

**MINUTES OF THE HYBRID REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**Tuesday, May 17, 2022**

**South Assembly Room Beecher Road School**

**Via WebEx** <https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=m4ca2f73ab6186599fad0e5f7fa960e54>

**Meeting Number:** 2481 404 0836

**Meeting Password:** KkSE9UZjV36

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Piascyk, Chair, called the meeting to order (7:05 PM).

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (In-person); Dr. Jay Dayha (In-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (In-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (In-person); Mr. Jeff Hughes (7:45 PM In-person); Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair (In-person); Dr. Michael Strambler (In-person); and Ms. Erin Williamson (In-person).

**STAFF:** Dr. Jonathan Budd, Superintendent; Cheryl Kiesel, Special Services Director; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

**GUESTS:** Abigail Sussman, SCASA Award recipient; Beth Heller, First Selectman; Joi Prud'homme, PTO.

SCASA Student Award Recipients – Superintendent Budd recognized two of the Grade 6 recipients of the SCASA (South Central Area Superintendents' Association) Award: Abigail Sussman and Ethan Vatner. This award is designed to honor students who excel in three categories: community service and/or service to others; academic prowess relative to their ability; and leadership to their school community.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Whitney Randall submitted an email regarding the Safe Return Plan that is available in BoardBook.

First Selectman – Beth Heller – Ms. Heller read a proclamation honoring 50 years of the BRS PTO.

Board of Selectmen Update – None

PTO Report – Ms. Prud'homme noted the Scholastic Book Fair, which raised \$8,000 in Scholastic dollars for the purchase of books for the BRS Library; staff appreciation on May 3; Quassy night with Bethany Community School on Friday, May 20; Artsweek May 23-27 inclusive of Yoga with Bill on May 25, a school-wide performance on May 24, Arts Night on May 25; the installation of two trees and a wooden tree bench; and plans for the June 15 pool party as part of the Grade 6 graduation festivities. PTO Officers for 2022/23 are Ruchi Jain, President; Sumithra Sudhir, Linda Christy, Co-Treasurers; Jennifer Plonsky, Recording Secretary.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Madonick

Second by Ms. Hopkins

**UNANIMOUS**

**REPORTS**

BRS Update – Ms. Kiesel acknowledged Staff Appreciation Week; continuation of SBAC testing for students in Grades 3-6; field trips to Beardsley Zoo, STEAM Day, and local town historical sites; Mathematical Awareness Month; and celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Superintendents Report

Safe Return Plan – Superintendent Budd noted there have been 71 new cases at BRS since the last update provided to the Board. Continued mitigation strategies include 50% usage of Cafeteria; 3 feet social distancing; desk shields in the classrooms for snack and the Cafeteria for lunch and cohorting at dismissal.

Wellness Program Update – As part of the National School Lunch Program, all student lunches are paid for and there is a 53% participation rate in the Cafeteria. In order to maintain this momentum, the “meal” price will remain the same, while a la carte items will increase approximately 25 cents per item in the coming year. All items sold are part of the Healthy Food / Snack Program. Also noted was the recent completion of the triennial audit.

Strategic Plan Development – The work of this committee will focus on three areas (1) *Building Diverse Alliances / Building Healthy Alliances* - create and support an inclusive environment that embraces awareness of and deepens appreciation of diversity and individuality while promoting the social-emotional wellness of all students; (2) *Academic Framework* - develop and support a coherent, research-based curriculum that fosters students’ inquiry skills and builds students’ intellectual confidence; (3) *Contemporary Learners* - develop and integrate project-based learning opportunities into the curriculum to promote student choice and critical thinking as we prepare our students for future learning and responsible global citizenship. Next steps in the process will be to develop action plans with objectives, action steps, resources, etc.; development and implementation of a Communication Plan; and then a five-year review. It is a process of forward thinking to build a curriculum of curiosity driven learning that meets the needs of a generation of inquisitive learners.

Curriculum Committee Report – Dr. Strambler reviewed the May 5 meeting, which included discussion on attendance, Health education and TAG.

Finance Committee – Dr. Dayha reviewed the May 13 meeting, which discussed the current operating budget / forecasted projections; MERF and retiree payments; as well as a presentation of the food service program. The June 14 meeting will have an update on ARP/ESSER funding in addition to review of the monthly financials.

Capital Budget / Operating Update – as a result of the Annual Town Meeting, the 2022/23 operating budget will remain at \$16,587,201. Final budget reconciliation will occur at the June 20 regular meeting with timelines for Capital Projects presented at the June 7 Facilities Committee.

Policy Committee – Dr. Madonick presented the policies currently under 30–day review for adoption. Dr. Madonick noted that, given current administrative changes and the large threshold amounts for line-item transfers, Policy 3160 would be returned to committee for further review and discussion.

**MOTION #2 – RETURN POLICY TO COMMITTEE**

Move that we return Policy 3160 - Budget Development, Administration, and Monitoring, and Transfer of Funds back to committee.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Ms. Hopkins  
**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #3 – ADOPT POLICY 5111**

Move that we adopt Policy 5111 - Admission/Placement as revised.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Ms. Hopkins  
**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #4 – ADOPT POLICY 5118.1**

Move that we adopt Policy 5118.1 - Homeless Students as revised.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Dr. Dayha  
**UNANIMOUS**

CABE Liaison Report – None

Upcoming Meeting Presentation: Professional Development and Evaluation as well as Celebration of BRS 2021/2022. Board members were asked to forward their requests and/or questions to either Superintendent Budd or Chair Piasczyk.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CSEA Contract Ratification** – Superintendent Budd presented the CSEA Collective Bargaining Agreement for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. Consistent with the Connecticut Municipal Employees Relations Act (MERA), the proposed Agreement has been negotiated through collective bargaining. In addition to standard wage and insurance increases, other changes include the retitling of the employee group to "paraeducators" and dissolution of the current Sick Leave Bank.

**MOTION #5 – CSEA CONTRACT RATIFICATION**

Move that we approve the draft Agreement between the Woodbridge Board of Education and the Woodbridge Paraeducators Association, CSEA SEIU Local 2001, effective July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025.

Ms. Piascyk  
Second by Dr. Madonick  
**UNANIMOUS**

It was suggested that in the future consideration be given to modification of the 5-year longevity payment, as 5 years is a relatively short time.

**CSDE Flexibilities** – Superintendent Budd apprised the Board that the Connecticut State Department of Education has recommended that local districts consider continuing implementing flexibilities in teacher and administrator evaluation for the 2022/23 school year. The Woodbridge Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) has reviewed the recommended flexibilities, and supports the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board continue to mutually agree to implement the flexibilities for the 2022/23 school year.

**MOTION #6 – CSDE FLEXIBILITIES**

Move that we adopt the Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 for the 2022/23 School Year.

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

**Administrative Staff Resignation** – Superintendent Budd presented his official resignation to the Board upon conclusion of the 2021/22 school year.

**MOTION #7 – ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF RESIGNATION (BUDD)**

Move that we accept the administrative resignation of Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D., effective June 30, 2022, with regret.

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

**Interim Superintendent** – Chair Piascyk noted the many attributes of Ms. Syriac who has held a variety of school leadership roles during her more than 20 years of experience as an educational leader. Ms. Syriac previously served as the Interim Superintendent in Woodbridge during the 2020 school year.

**MOTION #8 – APPOINTMENT INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT (SYRIAC)**

Move that we appoint Christine Syriac as Interim Superintendent effective July 1, 2022.

Ms. Piascyk  
Second by Ms. Del Prete  
**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #9 – SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Move that the Board appoint itself as a Search Committee to conduct the search for a new Superintendent.

Ms. Piascyk  
Second by Dr. Madonick  
**UNANIMOUS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

The Board moved into Executive Session to discuss a matter which would result in the disclosure of records exempt from disclosure based on attorney-client privilege. (8:47 PM)

**MOTION #9 – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Move that we enter Executive Session to discuss a matter which would result in the disclosure of records exempt from disclosure based on attorney-client privilege, and invite the Superintendent to join the Board.

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (In-person); Dr. Jay Dayha (In-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (In-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (In-person); Mr. Jeff Hughes (In-person); Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair (In-person); Dr. Michael Strambler (In-person); and Ms. Erin Williamson (In-person).

**STAFF:** Dr. Jonathan Budd, Superintendent.

The Board discussed a matter which would result in the disclosure of records exempt from disclosure based on attorney-client privilege.

**MOTION #10 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

Move that we return to Public Session (9:45 PM).

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (In-person); Dr. Jay Dayha (In-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (In-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (In-person); Mr. Jeff Hughes (In-person); Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair (In-person); Dr. Michael Strambler (In-person); and Ms. Erin Williamson (In-person).

**STAFF:** Dr. Jonathan Budd, Superintendent; Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

Chair Piascyk called the Public Session back to order (9:45 PM).

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** (9:45 PM)

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

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board