

MINUTES OF THE HYBRID REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, June 17, 2024

Via WebEx <https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=m68fbffee4fac0e51118fdda2e4372718>

Meeting Number: 2491 415 6359 Meeting Password: cAmWkC7KM89

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the meeting to order (7:04 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Dr. Jay Dahya (in-person); Dr. Laura Franchese (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (remote); Mr. Jeff Hughes (in-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (in-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair (in-person); and Dr. Michael Strambler (in-person).

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Jimmy Sapia, Assistant Principal; Cheryl Tafel, Assistant Principal; Carrie Borcharding, Special Services Director; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

BRS Student Council Recognition – Students in Grades 5 and 6 participated this year to enhance the culture of BRS and promote school-wide community building. During the year funds were raised and donated to Woodbridge Resident Relief Fund, K9 First Responders and the Beardsley Zoo. They were also involved in the Connecticut Education Foundation’s Holiday Bear project and sponsored a student in need.

Service Award Recognition – John Laudano, QVHD Sanitarian, was presented with the ABC Award (Advocate Beyond the Classroom) upon his retirement from QVHD. The award was established by the Woodbridge Board of Education to recognize the efforts of individual staff members who lead a task or project, outside the scope of their job, for the sole purpose of positively and significantly affecting student learning and/or the learning environment at Beecher Road School. Mr. Laudano thanked the Board, Mr. Esparo and BRS staff for their efforts to make Tools for Schools a success during his tenure at BRS.

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Del Prete acknowledged receipt of correspondence available in BoardBook.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Nathan Kruger expressed disappointment regarding advanced mathematics and the recently conducted selection process for PreAlgebra.

PTO Update – No report

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Ms. Del Prete

UNANIMOUS

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Tencza provided a brief update on advanced math, summer curriculum writing in Grades 4-6 math and reading in Grades K-3, Kindergarten registration / enrollment projections, commencement of the roofing/grounds work shortly and announced the 2024/25 Teacher of the Year Aimee Meacham.

BRS Update – Principal Sherman noted the end-of-year evaluation process, Field Day, the PTO sponsored Fun Run, Amity High School interns, and a brief update on completion of the master reading class.

Curriculum Committee Report – Dr. Strambler reviewed the June 6 meeting, which focused on the selection of HMH as the identified reading resource encompassing an overview of the process and the anticipated roll-out across grade level classroom with full implementation slated for 2025/26. The program cost is approximately \$200,000 for a five (5) year subscription, inclusive of professional development. It is anticipated that this cost will be covered by two grants and have minimal impact on the budget. The Committee also received an update on the STEAM position and development of a curriculum review cycle calendar.

BRS Infrastructure Upgrade Building Committee Update – Maria Madonick, Committee Chair, provided the Board with an update on the roof replacement / drainage / site work project and completion timeline. This committee also interviewed firms to conduct a feasibility study in response to increasing enrollment, programming needs and educational space constraints at BRS and selected Antinozzi Associates to perform this task. A TriBoard meeting with members of the BOS/BOF/BOE will be held at the end of November to discuss these challenges, cost estimates etc. to determine how best to support education going forward.

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence reviewed the June 11 meeting inclusive of the standard monthly reports, the 2023/24 budget and reconciliation of the 2024/25 budget as a result of the \$65,000 reduction by the BOS/BOF.

2023/24 Budget Surplus – There is a projected surplus of approximately \$201,000 in the 2023/24 budget with administration outlining priorities for its use. Concern was expressed for utilizing operating funds for capital project items. Discussion ensued for how much of the surplus should be returned to the Town.

2024 Budget Surplus Possible Considerations for Board of Education			
Priority	Item/Area for Consideration	Cost Estimate	Notes
1	Asbestos removal area by band- DO NOT have to do any abatement on the band ramp or rec office. The loading dock and landing at the bottom of the ramp needs to be abated. SPED room likely.	\$20,000	We have all 3 quotes. The all-in prices range from \$17,738 - \$20,108. This includes abatement of the loading dock tiles AND the tiles and glue hidden beneath the carpet in the SPED room.
1	Replace ramp (down to band room) carpet, SPED room (Merriam)	\$12,000	Band Room not included. We just need to decided on exactly what brand and color of the flooring.
Prioritized			
2	Lexia 3 Year Subscription (gives \$12K of savings)	\$25,100	
3	Classroom libraries- maybe start with grades 4-6 and establish a replacement plan	\$91,000	G4- 29,000 G5- 31,000 G6- 31,000
4	Non Consumable Classroom Supplies	\$20,000	
5	North Office Flooring (entire office to LVT)	\$15,000	
Below the Line			
6	Loop repair- replenish the gravel/dirt, trim the trees, brick dedication stones, etc.	\$6,000	
7	Elevator Door Edge Modernization	\$8,509	
8	Heat Exchanger Leak Alarm	\$5,300	
9	Repair fence behind tennis court and replace gate on K-Wing fence	\$4,975	
10	Teacher Desks	\$16,000	\$800 each x 20 desks
11	Student desks and chairs	\$25,200	\$420 per student/ \$8400 per class
12	Exterior painting- (no mural areas) front of south through D wing	\$15,000 -D-Front \$15,000 - S-Front \$27,000 - E-Front (E-quote may include pool wall)	
	Capital Expense		
	Educational Expense		
	Facility Maintenance Expense		

MOTION #2 – 2023/24 BUDGET SURPLUS

Move that we use the projected surplus in the 2023/24 operating budget as recommended by administration with any remaining dollars returned to the Town.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Dr. Francese
UNANIMOUS

2024/25 Budget Reconciliation – Based on the reduction of \$65,000 by the BOS/BOF, administration made the following recommendations to reconcile the 2024/25 budget.

Salary savings Teacher Turnover (3 Retirements)		\$ 63,500
CMERS Rate		\$ 28,350
Medical Premiums		<u>\$135,000</u>
Teacher Turnover Premium Increases	\$58,850	
Audit Fee Increase	\$12,000	
SpEd Tuition	<u>\$91,000</u>	
TOTAL		\$65,000

MOTION #3 – 2024/25 BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Move that we reduce the 2024/25 operating budget as recommended by administration

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Mr. Hughes
UNANIMOUS

Policy Committee – Mr. Lawrence reviewed the June 6 Policy Committee meeting, which reviewed all the policies accepted under the Consent Agenda for 30-day review. In addition, the Committee received feedback from the WEA on Policy 1316.

CABE Liaison Report – Ms. Del Prete apprised the Board of the CABE Leadership meeting on August 8 and the CABE Conference November 15 and 16.

Chair Piascyk noted that the July regular meeting is cancelled and the next meeting will be a special working meeting on July 22, at 6:00 with a dinner / work session. Board members were asked to complete the Board Annual Evaluation document and submit it to the Superintendent for compilation by July 12.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session in accordance with State statute to conduct the annual evaluation of the superintendent.

MOTION #4 – EXECUTIVE SESSION (8:45 PM)

Move that we enter Executive Session to conduct the annual evaluation of the Superintendent and invite Superintendent Vonda Tencza to join the Board.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Mr. Hughes
UNANIMOUS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Dr. Jay Dahya (in-person); Dr. Laura Franchese (in-person); Mr. Jeff Hughes (in-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (in-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair (in-person); and Dr. Michael Strambler (in-person).

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent

Ms. Hopkins left the meeting (8:51 PM)

MOTION #5 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (10:10 PM).

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Dr. Strambler
UNANIMOUS

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the public session to back to order (10:10 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Dr. Jay Dahya (in-person); Dr. Laura Franchese (in-person); Mr. Jeff Hughes (in-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (in-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair (in-person); and Dr. Michael Strambler (in-person).

STAFF: Vonda J. Tencza, Superintendent and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION #6 – CONTRACT MODIFICATION

Move that we extend the contract of the Superintendent through June 30, 2027 approving a three percent (3%) salary increase for the 2024/25 school year.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Dr. Dahya
UNANIMOUS

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (10:12 PM)

Mr. Hughes
Second by Ms. Del Prete
UNANIMOUS