

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Via WebEx <https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=me6595a310c82d04ca61efebba0665e77>

Meeting Number: 2496 825 4077

Meeting Password: gPcK8i5BpM7

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Dr. Jay Dahya; Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (7:19 PM); Dr. Lauren Francese; Mr. Jeff Hughes; Mr. Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair; Dr. Michael Strambler and Erin Williamson.

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; James Sapia, Assistant Principal; Cheryl Tafel, Assistant Principal; Carrie Borcharding, Special Services Director; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/Operations; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

Ms. Piascyk welcomed new Board member Dr. Lauren Francese who was recently appointed to fill the vacancy created by the election of Dr. Madonick to the Board of Selectmen.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – No Report

PTO Update – No Report

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Hughes

Second by Mr. Lawrence

UNANIMOUS

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Tencza provided an update on enrollment, the hiring of a Grade 6 staff member, and submission of the grant related to the roofing project. Superintendent Tencza apprised the Board on the request from the Board of Selectmen at their January 8 meeting regarding amending the 2025/30 Capital Budget submission to include portions of the Construction Solutions Group proposal as well as funding other portions from the current surplus in the 2023/24 budget. It was noted that the Board of Selectmen are fully aware that the funding of this project is a capital project. However, the Board is in a position to expedite the process by funding the first two phases (approximately \$20,000) through the current operating budget instead of having to wait until the late spring for funding to occur by the Board of Selectmen process.

Ms. Del Prete arrived (7:19 PM).

MOTION #2 – BUILDING NEEDS AND SPACE PLANNING PROPOSAL

Move that we approve the Building Needs and Space Planning Proposal as presented and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract with CSG (Construction Solutions Group) and to fund Phase 1 and II from the 2023/24 Operating Budget.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Mr. Hughes

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #3 – 2025/30 CAPITAL BUDGET

Move that we amend the 2025/30 Capital Budget 2025/30 Capital Budget to include the costs associated with Phases III-V of the Building Needs and Space Planning Proposal from CSG (Construction Solutions Group).

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Dr. Dahya

UNANIMOUS

Special Education Update – Currently, the BRS overall student population is 876 with approximately 18 PK students, 113 students receiving special education services and 56 students serviced by 504. Staffing is inclusive of approximately 26 teachers/related service individuals and 25 paraeducators. Eligibility for services is determined through the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process. Questions were raised regarding student / staffing ratios, the number of supervisory evaluations, physical space constraints and programming needs.

BRS Update – Ms. Sherman noted the hosting of two students (Grade 1 and Kindergarten) who were the recipients of a Hoot auction item as BRS Principal for ½ a day and the review of state approved resources, protocols and rubrics by the literacy team as it pertains to the reading waiver denial. Assistant Principal Sapia noted the collaboration of the PE/Health Teacher and Officer Lynch in the revamp of the DARE program and the inclusion of student choice / voice in the process as well as the creation of a culminating year end activity. Targeted health mandates and the DARE decision-making model create a natural alliance of objectives within the classroom. Ms. Tafel noted the recent deployment of the new streamlined dismissal app *PikMyKid* with approximately 89% of parents participating in the initial rollout. The program allows for daily dismissal updates. It was suggested that proven effective evidence-based programs be explored and an update on the DARE program be provided to the Curriculum Committee or the full Board at a future meeting.

Town Building Committee Update – Mr. Hughes noted that the roofing project is moving forward with funding approved at the special Town meeting on January 8, 2024.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Hughes noted this Committee met on January 4 and received a facilities update on a variety of projects. A working session was held with a representative from Van Zelm on January 11 to review various aspects of the HVAC air quality report. It is anticipated Van Zelm will disseminate the official report shortly. Given the limited number of consultants available to perform this service, this district is fortunate to have this work completed in compliance with the CSDE mandate.

CABE Liaison Report – No report

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence reviewed the January 9 meeting inclusive of the standard monthly reports. With approximately half the year expended, it appears there will be a projected surplus. As suggested by the Board of Selectmen, the funding for the CSG project voted on earlier will be incorporated into the 2023/24 budget.

Policy Committee – Ms. Piascyk presented the two policies currently under 30-day review for approval.

MOTION #4 – POLICY ADOPTION – 9132.4 FINANCE COMMITTEE

Move that we adopt Policy 9132.4 as revised.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Dr. Strambler

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #5 – POLICY ADOPTION – 3515 OPERATIONS USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Move that we adopt Policy 3515 as revised.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Dr. Dahya

UNANIMOUS

CABE Report – Ms. Del Prete noted the attendance of several board members at the CABE Legislative Breakfast on January 11 and the upcoming advocacy webinar on January 24. Chair Piascyk presented a draft letter prepared by Ms. Williamson regarding the significant dollars the district could incur as a result of the reading waiver denial by the CSDE. The letter requests that districts, such as Woodbridge, who are maintaining high levels of academic performance as

validated by student performance ratings / scores be excluded from having to spend millions of dollars to purchase one of the seven CSDE approved reading curriculums. There was consensus from Board members that the letter should be signed by the full Board and sent to members of the legislative short session by the end of the week.

Upcoming Meeting Presentation – Math and Kindergarten Entrance Legislation.

Upcoming WBOE Committee / Meeting Schedule – Curriculum Committee on February 1 at 4:00 PM, Policy Committee on February 5 at 4:30 PM, Finance Committee on February 13 at 4:30 PM, the WBOE Capital Budget presentation to the BOS / BOF on January 25 at 7:00 PM and the regular WBOE Regular Meeting February 26 at 7:00 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Tencza presented two certified staff retirement notifications. Ms. MacDonald has been with BRS for 23 years serving as a Grade 3 teacher as well as a senior member of the Literacy team and Ms. Golden has served for 35 years initially as a Grade 5 teacher and then primarily in the MAG program.

MOTION #6 – CERTIFIED STAFF RETIREMENT (MACDONALD)

Move that we accept the retirement of Monique MacDonald effective June 30, 2024 with regret.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Mr. Lawrence

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #7 – CERTIFIED STAFF RETIREMENT (GOLDEN)

Move that we accept the retirement of Louise Golden effective June 30, 2024 with regret.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Dr. Francese

IN FAVOR: Ms. Piascyk, Ms. Del Prete, Dr. Francese, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Lawrence, Dr. Strambler and
Ms. Williamson

AGAINST: Dr. Dahya

MOTION PASSES 7-1-0

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:20 PM)

Mr. Hughes

Second by Dr. Dahya

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board