

MINUTES OF THE HYBRID REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, December 18, 2023

Via WebEx <https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=mcfbc5ee1fdb2a15492f25bb6256d62a9>

Meeting Number: 2483 376 6506 Meeting Password: EMbYBpgq553

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the meeting to order (7:06 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair (in-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (remote); Dr. Jay Dahya (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (remote); Mr. Steven Lawrence, (in-person), Dr. Michael Strambler (in-person) and Erin Williamson (in-person).

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.

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Piascyk acknowledged receipt of an email from a BRS parent regarding Advanced Math.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Hall spoke regarding the Advanced Math and the spotty implementation of enrichment for Grade 6 students. What is being done differently this year with implementation of the new criteria and what is slated for next year. With only a handful of students serviced, this is not a sustained program nor is it one for future years.

Cindy Kruger – there are curriculum issues with both Math and Reading and there needs to be better communication to parents on a regular basis.

PTO Update – Ms. Kruger noted the written report in [BoardBook](#) inclusive of various program offerings, budget updates, executive board members and volunteers.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Madonick

Second by Mr. Lawrence

UNANIMOUS

Board Member Recognition – Superintendent Tencza and Ms. Piascyk acknowledged the numerous contributions of Dr. Madonick as this was her last meeting since her recent election to the Board of Selectmen. Dr. Madonick was very active in the PTO prior to her election to the WBOE in July of 2021. During this time, Dr. Madonick served as Vice Chair, Chair of the Policy and Ad Hoc Enrollment, Instructional Needs and Space Planning Committees and a member of the Finance Committee. Dr. Madonick extended a sincere thank you to the Board for their collaboration during her tenure on the Board.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Tencza noted the primary focus in December has been on development of the 2024/25 budget proposal and minimal changes in enrollment.

2024/25 Calendar – Superintendent Tencza outlined the proposed calendar developed in collaboration with the BOWA districts. Amity asked BOW districts to add a full vacation week in February for the benefit of Amity student interns and BOA have unanimously agreed to a minimum day before the December holiday break. It was questioned why February vacation is not used for make-up days.

MOTION #2 – 2024/25 CALENDAR

Move that we approve the 2024/25 calendar as presented.

Dr. Dahya

Second by Dr. Madonick

UNANIMOUS

Building Needs and Space Planning Proposal – Superintendent Tencza reviewed the proposals for development of an RFP to address the enrollment and space issues. It was the recommendation of administration that Construction Solutions Group be the selected firm.

MOTION #3 – 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).

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Dr. Madonick

Questions were raised relative to what the differences were between the two proposals, phasing options, Town versus BOE financial responsibility, overall oversight of the project and ensuring that the project was approached from an educational perspective. Based on the discussion, the motion was amended.

MOTION #3A – BUILDING NEEDS AND SPACE PLANNING PROPOSAL

Move that we recommend to the Board of Selectmen retaining CSG (Construction Solutions Group) to conduct the preparation of a feasibility study RFQ/P with Ed Specs and Grant applications.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Dr. Madonick
UNANIMOUS

BRS Update – Ms. Sherman noted that in the coming year some classroom supplies will be ordered in bulk. Also noted were the creative solutions the Library / Media Specialist is using to manage the volume of books and maintaining order in the library, assorted professional development activities, CMEA regionals and the winter band/choir concerts. A new Grade 6 teacher has been hired and will start in January.

Town Building Committee Update – Ms. Coonan noted that the roofing and grounds projects were ratified by the Board of Selectmen and moved forward to the Board of Finance for action at their December 21 meeting. It is anticipated there will be a special town meeting for action on the roof and grounds projects on either January 3 or 4.

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Strambler reviewed the December 14 meeting inclusive of the Kindergarten age admission change to September 1, development of an assessment rubric encompassing social / language skills, literacy, numeracy, motor etc. as well as some level of parent input in process with communication disseminated to parents later this week. Also noted was the rejection of the reading waiver and moving the math update from January to February.

Policy Committee – Dr. Madonick reviewed the December 4 meeting inclusive of the two policies approved earlier on the Consent Agenda – the Finance Committee and Building Usage. We are awaiting guidance from the CSDE on Title IX and the safe school climate report which are slated for review in the spring.

CABE Liaison Report – No report

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence reviewed the December 12 meeting inclusive of the standard monthly reports. The 2025/30 Capital Budget Proposal reviewed at the November meeting was presented for approval.

MOTION #4 – 2025/30 CAPITAL BUDGET

Move that we approve the 2025/30 Capital Budget as presented on November 20, 2023 for submission to the Town for their consideration.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Ms. Williamson
UNANIMOUS

2024/25 Superintendent Operating Budget – It was noted that additional information on contractual vs discretionary funding has been included based on the discussion at the November 20 Board meeting. It was suggested that additional paras be added as well as one classroom teacher for Grade 1, decreasing intermediate grades class sizes to a maximum of 20 students per class and additional staff training in Responsive Classroom. The 2024/25 Budget will be acted on at a Special Meeting in January.

Upcoming Meeting Presentation – Update on Special Education.

Upcoming WBOE Committee / Meeting Schedule – Facilities Committee on January 4 at 7:30 AM, Finance Committee on Tuesday, January 9 at 4:30 PM, the Special WBOE meeting to adopt the 2024/25 budget on January 3, 4, 8 or 9 at 7:00 PM and the regular WBOE Meeting January 16 at 7:00 PM.

NEW BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:47 PM)

Ms. Williamson

Second by Mr. Lawrence

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board