

# MINUTES OF THE HYBRID REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Via WebEx [https:// woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=mbabb7601aca474e0d16e8b5cc796bbdc](https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=mbabb7601aca474e0d16e8b5cc796bbdc)

Meeting Number: 2485 336 9996 Meeting Password: MtbP9itYu63

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Madonick, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order (7:05 PM).

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (remote); Dr. Jay Dayha (remote); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (7:06 PM in person); Mr. Jeff Hughes (in-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence (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** – It was noted that the correspondence recently received was available for viewing in BoardBook.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**PTO Report** – The full PTO report is available in [BoardBook](#). Dr. Jain urged parents to join the PTO.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Mr. Hughes

**UNANIMOUS**

## **REPORTS**

**Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Tencza highlighted the change in leadership of the EDay Program with the recent appointment of Anthony Taddei serving as Director and Tim Rourke continuing as Assistant Director; the mandated triannual compliance review of the Cafeteria; and the recommended reduction to the 2023/24 budget of \$208,240 by the Town Boards of Selectmen and Finance.

**Summer Programs Update** – Superintendent Tencza noted that the ESY (Extended School Year) and SEP (Summer Enrichment) programs will operate this summer Monday-Thursday from June 26 through July 27. The ESY program is specifically for students with special needs as defined in their IEP while SEP is open to all students. Summer curriculum work in reading, facilitated by Dr. Michael Rafferty, will be conducted June 15-20 from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

**BRS Update** – Ms. Sherman noted the PTO Book Swap, spirit week inclusive of daily “coin” collections by students for various charitable organizations, the upcoming Book Fair, Amity High School interns in May, parent/teacher conferences, celebration of Mr. Sapia for Assistant Principal Week, and school-wide clean-up for Earth Week with Grade 4 helpers.

**BRS Town Building Committee** – Mr. Hughes noted this committee met on April 6 to draft the RFQ which was shared with the Board of Selectmen at their April 12 meeting. Minor adjustments were requested and once completed the RFQ will be finalized and published accordingly.

**Curriculum Committee** – Dr. Strambler noted this committee met on April 6 and received an overview on the curriculum development process. Curriculum writing work this summer will focus on reading with guidance from Reading consultant Dr. Michael Rafferty.

**Finance Committee** – Mr. Lawrence apprised the Board on the April 18 meeting which reviewed the standard monthly financial reports and discussed the 2023/24 PreK tuition rate. Currently, there is an anticipated surplus of \$80,000 in the 2022/23 operating budget as a result of savings in various salary accounts. Based on a review of current PreK tuition

funding, it was recommended that the 2023/24 rate remain the same as 2022/23. Questions were raised on the status of the Excess Cost Grant and whether a process is in place to request these funds from the Town not only for the present but also for the future. It was noted that it is anticipated that this funding will decrease significantly in the 2023/24 school year.

**MOTION #2 – 2023/24 PREK TUITION RATE**

Move that the PreK Tuition rate for “typical peers” remain at \$3,250 for the 2023/24 school year.

Ms. Del Prete

Second by Mr. Hughes

**UNANIMOUS**

Policy Committee – Dr. Madonick noted that this Committee met on April 5 to review the four policies accepted for 30-day review under the Consent Agenda.

Ad Hoc Enrollment, Instructional Needs and Space Planning Committee – Dr. Madonick noted this committee had met twice and recently reviewed a presentation on current BRS space utilization and requested that Ms. Sherman share the space utilization presentation with the Board. It was noted that while enrollment may be less than the previous 1,000 students in 2000 when portables were in use, student needs today are vastly different. Student learning today requires specialized spaces / rooms for students with special needs. BRS has a significant lack of storage areas with many rooms serving as multiple use spaces. Several teachers throughout the building also share the same learning spaces, faculty lunch rooms have been repurposed into instruction areas and there is no room large enough for a school-wide gathering. In addition, the building is used daily by EDay, Recreation and community organizations with each group having different space / program requirements. There has been an increase of 100 students between 2013 and 2023 which is five additional classrooms, and a 75% increase in the special education population. At what point are we compromising the children since personalized student learning requires flexible environment areas. It was noted the April 19 meeting had been cancelled due to unanticipated scheduling conflicts.

CABE Liaison Report – Dr. Madonick announced the 2023/24 CABE / CAPSS Conference date on November 17 and 18 and noted dissemination of updates for BOE Chairs and Policy Chairs as well as various education bills currently before the state legislation.

Upcoming Meeting Presentation(s) – Board Self-Evaluation and CAPSS Superintendent / Student Awards. Board members were asked to complete their self-evaluations and return it to Superintendent Tencza by May 5 to ensure adequate time for compilation and discussion at the May meeting.

Upcoming WBOE Committee / Meeting Schedule – WBOE Facilities Committee on May 4 at 7:30 AM; Finance on May 9 at 4:30 PM; Town Annual Meeting on May 15 at 7:30 PM; and the regular WBOE Meeting on May 16 at 7:00 PM. It was also noted that in recognition of the state holiday of *Juneteenth*, the regular meeting will be moved to June 20, 2023.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Certified Staff Resignation – Superintendent Tencza informed the Board of the resignation of Robin Querker who served as a special education teacher for the past four years.

**MOTION #3 – CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION (QUERKER)**

Move that we accept the resignation of Robin Querker effective March 31, 2023 with regret.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Dr. Strambler

**UNANIMOUS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session to receive a safety and security update from Superintendent Tencza, BRS Principal Analisa Sherman and SRO Officer Lynch.

**MOTION #4 – EXECUTIVE SESSION (8:20 PM)**

Move that we enter Executive Session to receive an update on safety and security and invite the Superintendent, BRS Principal Analisa Sherman and SRO Officer Lynch to join the Board.

Ms. Del Prete  
Second by Dr. Strambler  
**UNANIMOUS**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (remote); Dr. Jay Dayha (remote); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (7:06 PM in person); Mr. Jeff Hughes (in-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence (in-person); and Dr. Michael Strambler (in-person).

The Board received an update on safety and security from Superintendent Tencza , BRS Principal Analisa Sherman and SRO Officer Lynch.

**MOTION #5 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

Move that we return to Public Session (9:17 PM).

Mr. Hughes  
Second by Dr. Strambler  
**UNANIMOUS**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (remote); Dr. Jay Dayha (remote); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (7:06 PM in person); Mr. Jeff Hughes (in-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence (in-person); and Dr. Michael Strambler (in-person).

**STAFF:** Vonda Tencza, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, BRS Principal; SRO Officer Lynch; Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

Dr. Madonick called the Public Session back to order (9:18 PM).

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:18 PM)**

Ms. Del Prete  
Second by Dr. Strambler  
**UNANIMOUS**

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board