

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, February 26, 2018
Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order (7:00 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Claire Coleman (7:12 PM); Dr. Steve Fleischman, Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Nancy Maasbach, Vice Chair; Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Mr. Paul Testa 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: Joseph DePalma, Peter and Grace Halsey, Teresa Nakouzi, Teachers; Cheryl Mammen, Pua Ford and Salem (Alane) Vouras community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ms. Vouras raised concerns on the overcrowding occurring on Bus Route 38. Students are three to a seat and with enrollment on the rise, it is hoped that adjustments will be made next year to alleviate having 66 students being assigned to a bus.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Piascyk

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

PTO Update – No Report

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Gilbert apprised the Board on safety and security measures in light of the tragedy in Florida, reductions to the 2018/19 Capital Budget submission by the Board of Selectmen on February 20, appointment of the new Special Services Director, Cheryl Mammen, relocation of classes to their original homerooms, mandated sexual abuse training for students and staff, commencement of the Town Ad Hoc Committee regarding the burst pipe, changes in the Kindergarten Orientation/Registration process, the upcoming Read Across America program, the BOWA dinner and play, and snow make-up days.

Ms. Coleman arrived (7:12 PM).

Responsive Classroom / Safe School Climate Update – Messrs. Halsey, DePalma and Ms. Halsey presented an overview of the Responsive Classroom initiative. RC is an evidence based approach with a focus on the relationship between academic success and social-emotional learning. The Core Belief integrates social/emotional competencies (cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy and self-control) with academic competencies – academic mindset, perseverance, learning strategies and academic behaviors and encompasses four domains that link and support: Engaging Academics, Positive Community, Developmentally Responsive Teaching and Effective Management. It is anticipated the 21 staff members not yet currently trained in RC will receive training during the summer. Questions were raised regarding the return on investment, whether this is the best fit for Beecher and how this program is measured against other programs. It was noted that is a philosophical approach that continues to build upon itself rather than a typical character education program. The focus is on teaching the whole child as well as changing the culture within a school. This program has also received endorsement from the CSDE as part of the Safe School Climate Plan. Since its implementation 12 years ago, the average cost is approximately \$2,500 per year for training and/or coaching.

Ms. Sherman provided an update on Safe School Climate inclusive of upcoming events – whole school field day, BKindness Week March 19-23, community spirit day and the spring survey. It was noted that this committee meets monthly and revises the Safe School Action Plan as deemed necessary. The current iteration of the Safe School Climate plan has deemed that some activities are now a part of the school’s best practices and no longer listed on the current plan inclusive of the Family Resource Team, Student Council, OWL Pals, Behavior Resource Team, PAL-parent training in PreK and DECA Training for community preschools. Implementation of the mandated state-wide curriculum, Project Teach, will now be added to the Safe School Climate Action Plan. It was suggested that consideration be given to incorporating annual workshops from the ADL as well.

Summer Program Update – Superintendent Gilbert noted the dates and times for each of the summer programs

Extended Day	June 25 – July 27	8:00 – 9:00 AM and 12:00 – 5:30 PM
Summer Enrichment Programs	June 25 – July 27	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Summer Scholar	July 2 – July 25	8:00 – 10:00 AM
Summer Special Education	July 2 – July 26	8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Woodbridge Recreation	June 25 – August 3	9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Information will be shared with parents shortly. In addition a 6% increase is being sought to cover the cost share for the SRO as well as wage increases which has not occurred for the last eight years. It was suggested that going forward an average cost of living increase be included annually to avoid incremental adjustments.

MOTION #2 – SEP/EXTENDED DAY INCREASE

Move that we authorize a 6% increase in fees for the Summer Enrichment Program and the Extended Day Program.

Dr. Fleischman
 Second by Ms. Maasbach
UNANIMOUS

BRS Report – Ms. Prisco highlighted Jump Rope for Heart, collaborative ventures with the Town Library on celebrating Lunar New Year for Grades 5 and 6 and the Olympics with *Babymouse Goes for the Gold* for Grades 3 and 4, a week of reading in honor of Read Across America, Kindergarten and Grade 1 activities marking the 100th day of school, the Grade 4 multicultural feast as well as the rope climbing trip to Jordan’s Furniture by student council members.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Vultee reviewed the February 26 meeting held just prior to the Public Session. The Committee reviewed specifics related to the burst pipe, received updates from the Town Ad Hoc Committee, reductions in capital project funding and subsequent impact as well as the Facilities Assessment that will be conducted on March 12. The next meeting is March 19 at 6:00 PM.

Finance Committee – Dr. Fleischman noted that at the February 12 meeting, the committee reviewed the monthly financials approved under the consent agenda.

Policy Committee – Ms. Maasbach presented three policies, currently under 30-day review, for adoption.

MOTION #3 – ADOPTION OF POLICIES 5113 (ATTENDANCE), 5113.2 (TRUANCY) AND 5144.1 (RESTRAINT/SECLUSION)

Move that we adopt Policies 5113 (Attendance), 5113.2 (Truancy) and 5144.1 (Restraint/Seclusion) as submitted.

Dr. Fleischman
 Second by Ms. Maasbach

The definition of “chronic absenteeism” was questioned. It was noted that this definition is mandated by the CSDE and defined in statute.

IN FAVOR: Ms. Coleman, Dr. Fleischman, Ms. Genovese, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Luciani,
 Ms. Maasbach, Ms. Piascyk and Mr. Vultee
 AGAINST: Mr. Testa

MOTION PASSES 8-1-0

Curriculum Committee – Ms. Piascyk provided an overview on the February 8 meeting which included a presentation on responsive classroom and the safe school climate update. There will be no March meeting. The next meeting is slated for April 12.

ACES Liaison – Ms. Hamilton indicated that since she was unable to make each meeting she resigned as the ACES Liaison as it was affecting having a quorum present. She will continue to attend these meetings as her schedule permits.

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese noted the March 7 CABE Day on the Hill, Alliance District Roundtable on February 28 and submission of proposals for the 2018/19 CABE/CAPSS Convention by March 5.

Upcoming Meeting Presentation – Accountability Report / Smarter Balance Information. It was suggested that a link be provided to Board members which details the specifics on what is included in the report.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Gilbert presented the 2017/18 Primary Mental Health Grant. This is an annual grant in support of Project Safe, which promotes a secure and friendly school environment as well as providing social emotional support for individual students.

MOTION #4 – PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH GRANT

Move that we approve the 2017/18 Primary Mental Health Grant for submission to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Genovese
UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:00 PM)
Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Hamilton
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board