

MINUTES OF THE WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 21, 2025
BRS South Assembly Room

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Piascyk, called the meeting to order (7:08 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (7:09 PM); Dr. Lauren Francese; Jeff Hughes; Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair and Dr. Michael Strambler.

STAFF: Christopher Montini, 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.

GUEST: Floyd Dugas, Board Counsel

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session in accordance with State statute to review the recently ratified WEA contract and the BOWA Transportation Contract extension.

MOTION #1 – EXECUTIVE SESSION (7:09 PM)

Move that we enter Executive Session to discuss negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, and invite the Superintendent, Donna Coonan and Floyd Dugas, Board Counsel to join the Board.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Ms. Del Prete

UNANIMOUS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (7:09 PM); Dr. Lauren Francese; Jeff Hughes; Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair and Dr. Michael Strambler.

STAFF: Christopher Montini, Superintendent; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations and Floyd Dugas, Board Counsel.

MOTION #2 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (7:28 PM).

Dr. Francese

Second by Mr. Hughes

UNANIMOUS

Chair Piascyk called the Public Session back to order (7:30 PM).

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #3 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Dr. Strambler

UNANIMOUS

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Montini noted enrollment is currently at 862 compared to last year's 864. As stated at the last BOE meeting, the part-time Social Worker was increased to full-time and we have contracted with ESS to provide additional para services. Approximately, 120 applications for the Assistant Principal vacancy were received and reviewed. It is anticipated this position will be filled by the Thanksgiving holiday with an appointment occurring around the end of October / beginning of November. Development of the 2026/27 budget has commenced as well as

planning for a Literacy / Math night. He also attended a Grade 3 STEAM lab class that required designing and building a bridge; the Living Treasure Dinner and *Woodbridge Like Me* with a performance by the BRS Band.

SBA Presentation – Mr. Sapia and Ms. Tafel presented an overview for how the assessment is conducted as well as the results from spring testing. SBA is a mandated global assessment aligned to common core standards with testing done completely on-line. SBA measures students' progress/attainment of knowledge and skill and accurately describes student achievement and growth. It is a multiple choice Q&A computer adaptive test that adjusts for each student depending upon the answer(s) selected. While SBA testing is only one measurement of a snapshot in time, it does provide helpful information in determining strengths and weaknesses in guiding daily instruction. An in-depth analysis is performed on each of the content data areas by BRS data teams to ascertain individual student growth targets and expected growth levels, cohort growth as well as vertical strengths and weakness that inform and guide instruction not only in individual classrooms but across grade levels as well.

As in past years, overall students performed well with Woodbridge ranking third (3rd) in DRG B for Language Arts and second (2nd) in Math. The overall scores for students in Woodbridge (*DRG B*) meeting or exceeding the state standard were ELA (English/ Language Arts) – 79.5% (*State Average 50.3 %*) and in Math – 79.8% (*State Average 45.9%*) and Grade 5 Next Generation of Science – 77.1% (*State Average 62.6 %*). The Growth Rate for students that met or exceeded their individual growth targets as determined by the CT Growth Model were: ELA (English/ Language Arts) – 54.4% (4th in DRG) and Math – 64.1% (1st in DRG). It was noted that over the last several years there has been a continued dip in Grade 5 scores for Math / ELA and Growth, what the cause might be and if the data is able to pinpoint specific patterns, etc. Questions were raised relative to how the BRS data is actually used to determine growth, what the process looks like, are there similar patterns in other assessment tests / tools / universal screens and assessing student / classroom trends in addition to the school as a whole. Also noted was the enhancement of classroom libraries to ensure curriculum relevance.

BRS Update – Ms. Sherman highlighted CT Grown for CT Kids Week (October 6–10). Students had the opportunity to learn about local agriculture, meet farmers, and taste fresh, locally grown food, sampling salsa made by Massaro Community Farm; a fun, school-wide corn shucking event with corn from Grassy Hill Farm and hydroponic salad mixes from H2O Farm in Guilford. Staff participated in teacher evaluation goal setting, and BOWA curriculum and vertical articulation meetings. The PTO held the annual Picture day and the student-run BRS News series was launched for this year.

Open Choice – 2026/27 – Open Choice is an inter-district public school program intended to improve academic achievement; reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation; and provide a choice of educational programs for public school students. The program allows children from Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport to voluntarily attend school in other districts that have space in their schools. (Danbury and Norwalk are pilot programs). Participating districts receive reimbursement from the CSDE for transportation services. Participation in this program aligns with the WSD mission of equity, excellence, and belonging; advances the district's vision of preparing flexible, lifelong learners and responsible global citizens. Superintendent Montini presented a 10-year history and the impact this program has had on increasing diversity in Woodbridge. Currently, Woodbridge has 18 available slots, with one vacant slot for the 2025/26 school year. It is anticipated the Board will vote at the November 17 meeting on the slot allocation for the 2026/27 school year.

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Strambler indicated this committee met on October 9 to review the SBA presentation, receive an update on the World Language curriculum, (which will be posted on the web site in the coming months) and reviewed planning for the remainder of the school year. The December 4 meeting will focus on MAG.

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence noted the current projected surplus is \$80,000. This figure could change with the addition of a PK section mid-year as well as the recent engagement of ESS to provide additional para services. Development of the 2026/27 budget has commenced. The Committee also reviewed the transportation contract extension proposal from the Owner / Operators. As this is a regional transportation system, transportation services are shared among the BOWA districts.

MOTION #4 – TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT EXTENSION

Move that we approve the three-year transportation contract extension through sy 2029/30 as discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Dr. Francese
UNANIMOUS

Policy Committee – Mr. Lawrence reviewed the policies discussed by the Policy Committee at their October 6 meeting and accepted for 30-day review under the Consent Agenda.

It was suggested that Policy 6161.12 be modified as we currently do not have a Director of Curriculum.

MOTION #5 – AMEND POLICY 6161.12

Move that we amend policy 6161.12 under Section 3C and add *Assistant Principal* after “Director of Curriculum” and before “or a person of an equivalent role”.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Dr. Francese
UNANIMOUS

It was suggested that Policy 6161.13 also be modified deleting “Instructional and” from the title.

MOTION #6 – AMEND POLICY 6161.13

Move that we amend policy 6161.13 to delete “Instructional and” from the title.

Dr. Francese
Second by Ms. Del Prete
UNANIMOUS

CABE Liaison – Board members were reminded of the CABE/CAPSS Convention on November 21/22. CABE is offering webinars on *Digital Wellbeing in the Age of Social Media and AI* on November 6, *Legislative Issues* on December 16 and *New Board Member Orientation and Leadership Conference* on December 9.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – The regular November 17 meeting will be held in the Main Meeting Room at Town Hall and will include a report on LAS Links/MLL and an EDay update. Committee meetings will be held as follows: Policy on November 3 at 4:30 PM, Facilities on November 6 at 7:30 AM and Finance November 11 at 4:30 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board ratified the recently negotiated contract with the WEA.

MOTION #7 – WEA CONTRACT RATIFICATION

Move that we ratify the Agreement between the Woodbridge Board of Education and the Woodbridge Education Association (WEA) effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Ms. Del Prete
UNANIMOUS

Superintendent Montini presented an administrative resignation for acceptance. The Board extended a sincere thank you to Mr. Sapia for his enthusiasm, excitement and presence as well as the integral difference he made every day with students, staff and the community. His commitment to education was evident from the very beginning and BRS remains grateful for his contributions and inspiration. While this is bittersweet, the Board wished him all the best in his future endeavors.

MOTION #8 – MOTION #4 – ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF RESIGNATION (SAPIA)

Move that we accept the resignation of James Sapia, effective October 24, 2025, with deep regret.

Ms. Piascyk
Second by Dr. Francese
UNANIMOUS

Mr. Sapia was grateful for the opportunity and the space BRS provided him to learn and grow as an administrator and educator. The BRS community welcomed him with open arms and allowed him to be part of their child’s story and the impact that BRS has had on his life, personally and professionally, can never be taken away and will remain a part of him forever.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:30 PM)

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Mr. Hughes

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.