

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LEVITTOWN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LEVITTOWN, NY**

**DATE: MARCH 23, 2022**

**BUDGET MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**THE BUDGET MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**, was duly called and held on Wednesday, March 23, 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.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

Ms. Peggy Marengi, President  
Ms. Jennifer Messina, Vice-President (Excused Absence)  
Mr. James Moran, Secretary (Excused Absence)  
Ms. Marianne Adrian, Trustee  
Mr. Dillon Cain, Trustee (Excused Absence)  
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:**

Ms. Suzanne Mallozzi, District Clerk

Ms. Marengi called the budget meeting to order at 7:30pm. .

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [4-0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Marianne Adrian, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Christina Lang, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Pappas, Adrian, Marengi, Lang
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Cain, Moran, Messina

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

A. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Board of Education and Central Office invited the New York State Champions, MacArthur Cheerleaders, to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed for all those serving our Country at home and abroad, with a special remembrance of those overseas in Ukraine.

The meeting was moved to the Auditorium at LMEC to honor the students from Division and MacArthur.

## II. PRESENTATIONS

### A. Drama Presentation - Division Avenue High School

Division Avenue High School, under the direction of Ryan Nolin, performed two musical numbers from the musical Hello Dolly! Performances begin tonight, March 24th and run through Saturday, March 26th. Board members and Central Office were delighted by the presentation.

## III. RECOGNITIONS

### A. MacArthur High School Cheerleaders

Mr. Sheehan, Principal of MacArthur HS, introduced Mrs. Lisa Nessler, head coach of the newly crowned New York State Championship team, MacArthur Varsity Cheerleaders. She introduced team members, Phyllis Angieri, Stephanie Calderon, Leah Calvo, Mikayla Caraballo, Lauren Dean, Joavanna DiChiara, Madison Drauch, Giselle Encarnacion, Mikayla Finamore, Serena Guzman, Kate Irwin, Emma Koehler, Kelly O'Leary, Michelle O'Malley, Tiffany Pereira, Gabrielle Raia, Bailey Rothman, Cami Sandkuhl, Amanda Shinn, Leah Spinoso, Stella Stark, Olivia Weber, Julie Weltner and Kylie Zanelli, who received a gift of a photo, originally published in Newsday, by the members of Central Office and the Board of Education. Congratulations to all!

### B. LYOUTH Organization

Mr. Winch introduced the Advisors of the LYOUTH organization program for both Division and MacArthur. *“Founded in 2015, Levittown Community Action Coalition (LCAC) is comprised of a dedicated group of representatives from schools, police and fire departments, hospitals, libraries, counseling centers, businesses, clergy, and non-profits in the Levittown, Island Trees, and surrounding communities working together to reduce substance misuse and prevent underage drinking through recognition, education, and awareness. Tonight we are honored to recognize several of our high school students who are involved in the youth division of the Levittown Community Action Coalition. LYOUTH, or Levittown Young Organizers United to Help, was organized several years ago with the creation of the Coalition as a way to energize our youth to raise awareness about the risks and consequences of drug and alcohol abuse. This group of students, led by district and LCAC advisors, has worked tirelessly through its inception at raising awareness through a variety of projects, including a Sticker Shock Campaign, Drug Take-Back Events, Environmental Scans, Media Campaigns, Town Hall Meetings, and Presentations. Most recently, several members of LYOUTH were selected to participate in the National Youth Advisory Council forum through the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) at their National Leadership Forum in National Harbor, Maryland. Our students were selected to play leadership roles at the conference, and also had the opportunity to educate policymakers in Congress about the importance of substance use and misuse prevention and the need for continued funding at the highest level. Being a part of LYOUTH provides our students with tremendous opportunities to benefit their community and to enhance their own leadership skills. As the coalition and LYOUTH is a combined effort with the Levittown and Island Trees school districts, it provides our students with the opportunity to make connections with other like-minded students outside of their high school. It is extra special because standing up for what’s right by sharing the dangers of drug and alcohol use isn’t always the most popular things for high school students to do. We commend them for their choices and for giving back to the Levittown community and are so proud of their efforts.”* Each student received a certificate and congratulations from the Board of Education.

From Division Avenue HS, introduced by their advisor, Wajeeh Akbar, Sofia Ferreiro, Nabiha Khan, Ryan Klass, Muskan Kumar, Danica Prokay, Julianna Ryley, Cole Stelman, Samantha Vedder, Manas Verma, Brendan Connolly, Christopher Evans, Elena Tavarez, Samantha Cannata, Daniel Collins, Ashley Dwyer, Zion Kang, Emily Leicht, Maya Reetz, Thadar Thant, Aakash Veeravalli, Erica Brady, Anna Herschman, Isabella Saint. MacArthur students were introduced by Advisor Lisa Dimitri: Thomas Bennett, Sofia Dandry, Isabella DaRold, Emily Fabrizio, Emily Flanagan, Christopher Marine, Ryan Murphy, Isabella Rincon and Kayla Scurry.

### C. Valedictorian/Salutatorian Recognition

The Board of Education and Central Office bestowed the following awards to the Valedictorians and Salutatorians for the Class of 2022 from Division Avenue and MacArthur High Schools.

Mr. John Coscia, Principal of Division Avenue HS awarded the Salutatorian honor to Grace Lim. *“While enrolled at Division Avenue High School she has taken 21 advanced placement and accelerated classes to propel her to the top of her class. She has spent four years on the high honor roll while being named an AP Scholar with distinction and earning her place in the National Honor Society. Grace sets herself apart in the field of music where she serves on the Chamber Orchestra and has been a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society for four years. As an outstanding member of Tri-M she has participated in LISFA, All-County and All-State performances as well as playing in the Pit Orchestra during our annual musical. She is so passionate and exceptional in the field of music that she teaches piano on the weekends to young children between the ages of five and seven years old on her free time. In her Sophomore year, Grace was recognized as the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership Award winner and was subsequently approached by her advisors to run for Class Office and Student Council. Her leadership skills grew as she became the Vice President of Student Council. Here she helped organize many school events such as Spirit Week, Spirit Night, Homecoming and the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Much like her classmates, Grace is an outstanding citizen and does many community service events such as the annual Kiwanis Thanksgiving Food Drive and the Light the Night event to give back to the Levittown community through participating in the Key Club. She also spends time volunteering for the Teen Advisory Board where they discuss new programs available for teens at the Levittown Public Library. As if all of this was not enough, Grace is also a member of the Varsity Badminton team, the Unity and Cultural Diversity Club, Math Honor Society and National Art Honor Society. We congratulate Grace Lim on being named the Salutatorian for the Class of 2022 with a GPA of 102.8842. When she graduates she will be attending NYU and majoring in Finance.”*

Valedictorian honors go to Simar Parmar: *Our Valedictorian, Simar Parmar, is an extraordinary young woman who represents Division Avenue High School with true character, respect, intelligence, humility and pride. Ever since she entered Division Avenue, our staff was astounded and impressed by her poise and grace under pressure. Simar is an intrinsic learner and holds herself to the highest of standards. Over the course of her four years at our school, Simar enrolled in 21 Accelerated and Advanced Placement courses where she maintained her place on the High Honor Roll and earned the distinction of being named an AP Scholar with distinction, a National Merit Commended Scholar and an AP*

*Capstone diploma recipient. Where Simar thrives academically is in the sciences, where she has earned seven New York State Regional Science Olympiad medals over the course of her 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade years. In addition to her extraordinary performance in the classroom, she is a vibrant member of the DAHS community. She belongs to the National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, Key Club, Red Cross Club, Peer Leaders, Mathletes, and Student Council. As a member of the National Honor Society she has lived up to the expectations of helping her community in numerous ways. She serves as a Peer Tutor to her fellow classmates, participates in numerous community service events through Key Club, volunteers time at her local Temple where she serves food to the community, washes dishes and performs many other services that are needed. She also volunteers for the Lazy Days of Summer Community Fair event, and creates a better environment for her high school and community through service projects in the Levittown Do-Something club. Not only is she a remarkable citizen and student, but she is recognized by her peers as an exceptional leader. For three years she has been chosen as her Class President, President of Mathletes and Captain of the Varsity Soccer team where she received the prestigious Scholar Athlete Award and was recognized as an All-Conference soccer player. Her accolades also include the extremely prestigious Triple Impact Competitor Scholarship Award, and the Judith Shapiro Parliamentary Award. We congratulate Simar Parmar on being named Valedictorian for the Class of 2022 with a GPA of 104.4187. When Simar graduates she plans on majoring in Biomedical Engineering with Princeton University being her top choice.”*

Mr. Joseph Sheehan - Principal of MacArthur introduced the class of 2022 Salutatorian, Anna Conway: *“The MacArthur High School Class of 2022’s Salutatorian is one amazing, talented and incredible young lady. Throughout her 4 year tenure at MacArthur, she has obtained a plethora of honors and accomplishments. Her overall weighted grade point average is an astounding 103.51, and she is a member of the Math, World Language, Tri-M, and National Honor Societies, she is also a 4 year member of the principal’s Honor Roll, a 4 year Renaissance Scholar which symbolizes overall academic excellence, is an integral member of our Quiz Bowl and Mathletes teams, a top tier performer on our Science Olympiad team where she earned 2 medals this past year at the regional level competition! In addition, she also received honorable mention accolades in the National Scholastic Art and Writing competition, as well as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place awards for entering pieces of various styles of writing in the prestigious Irish Cultural Society Writing Contest. Aside from her incredible academic accomplishments, she also possesses spectacular musical talent as she earned a gold medal at NYSSMA for her Level 6 solo, earned an “A+” score for her level 6 violin solo at NYSSMA All State, and earned a spot on the All District Orchestra. She has also played valued roles in several of our after school clubs such as Maccept, Pride for All, and Key Clubs. Believe it or not, she even finds time to volunteer for various community events such as assisting young children in painting rocks for the Levittown Public Library peace garden, and helping children with special needs compete in obstacle courses for the Shooting Stars program. I recently had a conversation with Guidance Counselor Mr. Conaghan regarding this special young lady, and he stated: “When I first met her as a freshman, I could tell right away that she was intelligent, driven, and a mature young woman. She has so many talents that could lead her in different directions, and she has been a tremendous asset for MacArthur H.S. and the community”. Well said Mr. Conaghan. She is currently still undecided on what college she will be attending in the Fall, and plans on*

*majoring in English. As you can see this is one incredible young lady, and please join me in congratulating the MacArthur High School Class of 2022 Salutatorian - Anna Conway.*

*Valedictorian Honors go to Summer Looney - When I think of the MacArthur High School Class of 2022 Valedictorian, words like: determination, passion, competence and ambition immediately come to mind. As with our Salutatorian, this young lady has also amassed a beyond impressive resume over the past 4 years. She has obtained an overall weighted grade point average of a mind-boggling 103.82, and is a member of the Math, World Language, and National Honor Societies, she is a 4 year member of the Principal's Honor Roll, a 4 year Renaissance Scholar which symbolizes overall academic excellence, and is an AP Scholar with Honors! As a result of her excellence in Mathematics and Science, she was named the Rensselaer Medal award winner, she also collaborated with her teammate on creating a poster and written abstract that was published in the American Association of Geographers, as well as a 12 page research paper on public awareness and support of parks and preserves that was published in the Middle States Geographers journal, she placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the prestigious Nassau Community College Science Fair, and submitted her research project related to nature center visitation and feelings of place during COVID lockdowns into the 2020 Long Island Youth Summit competition where she won best overall Science paper! I'm sure this will come as no surprise, she is an elite member of our Science Olympiad team and was elected co-president of the group her Junior year, and her true passion and talent has been on display for years in our Science Research program. Science Research co-advisor Dr. Friedman had this to say regarding this phenomenal young lady: "She is confident, insightful and caring. She is what I would call a Renaissance woman - a builder, a scholar and a peer reviewed author. She makes us proud and will no doubt continue to make us proud". Well stated Dr. Friedman. In addition to her academic excellence, she is also an exceptional athlete. She has been a standout performer on our extremely successful varsity soccer team where she earned Honorable Mention All-County this past season, as well as our winter and spring track teams where she was recently named All County for the 4X4 relay, and was selected for the All-Tri District Scholar Athlete team for her academic and athletic excellence. Believe it or not, she even finds time to volunteer for various community events such as participating in: Charity Miles which is a Science Olympiad fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association, Adopt a Family program, and was a volunteer counselor at the Levittown School District's Marine Biology summer camp, just to name a few. She also is currently undecided on what college she will be attending in the fall, and plans on majoring in Environmental Science. As you can see, this is one amazing young lady, and please join me in congratulating the MacArthur High School Class of 2022 Valedictorian - Summer Looney. "*

The Budget meeting moved back to the Large Board room

#### IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

##### A. PTA Advisory Committee Report on Budget

Susanne Gallina provided the Board of Education with the building requests to the PTA Advisory Committee. Dr. Dillon met with the committee to discuss these requests and is happy to say that some of the requests are already in progress. He will present the status of all requests to the Board, noting whether they are in progress, potential and wish-list items. Dr. McDonald thanked the PTA for all they do for the students of Levittown.

**B. Staffing and Enrollment - D. Rifkin**

Ms. Rifkin presented the Human Resources portion of the budget to the Board. In summary, the projected enrollment for the District, based on the Cohort Survival Method, will remain stable due to the lack of new residential development in the district. The turnover of approximately 500-600 homes each year is anticipated to continue. In the next four years, the kindergarten cohorts will be maintained at a level close to those seen in recent year; beginning in 2026, kindergarten enrollment is expected to drop to a lower level. Non-public school enrollment will remain at approximately four percent of district resident students as has been experienced in recent years. Current staffing will remain steady for instructional and non-instructional positions. Proposed changes include, Unfinished learning (addressing learning gapes) for Math AIS, Geometry and Algebra, Increased mental health support, additional ENL staff (all with grant money), reinstatement of Teacher for Outdoor Learning Center Trips, and contractual obligations. Ms. Rifkin presented to the Board that the year-to-year change for

Human Resources will be 0.53%. Mr. Pappas asked what the previous year change had been. Ms. Rifkin responded that it was actually lower because of a retirement incentive and went down by approximately one percent. The Board thanked Ms. Rifkin for her detailed presentation.

**C. Final Budget Presentation - C. Dillon**

Dr. McDonald thanked the Board of Education for adopting the budget and for all they do for the students of Levittown.

**V. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOTION CARRIED [4-0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michael Pappas, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Christina Lang, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Pappas, Adrian, Marengi, Lang
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Cain, Moran, Messina

The Budget meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm and the Board moved right into the Special Meeting.

Suzanne Mallozzi  
District Clerk