

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, January 16, 2018
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. Steve Fleischman, Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Ms. Lynn Piascyk and Mr. John Vultee.

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; 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: Joi Prud'homme, PTO; Teresa Nakouzi, WEA; Gregory Davis and Pua Ford, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

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

Ad Hoc Class Size Committee – As agreed in August, the Board established a committee to review “best practices” for elementary school class sizes in comparable districts and to present its findings to the Board upon conclusion of their review. The review should be concluded by the end of the 2017/18 school year. Any changes that could potentially have budget impact will be implemented in the 2019/2020 school year. All other changes could be slated for implementation in the fall of the 2018/19 school year. Board members interested in serving on this committee should contact the Board Clerk.

MOTION #2 – AD HOC CLASS SIZE COMMITTEE

Move that we establish the Ad Hoc Class Size Committee with a membership inclusive of Superintendent, Administrator, (3) Board Members, (2) teacher reps, (1) non-certified, (1) community and with a *Committee Charge to review current class sizes in comparable districts, current research on best practices regarding class size and make a recommendation to the Board.*

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Piascyk

UNANIMOUS

PTO Update – Ms. Prud'homme noted the very successful Book Fair, the upcoming Bingo Night for Grades 4, 5 and 6, the Spring Book Fair April 9-13, the Book Swap May 14-18, Arts Week May 21-25, the Quassy Family Night on May 31 and future planning for a parent social.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Gilbert apprised the Board on the 2018/19 Budget presentation to the joint Boards of Selectmen and Finance on January 23, the recent appointment Vito Esparo as Facilities Manager, the interview schedule for a new Special Services Director, mandated sexual harassment/assault training for staff and students in January, reduction of the current deficit in the operating budget to \$99,852, the burst pipe and the changeover to one vendor to provide both maintenance and service for HVAC system controls.

Parent / Safe Climate Survey – Superintendent Gilbert apprised the Board on the consolidation of the Safe School Climate Survey into the Parent Survey. Districts are required to conduct a school climate survey every 2-3 years, similar to the same time-frame for the Parent Survey. Since the Parent Survey includes all the pertinent data, an additional question pertaining to “school climate” will be added. A shorter age-appropriate survey will also be developed for staff and students. Having one vendor conduct all the surveys will provide consistency and continuity as well as specific tailoring to BRS.

BRS Report – Ms. Prisco noted upcoming Kindergarten conferences, universal screening and the mandated training for students and staff on sexual harassment/assault beginning January 24.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Vultee reviewed the January 16 meeting held just prior to the Public Session. The Committee reviewed specifics related to the burst pipe and agreed to postpone the proposed tour of the BRS grounds by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance until the spring.

Finance Committee – At the January 8 meeting, the committee reviewed the monthly financials approved under the consent agenda. The 2018/19 Budget presentation to the joint Boards of Selectmen and Finance will occur on Tuesday, January 23.

Policy Committee – Ms. Hamilton noted that the committee met on January 9 and reviewed the policies accepted under the consent agenda for 30-day review. At the February 13 meeting, the committee will continue its discussion on the Homework policy.

Curriculum Committee – Ms. Piascyk provided an overview on the January 11 meeting which included a presentation on responsive classroom and the first part of the Social Emotional series – TAG identification process. The February meeting will spotlight the second part of the Social Emotional series. It was agreed that given the significance of the Responsive Classroom initiative, the full Board should receive a similar presentation at their February meeting. It was noted that 11 faculty members are not currently trained. It was suggested that given the significance of funding attached to this initiative, a metric be developed to assess the investment against desired outcomes and benefits gained.

Community Lecture Series – No Report

ACES Liaison – No Report

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese noted the Alliance District Roundtable, the January 24 workshop on social media, the February Legal Roundtable, the annual NSBA Advocacy Institute which will be held in Washington, DC and *Journal* articles on the decline of expulsions, the opioid epidemic, new board member orientation and healing a divided nation.

UPCOMING MEETING PRESENTATION(S)

Based on recent information provided by the CSDE, the Accountability Report will not be ready for February. Summer Program Coordination – an overview on slated changes for Recreation, Summer Enrichment and Extended Day programs will be highlighted as well as any changes in support of security/SRO.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

The Board entered Executive Session to conduct the mid-year evaluation of the Superintendent.

MOTION #3 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Move that we enter Executive Session (7:48 PM).

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Hamilton

UNANIMOUS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Dr. Steve Fleischman, Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Ms. Lynn Piascyk and Mr. John Vultee.

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent.

MOTION #4 – PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (8:25 PM).

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Ms. Genovese

UNANIMOUS

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:25 PM)

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Piascyk

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board