

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, February 10, 2020

Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Fleischman, Chair called the meeting to order (6:35 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Steven Fleischman, Chair, Mr. Dan Cowan, Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Vice Chair; Dr. David Ross, Ms. Joyce Shavers, Dr. Michael Strambler and Dr. Jeffrey Townsend.

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel of CABA (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education), Kim Franklin and Nancy Smerekanicz WEA.

Board Self-Evaluation

Ms. McCarthy presented the summary of Board member responses to the Self-Evaluation and highlighted the indicators of success as well as the areas for growth. It was noted that the Vision/Mission and Beliefs Statement was developed in collaboration with a prior Board inclusive of a cross-section of stakeholders. It was also noted that these types of statements are not modified every time a Board changes as they are generally developed as guiding principles that are maintained throughout the years.

Board Roles and Responsibilities

Ms. McCarthy reviewed several handouts related to joint Board and Superintendent responsibilities, separate roles and responsibilities, best practices and collaborative leadership strategies in support of student achievement/well-being as a primary focus. Questions were raised for what defined “best practices”, board functionality as a whole and individually.

Meeting Protocols

Ms. McCarthy presented a meeting protocol inclusive of format structure as well as what pitfalls could and should be avoided and reviewed current Board policy. Questions arose pertaining to development of new protocols, subcommittee composite/function and the role of individual Board members if not a member of the committee. There was a consensus for soliciting a legal opinion from Board counsel on committee structure, membership and limitations in deliberations/discussions, if any. Discussion ensued for defining the role of the Superintendent, their day-to-day duties/tasks, responsibility for oversight, signing of contracts/documents etc. and the role/responsibility of the Board in overseeing these operations as well as the possible level of liability that exists.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:50 PM)
Ms. Piascyk
Second by Ms. Genovese
UNANIMOUS