

MINUTES OF THE HYBRID REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, March 20, 2023

Via WebEx <https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=mcaba26b800eb8e25176d157d593d1e9b>

Meeting Number: 2489 521 1609 Meeting Password: MNburC5sW33

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (in-person); Dr. Jay Dayha (in-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (7:03 PM remote); Mr. Jeff Hughes (in-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence (in-person); Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair (in-person); and Dr. Michael Strambler (in-person).

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

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

PTO Report – The full PTO report is available in [BoardBook](#). Dr. Jain urged parents to join the PTO. In celebrating Empathy Week, each BRS student received a copy of *Wishes* by Muon Thi Van. The annual Book Swap will be held March 22-24. An informal “meet and greet” will be held with Superintendent Tencza at the April meeting followed by free family Math Night. The spring Book Fair will be April 24 -28.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Madonick

Second by Mr. Lawrence

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

Board Member Appreciation – Ms. Heller, First Selectman presented a proclamation on behalf of the Board of Selectmen declaring March 20, 2023 as *Board Member Appreciation Day* in the Town of Woodbridge. She also noted the countless hours Board members have volunteered in service to the community.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Tencza extended sincere appreciation and thanks to each Board member for making the Woodbridge Board of Education a personal priority through their immeasurable voluntary hours of service on numerous committees and for advocating for excellence in education while being fair to taxpayers. A video from the Commissioner of Education was shared.

Superintendent Tencza apprised the Board on the submission of the reading waiver to the CSDE. It is anticipated that feedback on the status of this waiver will not be received until mid-June. With the launching of the third round of the Master Class learning opportunity, Woodbridge is continuing to pursue placement on this list. This is a state-wide professional learning opportunity to develop components of comprehensive K-3 literacy instruction. Questions were raised regarding the reading waiver process and what would happen if the waiver were not approved. It was noted that the CSDE is currently considering delaying the process entirely and has not begun the hiring process to even begin reviewing submissions.

BRS Update – Mr. Sapia provided an overview on Responsive Classroom as part of the student support structure in building healthy alliances to create a safe and inclusive BRS learning environment. Ms. Sherman noted the March 17 professional learning day inclusive of small group instruction, multilingual training provided by ACES and the diversity, equity and inclusion initiative.

Upcoming Meeting Presentation(s) – Summer programs. It was requested that any questions be forwarded to Superintendent Tencza to ensure inclusion in the presentation.

BRS Town Building Committee – Mr. Hughes noted this committee met on March 17 to discuss potential upgrades and is in the process of finalizing the RFP.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Hughes reviewed the March 2 meeting inclusive of LED upgrades, the custodial efficiency study and roofing concerns / leaks.

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence apprised the Board on the March 14 meeting. Currently, there is an anticipated surplus of \$81,000. Questions were raised relative to why we are contracting outside to perform standard evaluations in special education and open choice incremental reimbursement costs from other districts who participate with New Haven.

Ad Hoc Enrollment, Instructional Needs and Space Planning Committee – Dr. Madonick reviewed the March 15 meeting. The Committee will explore BOWA collaborative initiatives, conduct research and gather pertinent data as part of the recommendation process. It is anticipated that the exploration process to determine whether to build, renovate or repurpose could entail a three to five year timeline. Their next meeting on March 29 will focus on current space utilization within the building. It was questioned why there were no parents serving on this committee.

CABE Liaison Report – Dr. Madonick announced the 2023/24 CABE / CAPSS Conference date on November 17 and 18.

NEW BUSINESS

Healthy Food Certification – These verbatim motions are required by the CSDE related to compliance with the Healthy Food Program for the 2023/24 school year. The first verifies participation in the Healthy Food program and the second verifies the exemptions that would be applicable during the 2023/24 school year.

MOTION #2 – HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION

Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-215f, the Woodbridge Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Dr. Madonick

Second by Mr. Hughes

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #3 – FOOD / BEVERAGE CERTIFICATION

Move that the Woodbridge Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: (1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; (2) the sale is at the location of the event; and (3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events, but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

Dr. Madonick

Second by Ms. Hopkins

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Upcoming WBOE Committee Meeting Schedule – the Board Retreat on March 28 and 30 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM with CABE facilitators Drs. Mary Broderick and Jack Reynolds; the FOI Workshop by Tom Hennick on March 21 from 5:00 – 6:00 PM; Ad Hoc Enrollment, Instructional Needs and Space Planning Committee on March 29 at 4:30 PM; WBOE

Policy on April 5 at 4:30 PM; Curriculum on April 6 at 4:00 PM; Finance on April 18 at 6:00 PM; Town Preliminary Budget Hearing on April 17 at 7:30 PM; and the regular WBOE Meeting on April 18 at 7:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

The Board entered Executive Session to receive an update from Superintendent Tencza and Director of Business Services / Operations, Donna Coonan on potential litigation claims.

MOTION #4 – EXECUTIVE SESSION (8:02 PM)

Move that we enter Executive Session to receive an update on potential litigation claims and invite the Superintendent and Director of Business Services / Operations to join the Board.

Dr. Dahya
Second by Ms. Hopkins
UNANIMOUS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Dr. Jay Dayha; Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary; Ms. Brooke Hopkins; Mr. Jeff Hughes; Mr. Steven Lawrence; Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair; and Dr. Michael Strambler.

The Board received an update from Superintendent Tencza and Director of Business Services / Operations, Donna Coonan on potential litigation claims and identified steps for going forward.

MOTION #5 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (9:11 PM).

Mr. Hughes
Second by Dr. Strambler
UNANIMOUS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary; Ms. Brooke Hopkins; Mr. Jeff Hughes; Mr. Steven Lawrence; Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair; and Dr. Michael Strambler.

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

Chair Piascyk called the Public Session back to order (9:12 PM).

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:13 PM)

Dr. Madonick
Second by Ms. Hopkins
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Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board