

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, November 21, 2017

Stella Library Media Center

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order (7:00 PM).

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Claire Coleman, Dr. Steve Fleischman (7:05 PM), Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Nancy Maasbach, Vice Chair; Ms. Lynn Piascyk and Mr. John Vultee.

**STAFF:** Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; Clare Kennedy, 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:** Elizabeth Heagney, Teresa Nakouzi, Lori Patrick, Teachers; Grade 5 students and family members, and Pua Ford, community.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Maasbach

Second by Ms. Genovese

**UNANIMOUS**

## **REPORTS**

**PTO Update** – No Report

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Gilbert apprised the Board of recent changes in insurance coverage resulting in significant savings, the reduction of state funding in the Education Cost Sharing Grant, the continued exploration of sharing technology and facility resources with Amity, the Teacher of the Year Ceremony and the CABE/CAPSS convention, where the Board was recognized with a leadership award and the BRS Principal's Newsletter for "going green".

Dr. Fleischman arrived (7:04 PM).

Also acknowledged was the Veteran celebration, team awards in Robotics, the final SRO forum for parents and staff, enrollment increases and student fund raising activities to benefit hurricane relief efforts.

**Strategic Plan Update** – Superintendent Gilbert presented an update on the Strategic Plan, developed from his entry plan, and originally presented to the Board at their January 17, 2017 meeting. The Plan is predicated on commonalities, strengths/weaknesses, identified areas for future growth as well as the direction we will be proceeding in, inclusive of personalized learning, curriculum compacting/clusters and differentiation.

Grade 5 students provided a demonstration for "Genius Hour" as part of the Project Based Learning initiative. "Genius Hour" entails student conducted research, formulation and development of a "driving question", evaluation and assessment of validity in documenting the driving question, data compilation from multiple sources and determining how to share and articulate the information gathered and in what format. The projects are 6-8 weeks in duration and students are allowed to select topics of choice based on personal interest.

As part of the Strategic Plan, school-wide enrichment activities will be enhanced across multiple grade levels. Professional Learning Communities will continue their work on district initiatives in development of consistency among grade level teams in implementation of internal standards and well as attending mandated trainings as a result of recent legislative changes.

A new intervention model, centered on high learning expectations through standards based curriculum instruction, data-driven decision-making and effective teaching strategies to meet student needs, is being explored. This is a new collaborative approach that will necessitate revision of our internal process in monitoring and assessing student need and progress.

Two new committees have been formed one on Diversity and one on Beautification. The Diversity Committee is focusing on activities as well as student and staff data and what the BRS population has looked like both past and present. They continue to identify activities happening within the building and creating a forum for the sharing of information and resources. The Beautification Committee is exploring options to further “beautify and enhance” the appearance of the school in a child-centered friendly way with minimal associated costs.

BRS Report – Ms. Prisco noted the Veteran’s Day celebration, initiation of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade transition process to the Middle School and various safety drills conducted throughout the year.

Ms. Hamilton left the meeting (8:10 PM).

Facilities Committee – Mr. Vultee reviewed the November 20 meeting. The Committee discussed the grounds tour from the October 16 meeting and the Fuss and O’Neill grounds assessment report. It was suggested that members of the Boards of Finance and Selectmen be invited to tour the building.

Curriculum Committee – Ms. Piascyk provided an overview on the November 9 meeting which included a presentation on Readers / Writers Workshop. The December 7 meeting will highlight enrichment opportunities and course offerings through the Extended Day program as well as the Community Lecture Series. The January 4 meeting will spotlight responsive classroom.

Finance Committee – Dr. Fleishman apprised the Board on the November 13 meeting, inclusive of previously approved monthly financials and 2018/19 budget development.

Policy Committee – Ms. Maasbach presented two revised policies for adoption.

**MOTION #2 – ADOPTION OF POLICIES 3280 AND 7551**

Move that we adopt Policies 3280-Gifts, Grants, Bequest and Memorials and 7551 – Naming of Major Facilities as revised.

Ms. Piascyk  
Second by Mr. Vultee  
**UNANIMOUS**

ACES Liaison – No Report

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese reviewed the CABE/CAPSS Convention, the legislative wrap-up session, new Board member Orientation on December 7 and several policy updates.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – 2018/19 Budget

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** (8:20 PM)  
Dr. Fleischman  
Second by Ms. Genovese  
**UNANIMOUS**

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board