MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Monday, August 17, 2026
Town Hall Main Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Lawrence, called the meeting to order (7:04 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Lawrence, Chair; Lynn Piascyk, Vice Chair; Sarah Beth Del Prete, (Secretary); Jackie Cappiello; Jeff Hughes; Dr. Michael Strambler; Saurabh Vilekar.and Erin Williamson.

STAFF: Christopher Montini, Superintendent; Cheryl Tafel, Assistant Principal; Matthew Madruga, Assistant Principal; Carrie Borcherding, Special Services Director; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/Operations; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented. (*Cappiello/Del Prete* ***Unanimous)***

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Montini noted enrollment is currently at 834, slightly lower than last year (839) at this time. Recent hires include two (2) sped paras, one (1) permanent building sub with two para vacancies remaining. IT and Facilities have been quite busy as the phone system server crashed during one of the rain storms, iPad replacements have been delayed due to shipment / delivery challenges, whiteboard and copier installations have been completed with all educational spots fully operational. It is anticipated phones will be up and running by the end of the week. The visitor management system has been upgraded to expedite the visitor check-in process. Procedure changes will be communicated once the system is finalized. The Kindergarten bus ride / orientation is Monday, August 24, the staff welcome back breakfast is August 25 and early release days for students are August 31 and September 1.

Summer Programming Updates
SEP – Jeannie Ciarleglio, SEP Director, provided an overview of the 5-week program which had an enrollment participation of 623 between morning and afternoon sessions and raising approximately $12,500. This year the program returned to a 5 day week with 55 course offerings inclusive of cooking, 3D printing, Battlebots, wacky/wild Science, legos, digital photography, microwave cakes, movie makers etc.

ESY – Carrie Borcherding, SpEd Director, outlined the identification process for delivery of services for students who require additional supports as part of their IEP based on behavioral needs, continued progress or severity of disability. Approximately, 47% of the BRS sped population qualifies for ESY with approximately 90% of eligible students attending. The program utilizes both general ed and sped teachers, runs 4 days per week for 5 weeks. Staffing numbers have remained fairly consistent and is based on student needs.

BRS Update – Ms. Tafel highlighted the summer curriculum work in intermediate grades Science and Social Studies to align with core standards and objectives and to interconnect them with Reading/Language Arts. For the 20267/27 school year, both Grades 5 and 6 have increased sections. Staffing adjustments include additional sections in Kindergarten, Grades 3, 5 and 6 and the hiring of two additional sped teachers.

BRS Building Committee – Ms. Piascyk noted this committee was recommending the construction of a new facility based on interconnecting reasons ---

- the building was constructed in 1960/1970's and requires massive repairs in infrastructure;
- the existing building does not have enough classrooms to meet current student needs nor accommodate the student population and the student population is expected to continue to grow;
- the building is not ADA nor energy compliant, has 16 different elevation levels and would require $30-60 million to keep the facility open over the next several years;
- building a new building offers 50% reimbursement from the CSDE thus reducing the $118 Million price tag to approximately $50-60 million, addresses all the identified issues and challenges with the cost bonded over 20 years.

Based on the Town Charter, the referendum will require a 2/3 approval vote and will be the only question on the ballot. Should it not pass on the first round, a 2nd referendum will be held that requires a 50% approval. This process was followed for the new firehouse and town library. To help inform the community, public forums and tours have been conducted, a website created and newsletters mailed to all households. Board members are encouraged to attend the Open Houses and Ice Cream Social to speak with parents in support of this project.

Finance Committee – The 2025/26 budget will return approximately $37,000 to the Town as ESY charges were charged back to assist with the chiller repair in the 2026/27 budgeting. Purchases with the 2025/26 surplus include classroom and STEAM supplies, two snow blowers, upgraded ADE devices, 24 bikes as part of the Kindergarten *Kids are Rolling Bikes* program and Grade 3 iPads.

Chiller Repair – Since August 2025, one of the chiller drives has experienced a persistent failure, leaving the chiller operating at approximately 50% capacity. The chillers have been repaired / refurbished multiple times. Unfortunately, those repairs have not been successful. The manufacturer determined that continued refurbishment is not a reliable long-term solution and recommended replacement through a special R'Newal/ remanufactured drive program. The cost to replace both chiller drives is approximately $56,000 including a one-year warranty, which is equivalent to the warranty provided with the standard replacement option. This represents a savings of approximately $84,000 compared to the estimated $140,000 cost of replacing both drives through Trane's standard process and provides a proactive solution to an ongoing equipment reliability issue.

MOTION #2 – CHILLER REPAIR Move that we authorize the Administration to proceed with the replacement of both Automatic Frequency Drives on the District's Trane Stealth chiller through Trane's R'Newal program at an approximate cost of $56,000, and further authorize an exception to the competitive negotiation requirement pursuant to the District's purchasing procedures for equipment service contracts. (*Lawrence/Williamson* ***Unanimous***)

Chair Lawrence reviewed the 2027/28 Proposed Budget Calendar, which will allow for completion of the budget process prior to the holiday break.

Policy Committee – Ms. Williamson presented the policies currently under 30-day review for adoption.

MOTION #3 – POLICY ADOPTION Move that we adopt Policies 3000, 3100, 3150, 3250, 3280, 3434 and 3510 as submitted. (*Williamson/Piascyk* ***Unanimous***)

MOTION #4 – REVISED POLICY ADOPTION Move that we adopt Policies 3160, 3170, 3260, 3313, 3320, 3321, 3324.1, 3326 and 3560 as revised. (*Williamson/Hughes* ***Unanimous***)

CABE Liaison Report – Sarah Beth will attend delegate assembly.

Upcoming Meetings / Presentations Finance – September 8 at 4:30 PM; Facilities – September 3 at 7:30 AM, BRS Building Committee is 7:30 PM August 18 at Town Hall; Community Forum August 29 at 1:00 PM Library Community Room, Policy Committee is September 28 at 4:30 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

2026/27 Board Goals – Chair Lawrence reviewed the Board Goals developed at the Board Retreat in July.

MOTION #5 – BOARD GOALS Move that we adopt the 2026/27 Goals as presented. (*Lawrence/Hughes* ***Unanimous***)

Class Size Discussion – Superintendent Montini reviewed the current Class Size Guidelines and the current enrollment. There is a "hot spot" in Grade 1. Based on current numbers and historical data, should an additional section not be added, there could be class sizes exceeding the range of 19. It is preferable for student learning that if it is necessary to hire an additional teacher it should be prior to the start of the 2026/27 school year rather than during the school year. Based on staffing / hiring adjustments, there would be minimal impact on the budget.

MOTION #6 ADDITIONAL TEACHING POSITION Move that the Superintendent be authorized to add an additional full-time elementary teaching position for the 2026/27 school year. (*Lawrence/Cappiello* ***No Vote***)

It was suggested that as student numbers remain unknown that the decision be left to the Superintendent.

<u>AMENDED MOTION #6A</u> Move that should it become necessary the Superintendent be authorized to add an additional full-time elementary teaching position for 2026/27 school year. (*Lawrence/Hughes* ***Unanimous***)

<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 9:29 PM (*Hughes/Cappiello* **Unanimous**)

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board