

MINUTES OF THE HYBRID REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Via WebEx [https:// woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=mb7a193fff455c6faf0cbb11d2d341384](https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=mb7a193fff455c6faf0cbb11d2d341384)

Meeting Number: 2493 325 2189 **Meeting Password:** NnZJGVuA283

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the meeting to order (6:20 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Mr. Jeff Hughes (in-person); Dr. Michael Strambler (in-person) and Ms. Erin Williamson (in-person).

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent and Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations

GUEST: Greg Coyne, BluePrint Benefits Partner

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session in accordance with State statute to receive an update on recent insurance negotiations.

MOTION #1 – EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:20 PM)

Move that we enter Executive Session to receive an overview of insurance negotiations and invite the Superintendent, Donna Coonan and Greg Coyne to join the Board.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Mr. Hughes

UNANIMOUS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Mr. Jeff Hughes (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (in-person 6:25 PM); Mr. Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair (in-person 6:28 PM); Dr. Michael Strambler (in-person) and Ms. Erin Williamson (in-person).

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent and Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations.

GUEST: Greg Coyne, BluePrint Benefits Partner

MOTION #2 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (7:07 PM).

Dr. Strambler

Second by Ms. Hopkins

UNANIMOUS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (remote); Dr. Lauren Francese (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (in-person); Mr. Jeff Hughes (in-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair (in-person); Dr. Michael Strambler (in-person) and Erin Williamson (in-person).

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

SCASA STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS – Yuna Ahmed and Matthew Messina were introduced and recognized by Principal Sherman.

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Del Prete acknowledged receipt of correspondence available in BoardBook regarding the hiring / placement process for the MAG teacher.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

PTO Update – Ms. Kruger noted completion of the successful Book Swap, the Spring Book Fair, upcoming teacher appreciation week and Artsweek.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #3 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Dr. Franchese
UNANIMOUS

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Tencza noted the Preliminary Budget Hearing that will result in adjustments to the 2024/25 budget at either the May or June Board meeting, the recent dissemination of a community message on various important topics, the upcoming community conversation on April 29 at 6:00 PM in South Assembly, the roof and grounds upgrade, relocation of summer programs to the Amity Bethany Middle School, the green team clothing drive and the change in leadership of the Town BRS Building Committee from Sheila McCreven to Dr. Maria Madonick.

Extended Day Update – Anthony Taddei, Extended Day Director and Tim Rourke, Extended Day Assistant Director provided an overview for the past year and acknowledged the many successes of students and staff as well as several program upgrades.

BRS Update – Principal Sherman noted Kindergarten registration is underway with Orientation occurring on May 7. She outlined the screening committee / hiring process for vacancies in MAG, grade level classrooms and specialists; the ELA piloting rollout of HMH in Grades 1-3 and Spirit Week inclusive of the annual coin fundraiser before spring break.

BRS Town Building Committee Update – Mr. Hughes noted that the Board of Selectmen would meet on April 25, prior to the Preliminary Budget Hearing, to appoint four (4) additional members to the committee, which is now called the *Beecher Road School Infrastructure Upgrade Building Committee*. The low bidder for the roof replacement project was Silk Town from Derby.

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Strambler reviewed the April 4 meeting detailing the systemic evaluation process followed for researching and identifying resources in support of ELA as mandated by the CSDE with HMH currently piloted in Grades 1-3. The Committee also received an update on the Master Class training and strategic plan development with consultants Dr. Rafferty and Dr. Cooper.

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence reviewed the April 9 meeting inclusive of the standard monthly reports. It is anticipated that there will be a projected surplus and at the May 7 meeting possible areas of use will be discussed.

Policy Committee – Ms. Williamson reviewed the policy changes of the policies accepted for 30-day review.

CABE Liaison Report – Ms. Del Prete apprised the Board of the upcoming legislative wrap-up session and encouraged Board members to complete their survey.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Piascyk requested that discussion and action on insurance benefits be added to the agenda under New Business.

MOTION #4 – MODIFY AGENDA

Move that we add discussion and action on insurance negotiations to the agenda under New Business.

Ms. Piascyk
Second by Ms. Hopkins
UNANIMOUS

As discussed in Executive Session earlier in the meeting, the Board agreed with the recent action by the Board of Selectmen to modify certain insurance coverages. Ms. Del Prete noted that as she was not part of that discussion, she would abstain.

MOTION #5 – INSURANCE COVERAGES

Move that we approve renewal with Connecticare with a change of dental / vision to Delta and remain with Anthem for the retiree over 65 medical coverage.

Ms. Piascyk
Second by Mr. Lawrence

IN FAVOR: Ms. Piascyk, Dr. Francese, Ms. Hopkins, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Lawrence, Dr. Strambler and
Ms. Williamson

ABSTAIN: Ms. Del Prete

MOTION PASSES 7-0-1

Upcoming WBOE Committee / Meeting Schedule – Facilities Committee on May 2 at 7:30 AM, the Finance Committee on May 7 at 4:30 PM (this is a change from May 14), the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 20 and the regular WBOE Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 21 at 7:00 PM. The Town Preliminary Budget Hearing will be held on April 25. Teacher and Staff Appreciation is the week of May 6.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:13 PM)

Ms. Hopkins
Second by Mr. Hughes

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board