

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, December 15, 2025

BRS South Assembly Room

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Dr. Jay Dahya (7:31 PM); Dr. Lauren Francese; Brooke Hopkins; 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.

It was noted that this meeting was relocated from the Main Meeting Room at Town Hall due to a pipe burst and the subsequent closure of Town Hall to the public.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Mr. Hughes

**UNANIMOUS**

**Board Member Appreciation** – Superintendent Montini and Chair Piascyk extended a sincere thank you to outgoing Board members Drs. Dayha and Francese and Ms. Hopkins. Each member was acknowledged with a parting gift for their service.

**Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Montini noted enrollment is currently at 867 and has remained fairly consistent this year. Three additional paras have been hired for SpEd. A change of the spring conference dates in the 2026/27 calendar was noted.

**SpEd Update** – Ms. Borcharding provided an overview on the services provided to students and explained the differences between 504 accommodations and sped as well as the various program supports associated with each. Programming goals focus on (1) allowing students with disabilities to access the general education curriculum similarly to their typical peers; (2) provide learning opportunities and strategies to play on their strengths; (3) develop independence through both direct instruction and specific accommodations; (4) allowing students to advocate for their specific learning needs as they identify their learning challenges; and (5) provide appropriate instructional level access to standards based curriculum / materials with the ultimate goal of building independence in daily living skills.

**BRS Update** – Ms. Sherman noted the work on literacy learning and HMH, student participation and selection for the CEMA Festival (CT Music Educators Association), Tools for Schools building walk-throughs and continuation of gratitude projects.

Dr. Dahya arrived (7:31 PM).

**Curriculum Committee** – Dr. Strambler reviewed the December 4 meeting highlighting Math. Similar to other core areas, the curriculum will be posted on the website. The “*building thinking classroom*” framework is an engaging approach that transforms classrooms into learning environments that foster deep-student thinking concepts and problems solving skills. Students are encouraged to work together and problem solve together to create a more active student-owned learning experience. The goal is to get students thinking for longer periods of time, within the context of curriculum, which leads to longer and deeper learning.

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence noted there is a current surplus of \$76,000 with minimal changes from last month except for the hiring of three sped paraeducators.

Policy Committee – Ms. Williamson presented the policies for adoption and reviewed the changes made to the policies accepted earlier for 30-day review under the Consent Agenda.

**MOTION #2 – POLICY 5118.2**

Move that we adopt Policy 5118.2 Educational Opportunities for Military Children as submitted.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Dr. Francese

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #3 – POLICY 6159**

Move that we adopt Policy 6159 Individual Education Program (IEPs) as submitted.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Mr. Lawrence

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #4 – POLICY 6171**

Move that we adopt Policy 6171 Special Education as revised.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Ms. Hopkins

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #5 – POLICY 5114**

Move that we adopt Policy 5114 Suspension and Expulsion / Due Process as revised.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Ms. Hopkins

**UNANIMOUS**

CABE Liaison – Chair Piascyk noted that Superintendent Montini, Sarah Beth and Steven attended the CABE / CAPSS Conference with keynote speaker Miguel Cardona as well as a variety of breakout sessions. CABE is sponsoring several upcoming online webinars inclusive of *Legislative Issues and Advocacy* on December 16 at Noon, January 13 *Deep Dive into the Budget Development*, February 25 *Deep Dive into the Budget Process* and March 19 *Best Practices for Financial Oversight*.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – The regular January 20 meeting will be held in the BRS South Assembly Room at 7:00 PM and will include presentations on school climate, responsive classroom and SEL. A Board Retreat with elections of officers will be held on January 8 in the BRS South Assembly Room at 6:00 PM. Committee meetings are as follows: Facilities – January 8 at 7:30 AM and Finance – January 13 at 4:30 PM. Board members were asked to forward their committee preferences to the Superintendent’s Office as well as their availability and/or preference on the WEA Meet and Discuss dates.

**NEW BUSINESS**

2026/27 School Calendar – The calendar was developed in collaboration with the BOWA districts with designated holidays similar to the current calendar. The only adjustments were moving the spring parent/teacher conference dates from April to March.

**MOTION #6 – 2026/27 CALENDAR**

Move that we adopt the 2026/27 calendar as presented.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Dr. Strambler

**UNANIMOUS**

2027-32 Capital Improvement Plan – The capital budget plan was reviewed and discussed at both the November regular meeting and the December special meetings was presented for adoption.

**MOTION #7 – 2026/32 CAPITAL BUDGET**

Move that we adopt the 2026/32 Capital Budget as presented by administration.

Ms. Hopkins

Second by Dr. Strambler

**UNANIMOUS**

The 2026/27 budget reviewed and discussed at both of the December special meetings was presented for adoption. The significant increases are contractual obligations in the areas of transportation 7%, salaries 2.4%, and health insurance renewals 15% generating an overall increase of 5.4%.

**MOTION #8 – 2026/27 BUDGET**

Move that we adopt the 2026/27 Budget as recommended by the Superintendent.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Dr. Dahya

**UNANIMOUS**

Amity Start Time – Two Woodbridge Amity Board members are requesting input from the elementary districts by January 8 on the possible change of a start time of at least 30 minutes later. Given the sharing of transportation services among the BOWA districts, there is potential financial impact. Bethany is not interested in changing and Orange has not yet had the conversation. Other districts who have explored this option chose not to adjust given the impact on sporting event schedules, after-school activities, after-school employment and increased transportation costs. It was suggested that perhaps Amity should engage in a transportation efficiency study before discussing and/or rearranging start times as a half-hour adjustment would not have any real significance except disruption to family units.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** (8:25 PM)

Dr. Dahya

Second by Dr. Francese / Ms. Hopkins

**UNANIMOUS**

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.