

WEST MILFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
WORKSHOP/REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 25, 2023**

DISTRICT GOALS - 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

- *Enhance the District math program through a commitment to rigorous, standards-based instruction, professional development and best practice, and selection of quality materials.*
- *Stabilize District finances and find cost-effective solutions to the compound difficulties of S2 reductions in State Aid and declining enrollment.*
- *Build and foster a culture of mental and physical wellness for student and staff in order to craft a more supportive educational environment.*
- *Increase a sense of unity across all schools in the District.*

Mrs. Kate Romeo, Board President, called to order the Workshop/Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 6:30 p.m., in the Westbrook School Media Center. She asked for a moment of silence, led the flag salute, read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement, and reminded everyone in attendance to silence or turn off their cell phones and note the locations of the emergency exits.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, a public notice of this meeting has been sent to Board Members, all district schools, the Herald News, the Suburban Trends, the Record, the Messenger, West Milford Town Hall, the County Superintendent's Office, the Board Attorney, Cablevision of Warwick and West Milford TV77; and posted in the Administration Building. Copies of the Board Meeting Calendar Resolution were provided to all local media, Town Hall, Township Library, and all district schools.

MS. BARBARA FRANCISCO, BOARD SECRETARY, CALLED THE ROLL:

TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE
Mrs. Racano	Present	Mrs. Dwyer	Present	Mrs. Lockwood	Present
Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mr. Guarino	Absent/Arr. 6:41 p.m.	Mrs. Van Dyk	Present
Mr. Lippe	Absent	Mrs. O'Brien	Present	Mrs. Romeo	Present

Minutes for the Workshop/Regular Meeting of April 25, 2023

MS. BARBARA FRANCISCO, BOARD SECRETARY, CALLED THE ROLL:

ADMINISTRATION	POSITION	ATTENDANCE
Dr. Alex Anemone	Superintendent of Schools	Present
Ms. Barbara Francisco	Board Secretary/Business Administrator	Present
Mr. Daniel Novak	Director of Education	Absent/Arr. 7:10 p.m.
Dr. Karen D'Avino	Interim Director of Special Services	Present
Andrew Brown, Esq.	Board of Education Attorney	Present
Jennifer Scala	Student Representative	Present

There were approximately 10 members of the public in attendance.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

At 6:33 p.m., Mrs. Lockwood made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to approve the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board immediately go into Executive Session for approximately thirty (30) minutes for the purpose of conducting a grievance hearing.

The executive session minutes will not be released until such time as the privilege or confidentiality is no longer applicable.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

The Board returned to the Public Meeting at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL UPON RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:

TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE
Mrs. Racano	Present	Mrs. Dwyer	Present	Mrs. Lockwood	Present
Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mr. Guarino	Present	Mrs. Van Dyk	Present
Mr. Lippe	Absent	Mrs. O'Brien	Present	Mrs. Romeo	Present

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Alex Anemone

- **NOTE: Student Representative Report was given prior to Executive Session.** Jennifer Scala, Student Representative, provided the Board with a report. Gabriella Meza could not attend the meeting. She highlighted recent events at West Milford High School, including the District Arts Festival held on March 29, 2023. On April 2, 2023, the Student Council and the WMHS PTO hosted a Food Truck/Craft Vendor Fair and Car Show. Before Spring break, the Student Council held a Food Drive and items were donated to the local food pantry. Earth Day was celebrated the week of April 17th with a Spirit Week; the World Language National Honor Society induction was held on April 19th; and West Milford High School participated in the National Day of Silence on April 21st. Senior Prom packets were released, and in honor of Senior Decision Day on May 1, 2023, students will wear clothing to show what college they will be attending.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Anemone - Continued

- Dr. Anemone provided the Board and the community with information on the 2021-2022 School Performance Reports. This is a comprehensive document that shows demographics in each school, testing information, school finance, etc. These reports form the basis for many of our goals for the next school year. The community can see the school performance reports on our website by clicking on the link to the New Jersey Department of Education School Performance Reports, where you can search West Milford and all of our schools.

VIII. DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION'S REPORT - Mr. Daniel Novak

- Mr. Novak provided the Board with an update on Summer Programs. He spoke about the Summer Explorer's STEM Camp and explained the registration process that occurred. The program has met capacity for both weeks and has everyone in that has shown interest in the STEM Camp. We are also placing students on a wait list, in case of last minute cancellations. The second program discussed was the Summer Learning Camp. He stated that registration was sent out recently, and that our participation numbers are going up. We are near 100 students at this time, and the program typically receives between 150-180 students.
- Mr. Novak indicated he will have a more detailed update on the Macopin Middle School and High School scheduling at the May 23rd Board meeting, as there is nothing to report at this time.

**IX. SPECIAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE - Ms. Barbara Francisco, Board Secretary/
Business Administrator**

Motion by Mrs. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Guarino, to approve the following Board of Education meeting minutes:

- March 15, 2023 Preliminary Budget Hearing/Special Action Meeting
- March 15, 2023 Executive Session
- March 28, 2023 Workshop/Regular Meeting
- March 28, 2023 Executive Session

VOICE VOTE: Mrs. Van Dyk "Abstained" to the minutes of the March 15, 2023 Preliminary Budget Hearing/Special Action Meeting; March 15, 2023 Executive Session; March 28, 2023 Workshop/Regular Meeting; and March 28, 2023 Executive Session.

Mrs. O'Brien "Abstained" to the minutes of the March 15, 2023 Preliminary Budget Hearing/Special Action Meeting and March 15, 2023 Executive Session.

All Others in Favor.

MOTION PASSED.

X. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mrs. Kate Romeo

Mrs. Romeo shared some announcements. "Scott's Fun Run" will take place on May 13th at 9:00 a.m., at the West Milford Parks & Recreation Center. It is an amazing activity to raise money to help those in our community.

X. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mrs. Romeo - Continued

Friday, May 19th is Little League Family Night at 4:00 p.m., at Kilgallen Field. All Board members are invited to these events. She congratulated Eagle Scout, Francisco Petrosillo. She asked all Eagle Scouts to send her an email when they have their awards ceremony, and she is proud of all of them. Mrs. Romeo spoke about attending an Apshawa wrestling event at St. Joseph's. She also gave thanks to our Fire Departments, our Mayor and Councilman Matt Conlon, and all those involved during the recent fire and everyone who worked very hard to keep West Milford safe. She expressed it was a very emotional time, and something in the history of West Milford no one had ever gone through. Mrs. Romeo shared that being the granddaughter of someone who started one of the first Fire Departments in West Milford, she is extremely proud of our Fire Department, and all of our men and women firefighters. She stated that our Administration and our Board members donated items and brought cards, and Mrs. Romeo went to visit all six (6) fire houses and expressed their appreciation to them. She is very happy that West Milford is now safe.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT REGULATIONS

At all regular meetings, two opportunities are provided for citizens to make comments. The public comment period will be scheduled after the President's Report. The second comment period will be scheduled after New Business. During the first opportunity for public comment, citizens are invited to comment on subjects on the agenda items only. During the second opportunity for public comment, citizens may comment on all other general topics. At the discretion of the presiding officer, public comments may be permitted at other times.

Please remember this is a public meeting. Anything you say will be a public record. As a result, pursuant to law, the Board of Education cannot respond to you publicly concerning certain matters, such as those regarding an individual student or personnel. If there is a matter that you wish to remain private concerning personnel or students, please contact the Superintendent's Office. Public comment periods shall also be governed by the following rules:

1. Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise, sign in, and state their names and addresses.
2. Each speaker shall be limited to five minutes. The Board Secretary will note the time. A speaker who has not finished in the allotted time will be directed by the presiding officer to summarize quickly and relinquish the floor within 30 seconds (Bylaw 0167).
3. Comments shall be limited to issues. If personal remarks or discourteous statements are made, the presiding officer shall require the speaker to stop.
4. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No participant may address or questions Board members individually.
5. Questions requiring investigation shall be referred by the Board to the Superintendent's Office for consideration and later response. A participant may be asked to submit such questions in written format.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS (PLEASE SIGN IN)

All speakers will have five (5) minutes to speak until a period of thirty (30) minutes transpires. Before speaking, please state your name, group affiliation and address for the record. Members of the public who have requested to speak prior to the meeting will be recognized by the chair first. After speaking, all speakers are asked to sign the register provided and give their full name, group affiliation, and their address.

All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No participant may address or question Board members individually.

All speakers are expected to have read the statement within the agenda regarding the regulations concerning public comments.

Members of the public are reminded that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

Jess Cohen, First Grade Teacher in West Milford. She spoke about item #2 under Personnel/Student Affairs, regarding Doug Heyburn's retirement. She wanted to take a moment to express her deepest gratitude for all he has done for the District. His dedication to his students and his passion for teaching has made a profound impact on many, but especially in her life, as he became a mentor and ultimately a colleague to her when she became a teacher in West Milford. She proceeded to explain her first memory of Doug Heyburn back when she was in 6th Grade, as a representative from Upper Greenwood Lake School singing the National Anthem at the High School Homecoming Football game. She was extremely nervous and when she met him, she immediately felt more calm and he gave her nothing but praise and kindness. He told her that he couldn't wait for her to come to the High School to be in the Choir someday. She never forgot that, and she was in the Choir at the High School all four (4) years. He filled her life with music and ultimately guided her to the High School Musical, where her love of theater began. One of the greatest moments in her career was when she was able to take over the High School Musical program, a program that Doug had carved into something that was nothing short of exceptional. She and Heather Burns have filled those very huge shoes and it has become her home, her pride and joy, and the greatest love for the last twelve (12) years. It has not gone unnoticed that Doug has never missed a show they have produced. She is very appreciative that he comes to support not only the students, but also her and Heather, because he values what he has created here in West Milford. He would like to see it continue to grow and become better every year. She thanked him publicly because as teachers, she feels we do not get to hear when we have made an effect on people in our lives, and his kindness, humor, and guidance have never gone unnoticed. She thanked him for 28 years of service, and he will truly be missed.

Nathan Bedford, 457 Lakeside Road, Hewitt. He also spoke about Doug Heyburn and wished him well in his retirement. He was a student of Mr. Heyburn's and part of the High School Musicals, and had a solo in "The Music Man." He stated we will be livestreaming Doug Heyburn's last concert on Thursday, May 4th at 7:00 p.m. He thanked Mr. Heyburn for giving him the opportunity of being a master singer.

Motion by Mrs. O'Brien, seconded by Mrs. Dwyer, to close Public Comment.

VOICE VOTE:

All in Favor.

MOTION PASSED.

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XIII. MOTION BY MRS. O'BRIEN, SECONDED BY MR. GUARINO, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED, INCLUDING HAND CARRY.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

XIV. EDUCATION - Mrs. Claire Lockwood, Chairperson

Motion by Mrs. Lockwood, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to approve the following agenda items #1 through #8:

1. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following adjustments to the 2022-2023 SCHOOL/DISTRICT CALENDAR:

June 15, 2023	Thursday	Early Dismissal for Students
June 16, 2023	Friday	Early Dismissal for Students/ Macopin Promotion Activity
June 19, 2023	Monday	Early Dismissal/Last Day for Students & Staff/High School Graduation
June 20, 2023	Tuesday	Supplemental Professional Development Day - Staff Only

NOTE: All schools will have early dismissal June 15, 16, and 19, 2023.

- 2. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the re-adoption of the MARSHALL MODEL for Teacher Evaluations for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 3. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the re-adoption of the MLPR/MPPR for Administrator Evaluations for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 4. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the re-adoption of the SPECIALIST RUBRICS for Teacher Evaluations for the 2023-2024 school year.
- 5. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following CHANGES TO SECONDARY PROGRAMS for the 2023-2024 school year:

<u>Name of Course</u>	<u>Type of Change</u>
Percussion Ensemble (Unified) Macopin Middle School	New Course
Character Education Macopin Middle School	New Course

6. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following TEXTBOOK ADOPTIONS for the 2022-2023 school year:

Course: Physics
Textbook: Inspire Physics
Author: Paul Zitzewitz
Publisher: McGraw Hill
Copyright: 2020
ISBN: 978002135316-3

XIV. EDUCATION - Mrs. Lockwood, Chairperson - Continued

6. (Continued)

Number of
 Books needed: 120
 Cost per Book: \$129.00
 Price: \$15,480.00
 Account: 11-190-100-640-09-34-000

Course: Conceptual Physics
 Textbook: Conceptual Physics
 Author: Paul Hewitt
 Publisher: Pearson
 Copyright: 2021
 ISBN: 978013691395-5

Number of
 Books needed: 65
 Cost per Book: \$159.00
 Price: \$10,335.00
 Account: 11-190-100-640-09-34-000

7. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following field trip destination(s) to be added to the list of Board approved **FIELD TRIP LOCATION(S)** for the 2022-2023 school year:

- New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, Oakland, New Jersey

8. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following **SCHOOL YEAR SPECIAL EDUCATION OUT-OF-DISTRICT DAY SCHOOL TUITION CONTRACT**, retroactive from April 3, 2023, through June 30, 2023:

Number of			
<u>Students</u>	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Placement</u>	
1	\$18,816.00	Chapel Hill Academy	
Student #: 73165		Lincoln Park, New Jersey	

ROLL CALL FOR ITEMS #1 THROUGH #8:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mrs. Lockwood	Yes	Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mr. Lippe	Absent
Mr. Guarino	Yes	Mrs. Dwyer	Yes	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes
Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Yes

The **MOTION PASSED**.

Motion by Mrs. Lockwood, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to approve the following agenda item #9:

9. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements set forth in P.L. 2010, Chapter 122, the West Milford Board of Education has received results of HIB investigative reports on **April 25, 2023**; therefore,

XIV. EDUCATION - Mrs. Lockwood, Chairperson - Continued

9. (Continued)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Milford Board of Education approves issuance of written decisions affirming, rejecting or modifying the Superintendent's determination in the following HIB investigation(s):

<u>Incident Report Number</u>	<u>Board Determination</u>
2023/E-5	Substantiated
2023/M-11	Substantiated

ROLL CALL FOR ITEM #9:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mrs. Lockwood	Yes	Mrs. Dwyer	Yes	Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes
Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mrs. Racano	Yes
Mr. Guarino	Yes	Mr. Lippe	Absent	Mrs. Romeo	Yes

The **MOTION PASSED**.

XV. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS - Mrs. Lynda Van Dyk, Chairperson

NOTE: All appointees recommended for employment will meet the New Jersey State law requirements for the criminal history review prior to their start date.

Motion by Mrs. Lynda Van Dyk, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to approve the following agenda items #1 through #36:

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Dwyer spoke about item #3, Judy Thomas, Special Education Teacher at the High School. She expressed that Judy is an incredible person with a heart of gold, and has respect for students and staff. She will be a huge loss for the District. Mrs. Dwyer also spoke about item #1, Cynthia D'Antonio, Speech Language Specialist. Mrs. Dwyer is very sorry to see her go because she had a lot to do with her own children, and she thanked her for her years of service. She stated that the District will sorely miss both of them.

Mrs. O'Brien spoke about item #2, Doug Heyburn, Music Teacher at the High School. She spoke about how a teacher makes a difference in a child's life, and he had done a phenomenal job with her son, Dan. She can tell a lot of stories, but she shared one with the community. When her son was looking at colleges, Doug Heyburn wrote a letter of recommendation for him, which was one of the finest letters she has ever read. The letter he wrote truly gave the essence of who her son was, and Dan attended the college that the letter was written for. She feels that Mr. Heyburn is truly a gem for what he has done for the Music Department, and for all of the students past and present. She thanked him and wished him well in his retirement.

Mrs. O'Brien also spoke about item #33, Dianna Haggett, Principal's Secretary at Upper Greenwood Lake School. She will miss her dearly and wished her well in her retirement.

XV. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS – Mrs. Van Dyk, Chairperson – Continued

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Van Dyk spoke about item #1, Cynthia D’Antonio, Speech Language Specialist. Mrs. Van Dyk thought back and knows what a difference she has made for her own children, and she is a great loss for the District. She hopes that Mrs. D’Antonio enjoys her retirement, and she thanked her for all of her years of service and time that she has given to West Milford. Mrs. Van Dyk also spoke about item #2, Doug Heyburn, and stated how he has touched so many lives. She feels it is hard to understand when you have seen something for so many years, that he truly epitomizes a teacher who has students that keep coming back to say “thank you” and are excited to show him where they have landed in their lives. She feels they will be very big shoes to fill. She also thanked all of the retirees on the agenda for their years of service, and wished them well in their retirement.

Mrs. Lockwood thanked all of the retirees and wished them well in their retirement. She also spoke about item #1, Mrs. D’Antonio, and explained how she has touched her life for so many years. She helped her son become the student that he is today. Mrs. D’Antonio thought outside the box, she worked together not only with her students, but with all of the students, the staff, and the parents to really try and give every child that needed speech, the speech that they needed. She wished her luck and joy in her retirement and thanked her again.

Mrs. Romeo thanked every one of the retirees on the agenda tonight, wished them well, and sees hundreds of years of service there. She spoke about item #35, Patricia Roberts, who has been a school bus driver in the District for many years, and was here when she was a child. She thanked her for her service to the District. Mrs. Romeo also spoke about item #6, Timothy Struble, Assistant Head Custodian at Paradise Knoll. She indicated he has been a fireman in West Milford, along with his entire family, for many years. She stated that Mr. Struble has a wealth of knowledge in how to fulfill his duties with safety, and thanked him for his years of service. She wished everyone good luck in their retirement.

Mr. Novak commented that last year we began the process of inviting our retirees back at our June meeting, and that we will have the opportunity this June to invite our retirees back. They will receive a plaque in recognition of their years of service to the District.

Mrs. Romeo inquired about item #25. She asked what the date of the 2023 Distinguished Scholars and Community Scholarship Night will be. Mr. Novak and Board members responded that it will be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at the High School.

1. The recommendation of the Superintendent to accept, with regret, the resignation of **CYNTHIA D’ANTONIO**, Speech Language Specialist, Maple Road School, effective July 1, 2023, for the purpose of retirement.
2. The recommendation of the Superintendent to accept, with regret, the resignation of **DOUGLAS HEYBURN**, Music Teacher, High School, effective July 1, 2023, for the purpose of retirement.
3. The recommendation of the Superintendent to accept, with regret, the resignation of **JUDY THOMAS**, Special Education Teacher, High School, effective July 1, 2023, for the purpose of retirement.

XV. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS - Mrs. Van Dyk, Chairperson - Continued

4. The recommendation of the Superintendent to accept, with regret, the resignation of **ALICE SUSKA**, Grade 4 Teacher, Marshall Hill School, effective July 1, 2023, for the purpose of retirement.
5. The recommendation of the Superintendent to accept, with regret, the resignation of **KIM FARNESE**, Special Class Aide, Macopin School, effective July 1, 2023, for the purpose of retirement.
6. The recommendation of the Superintendent to accept, with regret, the resignation of **TIMOTHY STRUBLE**, Assistant Head Custodian, Paradise Knoll School, effective July 1, 2023, for the purpose of retirement.
7. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an **EXTENSION** to a leave of absence for **DEBORAH HACHEY**, School Bus Driver, Transportation, without pay, retroactive from March 28, 2023, through April 30, 2023. (Medical)
8. The recommendation of the Superintendent to accept, with regret, the resignation of **DEBORAH HACHEY**, School Bus Driver, Transportation, effective May 1, 2023, for the purpose of retirement.
9. The recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of **LAUREN WATSON**, Special Class Aide, Maple Road School, effective May 31, 2023.
10. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the appointment of **SUSAN CAROZZA**, Replacement English Teacher, Macopin School (PC#99.08.00.CIK), at the per diem rate of \$250.00, with health benefits, effective May 9, 2023, through June 23, 2023, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Hefferon)
11. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a leave of absence for **CYNTHIA RAJNAI**, Physical Therapist, Districtwide, without pay under the Family Medical Leave Act, retroactive from April 17, 2023, through June 30, 2023. (Medical)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date pending medical certification.
12. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a leave of absence for **SYRENA LoRe**, English Teacher, High School, with pay using sick days, retroactive from April 19, 2023, through May 12, 2023. (Medical)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date pending medical certification.
13. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a leave of absence for **ELAINE ADRAGNA**, Grade 5 Teacher, Marshall Hill School, with pay using sick days, effective June 5, 2023, through June 30, 2023. (Medical)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date pending medical certification.

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XV. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS - Mrs. Van Dyk, Chairperson - Continued

14. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a leave of absence for **LYNN DOHERTY**, Special Education Teacher, Westbrook School, with pay using sick days, retroactive from April 17, 2023, through June 30, 2023. (Medical)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date pending medical certification.

15. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the appointment of **LORI KANE**, Replacement Special Education Teacher, Westbrook School (PC#99.07.00.BLH), at the per diem rate of \$250.00, with health benefits, retroactive from April 20, 2023, through June 23, 2023, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Doherty) Account: 11-213-100-101-10-10-000

NOTE: The duration of this position is based on the date of the employee's return to work.

16. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve **an amendment to a previously approved resolution (January 2023)**, to a leave of absence for **SAMANTHA PATIRO**, Special Education Teacher, Upper Greenwood Lake School, with pay using sick days, retroactive from **March 6, 2023**, through **May 5, 2023**, then without pay under the Family Medical Leave Act, effective **May 8, 2023, through October 6, 2023**. (Maternity/Child Rearing)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date pending medical certification.

17. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an **EXTENSION** to a leave of absence for **DEBORA GABRIELE**, Secretary, High School, with pay using sick days, effective May 1, 2023, through June 2, 2023. (Medical)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date pending medical certification.

18. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an **EXTENSION** to the appointment of **BONNIE NUDO**, Replacement Secretary, High School (PC#98.09.S9.CBJ), at the per diem rate of \$98.91, 3 days/week, without health benefits, effective May 1, 2023, through June 2, 2023, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Gabriele) Account: 11-000-218-105-10-10-071

NOTE: The duration of this position is based on the date of the employee's return to work.

19. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an **EXTENSION** to a leave of absence for **KAREN GRILL**, Principal's Secretary, Paradise Knoll School, with pay using personal and sick days, effective May 3, 2023, through June 30, 2023. (Medical)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date pending medical certification.

XV. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS - Mrs. Van Dyk, Chairperson - Continued

- 20. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an **EXTENSION** to a **TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT** for **TRACEY LOMBARDI**, from Building Aide, Paradise Knoll School, to Replacement Principal's Secretary, Paradise Knoll School, at the per diem rate of \$260.40, effective May 3, 2023, through June 23, 2023, per Board of Education/WMESA Agreement. (Replaces Grill) Account: 11-000-240-105-10-10-103

NOTE: The duration of this position is based on the date of the employee's return to work.

- 21. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an **EXTENSION** to a leave of absence for **CARLI PETRASEK**, Cafeteria Aide, Maple Road School, without pay, retroactive from April 17, 2023, through June 30, 2023. (Medical/Caregiver)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date pending medical certification.

- 22. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following additions to the certified personnel list of **SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS/COACHES/NURSES/SPECIAL PROJECTS** for the 2022-2023 school year, effective April 26, 2023 through June 30, 2023:

JOANNA NOLAN (Teacher)
JULIA MACEDO (Teacher)
MARYJO PAULISON (Teacher)

- 23. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following **TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT**, for the 2023-2024 school year, effective September 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
JAKE MATHEWS (PC#90.08.30.AHV) Account: 11-130-100-101-10-10-000	Mathematics Teacher Macopin	Social Studies Teacher Macopin

- 24. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an **ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENT** for **TRACEY DEL COLLIANO**, Child Study Team Secretary, High School, to complete the **NEW JERSEY POST SCHOOL OUTCOMES STUDY**, a requirement of the New Jersey Department of Education, with a total payment in the amount of \$583.20 - Account: 11-000-219-105-10-10-142.

NOTE: Funded through the New Jersey Department of Education.

- 25. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following **HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS** for the **2023 DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS and COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT**, at the hourly rate of \$36.00, for three (3) hours, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement - Account: 11-000-218-104-10-10-070:

MELISSA CSENGETO
MONIKA DRUCKER
DONALD HEANEY
DANA LAMBERT
JANICE GERISCH

XV. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS - Mrs. Van Dyk, Chairperson - Continued

26. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following staff members for the **SUMMER EXPLORERS STEM CAMP**, per contracted rate, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement - Accounts: 20-483-100-101-10-50-103; 20-487-100-101-10-50-103 - CRRSA ESSER II Grant and ARP ESSER III Grant:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Payment</u>
DEENA ACCARDI	\$2,946.00
MELISSA BERGH	\$1,119.00
JULIE CHESHIRE	\$3,428.00
KELLY COMERFORD	\$1,883.00
MERJEME DUFFY	\$4,756.00
CHRISTINE ERRICHELLO	\$2,750.00
DENISE FLOOD	\$2,542.00
MARYELISE NORRELL	\$3,043.00
SUZANNE OESTERLE	\$2,314.00
DEANA PEZZINO	\$2,753.00
CHRISTINA RODEK	\$2,314.00
IAN WHITE	\$3,428.00

NOTE: Funded through the CRRSA ESSER II Grant and APR ESSER III Grant.

27. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an **ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENT** for the following staff members, for **KINDERGARTEN SUMMER EXPERIENCE**, at the hourly rate of \$36.00, for two (2) hours during August 2023 - Account 11-110-100-101-10-10-000:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>School</u>
KRISTI CLAVE	Maple Road
MEGAN HAYES	Maple Road

28. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following additional staff members for the **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ACTIVITY ASSIGNMENT, DISTRICT ARTS FESTIVAL**, retroactive from March 29, 2023, at a stipend of \$74.00 per chaperone - Account: 11-401-100-110-10-10-000:

<u>Chaperone</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
JENNIFER FEAR	Macopin
JACQUELINE SEGAL	Macopin

29. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve **an amendment to a previously approved resolution (January 2023)**, for the following **HIGH SCHOOL** and **MACOPIN MUSIC STIPENDS** for the 2022-2023 school year, per Board of Education Agreement - Account: 11-401-100-110-10-10-000:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
FABIOLA LEON	Accompanist	\$2,200.00

XV. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS - Mrs. Van Dyk, Chairperson - Continued

30. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following **HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC STIPENDS** for the 2022-2023 school year, per Board of Education Agreement - Account: 11-401-100-110-10-10-000:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
CASEY McCOY	Indoor Guard Technician	\$1,000.00
LINDSAY WALSH	Indoor Percussion Tech.	\$1,500.00
RICHARD D'ANDREA	Indoor Percussion Tech. Snare	\$1,500.00
JULIE KEEFE	Indoor Percussion Tech. Bass	\$1,500.00
MATTHEW LEITNER	Indoor Percussion Drill Design	\$1,500.00

31. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following **NURSES/ATC CERTIFIED PERSONNEL AND CLERICAL SERVICES** for the **MAY 4, 9, 11, 2023 STUDENT ATHLETIC PHYSICALS**, not to exceed four (4) hours per night (12 hours total), per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement. Account: 11-402-100-104-10-10-000

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
MEGAN CAVALLO	ATC Certified	\$36.00
GILLIAN GRAHAME	ATC Certified	\$36.00
SUSAN MAURER	ATC Certified	\$36.00
BETTY GARTNER	Nurse	\$36.00
SUSAN MARTINIQUE	Nurse	\$36.00
ARLE BERGHORN	Nurse	\$36.00
MARGUERITE SWARTZ	Clerical	\$25.00

Substitutes

TRACEY DEL COLLIANO	Substitute Clerical
PAMELA FENNING	Substitute Clerical
CATHLEEN REDA	Substitute Clerical
ERMIRA ROCI	Substitute Nurse
KENNA RIEDER	Substitute Nurse

32. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following **HIGH SCHOOL SUBSTITUTE CERTIFIED ATHLETIC TRAINERS** for the 2023-2024 school year - Account: 11-402-100-590-09-21-000:

BRENDAN BYRNES
SUSAN MAURER
JAG-ONE PHYSICAL THERAPY TRAINING SERVICES

NOTE: The above independent trainers carry their own insurance and all expenses will be covered by the High School Athletic Department.

- (33.) The recommendation of the Superintendent to accept, with regret, the resignation of **DIANNA HAGGETT**, Principal's Secretary, Upper Greenwood Lake School, effective July 1, 2023, for the purpose of retirement.
- (34.) The recommendation of the Superintendent to accept, with regret, the resignation of **KEITH WAUCHEK**, Assistant Head Custodian, Westbrook School, effective July 1, 2023, for the purpose of retirement.

XV. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS - Mrs. Van Dyk, Chairperson - Continued

- (35.) The recommendation of the Superintendent to accept, with regret, the resignation of **PATRICIA ROBERTS**, School Bus Driver, Transportation, effective July 1, 2023, for the purpose of retirement.
- (36.) The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a **TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT** for **BRIANNA BABCOCK**, from Custodian, Paradise Knoll School, to Custodian, Maple Road School (PC#45.03.M3.BBR), at the annual salary of \$51,407.00, with health benefits, effective May 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023. (Replaces U'Glay) Account #11-000-262-110-10-10-000

ROLL CALL FOR ITEMS #1 THROUGH #36:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes	Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mrs. Dwyer	Yes
Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mrs. Lockwood	Yes	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes
Mr. Lippe	Absent	Mr. Guarino	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Yes*

*Mrs. Romeo "Abstained" on items #17 and #18.

The **MOTION PASSED**.

XVI. OPERATIONS & FINANCE - Mr. Raymond Guarino, Chairperson

Motion by Mr. Guarino, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to approve the following agenda item #1:

DISCUSSION: Mr. Guarino spoke about item #1, and commented that he is glad Mr. Brown is here.

- 1. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the continuation of **ANDREW BROWN** as General Counsel/Labor Counsel, with his new Firm of **SCARINCI HOLLENBECK, LLC**, Little Falls, New Jersey, retroactive from April 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023.

ROLL CALL FOR ITEM #1:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mr. Guarino	Yes	Mrs. Dwyer	Yes	Mr. Lippe	Absent
Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes
Mrs. Lockwood	Yes	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Yes

The **MOTION PASSED**.

Motion by Mr. Guarino, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to approve the following agenda items #1 through #8:

- 2. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve an agreement between the **TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD** and the **WEST MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION** to provide a 54-passenger bus for use in connection with Bubbling Springs Day Camp from June 26, 2023, through August 18, 2023, at a fee of \$10.00 per day, plus fuel and maintenance repair costs.

XVI. OPERATIONS & FINANCE – Mr. Guarino, Chairperson – Continued

3. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the completion of **SCHOOL BUS EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILL REPORTS** for all routes, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:27-11.2: (Documentation provided electronically.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Principal/Supervisor</u>
4/18/2023	Marshall Hill	Patrick O'Donnell
4/18/2023	Upper Greenwood Lake	Dr. Gregory Matlosz
4/19/2023	Maple Road	William Kane
4/19/2023	Paradise Knoll	Jennifer Miller
4/19/2023	Westbrook	Dr. Dana Swarts
4/19/2023	WMHS/Macopin	Matthew Strianse/Mary Reinhold
4/20/2023	Apshawa	Patricia Hart
4/21/2023	Highlander Academy	Brenda Weinmann Ludwig

4. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following **CAFETERIA KINDERGARTEN/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM** for the 2023-2024 school year: \$2.20 for full breakfast, including milk; \$3.85 for full lunch, including milk; and \$1.00 for milk only. (Documentation provided electronically.)
5. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following **CAFETERIA MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BREAKFAST/LUNCH PRICES** for the 2023-2024 school year: \$2.65 for middle school breakfast; \$2.85 for high school breakfast; \$3.85 for middle school and high school lunch; \$4.40 for high school student featured favorite lunch; an adult breakfast price of \$3.60; an adult lunch price of \$5.85; and a la carte items. (Documentation provided electronically.)

NOTE: Pomptonian will provide a full list of meal and a la carte prices as close to the start of the school year as possible. This is to ensure that we are setting a la carte prices that will help to maintain the operating efficiency of the Cafeteria program.

6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to S-3732, the Board authorizes the submission of the Supplemental Stabilization Aid Request and accepts the allocation of \$788,110.00, for use in the 2023-2024 school year.
7. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the **DONATION** of old computer equipment, no longer of use to the District, to **UPCYCLE LLC**, Fairfield, New Jersey. Equipment will be picked up at no cost to the District. (Documentation provided electronically.)

XVI. OPERATIONS & FINANCE – Mr. Guarino, Chairperson – Continued

8. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the **DONATION** of Pokemon items from **LEVEL 1 GAMES**, Pompton Plains, New Jersey, valued at approximately \$500.00, for Student Activity Clubs and Special Education programs, Districtwide.

ROLL CALL FOR ITEMS #1 THROUGH #8:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mr. Guarino	Yes	Mrs. Dwyer	Yes	Mr. Lippe	Absent
Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes
Mrs. Lockwood	Yes	Mrs. O’Brien	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Yes

The **MOTION PASSED.**

Motion by Mr. Guarino, seconded by Mrs. O’Brien, to approve the following agenda item #9:

9. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the **PAYROLL** of March 31, 2023 and April 14, 2023, in the amount of \$4,190,486.54. (Documentation provided electronically.)

ROLL CALL FOR ITEM #9:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mr. Guarino	Abstain	Mrs. Dwyer	Yes	Mr. Lippe	Absent
Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mrs. Van Dyk	Abstain
Mrs. Lockwood	Yes	Mrs. O’Brien	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Abstain

The **MOTION PASSED.**

Motion by Mr. Guarino, seconded by Mrs. O’Brien, to approve the following agenda items #10 through #11:

10. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the **LIST OF BILLS/ VENDORS** for the period ending **April 25, 2023**, in the amount of \$2,733,778.16. (Documentation provided electronically.)
11. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following **TRANSFER OF FUNDS RESOLUTION** for the period ending **April 25, 2023:**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Township of West Milford that the following transfers made on the financial records of the Board affecting the **2022-2023** budget be affirmed and approved. (See folder insert.)

Total transfers in the amount of \$60,335.17.

XVI. OPERATIONS & FINANCE – Mr. Guarino, Chairperson – Continued

ROLL CALL FOR ITEMS #10 THROUGH #11:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mr. Guarino	Yes	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes
Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mrs. Lockwood	Yes	Mrs. Racano	Yes
Mr. Lippe	Absent	Mrs. Dwyer	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Yes

The **MOTION PASSED.**

XVII. POLICY – Mr. William Cytowicz, Chairperson

Motion by Mrs. Lockwood, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to approve the following agenda items #1 through #19:

1. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the second reading of a **revised POLICY** entitled, "Activity Participation Fee Program - Pay to Participate." (Code 2436) (Documentation provided electronically.)
2. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the second reading of a **revised POLICY** entitled, "Assignment of Students." (Code 5120) (Documentation provided electronically.)
3. The recommendation of the Superintendent to **ABOLISH** the **POLICY** entitled, "Public Relations." (Code 9100) (Documentation provided electronically.)
4. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **revised BYLAW** entitled, "Board Member Orientation and Training." (Code 0144) (Documentation provided electronically.)
5. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **revised POLICY** entitled, "Instructional Supplies." (Code 2520) (Documentation provided electronically.)
6. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **new REGULATION** entitled, "Instructional Supplies." (Code 2520) (Documentation provided electronically.)
7. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **revised POLICY** entitled, "Use of Corporal Punishment" (Teaching Staff Members). (Code 3217) (Documentation provided electronically.)
8. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **new POLICY** entitled, "Use of Corporal Punishment" (Support Staff Members). (Code 4217) (Documentation provided electronically.)
9. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **revised POLICY** entitled, "Health Services Personnel." (Code 5305) (Documentation provided electronically.)
10. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **revised POLICY** entitled, "Student Health Records." (Code 5308) (Documentation provided electronically.)

XVII. POLICY - Mr. Cytowicz, Chairperson - Continued

11. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **revised REGULATION** entitled, "Student Health Records." (Code 5308) (Documentation provided electronically.)
12. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **revised POLICY** entitled, "Health Services." (Code 5310) (Documentation provided electronically.)
13. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **revised REGULATION** entitled, "Health Services." (Code 5310) (Documentation provided electronically.)
14. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **revised POLICY** entitled, "Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures." (Code 6112) (Documentation provided electronically.)
15. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **new REGULATION** entitled, "Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Allowability of Costs." (Code 6115.01) (Documentation provided electronically.)
16. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **new POLICY** entitled, "Federal Funds - Duplication of Benefits." (Code 6115.04) (Documentation provided electronically.)
17. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **revised POLICY** entitled, "Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants." (Code 6311) (Documentation provided electronically.)
18. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **revised POLICY** entitled, "School District Security." (Code 7440) (Documentation provided electronically.)
19. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the first reading of a **revised POLICY** entitled, "Citizens Advisory Committees." (Code 9140) (Documentation provided electronically.)

ROLL CALL FOR ITEMS #1 THROUGH #19:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mr. Guarino	Abstain	Mrs. Dwyer	Abstain
Mr. Lippe	Absent	Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mrs. Lockwood	Yes
Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Yes

The **MOTION PASSED.**

XVIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS/LIAISONS

Parks & Recreation - Mrs. Racano/Mr. Lippe - Mrs. Racano reported on the highlights of the meeting, including Bubbling Springs Day Camp registration and hiring of staff and lifeguards for the Camp. She also spoke about the Nosenzo Pond Story Book Walk, the Recreation Center gymnasium floor repairs, and that Parks & Recreation is looking for someone to be a Caretaker at the Teen Center, with use of the second floor apartment.

XVIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS/LIAISONS - Continued

Safety - Mrs. Dwyer/Mrs. O'Brien - No report.

Superintendent's Roundtable - Mrs. Racano/Mrs. Van Dyk - Mrs. Lockwood attended the February 23rd meeting for Mrs. Racano. Mrs. Lockwood reported there was a question regarding Italian for 7th and 8th Grade students. There was a question regarding drug testing for suspected drug use. The District pays for testing if completed at the District-referred testing site, and families have the option of having the testing done privately at their own expense. Random tests are administered in the Nurse's Office at the High School level. There was also a question on Transportation and who should be contacted for a problem. The Principal should be the first point of contact. If you do not get anything resolved, you can go to the next step which would be the Transportation Department. Other topics discussed included Media Specialists, High School sports, Elementary homework, and Kindergarten enrollment numbers.

Passaic County School Boards Association - Mrs. Lockwood stated there is a meeting scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2023. She will be attending and all Board members are welcome to attend. Mrs. Romeo spoke about a dinner that she was invited to attend at The Brownstone by the PCSBA, and she received a letter. She cannot attend and asked Mrs. Lockwood to attend the event as the Board Vice President.

New Jersey School Boards Association - Mr. Cytowicz/Mrs. Van Dyk - No report.

Legislative - Mrs. O'Brien/Mr. Lippe - Mrs. O'Brien indicated the report given last month covered many items, and there is nothing new to report at this time.

Technology Oversight - Mr. Guarino/Mr. Lippe - No report.

Township/Board of Education Joint Committee - Mr. Guarino/Mrs. Romeo/Mrs. Lockwood/Mr. Cytowicz - Mrs. Romeo spoke about what was discussed at the meeting in early April. Another meeting will be scheduled in the near future to continue to discuss Hillcrest.

West Milford Municipal Alliance - Mrs. Van Dyk/Mrs. Lockwood - Mrs. Lockwood reported on the WMMA meeting held on Monday, April 10th. She spoke about a speaker from The Hope Institute, who spoke on the program and services in West Milford. Also discussed was the WMMA fact sheet, future programs, and youth leadership grants. Future events include "Scott's Fun Run" on Saturday, May 13, 2023, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the West Milford Parks & Recreation building. She indicated the next WMMA meeting will be held on Monday, May 8th at 7:00 p.m., at the West Milford Library, and it is also on Zoom.

Mrs. Romeo recognized Ms. Charlene Pappas, who was in attendance at the Board meeting. Mrs. Romeo spoke about "Scott's Fun Run" and stated that Ms. Pappas, a teacher at Upper Greenwood Lake School, started this event for our community as a prevention activity. The event raises a substantial amount of money to help our community members, and Mrs. Romeo thanked her very much.

Mrs. O'Brien also spoke about Ms. Pappas. She stated she is a phenomenal person, a phenomenal teacher, and a phenomenal asset to our community. Mrs. O'Brien indicated as an employee of Highlands Family Success Center and Center for Family Resources, she works in tandem with "Scott's Fun Run" with providing supplies and coordinating the activity itself.

XVIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS/LIAISONS - Continued

Mrs. O'Brien hopes to see a lot of the community there on Saturday, May 13, 2023. It is a worthwhile event, it is a stigma free run, and it supports our community members. She thanked Ms. Pappas.

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) - Mrs. Lockwood/ Mrs. O'Brien - Mrs. Lockwood indicated the meeting was on April 4th, and was well-attended from parents and from the Administration. Dr. Derek Ressa, who will be the new Director of Special Services, also attended and listened to the parents. There was a lot of discussion, including dates for the Summer programs. The next meeting has not been scheduled at this time.

XIX. OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Mrs. Racano, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to close Old Business.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

XX. NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Mrs. Racano, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to close New Business.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

XXI. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS (PLEASE SIGN IN)

All speakers will have five (5) minutes to speak until a period of thirty (30) minutes transpires. Before speaking, please state your name, group affiliation and address for the record. Members of the public who have requested to speak prior to the meeting will be recognized by the chair first. After speaking, all speakers are asked to sign the register provided and give their full name, group affiliation, and their address.

All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No participant may address or question Board members individually.

All speakers are expected to have read the statement within the agenda regarding the regulations concerning public comments.

Members of the public are reminded that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

Sherry Parlotto, 15 East Birch Road, Oak Ridge. She spoke on behalf of the West Milford National Day of Prayer Task Force. She explained there is a group of local churches that have gotten together to organize the National Day of Prayer, which will be held on Thursday, May 4, 2023. She provided the Board with a hand out and invited the Board to attend three (3) events that will take place on May 4th. The first event will take place at the Veteran's Memorial Park in front of Town Hall at 12:00 p.m., for worship and prayer for our country and our community. Then at 4:00 p.m., the second event will take place at the Board of Education to pray for our schools, our teachers, our students, and the Board. She invited all of the Board members to attend.

XXI. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS - Continued

The third event will take place at Macopin Middle School, open to the public as well. Ms. Parlotto indicated a High School student will open up by singing the National Anthem, and there will be worship and prayer. The group will be praying for the "seven mountains of influence," which includes education, government, military, church, family, thoughts and entertainment, and more. The pastors from these churches that have gotten together will be praying for those seven (7) influences, and education, of course, is a big one. She stated that Mrs. Romeo has agreed to attend and represent the Board and the public is invited as well. She is looking forward to opportunities to pray and to join our nation together, and to pray for the problems our community and our nation are facing.

Leah Mora, a Junior at West Milford High School. She is currently enrolled in the Italian program. She has taken Italian since she was in 7th Grade and she is planning to take Level 5 AP Italian for her Senior year. The program has taught her so much about the Italian culture, history, and the language itself. She already speaks Spanish, and she wanted to immerse herself into a new language. The Italian program gives her the opportunity to achieve new goals, and she wants to succeed in school and wants colleges to see what she has done throughout her academic years. She plans on attending a four (4) year competitive college that looks for consecutive years of a language. She stated that colleges are attracted to students who take those four (4) years. She feels getting rid of this program would put her at a disadvantage, because colleges would not know as to why she stopped taking Italian her Senior year. She feels taking a language in High School is so crucial, because it prepares you for the global marketplace. She wants to study in the area of Business, and knowing languages enhances opportunities in the Business world. She feels this will affect her chances of getting into a college that she wants. She stated that we cannot forget the rest of the students who have also dedicated their time to the Italian program. Those students who have taken a year or more of Italian will have to switch languages, which is not an easy thing to do. She believes the Board should be doing what is best for students and putting them first. She spoke about how Mrs. Vincenza Certosimo has been one of her greatest inspirations and helped her reach so many of her goals. Mrs. Certosimo has been in the District for 23 years, and she is growing the Italian program more and more. She is truly an amazing teacher and most importantly, cares about her students and puts them first. Her and her classmates were recently inducted into the Italian Honor Society, and now they will not be able to do anything with that program. She is worried about how this will affect her last year of High School, and the rest of the lower Italian classes. She hopes this program is not removed and that consideration is given to restore it. She thanked the Board for listening.

Tiffany Santa Lucia, a Junior at West Milford High School, 5 Circle Boulevard, Newfoundland. She spoke about the possibility of the Italian program being eliminated. She has taken Italian since she was in the 7th Grade, and her older sister went through the Italian program throughout High School. She expressed that the Italian program allows them learn new things about the culture, and it has opened her eyes to the beauty of the country. Without this program, she would be upset that other students would not be able to have the same experience as she had. Freshman students who have just started and are really getting into it, would now have to switch into a new language, because students must complete two (2) or more consecutive years of a language for colleges. She then spoke about the class and what an excellent teacher Mrs. Vincenza Certosimo is.

XXI. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS - Continued

She stated that Mrs. Certosimo has been here for 23 years, and she has many former students that like to come back and visit her. She feels her teaching style accounts for all different students, which is much different from a lot of teachers. She indicated that Mrs. Certosimo helps everyone that needs it individually, and she has become a very good role model to her and her classmates. Tiffany feels that Mrs. Certosimo inspires her students to do the best they can and encourages them to study abroad one day. She would like students after her to be able to have the same experience as she did, and asks the Board to keep the Italian program for everyone.

Debra Santa Lucia, 5 Circle Boulevard, Newfoundland. She is Tiffany's mother and her older daughter, Teresa, is a former West Milford student who graduated in 2019. Teresa was a student in Mrs. Certosimo's Italian program, and she wrote an email to her mother to read to the Board. Mrs. Santa Lucia read the email regarding Teresa's experience in the Italian program and the impact that Mrs. Certosimo had in her daughter's life. She also spoke about Mrs. Certosimo's dedication to the Italian program. Mrs. Santa Lucia stated she is thankful and appreciative that Mrs. Certosimo has taught both of her daughters in the Italian program. She has made Italy and the Italian culture come back to her children, as unfortunately her family that came from Italy are no longer alive. She feels Mrs. Certosimo is that link to her family. She expressed that to lose that resource for her daughter, as well as the other students, is detrimental to our District. Mrs. Certosimo brings the beautiful language and the entire country of Italy to our Township. She asked the Board to consider all of those who have spoken tonight and how much Mrs. Certosimo means to them, and to allow her to continue to educate our students.

Sophie Grizzuti, 28 Starlight Road, West Milford. She addressed the Board and stated she is a Freshman at the High School enrolled in Italian 2. She spoke about her concerns regarding budget cuts, and particularly the Foreign Language program. She feels the study of foreign languages is a necessary aspect to student learning. These programs open up students to more than what an American student has experienced, and foreign studies broaden the student's perspective and teaches them different ways of life, apart from the American lifestyle. Cutting these programs restricts what she and her fellow students observe about the world around us. Throughout her years of education, she has been taught very little about other cultures. She has now, finally, in her Freshman year been given the opportunity to understand another culture. She feels that language is communication, and in limiting languages, it limits who you can connect with. She is worried that these cuts will not stop here, and she has heard of her previous West Milford peers apply and attend alternative High Schools, due to the higher rate of opportunities they offer. She and other students were excited for the opportunity of reaching Italian 4 or even AP levels. Her guidance counselor informed her that she will not have the option to take any other foreign language next year, due to the unavailability of spots and that French 1 will not be offered next year. It is unacceptable to a lot of students who enrolled in a program with the promise of it benefiting them, and then being taken away from them. A student she knows will not be able to apply to many colleges that she planned to, due to the lack of language experience she will be faced with if this cut is made. Her Italian classes have shown her a different way of life and has sparked an interest in her to explore different cultures. Learning the Italian language has taught her patience and persistence, and not giving future students the option to have this experience is unacceptable. She feels cutting academics is not an option, and we must find alternatives and create a voice to keep this program alive.

XXI. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS - Continued

Rick Grizzuti, 28 Starlight Road, West Milford. Mr. Grizzuti addressed Dr. Anemone and the Board. He expressed that both of his children have had an amazing experience in the District, and have had some truly great teachers. He recognized Heather Burns and Jess Cohen who were in attendance and the great Theater Arts program in our District. He asked the Board not to make either the proposed or discussed budget cuts, and to please find a way not to make this a bare boned school experience by eliminating programs and teachers. He stated Mrs. Certosimo truly inspires and instills the love of language and culture in her students, and it is an example of what schools do at its best. Mr. Grizzuti indicated that his older daughter graduated in 2022, and she was a student in Mrs. Certosimo's class for all four (4) years, AP Italian, and inducted in the National Honor Society. He feels that all of the other cuts are unacceptable as well. How will students want to stay in our District and how will we attract families to West Milford? He spoke about all of the staff cuts, and asked the Board to please make it their drive to help these students grow and keep the staff and services.

Chloe Brijbag, a Junior at the High School, 40 Orleans Lane, West Milford. She is currently enrolled in Italian 4 Honors and is planning on taking Italian 5 AP next year. She is addressing discontinuing the Italian program and the reasons why doing so would not be beneficial nor fair. Five years ago, she went to Italy with her family and had an amazing trip. Her only regret was not knowing the Italian culture and language. At the time, she was jealous of her brother because he could communicate with others and involve himself more with the Italian lifestyle. This is because he took six (6) years of Italian classes, and since then, she aspires to do the same. The chance of her opportunity being cut short is one that she does not want to take, and the decision to cut the Italian program would be detrimental to 60 other students in the High School. They would have to re-learn a language for the graduation requirement and doing so could make the language seem more like a chore, since that was not their first pick. People choose Italian because they want to learn about it, otherwise, they would pick a different language. To cut Italian out of the High School curriculum will limit our academic understanding, and she feels it is agreeable that learning about new cultures is something we should do more of. Colleges look for students taking four years of a language, and cutting a language can affect us, especially since she and other students are considering competitive colleges. She not only wants to take Italian because of her future, but because of her love for it. She wants to take the biliteracy test next year and pass it, and she wants the other Italian students to have that opportunity as well. She looks forward to this class, and she knows these opportunities are ones she cannot have without taking Italian and being taught by a great teacher. She wants her classmates and other students to strive for greatness in this language by reaching their fullest potential, including herself. She feels we cannot do it without the help of the Board in keeping this program in our town, and asked the Board for their support.

Kim McCook, 60 Forge Road, Hewitt. Her daughter is a Freshman at the High School and started with Italian in Macopin School. Her daughter was upset about starting over with another language. Her daughter has a learning disability and she is finally excited about a class she wanted to take. Now, she cannot and may possibly have to start over. She feels to do this to the students is unthinkable and will be a detriment to so many. She also spoke about Mrs. Certosimo, what an amazing teacher she is, and how she accommodates the students, so that all children can learn. In addition to the Italian program, her daughter is currently enrolled in Entrepreneurship and took Marketing as well, and loves the Business program.

XXI. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS - Continued

She heard that this may also be one of the things that is going to be cut, which she hopes does not happen. She feels by cutting just one teacher, you are losing almost an entire program. Business sense is needed in all types of professions, and our 9th and 10th Grade student's elective options are dwindling. She has always stressed to her children to have choices and options in whatever they do in life. She feels the Board is taking those options away from our students by removing all of these electives. She also feels the Board is going to be forcing students out of the district and people will not want to move here. She has a son that is at Passaic County Technical Institute in the STEM Academy, because the options were not here in West Milford for him and he is excelling. She wants her daughter to be able to excel here in West Milford, where she wants to be. She asked the Board to please allow these students to excel and stop cutting all of these classes.

Dr. Marisa Gough, 34 Center Street, West Milford. She spoke about some discussion at the last Board meeting about grants that are out there that we have the capability of potentially getting. She asked different people for information about these grants and what we have access to as a public school. She asked that the Board of Education, administrators, teachers, parents and residents help us take on the task of writing grants. We need to write letters to other towns, Senators, companies, and entrepreneurs. She feels that grant writing works if it is done right, and grant research should be an ongoing process. She inquired if a professional can be hired to write grants for the District, and if done right and efficiently, it would only be a success. She also asked if there was an update to the current enrollment for Kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year.

Mrs. Romeo indicated that the problem with Kindergarten enrollment is that we do not have a deadline. Registrations are still coming in and children can enroll all the way up until the first day of school.

Cortney Stephenson, 307 Ridge Road, West Milford. Mrs. Stephenson stated that the West Milford School District needs help, as we have all seen the decreasing State funding, Elementary school closing, and significant cuts. All of this impacts our children first and foremost, but it also impacts households without school aged children. When a school district struggles, community property values plummet. Adversely, when school districts thrive, the community also benefits. She feels it is time for the West Milford community to come together and save the school district. We have witnessed the community giving and collecting donations for our first responders during the fire. She feels it is time for us to band together with the same urgency because our schools are on fire. She and Dr. Marisa Gough would like to lead a Town Hall style session of multiple meetings, similar to the strategic planning meetings that our District led to create District Goals. They would like all stakeholders involved and to be encouraged to attend, including administration, Board of Education members, teachers and staff, parents, students, and all community members. They would focus their sessions on grant writing, as they are out there. She has done research and found State-funded grants and some from NJEA. Another session would be on soliciting donations. Donations from celebrities who grew up here and businesses whose CEO's have connections to our town, businesses who wish to grow in our town, those that are growing and need tax refunds and relief, and many others. Finally, a session would focus on writing to our Governor, Senators, Assemblymen and Assemblywomen, and others in Congress who have created the algorithm for the S-2 funding.

XXI. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS - Continued

Writing to those who are allowing PCTI to benefit greatly, and to have our West Milford voices heard. She stated that herself and Dr. Marisa Gough can and will lead this venture, but they need the Board to provide a meeting place and dates, and to get the word out there for them. She would like everyone to work together.

Motion by Mr. Guarino, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to extend Public Comment beyond thirty (30) minutes.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

Julia Cheski, 22 Glencross Road, West Milford. She spoke about Marshall Hill School and her concerns about the safety of her children. She stated that five (5) years ago, she was new to this District and came to Westbrook to register her oldest daughter for Kindergarten. She was buzzed into the office and expected to see the office when she walked in, but instead she was in a hallway with access to three (3) full classrooms. No one stopped her to ask why she was there, as she was a stranger to the building. She stated this was only a few days after the devastating Parkland, Florida school shooting. She was so worried about her daughter's safety that she came to a Board of Education meeting and voiced her concerns. She was thrilled to see the changes that were made to Westbrook, with the office moved to the front of the building, and a set of doors added to create a locked and secure vestibule with a security window leading right to the office. Now she finds that her two (2) children will be moved to Marshall Hill, and she is disappointed that the improvements to increase security were not made at every school. Since the official announcement of her children's new school, she has attended the Marshall Hill PTA meetings. When she walks into the building, she can't help but notice the lack of security at the main entrance. She would like to see the same upgrades made to Marshall Hill that were made at Westbrook. Unfortunately, school shootings have not stopped and in fact, they are more frequent than ever before. She stated that everyone thinks that a mass shooting will never happen in their town, their school, or to their family. She asked how the Board will keep her children safe. She knows that because of the budget constraints and other factors, renovations to improve safety are not always funded, but she asks the Board to make this a priority when finalizing the budget.

Motion by Mr. Guarino, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to close Public Comment.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

XXII. EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

The Board determined there was no need to go into Executive Session.

XXIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Dwyer, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

VOICE VOTE:

All in Favor.

MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

**Barbara Francisco
Board Secretary**