

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, May 16, 2017
Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the Public Session to order (7:04 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Dr. Steve Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Lisa Connor, Secretary; Ms. Karen Kravetz; Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Nancy Maasbach, Ms. Keri Matthews, Ms. Emily Melnick and Ms. Lynn Piascyk.

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Aimee Meacham, PTO; Elizabeth Heagney, Teresa Nakouzi, Sandy Simowitz, BRS Staff; Harley, Melissa and Ben, BRS students and their family members; Pua Ford, Maegan Genovese, Marge Kanyusik, Johannes Vultee, community.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Matthews

UNANIMOUS

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Connor noted two letters were received regarding the budget process and reductions: one from BRS special education teachers and one from a community member.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

REPORTS

PTO Update – Ms. Meacham apprised the Board of the Book Swap and Artsweek happening May 22-26 with Family Night on the 25th and BRS Quassy Night on June 1.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Gilbert highlighted finalization of the 2017/18 budget process and changes in health insurance coverage, the election of new Board members, teacher/staff appreciation week, the upcoming Board Retreat, completion of SBAC testing, the disbanding of the Cafeteria Task Force and merging into the Wellness Committee, and several BRS community events inclusive of the 45th anniversary of Bethwood Baseball, the Extended Day Family Dinner and a memorial request from several teachers.

BRS Report – Ms. Prisco acknowledged staff/teacher appreciation week, the spring concert, the MAG Feast, the New Haven Art Exhibition on Sunday, May 21 and reminded parents to pay close attention to the *Principal Updates* for numerous end-of-year events.

Student Council Update – Student presenters, Harley, Melissa and Ben shared various community and outreach events as well as assorted fund raising activities conducted throughout the year by Student Council. A sincere thank you was extended to Ms. Nakouzi, Ms. Heagney and Ms. Greene for volunteering to serve as staff advisors. It was suggested that Student Council explore prospects that could rejuvenate the environmental steward program.

Strategic Plan Update – Superintendent Gilbert, Ms. Prisco, Ms. Sherman and Ms. Kennedy outlined various aspects related to the implementation of the new Strategic Plan. The plan encompasses five primary goals:

1. The District will ***promote rigorous 21st century academic and social skill standards/expectations*** that will enable students to be successful collaborators, critical and creative thinkers, contributing citizens and life- long learners.

2. The District will *provide a student centered and personalized learning environment* that promotes innovation, creativity, choice, independence, growth and student ownership.
3. The District will *provide professional learning to all faculty and staff* as it relates to and supports student learning, development and continuous improvement.
4. The District will *build partnerships, promote and celebrate the diversity and multi-dimensional aspects of school, local, regional and global community.*
5. The District will *maximize the efficiencies of systems and resources* that support students in reaching high levels of learning and growth.

A wide-range of stakeholders are vested in the process. As part of our PLC (*Professional Learning Communities*) curriculum collaboration, we have developed an integrated assessment matrix with Math/Language Arts as well as an inquiry, discovery based curriculum in Science. SRBI (school resource based intervention), a multi-tiered approach to support struggling students across all academic areas, is also in place and currently under further review for enhancement. Project Based Learning will be piloted with the Grade 5 team while curriculum compacting and clusters in Math will be targeted for Grade 3 with school-wide enrichment activities applied across various grade levels at a future time. The overall objective is to make informed decisions that will formulate longitudinal assessments on student learning. Gradual implementation with small groups results in greater success as we are able to evaluate what works and what does not prior to full deployment. We will continue our efforts in data collection assessments to further define professional development resources in support of the identified strategies for broad implementation. Further, two additional committees have been formed – one on cultural diversity and the other on building aesthetics. These committees will commence in the summer/fall and all stakeholders are invited to participate.

It was suggested that the Board receive implementation timelines prior to full dissemination / implementation. Also, perhaps Goal 1 could be refined to include preparation for a different world over the next 10 years. There are many innovative and creative ideas surfacing around the country and abroad that will push and explode boundaries. We should be looking beyond local and town experiences to guide us.

Facilities Committee –Ms. Kravetz noted this committee met just prior to the Board meeting. The committee received updates on closing out the building upgrade project, sustainability initiatives and aesthetic improvements regarding building and grounds as well as Tools for Schools. Based on the recommendation provided by the BRS Town Building Committee, the BRS building upgrade project will be closed out as complete.

MOTION #2 – BRS BUILDING PROJECT COMPLETION

Move that we accept the BRS Building Upgrade Project as complete as recommended by the BRS Town Building Committee based on their final review of Project 167-0025 A/RR/EC and in accordance with the charge authorized by the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen on November 6, 2011.

Dr. Fleischman
 Second by Ms. Kravetz
UNANIMOUS

Ms. Kravetz also indicated the committee reviewed a teacher memorial request to place a sundial with a plaque in the courtyard shared between the Grade 3 wing and the Kindergarten classrooms. It was suggested that, in accordance with Board of Education policy, a committee be formed to review the request and provide a recommendation to the Board.

Finance Committee –The Committee met on May 8 to review the monthly financials approved under the Consent Agenda as well as the 2017/18 program budgets for Summer Enrichment, Extended Day and School Lunch.

MOTION #3 – 2017/18 SUMMER ENRICHMENT BUDGET

Move that we approve the 2017/18 Summer Enrichment budget as presented by administration.

Dr. Fleischman
 Second by Ms. Matthews
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #4 – 2017/18 EXTENDED DAY BUDGET

Move that we approve the 2017/18 Extended Day budget as presented by administration.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Matthews
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #5 – 2017/18 CAFETERIA BUDGET

Move that we approve the 2017/18 Cafeteria budget as presented by administration.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Matthews
UNANIMOUS

CABE Liaison – Ms. Connor apprised the Board of the Legislative Wrap-Up session in Hartford at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, June 13.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations

TriState Update – An update will be presented on the March 27 follow-up visit of six educators regarding progress made in Math. It was requested that in addition to the update, specifics be provided for what services, resources, professional development etc. will not occur as a result of the recent budget reduction for the 2017/18 school year.

Tools for School – The Board will receive the Annual Report.

It was also noted that a Special Meeting will be scheduled sometime in June for the evaluation of the Superintendent.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kennedy presented the annual IDEA Grant. This grant supports students with special needs through the use of alternative materials, strategies, visual aids and assistive technology to improve and promote successful student outcomes.

MOTION #6 – 2017/18 IDEA GRANT

Move that we approve the 2017/18 IDEA Grant as presented for submission to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Matthews
UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:47 PM)
Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Matthews
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board