

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Monday, February 24, 2025
Town Hall Main Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the meeting to order (6:06 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Dr. Jay Dahya; Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary; Dr. Laura Franchese; Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair; Dr. Michael Strambler, and Erin Williamson.

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent.

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session in accordance with State statute to discuss the Superintendent mid-year evaluation process.

MOTION #1 – EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:07 PM)

Move that we enter Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent mid-year evaluation process and invite the Superintendent to join the Executive Session.

Dr. Dahya
Second by Dr. Franchese
UNANIMOUS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Dr. Jay Dahya; Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary; Dr. Laura Franchese; Jeff Hughes (6:20 PM); Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair; Dr. Michael Strambler, and Erin Williamson.

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent.

The Board reviewed the mid-year evaluation process that would be followed.

MOTION #2 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (6:48 PM).

Ms. Williamson
Second by Ms. Del Prete
UNANIMOUS

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the Public Session back to order (7:03 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Dr. Jay Dahya; Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary; Dr. Laura Franchese; Jeff Hughes; Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair; Dr. Michael Strambler, and Erin Williamson.

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #3 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Ms. Williamson
UNANIMOUS

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Tencza reviewed current enrollment numbers, provided an update on adoption of the mandated School Climate Plan in the spring and the Town budget process. Superintendent Tencza announced her

retirement upon completion of the 2024/25 school year. Questions were raised regarding the Town “pause” on the current year Capital Budget projects, inclusive of HVAC retro commissioning, flooring replacement, playground resurfacing, art sink asbestos removal, casework / ventilator replacements and elevator refurbishment. Concern existed for deferment and the potential increases in subsequent years.

Technology Presentation – Ms. Ciarleglio and Ms. Robinson outlined the various website enhancements and navigation tools. The website is a work in progress with updates occurring daily. Main pages include curriculum standards / pacing guides / unit of study info, links to Town agencies, Board of Education, budgets, student testing, district info, activity photos, parent portal, building project resources, summer programs / EDay and special services. Links are easily reached from the search bar and mobile links are within the 3 lines on the left of the main menu. It was suggested that the parent link for Powerschool be prominently displayed similar to the Region 5 layout.

BRS Update – Ms. Sherman noted completion of mid-year evaluations with certified staff and paraeducators, the 100th day on February 3, the annual PTO Book Swap, International Night, CARES Assemblies and fully stocked faculty rooms from the PTO upon return from the winter break.

BRS Infrastructure Upgrade Building Committee Update – Mr. Hughes noted the debriefing of the Community Engagement Workshop on the 13th. The anticipated target date for referendum continues to be slated for June. The committee meets via WebEx at 3:30 PM on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The next meeting is February 27.

Ed Specs – It was noted the document provided was still in draft form and requires further tweaking prior to submission of the grant application process and Town guidance.

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Strambler noted this committee did not meet due to the cancelation of school and would be rescheduled for March with a presentation on Literacy.

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence noted this committee met on January 14 to review the standard monthly financial reports. We are half-way through the 2024/25 budget year with a projected surplus of \$47,000. Discussion ensued regarding federal grant funding. Based on current projections, the district should receive approximately \$400,000 from the Title I-IV grants and IDEA.

457(B) Deferred Comp Plan – This plan is a tax-deferred retirement savings plan. Similar to the 403B currently offered, this has modern technology options versus paper and would be an additional offering to employees. There is no cost to the district and the company has different plan options the district may pursue in the future. Suggestions were made for acquiring the fiduciary rating and providing staff presentations from the financial planners on the various options.

MOTION # 4 – 457(b) DEFERRED COMP PLAN

Move that we authorize the Director of Business Services to enter into a contract Agreement between the Woodbridge Board of Education and Education and the Education Service Center Region 10 which sponsors the Retirement Asset Management Services program (“RAMS”) authorizing the establishment of a 457(b) Plan for the exclusive benefit of the eligible employees of the Woodbridge School District and appoint the Director of Business Services and/or their successor / designee as the Woodbridge School District Plan Administrator and authorize them to implement and manage the Woodbridge School District participation in the applicable plans under the direction of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

The Woodbridge School District plan administrator is authorized to execute the applicable ESC Region 10 RAMS CT agreements, contracts and other legal documents on behalf of the Woodbridge School District and to take whatever additional actions that are necessary to set up and maintain the participation of the Woodbridge School District in the applicable ESC Region 10 RAMS programs and to maintain compliance with relevant regulations issued or as may be issued effective February 24, 2025.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Dr. Franchese
UNANIMOUS

Policy Committee – Ms. Williamson reviewed the changes made to the policies accepted for 30-day review under the Consent Agenda.

CABE Liaison Report – Board members were urged to attend the Legislative Breakfast on March 4 and CABE Day on the Hill on March 12.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – The regular March meeting will be held on March 17 at 7:00 PM in the Main Meeting Room at Town Hall and will include Board Appreciation. Committee meetings will be held as follows: Facilities, March 6 at 7:30 AM; Finance March 11 at 4:30 PM; BIUBC Thursday, February 27, March 13 and March 27; and the Special Meeting for the WEA Meet and Discuss March 3 at 5:00 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

CT Paid Sick Leave Law – Chair Piascyk outlined the draft Position Statement which was crafted after speaking with various legislators at the recent CABE Legislative Breakfast. It is likely other school districts across the state will submit similar documents.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Mr. Hughes

IN FAVOR: Ms. Piascyk, Dr. Dahya, Ms. Del Prete, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Lawrence, Dr. Strambler and Ms. Williamson

ABSTAIN: Dr. Franchese

MOTION PASSES 7-0-1

The Board added the retirement of Superintendent Tencza upon conclusion of the 2024/25 school year.

MOTION #5 – MODIFY AGENDA

Move that we modify tonight’s agenda and add the retirement of Superintendent Tencza for action under New Business.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Mr. Lawrence

UNANIMOUS

Chair Piascyk thanked the Superintendent for her leadership over the last 2+ years and while they were happy for her it would be a loss for Woodbridge.

MOTION #6 – SUPERINTENDENT RETIREMENT (TENCZA)

Move that we accept the retirement of Superintendent Vonda Tencza, effective June 30, 2025, with regret.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Mr. Lawrence

UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:16 PM)

Dr. Dahya

Second by Ms. Del Prete

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.