

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, October 19, 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, Dr. Steven Fleischman, Vice Chair (7:03 PM); Ms. Chris Jaffe, Secretary (7:47 PM); Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Karen Kravetz (7:07 PM), Ms. Keri Matthews, Ms. Emily Melnick (7:03 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: Tim Kelley, PTO; James Crawford, Stephanie Goldberg, Larry Hurwitz, Teresa Nakouzi, Emily Roberts, Teachers; Pua Ford, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Hamilton noted that Mr. Pullo had received recognition from CASBO (Connecticut Association of School Business Officials).

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Matthews

Second by Ms. Connor

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

PTO Report – Mr. Kelley informed the Board over \$41,000 was raised in the 2014/15 SY resulting in each grade level receiving two special activity programs as well as the purchase of a rock climbing wall for the North Gym. In addition, activities this year, inclusive of the Ice Cream Social and Harvest Hike, were well attended. Grade level socials have been scheduled and the Halloween Hoot is Saturday.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Stella highlighted Massaro Farm Family Fun Day, MAG Pot Luck Dinner, the Halloween Hoot and the Truck or Treat event. The district received five (5) CABE Communication Awards. As part of the healthy food initiative and in collaboration with the Town Library, a book campaign focusing on healthy food options will begin shortly. In addition, student interns from the Amity culinary classes will join the Chef-of-the Month promotion.

BRS Report – Ms. Prisco provided an update on parent conferences and classroom talking points for parents entitled “ask your child” in her eBlast messages.

World Language – Ms. Goldberg and Ms. Roberts presented the results of the first full K-6 cohort group to exit BRS after seven (7) years of instruction. Currently, the six-day instruction cycle is Grades K-3 = 60 minutes; Grade 4 = 90 minutes and Grades 5/6 120 minutes. The assessment includes rubrics for each of the four components, Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, The primary goal is for all students to be proficient in a language by the end of Grade 12. Overall, progress has been steady and consistent with student placement in the advanced levels at the middle and high schools. It is anticipated that the curriculum will be modified in the coming year to increase the emphasis on writing. Questions were raised relative to how many elementary schools provide similar levels of instruction and if any barriers existed that could prevent greater student achievement levels.

MOTION #2 – MODIFY AGENDA

Move that we move Item 3.6 (Finance Committee Report) to before Item 3.2.3 (Climate Survey).

Ms. Hamilton

Second by Ms. Matthews

UNANIMOUS

Finance Committee – Messrs. Crawford and Hurwitz presented the technology enhancements included in the 2016/17 Proposed Capital Budget. The technology enhancements are predicated on inventory, replacement plan adherence and cost efficiency. The \$124,550 technology proposal includes completion of 1-1 iPad purchases for Grade 3, faculty laptop replacements, infrastructure upgrades and classroom/office technology upgrades. The iPad initiative will be fully implemented in Grades 2-6. Other items included in Capital Projects are expansion and paving of the roadway access behind A-Wing and kitchen equipment purchases/replacements. It was suggested that an analysis on progression of iPad purchases and life expectancy be explored.

Dr. Fleischman noted that in addition to the Capital Budget, at the October 12 meeting the Committee also reviewed the monthly financials approved earlier in the evening.

Climate Survey Action Process – Ms. Kennedy provided an overview on developing the action plan based on student/parent survey results and identified needs. It is anticipated the comprised plan will have greater emphasis on social skill development and bullying awareness.

Facilities Committee – Ms. Hamilton reviewed the October 15 meeting. The next meeting is slated for November 19 at 7:30 AM.

BRS Building Update –Dr. Stella noted that the A/C unit had been installed on the roof that will serve the Cafeteria area and the completion of painting in the North Gym.

CABE Liaison – Ms. Connor invited Board members to attend the CABE/CAPSS Conference in November.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations

- Math Update – focus on the Tri-State Action Plan, planned rollout, differentiation and personalized student learning pathways. Outline decision-making process for why 6th grade is the only level with breakout sessions; why not lower grades as well.
- 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

MOTION #3 – WINTERGREEN MAGNET SCHOOL CONTRACT

Move that we continue our participation in the Wintergreen Magnet School and allocate five (5) slots per school year.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Matthews

UNANIMOUS

Superintendent Goals 2015/16 – No Changes

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:27 PM)

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Matthews

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board