

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, October 21, 2019

Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Fleischman, Vice Chair called the meeting to order (7:04 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Steven Fleischman, Chair; Mr. Dan Cowan, Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Mr. Jeff Hughes, Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Vice Chair; Dr. David Ross, Ms. Joyce Shavers and Dr. Michael Strambler.

STAFF: Cheryl Mammen, Acting Superintendent / Special Services Director; Al Pullo, Director of Business Operations/Services; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Doreen Merrill, Assistant Principal; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Sandy Stein, BOS Liaison; Dr. Tom Handler, Tom Kenefick, BOF Liaisons; James Crawford, Kim Franklin, Nancy Smerekanicz, Cathy Zdrowski, Teachers; student members of the RoboSapiens Robotics Club and parents, Pua Ford, Bettina Thiel, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Genovese noted receipt of two parent emails, one in support of the SRO and one in support of the Robotics team.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Students from the RoboSapiens Club presented acoustic panels for the Cafeteria. They outlined their process for project selection, materials utilized to create the panels and research conducted to ascertain specific product selections and measurements.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Ms. Genovese

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

Town Budget Update– Ms. Stein apprised the Board on the fiscal constraints the Town is facing. It is hoped that creative solutions will be attained to reach a “zero” percent increase in taxes. As part of this endeavor, the Town formed a Budget Review Task Force and reviewed all department budgets of \$5,000 or more to determine duplication of services and to identify ways to provide services differently to reduce overall costs. Areas suggested for consolidation include:

- *Transfer Grounds/Maintenance services to Public Works, through utilization of staffing assigned to the Transfer Station.*
- *Consolidation of all IT Services. Currently, the police, fire, town and Beecher have all separate IT vendors, with the Town using Amity to provide their service.*
- *Incorporate all building maintenance functions under one umbrella and most likely under the direction of Amity.*
- *Integrate and streamline all business office functions into the town inclusive of accounts payable, payroll and business manager/finance responsibilities.*

The Board was urged to explore additional ideas and develop both short-term and long-term cost saving measures during their budget deliberation process.

Regionalization Update – Ms. Mammen noted that a regionalization meeting was held at Amity High School on September 26 to review various models of regionalization. A follow-up meeting is scheduled on January 14 with retired superintendent, Ruth Levy, who will present shared regionalization options.

Principal Search Update – Dr. Fleischman indicated that Mary Broderick from CABA will be overseeing the search for a new principal. Notifications and scheduling for focus group participation will occur in the near future. Parents, teachers, administration, elected officials and the community will have an opportunity to meet with the consultant and share their perspectives and ideas. The Personnel Search Committee will also be forming a group of individuals to move forward with the interview process inclusive of three board members, one administrator, three teachers, two parent representatives, two teacher assistants and two non-certified staff members. The committee will be chaired by Superintendent Robert Gilbert.

PTO Update – No Report

Superintendent Update – Ms. Mammen noted the November board meeting date change to November 18, Board approval of the 2020/21 capital budget for this evening, commencement of the 2020/21 budget development process, CAFE recognition of the BRS Calendar as an award winner and the Parent/Student Handbook and Strategic Plan as Honorable Mentions and Veteran’s Day as a day of learning for BRS students.

BRS Update – Ms. Sherman noted the school-wide outdoor read, the peaceful bus initiative, the Green Team project, the upcoming Halloween Hoot, and the social/emotional professional development learning activities that occurred on October 8 with a presenter from the CEA.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Report – Ms. Sherman presented an overview for how the assessment is conducted as well as the results from spring testing, with the exclusion of the Next Generation Science scores. SBA is a mandated global assessment aligned to common core standards. Since testing is done completely on-line, throughout the year students are provided with opportunities for daily exposure to similar web sites, question formats and navigation of the various online tools to achieve an individual comfort level. Also, it is a multiple choice Q&A computer adaptive test that changes for each student depending upon the answer(s) selected. While SBA testing is only one measurement, it does provide helpful information in determining strengths and weaknesses in daily instruction. An in-depth analysis is performed on each of the content data areas by BRS data teams to ascertain individual student growth targets and expected growth levels, cohort growth as well as vertical strengths and weakness to inform and guide instruction. Overall students performed well with increases across all grade levels for English/Language Arts and Mathematics. The overall scores for students in Woodbridge (DRG B) meeting or exceeding the state standard were: ELA (English/ Language Arts) – 80.5% (State Average 59.9 %) and Math –74.5% (State Average 62.5%). Students at both the Middle and High school levels also performed well.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – Curriculum Committee Overview, all items for inclusion should be forwarded to Ms. Piascyk.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Hughes reviewed the October 11 meeting which included the final HVAC Phase I recommendations report completed by Van Zelm, discussions on the Kindergarten wing roof replacement, tree/erosion control issues and radon and microturbine testing.

Finance Committee – Ms. Shavers reviewed the Finance Committee meeting held prior to the public session and presented the 2020/21 Capital Budget request in the amount of \$27,000, which focuses on technology infrastructure/cybersecurity data backup, for adoption. It was noted there was no funding included for facilities nor grounds.

MOTION #2 – CAPITAL BUDGET 2020/21

Move that we approve the 2020/21 Capital Budget as presented by administration.

Ms. Shavers
Second by Mr. Hughes
UNANIMOUS

Ms. Shavers noted that the measurement and verification report provided by the performance contractor, ESG, would expire at the end of the 2019/20 school year. There was agreement that obtaining an additional year of data would be beneficial to the overall management of systems and controls at an annual cost of approximately \$10,000.

MOTION #3 – MEASUREMENT AND VERIFICATION REPORT

Move that we continue the Measurement and Verification report with ESG for one more year.

Mr. Cowan
Second by Ms. Shavers
UNANIMOUS

It was also noted that information regarding independent student accident insurance would no longer be provided in the student packet.

Curriculum Committee – Ms. Piascyk reviewed the October 17 meeting in with two presentations one by Ms. Merrill on Summer Programs and one by Ms. Sherman on summer curriculum work. The next meeting is November 21 which will highlight Special Education requirements, inclusive of possible budget implications, and the TAG Identification process..

Policy Committee – Ms. Genovese noted the Committee met on October 8 to review policies, one of which was submitted for 30-day review, one which was tabled for further conversation and for preliminary discussions for how security and the SRO could be addressed prior to development of the 2020/21 budget. The Policy Committee will not meet again until after the first of the year.

MOTION #4 – POLICY ADOPTION

Move that we adopt Policies 3524.1 Hazardous Material in School/Pesticide Management Plan, 5112 Ages of Attendance, 5141 Student Health Services and 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations as revised.

Ms. Genovese
Second by Ms. Piascyk
UNANIMOUS

CABE Liaison Report –Ms. Genovese noted the CABE / CAPSS Convention on November 15 and 16, the legal issues workshop tomorrow and the new board member orientation and leadership conversation on Tuesday, December 10.

Public Comment – None

The Board entered Executive Session to review early retirement incentive options for the WEA, CSEA and CILU unions.

MOTION #5 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Move that we enter Executive Session (8:40 PM).

Ms. Piascyk
Second by Dr. Strambler
UNANIMOUS

The Board reviewed and adjusted early retirement incentive options for the WEA, CSEA and CILU union memberships.

MOTION #6 – PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (9:32 PM).

Mr. Cowan
Second by Ms. Genovese
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #7 –CERTIFIED STAFF EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE

Move that we approve the 2019/20 Voluntary Early Retirement Plan for the membership of the WEA as modified.

Ms. Genovese
Second by Ms. Piascyk
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #8 – CSEA NON-CERTIFIED STAFF EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE

Move that we approve the 2019/20 Voluntary Early Retirement Plan for the membership of the CSEA as modified.

Ms. Genovese
Second by Mr. Hughes
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #9 – CILU NON-CERTIFIED STAFF EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE

Move that we approve the 2019/20 Voluntary Early Retirement Plan for the membership of the CILU as modified.

Ms. Genovese
Second by Ms. Piascyk
UNANIMOUS

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

(9:35 PM)
Ms. Piascyk
Second by Ms. Shavers
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board