

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, November 17, 2025  
Town Hall Main Meeting Room

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Dr. Jay Dahya (7:07 PM); Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (7:16 PM); Dr. Lauren Francese (remote); Jeff Hughes; Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair; Dr. Michael Strambler and Erin Williamson.

**STAFF:** Christopher Montini, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Cheryl Tafel, Assistant Principal; Carrie Borcharding, Special Services Director; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

Dr. Dahya arrived (7:07 PM).

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Dr. Strambler

**UNANIMOUS**

*Superintendent Report* – Superintendent Montini noted enrollment is currently at 861. Congratulations were extended to incoming Board members with an orientation scheduled for November 18 at Amity. Assistant Principal Madruga will be in district beginning Monday, December 1. The 2026/27 Budget development process has commenced with the primary drivers being contractual salaries, health benefits and transportation.

*2026/27 School Calendar* – The calendar was developed in collaboration with the BOWA districts with designated holidays similar to the current calendar. The Board will vote on the calendar at the December 15 regular meeting.

Ms. Del Prete arrived (7:16 PM)

*Multi-Lingual Learners Update* – Ms. Knoblauch outlined the responsibilities and procedures to identify and service students. While there is an extensive variety of languages at BRS, the primary languages include Mandarin, Turkish and Spanish. Approximately, 54 students are being serviced which is a slight decrease from last year. Daily / weekly collaboration occurs with classroom teachers, the Library Media Specialist and technology to provide student language acquisition support and applicable individual student resources. Parents are also provided with resources through PPTs, individual meetings and the district website. The Office of Civil Rights and Department of Justice have developed recommended standard service hours. While planning is unpredictable, students achieve proficiency in 5-7 years and generally exit the program in 3-4 years once they attain LAS proficiency levels in reading, writing and comprehension. In addition, the staff November 4 Professional Development Day focused on training and learning for ML services by two national consultants.

*Extended Day Update* – Anthony Taddei, Director and Tim Rourke, Assistant Director provided an overview of staffing and programming. A total of 42 staff members (27 adults, 3 nurses, 1 cafeteria and 8 high school students) work the program with the adults being current/former BRS staff members and have service years ranging from 14-36 years. Program rates have not been adjusted in 10 years and were increased slightly this year. In addition, several students require 1-on-1 assistance which also created fiscal challenges. Parents have the payment option for daily, weekly or monthly participation. Program offerings are posted monthly for student selection with an average of 85-100 students participating daily. As pricing is significantly lower than comparable local vendors, it was suggested that prices be raised on a regular basis instead of waiting several years.

*BRS Update* – Ms. Sherman noted the school-wide celebration of Veterans Day, the Halloween parade, special cards made by students sent to *Operation Gratitude* and the Special Pocket Kindness cards shared with Starbucks. The PTO hosted the annual Book Fair. The Literary Board is up and running with over 30 student submissions and the After-School Friendship Group has commenced.

*Facilities Committee* – Mr. Hughes reviewed the November 6 meeting. The Board was reminded that the while some projects in the Capital Improvement Plan have been slightly deferred until the Town decides on a direction, this building has an aging infrastructure and exterior envelope and its “useful life expectancy” has been exceeded.

*Finance Committee* – Mr. Lawrence noted the current projected surplus is \$79,000. As indicated last month, this figure could change with the addition of a PK section mid-year as well as the recent engagement of ESS to provide additional para services.

*2027-32 Capital Improvement Plan* – This plan will not be voted on until the December 15 regular meeting. As more definitive information is required to plan appropriately, some projects have been deferred to alternate years until the Town renders a decision on whether to invest in “repair as needed” at BRS or build a new school. It is important to note that even if the Town does nothing, incremental improvements/repairs will cost millions, and are going to be more expensive and at more significant increases than what is currently estimated. The “useful life” of the major systems at BRS have a timeframe expiration of 2035-2040. The comparisons provided by Antinozzi are helpful in creating an understanding of the implications of not building a new school as well as the lead-time necessary for building a new school and that doing “nothing” does not solve the problems. It was also noted that it should be clearly communicated to the Town that if they decide not to fund a new school, each year of this plan will be a multi-million dollar ask. There was general consensus that figures be adjusted to include a rate for inflation.

*Budget Drivers* – Superintendent Montini apprised the Board on the significant increases in the 2026/27 budget. Transportation contractual obligations 7%, contractual salaries 2.4%, and health insurance renewals 15%. Just these three drivers are increasing the budget 5.3%.

*Policy Committee* – Ms. Williamson presented the policies for adoption and reviewed the changes made to the policies accepted earlier under the Consent Agenda.

#### **MOTION #2 – POLICY 6161.12**

Move that we adopt Policy 6161.12 Library Material Review and Reconsideration as submitted.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Mr. Lawrence

**UNANIMOUS**

#### **MOTION #3 – POLICY 6161.13**

Move that we adopt Policy 6161.13 Library Collection Development and Maintenance as submitted.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Dr. Dahya

**UNANIMOUS**

#### **MOTION #4 – POLICY 6161.14**

Move that we adopt Policy 6161.14 Library Display and Program as submitted.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Dr. Strambler

**UNANIMOUS**

#### **MOTION #5 – POLICY 1312**

Move that we adopt Policy 1312 Public Complaints as revised.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Mr. Lawrence

**UNANIMOUS**

CABE Liaison – Ms. Del Prete reminded Board member of the CABE/CAPSS Convention this week and noted she will attend the Delegate Assembly on November 20.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – The regular December 15 meeting will be held in the Main Meeting Room at Town Hall at 7:00 PM. In addition, there will be Budget Workshops on December 4, 10 and 11 (if needed) in the BRS South Assembly Room at 7:00 PM. Committee meetings will be held as follows: Policy on December 1 at 4:30 PM, Curriculum, December 4 at 4:00 PM and Finance December 9 at 4:30 PM.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Open Choice – 2026/27 – Open Choice is an inter-district public school program intended to improve academic achievement; reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation; and provide a choice of educational programs for public school students. The program allows children from Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport to voluntarily attend school in other districts that have space in their schools. (Danbury and Norwalk are pilot programs). Participating districts receive reimbursement from the CSDE for transportation services. Participation in this program aligns with the WSD mission of equity, excellence, and belonging; advances the district's vision of preparing flexible, lifelong learners and responsible global citizens. Superintendent Montini presented a 10-year history and the impact this program has had on increasing diversity in Woodbridge. Currently for the 2025/26 school year, Woodbridge has 18 available slots with one remaining vacant slot. It is anticipated the 2026/27 will have two vacancies.

### **MOTION #6 – OPEN CHOICE**

Move that we adopt the Superintendent's recommendation and continue participation in the Open Choice program with 18 slots allocated for the 2026/27 school year with any vacant slots filled beginning in Kindergarten.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Dr. Dahya

**IN FAVOR:** Ms. Piascyk, Dr. Dahya, Dr. Francese, Mr. Lawrence, Dr. Strambler and Ms. Williamson

**AGAINST:** Ms. Del Prete, Mr. Hughes

***MOTION PASSES 6-0-2***

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** (9:38 PM)  
Dr. Dahya  
Second by Mr. Hughes  
**UNANIMOUS**

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.