \$15.00 effective January 1, 2022, all District employees who would otherwise receive less than \$15.00 an hour pursuant to existing agreements or board resolutions, will receive \$15.00 an hour in compliance with NYS minimum wage requirements effective as of January 1, 2022."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED (6-0]
MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee
SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

9. Contract for June 2022 Commencement - Hofstra University RESOLUTION # 21-22-544 Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract between the Levittown Public Schools and Hofstra University for two high school graduation rehearsals and ceremonies for Division Avenue HS and MacArthur HS to be held at the Hofstra University on June 2 and June 18, 2022;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education President is, hereby, authorized to execute the contract."

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RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee
SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

10. Contract with East Meadow Driving School

RESOLUTION # 21-22-545

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract with East Meadow Driving School to provide driver education services to Levittown students;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education President is, hereby, authorized to execute the contract."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee
SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

11. Appointment of Replacements on the Food Service Committee RESOLUTION # 21-22-546 Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, appoint as replacements Yeliz Cipriano (Northside School) and Cheryl Denecke (Division Avenue HS) as members of the Food Service Committee for the 2021-2022 school year."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

12. Contract with Nassau County Board of Elections RESOLUTION # 21-22-547 Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED that the Levittown Board of Education approve a memorandum of agreement with the Nassau County Board of Elections for rentals of the DS200 Scanner and the Automark voting machine for the May 17, 2022 election vote; and that the President of the Board of Education is, hereby, authorized to execute same."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee
SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

13. Special Education Contracts

RESOLUTION # 21-22-548

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contracts between the Levittown Public Schools and the following vendors to provide special education services as indicated:

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- Bay Shore UFSD
- Seaford UFSD
- KIDZ Therapy Services, PLLC

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education President is, hereby, authorized to execute these contracts."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee
SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

14. Out of District Contract for Health and Welfare Services RESOLUTION # 21-22-549 Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the attached contract between the Levittown Public Schools and the following schools

approve the attached contract between the Levittown Public Schools and the following school district to provide health and welfare services to students attending school in the district for the 2021-2022 school year:

Jericho UFSD

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education President is, hereby, authorized to execute this contract."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: Marianne Adrian, Christina Lang

SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

15. Obsolete Equipment

RESOLUTION # 21-22-550

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the equipment on the attached list obsolete and that the items may be discarded and/or sold at the highest possible salvage value."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee
SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

16. Obsolete Books/Calculators

RESOLUTION #21-22-551

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, declare the books/calculators on the attached list obsolete and that the items may be discarded and/or donated as possible or sold at the highest salvage value.

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RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee
SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

17. Schedules RESOLUTION # 21-22-552

"RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, approve the following schedules:

- 1001 "Resignations/Terminations, Certified Personnel"
- 1002 "Resignations/Terminations, Non-Instructional Personnel"
- 1003 "Appointments, Certified Personnel"
- 1004 "Coaching"
- 1005 "Consultants"
- 1006 "Appointments, Non-Instructional Personnel"
- 1007 "LOA, Certified Personnel"
- 1008 "LOA, Non-Instructional Personnel"
- 1009 "Salary Change, Certified Personnel"
- 1010 "Students with Disabilities"

*Schedule 1006 - Appointments Non-Instructional Personnel, Temporary Full Time Appts, Item #1, Pulled

RESULT: APPROVED AS AMENDED [6-0]

MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. New Business

RESOLUTION # 21-22-553

1. Gifts to Schools

Recommended Motion: "RESOLVED, that the Levittown Board of Education does, hereby, accept with thanks the following gifts:

- One check in the amount of \$21.90 to be donated to Wisdom Lane Middle School's School Activity Fund from Box Tops for Education, 13700 Oakland Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203
- One check in the amount of \$54.20 to be donated to Gardiners Avenue School for playground and in-classroom activities from Box Tops for Education, 13700 Oakland Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203

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- Twenty cartons on Saniwipes to be donated to Wisdom Lane for cleaning from HuFriedy Group, 3232 N. Rockwell Street, Chicago, IL 60619
- One check in the amount of \$38.30 to be donated to Abbey Lane School's School Activity Fund from Box Tops for Education, 13700 Oakland Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203."

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee
SECONDER: Dillon Cain, Trustee

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

VI. AD HOC

VII. UPCOMING DATES

- A. March 9 Budget Planning Session #3/Regular Meeting
- B. March 23 Budget Planning Session #4/Special Meeting Board Adopts the Budget

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO BUDGET PLANNING MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING REGULAR MEETING

RESULT: MOTION CARRIED [6-0]
MOVER: Christina Lang, Trustee
SECONDER: James Moran, Secretary

AYES: Moran, Pappas, Adrian, Cain, Lang, Messina

ABSENT: Marenghi

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm. Ms. Messina moved directly to the Budget Meeting.

Suzanne Mallozzi District Clerk