

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, June 17, 2019  
Stella Library Media Center

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order (7:01 PM).

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Dr. Steven Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Maeghan Genovese, Secretary; Ms. Claire Coleman, Mr. Garrett Luciani and Ms. Lynn Piascyk.

**STAFF:** Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; Cheryl Mammen, Special Services Director; Al Pullo, Director of Business Services/Operations; Gina Prisco, Principal; Analisa Sherman, Assistant Principal; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Sandy Stein, BOF Liaison; Nancy Smerekanicz, WEA; Dan Cowan and Jane Roddy, community.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Ms. Genovese noted that two emails had been received one from staff expressing concerns regarding inequity of staffing accommodations and the other from a parent praising their child’s teacher.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Piascyk

**UNANIMOUS**

## **REPORTS**

**BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION** – Mr. Luciani (*4 year term*), Ms. Coleman (*1.75 years*) and Dr. Jokel (*9 months*) were recognized for their service the WBOE. Ms. Hamilton was recognized for her service as well as her outstanding leadership serving as Chair for eight of her nine years on the Board and the longest serving female chair as well as her PTO service contributions to BRS since 2006. Each Board member also received a gift acknowledging their service.

**PTO Update** – None

**Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee Recommendations** – Ms. Coleman presented an overview of the committee’s work and how the recommendations were contrived. Committee membership included Todd Jokel, Superintendent Gilbert, BeeJ Ahern, Kris Hart-Rooney, Hillary Drumm, Gina Prisco, Jon Gorham, Vito Esparro, Jane Roddy and John Ebberhart. The work of the committee commenced in February with monthly meetings and researching school initiatives within Connecticut as well as the country. The primary focus was on waste reduction and creating a culture of awareness. It is anticipated that this community driven program will include collaboration with the Town on initiation of a composting center at the Town Transfer Station as well as applying for recognition as a “Green Leaf School”.

### **MOTION #2 – AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Move that we accept the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee as presented.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Mr. Luciani

**UNANIMOUS**

**Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Gilbert highlighted the 6<sup>th</sup> grade graduation, end-of-year classroom celebrations, completion of negotiations with the CSEA Union, finalization of the 2019/20 budget, reassignment of TAG programming to the Library Media Specialists, disbandment of the Town Ad Hoc Building Committee, redesign of the web site, the school-wide read at the end of the year, new hires inclusive of Jennifer Naylor, Taylor DaSilva and Christina Renzoni and announced the Teacher of the Year, Mary Vincitorio.

Space Usage Update – Superintendent Gilbert noted that additional room changes would not be necessary. In an effort to better serve students, both in proximity and sound, strategic space restructuring in the coming year will include housing three teachers in the North Language Arts room, relocation of the Book Room and Health Teacher as well as the swapping of the north Music room with one of the South resource rooms.

BRS Update – Ms. Prisco noted the 6<sup>th</sup> grade graduation, the school-wide read, the school-wide field day, summer curriculum work and the sharing of that work at the professional development days in August when staff returns.

TAG Presentation – Ms. Mammen stated that under CSDE mandates, students are only required to be identified. Previously, our process was comprised of referrals from teachers and/or parents and identification was determined through assessments and the PPT process. In the coming year, all students in Grade 3 will be assessed using CoGAT testing with students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 only by referral. Any student identified previously as TAG, will be grandfathered. In addition, the process will be an integrated approach inclusive of Math, Language Arts and STEAM with the Library Media Specialists providing programming. It was suggested that this process change be communicated in the principal’s newsletter, student handbook as well as the web site.

Wellness/Tools for Schools/Beautification Committees – Ms. Prisco provided an overview of the work the committee achieved during the year inclusive of recycling, composting, and promotion of daily alternative food options for lunch and celebrations. Committee membership is comprised of Board members, administration, teachers, parents, nursing, custodial and cafeteria personnel. This committee meets monthly and continues to create a school environment that promotes health and well-being of students and staff.

The Tools for School Committee focus is on indoor air quality and how we improve the air quality for everyone concerned. Annual inspections are conducted with a representative from the Quinpiack Valley Health District.

As part of the work of the Beautification Committee, all permanent artwork in the building has been labeled, new curtains in the South Assembly Room were installed, matching chairs for the Rotunda and new shades in the Cafeteria were also purchased.

Educator Evaluation and Professional Learning Plan – The original plan was developed by the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee, comprised of representation by classroom teachers, specialists and administration. The changes presented are minimal and have received approval by the CSDE. The plan is comprehensive and differentiates support for both new and experienced teachers as well as experienced teachers new to Beecher. It was questioned whether student SBAC growth targets are part of the individual teacher evaluation process. It was noted that standardized testing is not required as part of the 45% evaluation summation.

**MOTION #3 – EDUCATOR EVALUATION AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PLAN**

Move that we adopt the Educator Evaluator and Professional Learning Plan as revised for submission to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Dr. Fleischman  
Second by Ms. Piascyk  
**UNANIMOUS**

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – Panorama Survey Results – it was requested that neutral comments not be included in “favorable” and certain questions rephrased to generate more accurate data. It was noted that questions are consistent from year to year in order to attain consistent data comparisons and changing the wording would negate prior year comparisons.

Facilities Committee – Ms. Coleman reviewed the June 10 meeting including review of summer HVAC plans, pool maintenance and process refinement for equipment maintenance.

Finance Committee – Dr. Fleischman presented the reconciliation of the 2019/20 budget based on reductions made by the Town Boards of Selectmen and Finance.

**MOTION #4 – 2019/20 BUDGET RECONCILIATION**

Move that we approve the reconciliation of the 2019/20 Operating Budget as presented by administration.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Genovese

**UNANIMOUS**

*Policy Committee* – Ms. Genovese presented policies for adoption that were presented for 30-day review at the May 21, 2019 regular meeting.

**MOTION #5 – POLICIES FOR ADOPTION**

Move that we adopt Policies 0200-Board Goals, 0410-Affirmative Action Plan / 4111.1 Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified Recruitment and Selection, 0500-Comprehensive Improvement Plans/Schedules / 0522-Educational Evaluation and Remedial Assistance Plan, 0521-Nondiscrimination, 3160-Transfer of Funds Between Categories and 3324.1-Contracts, Affirmative Action, Ordering Goods and Services as presented and revised.

Ms. Genovese

Second by Ms. Piascyk

**UNANIMOUS**

*CABE Liaison* – Ms. Genovese urged Board members to attend the CABE Summer Leadership Conference on August 7 as well as completion of the anonymous survey for Board members and Superintendents.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Dr. Fleischman apprised the Board that action on both the CSEA and Business Manager Contracts would be deferred until after Executive Session.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Mr. Cowen noted that leaving windows open could potentially create mold conditions as well as excess energy usage.

The Board entered Executive Session to discuss the recently negotiated settlement with the CSEA Union and the 2019/20 contract for the Business Manager.

**MOTION #6 – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Move that we enter Executive Session (8:22 PM).

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Genovese

**UNANIMOUS**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Dr. Steven Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Maeghan Genovese, Secretary; Ms. Claire Coleman, Mr. Garrett Luciani and Ms. Lynn Piascyk.

**STAFF:** Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; Al Pullo, Director of Business Services/Operations.

**MOTION #7 – PUBLIC SESSION**

Move that we return to Public Session (9:17 PM).

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Coleman

**UNANIMOUS**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Dr. Steven Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Maeghan Genovese, Secretary; Ms. Claire Coleman, Mr. Garrett Luciani and Ms. Lynn Piascyk.

**STAFF:** Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; Al Pullo, Director of Business Services/Operations.

**MOTION #8 – CSEA CONTRACT RATIFICATION**

Move that we ratify the contract with the CSEA SEIU Local 2001 effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022 as presented and amended.

Dr. Fleischman  
Second by Ms. Piascyk  
**UNANIMOUS**

The Board deferred action on the Business Manager contract to the July 15, 2019 regular meeting.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** (9:23 PM)  
Ms. Hamilton  
Second by Dr. Fleischman  
**UNANIMOUS**

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board