

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, October 15, 2018
Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order (7:06 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Claire Coleman, Dr. Steve Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Dr. Todd Jokl, Mr. Garrett Luciani, and Ms. Joyce Shavers.

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; Cheryl Mammen, Special Services Director; Al Pullo, Director of Business Services/Operations; Gina Prisco, Principal; Analisa Sherman, Assistant Principal; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Terri Schatz, BOS Liaison, Cathy Salinardi, Extended Day Director, Sandy Simowitz, Summer Enrichment Director; Cathy Zdrowski, Teacher; Joi Prud'homme, PTO and Pua Ford, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Ms. Hamilton welcomed Ms. Shavers to the Board. Ms. Shavers replaces Ms. Maasbach who resigned her position and relocated. Ms. Hamilton noted that as a result of Ms. Maasbach's resignation, the Board would elect a new Vice Chair.

MOTION #1 – ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

I nominate Steve Fleischman to serve as Vice Chair of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

Ms. Hamilton
Second by Ms. Genovese

MOTION #2 – CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR VICE CHAIR

Move that we close nominations for Vice Chair.

Dr. Jokl
Second by Mr. Luciani
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #3 – ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

I nominate Steve Fleischman to serve as Vice Chair of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

Ms. Hamilton
Second by Ms. Genovese
UNANIMOUS

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #4 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Mr. Luciani
UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

Ad Hoc Class Size Committee Findings – Superintendent Gilbert presented the revisions to the Class Size document, originally developed in 1997. The revisions were developed based on the committee's review of historical data, special education inclusionary models and workshop structures/models and how they drive instruction. The Committee was recommending several minor language modifications as well as maintaining the current class sizes as a range.

MOTION #5 – CLASS SIZE GUIDELINES

Move that we approve the revised Class Size Guidelines as presented

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Mr. Luciani

UNANIMOUS

PTO Update – Ms. Prud’homme noted the new slates of officers for the PTO – Co-Presidents Lauren Esposito and Andrea Polinsky, Vice President Jess Cebulski, Treasurer Lauren Miller and Treasurer Elect Maria Madonick, Secretary Amit Mahajan, Communications Chair Lauren Esposito, Community Support Joi Prud’homme, Co-Fundraising Chairs Joi Prud’homme and Kristy Laydon and Service Chair Kristine Edwards. Ms. Prud’homme also noted the upcoming Hoot, the well-attended Harvest Hike, the Charleston gift wrap fundraiser as well as an all adult evening on November 5 at New England Brewing Company, the new PTO web site – brsptboard and the inclusion of Bethany Community School in Quassy night.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Gilbert highlighted the Superintendent’s Academy on internet safety, pool/humidity concerns being addressed in collaboration with QVHD, the resignation of Nancy Maasbach and the appointment of Joyce Shavers, CABA Communications Award recognition of the Parent/Student Handbook and BRS Flip Calendar, the Capital Budget update, unanticipated special education staffing needs, the eagle scout loop project, truck or treat on October 31 and the Special Education audit by the CSDE.

BRS Report – Ms. Prisco noted the buddy bench eagle scout project, the school-wide outdoor read, the harvest hike, professional development for teacher assistants on Food Allergies/Bloodborne Pathogens and DCF Mandated Reporter Training, student council bakes sales for parent/teacher conference days, BOWA curriculum discussions on vertical alignment around technology and phonic study units for Kindergarten and Grade 1 students. It was requested that additional information be shared regarding the BOWA curriculum meetings pertaining to identification of student strengths, weaknesses and areas of development as they related to student learning and placements at the Middle School.

Summer Programs – Mr. Prisco presented an overview of the various summer programs. Extended Day had an average enrollment of 20 per day for early drop-off and 60 students per day in the afternoon sessions. Summer Enrichment offered 47 class offerings and had 636 students participating over the 5 weeks. Extended School Year had 8 PreK children with an additional 50 students from Grades K-6. The summer Math/Language Arts program had 16 students from Grades 2-5. The Recreation program averaged 175 students per week for 6 weeks. It was also noted that the Extended Day program has a surge of students this year and is servicing approximately 200 students per day since the start of school.

Student Engagement – Ms. Sherman provided an overview of the daily student schedule. While some data is quantifiable, a lot is not as what occurs within the classroom may not always be a daily occurrence. Outdoor recess occurs every day unless it is too cold, icy or raining provided the student has appropriate clothing otherwise alternate choices within the building are provided. Scheduling is based around specials and remains a challenge, primarily for World Language and Physical Education classes. Grades K-2 have Physical Education for 30 minutes, three times per cycle, Grades 3/4 have 2 days per cycle and Grades 5/6 three times per cycle. Grades 3-6 have swimming while Grades 1-2 begin the Learn to Swim program. Yoga is offered before school as well as during part of the actual school day in some classrooms as well as the North Gym if classes are combined. Movement breaks also occur within the classroom based on student need(s) and what is happening in a classroom on any given day to best support student learning. It was noted that if additional resources are needed, they should be identified and incorporated into the budget development process.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations –

Staff/Student/Survey Action Items – identify any budget implicated related to the previously identified staff survey issues, what type of feedback do teachers receive on performance evaluations; what should be considered in the budget to address concerns raised by students regarding student disruptions and the impact on student learning and what do we need that we do not have.

Ad Hoc Sustainability – the committee charge, roster, timeframe and overview on what the committee will do will be identified at the November meeting. Ms. Coleman requested inclusion on recycling/waste reduction, becoming a green leaf school and development of a sustainability matrix as part of the objectives of the committee.

Strategic Plan Update – specific details on where we are, curriculum status, what are our next steps, updates on new programs, where are we this year - how many sections do we now have given the expansion of two additional grades and where all that fits; additional information on SBAC results inclusive of the accountability report, CSDE data and DRG

comparisons within each of our competing districts, where are we meeting/exceeding expectations in comparison to them and what data does the CSDE provide or make readily available for SBAC comparison purposes. It was noted that this request would be deferred to the January meeting when SBAC results are presented and discussed. It was agreed the accountability report presentations from the last few years would also be provided to Board members as well as an explanation of the accountability plan and definitions.

Facilities Committee – Ms. Coleman indicated the first meeting will be held Wednesday, November 14 at 7:30 AM in the District Office Conference Room to review prior issues as well as the most recent pool concerns.

Finance Committee – Dr. Fleischman stated that the Finance Committee had met prior to the public session. A decision was made not to act on the Capital Budget proposal this evening. Instead the Boards of Selectmen and Finance will be invited to tour the facility and grounds at an upcoming special meeting. It is anticipated the Board will act on the 2019/20 capital budget submission at that meeting. It was also noted that the Voluntary Early Retirement Proposal would be acted on after Executive Session.

Curriculum Committee – No Report.

Policy Committee – No Report. This Committee will begin meeting in January.

Ad Hoc Enrichment Committee – The next meeting will be held October 22 at 6:00 PM.

ACES Liaison – No Report

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese encouraged Board members to attend the CABE/CAPSS Convention in November as well as the Delegate Assembly on November 15, the December 7 workshop on legal issues and the December 4 workshop on Lobbying 101.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Dr. Jokl cited several classes in Grades 4, 5 and 6 in the October 1 enrollment report 94% are close to the maximum class size ranges adopted by the Board earlier in the meeting.

The Board entered Executive Session to review a certified staff early retirement option.

MOTION #6 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Move that we enter Executive Session (8:37 PM).

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Hamilton

UNANIMOUS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Claire Coleman, Dr. Steve Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Mr. Todd Jokl, Mr. Garrett Luciani, and Ms. Joyce Shavers.

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent and Al Pullo, Director of Business Services/Operations.

MOTION #7 – PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (8:47 PM).

Ms. Hamilton

Second by Dr. Fleischman

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #8 –CERTIFIED STAFF EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE

Move that we authorize the Superintendent to offer the early retirement incentive to the membership of the WEA.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Mr. Luciani
UNANIMOUS

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:20 PM)

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Dr. Jokl
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board