

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, September 15, 2014

BRS Library Media Center

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Lisa Connor, Dr. Steven Fleischman, Vice Chair (7:20 PM); Matthew Gilbride, Dr. Chris Jaffe, Ms. Karen Kravetz (7:02 PM), Mr. Carl Lindskog, Ms. Keri Matthews, and Ms. Emily Melnick (7:02 PM).

STAFF: Dr. Guy Stella, Superintendent; Al Pullo, Director of Business Services/Operations; Gina Prisco, Principal; Nancy White, Assistant Principal; Sheila Haverkamp, Special Services Director and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Doug Tishbein, Paul Gandy, Matt Ward, ESG Contracting; John Rice, AKF Group; Laurence Grotheer, BOS Liaison; Stephanie Goldberg, Sandy Simowitz and Stephanie Wolfson, Teachers; Tim Kelley, PTO and Pua Ford, community.

BRS Building Upgrade Project – Mr. Rice outlined the CSDE requirements for project reimbursement related to A/C, mechanical and duct work. It is anticipated that approximately \$5 million of the project will qualify for the 20% reimbursement resulting in a savings of approximately \$1 million. In addition, a solar array panel will be installed under a power purchase agreement with CEFIA, (Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority), however, this component is ineligible for reimbursement.

MOTION #1 – EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS SUBMISSION

Move that we endorse the revised Educational Specifications for State Project *TMP167PJVK* for submission to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Mr. Gilbride

UNANIMOUS

Messrs. Tishbein, Gandy and Ward presented an overview of the work that was completed during the summer months. The hot water piping distribution system has been finished as well as new duct work for the A/C and heating system components. As a result of significant water damage through the years, a new roof was installed in the A-Wing over rooms A7 and A8. Cabinetry and ADA compliant sinks have been installed in classrooms along with new water saving fountains and toilets throughout the building. New mill and casement work for the window wall replacement has begun. It is anticipated that classrooms would be disrupted for one day out of the week.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #2 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Mr. Lindskog

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

PTO Report – Mr. Kelley noted the end-of-year-donation of \$18,000 to improve the handicap access to swings around the playground, the Back-to-School Luncheon for staff, preparation of the first day packet, the Ice Cream Social that raised \$1,200 – 1,500, picture day, the Harvest Hike on October 8 and the Halloween Hoot on October 18. It is anticipated that planning for grade level social nights will commence shortly.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Stella highlighted the building upgrade, summer programs, the return of staff and the collaboration, flexibility and cooperation of ESG, staff, faculty and community displayed by all to prepare the building to receive children.

BRS Update – Ms. Prisco noted the year is off to a good start. Accolades were expressed to staff for their flexibility during relocation challenges as well as the PTO volunteers who assisted in preparing the welcome back packets. It was noted that there has been minimal disruption to the education process, with classroom displacement occurring for only a single day.

World Language Presentation – Ms. Goldberg and Ms. Wolfson provided a synopsis on the World Language Program for how content area language integration, rubrics and assessment data are used to inform instruction to improve the overall quality of the program. The change from an exploratory to proficiency model has resulted in higher student achievement within each child's individual learning path. Suggestions were made to utilize the exit assessment annually in all grades levels, track the benefit of increased instruction time in Kindergarten/Grade 1 and adding instruction time in Grade 2.

Facilities Committee – Ms. Kravetz stated this committee met on September 4. In addition to the thorough update on the building upgrade provided earlier in the meeting the committee received an update on the rug replacement schedule. The meeting on October 2 will encompass a tour of the A-wing.

Policy Committee – Mr. Gilbride indicated this committee has completed the comprehensive policy manual review and will only meet on an as-needed basis.

Finance Committee – Mr. Lindskog apprised the Board that it does not appear there will be favorable variances in health insurance costs for absorbing fluctuating costs in the coming year. The committee requested that in the future demographic enrollment projections provided reflect local trends in the housing and real estate markets.

CABE Liaison – Ms. Connor noted the next workshop would be held in Meriden, October 1 on Special Education Law and the upcoming CABE/CAPSS Convention in November.

ACES Liaison – Ms. Hamilton asked that if any Board member was interested in serving as the liaison to contact her or the Superintendent's office.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – Ms. Hamilton noted that presentations at the next BOE meeting will be on Math and the Tri-State Consortium. If Board members have specific questions and/or information incorporated into the presentation, they should contact either her or Dr. Stella.

NEW BUSINESS

Certified Staff Appointment – Superintendent Stella presented a certified staff appointment for the 2014/15 school year.

MOTION #3 – CERTIFIED STAFF APPOINTMENT

Move that we ratify the certified staff appointment of Kevin McHugh at a salary of \$49,399, MA, Step 3 effective August 26, 2014.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Mr. Lindskog
UNANIMOUS

2014/15 BOE Goals – The Board reviewed the suggested goals for 2014/15.

MOTION #4 – 2014/15 WBOE GOALS

Move that we approve the 2014/15 WBOE as presented.

Mr. Lindskog
Second by Dr. Fleischman

No changes were made to World, Language, Math and Social/Emotional. PreSchool was eliminated entirely.

Differentiation - Concerns were raised regarding consistency in homework assignments, lack of guidelines on minimum and maximum amounts and variances within the grade level dependent upon individual staff members. The second bullet was modified to include “effective, existing” assessment tools.

Healthy Food – It was suggested that the goal be rephrased as what is currently written does not adequately capture what has been accomplished and whether a new approach was necessary. It was agreed it would be changed to “evaluate current food offerings, policies and practices”.

MOTION #4A – 2014/15 WBOE GOALS

Move that we approve the 2014/15 WBOE as amended.

Mr. Lindskog
Second by Mr. Gilbride
UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:08 PM)
Dr. Fleischman
Second by Mr. Lindskog
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board