

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, December 18, 2017

Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order (7:02 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Claire Coleman, Dr. Steve Fleischman, Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Garrett Luciani; Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Paul Testa and Mr. John Vultee.

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; 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: Barbara Ahern, Jeanne Ciarleglio, Larissa Crocco, Maria DePalma, Joanne Giaquinto, Louise Golden, Kris Hart-Rooney, Monique MacDonald, Doreen Merrill, Teresa Nakouzi, Lori Patrick, Nicole Rizzo, Jacqueline Scalia, Debra Sokol, Anthony Taddei, Mary Vincitorio, Ashley Wagner, Kayla Widmeyer, Shannon Wyman, Cathy Zdrowski, Teachers; Grade 6 students and family members, and Pua Ford, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Genovese acknowledged receipt of two letters sent to all members of the Board of Education – (1) from Judy Rabin at the Town Library regarding collaboration with the BRS Library and various new reading opportunities for students; and (2) WEA statement pertaining to the 2018/19 budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ms. Nakouzi read a prepared statement by the Woodbridge Education Association (WEA) that was sent previously to all Board members regarding the 2018/19 budget and possible implications should the budget be reduced even further. While understanding of the fiscal constraints expressed by the Town, the WEA believed the education of students should be a higher priority.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Piascyk

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

PTO Update – No Report

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Gilbert apprised the Board on the Capital Budget presentation to the joint Boards of Selectmen and Finance, posting of the Facilities Manager vacancy, the successful Book Fair and Robotic Awards for the BRS Hawks and Eagles.

Student Council Presentation – Several Grade 6 students shared various success stories of school spirit, community service, fund raising for hurricane relief and the local Food and Fuel Bank, and preparation and collection of items for the Thanksgiving Food Baskets. Special thanks were extended to their Advisors – Ms. Greene, Ms. Heagney, Ms. Nakouzi and Ms. Widmeyer.

Superintendent's 2018/19 Budget Proposal – Superintendent Gilbert presented the 2018/19 budget. The budget is predicated on the guiding principles/beliefs and goals in the new Strategic Plan as well as the newly adopted Mission and Vision. Enrollment continues to rise along with special education services. This budget adds an additional 1.5 FTE for a full-time Grade 3 teacher and part-time PreK teacher, provides for shared services with Amity in technology and out-of-district student transportation, retirement incentives for the two retiring certified staff members and reorganization of custodial staffing. The overall increase is 2.64% for a total budget in the amount of \$14,722,285.

MOTION #2 – 2018/19 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Move that we approve the 2018/19 budget as presented by administration for submission to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Mr. Vultee
UNANIMOUS

BRS Report – Ms. Prisco noted various student performances, professional development activities in Math, the successful Book Fair, completion of PTO grade level socials in Kindergarten and Grades 1-3, the Rotary coat drive, Thanksgiving Basket deliveries and distribution of report cards.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Vultee reviewed the December 18 meeting held just prior to the Public Session. The Committee received a presentation from the Town Sustainability Committee regarding a pilot project on handling food waste in the Cafeteria. Also reviewed was draft letter inviting members of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance to a future tour of the Beecher grounds.

Finance Committee – Dr. Fleishman apprised the Board on the December 11 meeting, inclusive of previously approved monthly financials and review of the 2018/19 budget proposal all of which were approved earlier in the meeting.

Policy Committee – No Report

Curriculum Committee – Ms. Piascyk provided an overview on the December 7 meeting which included a presentation on enrichment opportunities, current course offerings through the Extended Day program and the possibility for inclusion of additional after-school activities. The January 4 meeting will focus on Responsive Classroom as well as the first part of the Social Emotional series. The February 1 meeting will spotlight the TAG identification process and the second part of the Social Emotional series.

Policy Committee – No Report

ACES Liaison – No Report

UPCOMING MEETING PRESENTATION(S)

Mid-year review of the Superintendent.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Gilbert presented one administrative staff retirement, Clare Kennedy, Special Services Director and two certified staff member retirements, Caron Stebinger, Science Teacher and Mary Sell, Reading/Language Arts.

MOTION #3 – RETIREMENT – ADMINISTRATION

Move that we accept the retirement of Clare Kennedy effective February 1, 2018 with regret.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Mr. Testa
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #4 – RETIREMENT – CERTIFIED STAFF

Move that we accept the retirements of Caron Stebinger and Mary Sell, both effective June 30, 2018 with regret.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Mr. Testa
UNANIMOUS

ACES Liaison – No Report

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese reviewed several upcoming training sessions including the Alliance District Roundtable on December 18, several CABE legislative breakfasts throughout the month of January, the February Legal Roundtable, the annual NSBA Advocacy Institute which will be held in Washington, DC and a host of articles – Social Media and the

effect on students, new requirements for children in foster care, the elementary and secondary education act and the observance of religious holidays in schools. All Board members receive copies of the information directly from CABE.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:03 PM)
Dr. Fleischman
Second by Mr. Testa
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board