

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, November 16, 2015

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, Ms. Chris Jaffe, Secretary; Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Emily Melnick (7:02 PM) and Ms. Lynn Piascyk.

STAFF: Dr. Guy Stella, Superintendent; Gina Prisco, Principal; Analisa Sherman, Assistant Principal; Clare Kennedy, Special Services Director and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Dr. Jeanne Purcell, TAG Consultant; Tim Kelley, PTO; Maria Kayne, BOS Liaison; Teresa Nakouzi, Teacher; and Pua Ford, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Connor

Second by Ms. Jaffe

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

PTO Report – Mr. Kelley informed the Board of several events: (1) the Halloween Hoot raised over \$16,000 after expenses; (2) picture day has been completed; (3) the Thanksgiving Food Drive will deliver baskets to approximately 20-25 BRS families; (4) the Book Fair will run from November 30 through December 4; and (5) grade level social nights have been well attended.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Stella highlighted the return BRS News, the new roof over B-Wing, ventilation system and casework completion as well as the recreation of the MAG outdoor classroom areas removed as part of the BRS Building project.

BRS Report – Ms. Prisco provided an update on the Veterans Day celebration, the Halloween Hoot, the Rotary Coat Drive, grade night socials, student designed book covers for the Book Fair and the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Ms. Nakouzi presented an update on Student Council activities.

Math Update – Ms. Sherman shared a video on daily instruction inclusive of small student work groups, teacher/student interactions, differentiated learning strategies, integration of technology and Language Arts in Math (PQRST) and student participation in the Continental Math League for Grades 3-6.

TAG Update – Ms. Purcell outlined the direction TAG is moving forward in as a result of the audit conducted in 2011 and the 2012 follow-up. Refinements in TAG services have clearly influenced the curriculum and instructional practices in the regular curriculum. Most important, they outline a clear, well-organized, coherent and forward-thinking approach to addressing the needs of TAG students at BRS, as well as those who have high abilities in mathematics. There has been a “sustaining momentum” reflected by the persistence, dedication and hard work to enhance not only the program for identified TAG students, but also the curriculum and instruction for the many high-ability students that exist at BRS. Specific strategies utilized include tier-teaching – teaching one problem and differentiating it for the various student levels within the classroom, small group instruction and independent projects.

Questions were raised relative to the possibility of breakout sessions among other grade levels instead of only Grade 6, functionality of the current TAG program with specific types of activities, defining “acceleration” and its benefits in policy, differences in the program over the years with a broad perspective on the direction for the future. It was noted that the process for evaluation and identification as well as a list of available resources for parents are on the district web site. There was general consensus that a program specific TAG update would be provided at a future Board meeting.

Finance Committee – Ms. Hamilton noted that at the November 9 Finance Committee meeting a minor change in reports was decided, with the elimination of the “Summary” financial report except for the portion pertaining to Special Education. All other reports will continue as currently designed.

Facilities Committee – The Facilities Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, November 19 at 7:30 AM.

BRS Building Update – HVAC controls continue to be tweaked to be in sync with the various classrooms. New guardrail fencing was installed around the upper level perimeter of the South parking lot.

CABE Liaison – Ms. Connor encouraged Board members to attend the CABE/CAPSS Conference later in the week.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations

- 2016/17 Operating Budget – New Board members were urged to view the prior year’s budget presentation to the BOS and WBOE before the December meeting.
- Summer Program – Overview of last year as well as planning for this year; integration of technology to alleviate multiple and repetitive sign-ups by parents for program selections and choices.

NEW BUSINESS

2016/17 Calendar – Dr. Stella presented the calendar noting the CSDE mandated regional RESC components, inclusive of a unified starting date of August 29 and two professional development days August 25 and November 8.

MOTION #2 – 2016/17 CALENDAR

Move that we approve the 2016/17 calendar as presented by administration.

Ms. Hamilton
Second by Ms. Jaffe
UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:14 PM)
Ms. Connor
Second by Ms. Piascyk
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board