MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Monday, October 19, 2026
Town Hall Main Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Lawrence, called the meeting to order (7:02 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Lawrence, Chair; Lynn Piascyk, Vice Chair; Jackie Cappiello, Megan Conatser, Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (7:03 PM); Jeff Hughes; Dr. Michael Strambler; Saurabh Vilekar.and Erin Williamson.

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

CORRESPONDENCE – Correspondence received is available and viewable in BoardBook.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

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

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Montini apprised the Board on enrollment, the screening process for background checks on volunteers, commencement of the 2027/28 budget process, and finalization of the Title Entitlement Grants in collaboration with Ezra Academy.

School Breakfast Pilot Program – Jessica Hill, Cafeteria Supervisor, indicated that in response to the initiative announced the Governor, we will pilot this program beginning either November 2 or December 1 from 8:20 to 8:40 AM. Upon arrival, participating students will proceed directly to the Café and then their classrooms. Supervision will be provided by existing staff, and will impact wages with an increase of 1 ¼ hours per day per staff member. As with the lunch program, items served will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards.

Open Choice – Open Choice is an inter-district public school program intended to improve academic achievement; reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation; and provide a choice of educational programs for public school students. The program allows children from Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport to voluntarily attend school in other districts that have space in their schools. (Danbury and Norwalk are pilot programs). Participating districts receive reimbursement from the CSDE for transportation services. Participation in this program aligns with the WSD mission of equity, excellence, and belonging; and advances the district's vision of preparing flexible, lifelong learners and responsible global citizens. Superintendent Montini presented a 10-year history and the impact this program has had on increasing diversity in Woodbridge. Currently, Woodbridge has 18 available slots, with one vacant slot for the 2027/28 school year. The vote on the slot allocation for the 2027/28 school year will occur at the November 16 meeting.

SBA Presentation – Mr. Madruga and Ms. Tafel presented an overview for how the assessment is conducted as well as the results from spring testing. SBA is a mandated global assessment aligned to common core standards with testing done completely on-line. SBA measures students' progress/attainment of knowledge and skill and accurately describes student achievement and growth of their individual trajectory. It is a multiple choice Q&A computer adaptive test that adjusts for each student depending upon the answer(s) selected. While SBA testing is only one measurement of a snapshot in time, it does provide helpful information in determining strengths and weaknesses in guiding daily instruction. An in-depth analysis is performed on each of the content data areas by BRS data teams to ascertain individual student growth targets and expected growth levels, cohort growth as well as vertical strengths and weakness that inform and guide instruction not only in individual classrooms but across grade levels as well.

As in past years, overall students performed well with Woodbridge ranking second (2^{nd}) in DRG B for both English/Language Arts and Math. The overall scores for students in Woodbridge (*DRG B*) meeting or exceeding the state standard were ELA (English/ Language Arts) – 80.7 % *(State Average 51 %)* and in Math – 80.3% (*State Average 46.7 %)* and Grade 5 Next Generation of Science – 83.5% (*State Average 66.7 %).* The Growth Rate for students that met or exceeded their individual growth targets as determined by the CT Growth Model were: ELA (English/Language Arts) – 77.5% *(1^{st} in DRG)* and Math – 80.2% (*2^{nd} in DRG)*. It was noted that over the last several years there has been a

continued dip in Grade 5 scores for Math / ELA and Growth, what the cause might be and if the data is able to pinpoint specific patterns, etc. Questions were raised relative to how the BRS data is actually used to determine growth, what the process looks like, are there similar patterns in other assessment tests such as STAR / tools / universal screens and assessing student / classroom trends in addition to the school as a whole. More in-depth dialogue will continue at the December 2 Curriculum Committee.

BRS Update – Ms. Sherman noted Picture Day, the upcoming Halloween Hoot, the BRS News kick-off, the bus evacuation drill in conjunction with the bus driver breakfast next week, the annual fire truck visit and the new kiosk sign-in. Mandated teacher evaluation meetings to establish goals/objectives for the coming year have begun. Students are participating in AAC Awareness Month (*individuals who use methods other than traditional speech to communicate*) through morning announcements.

BRS Building Committee – Chair Lawrence noted the Building Committee would meet tomorrow to review the outcome of the recent referendum and to define next steps. It is important that the BOE partner with administration to think creatively on how to address space concerns that were paused during the referendum process. It was suggested that a special meeting be convened with Vito in attendance to brainstorm and identify immediate challenges/infrastructure needs, identification of what can be addressed now and what could be addressed through the capital budget process as well as a review of the Ed Specs. A capital budget discussion will also be part of the Facilities Committee agenda on November 5.

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Strambler reviewed the October 7 meeting, which focused on the Social Studies curriculum, its alignment with Amity and incorporation of additional curriculum resources possibly through HMH. The December 2 meeting will delve into SBA.

Finance Committee – Chair Lawrence reviewed the October 8 meeting noting that we currently have a $100,000 deficit due to a recent out-of-district placement in SpEd.

Policy Committee – Ms. Williamson reviewed each of the policy changes accepted under the Consent Agenda.

CABE Liaison – Ms. Del Prete reminded the Board of the upcoming CABE/CAPPS conference on November 20/21, the Delegate Assembly on November 19 and the Leadership Conference on December 10.

Upcoming Meetings – the November 16 regular meeting will include an update/program review on Multi-Language Learners, the 2027/28 draft calendar and capital budget requests. Committee meetings are Facilities on November 5 at 7:30 AM and Finance on November 9 at 4:30 PM.

NEW BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 9:03 PM (*Cappiello / Hughes* **Unanimous**)

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board