

MINUTES OF THE HYBRID REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, September 18, 2023

Via WebEx <https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=m76cc10af60e163e74f86708f6978f92c>

Meeting Number: 2483 972 2414 Meeting Password: dpZeZ6NQM32

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the meeting to order (7:02 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair (in-person); Dr. Jay Dahya (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (remote); Mr. Jeff Hughes (in-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence, (in-person); Dr. Michael Strambler (remote) and Ms. Erin Williamson (remote).

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; James 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.

The Board expressed their deep condolences to the Luciani family and held a moment of silence in memory of Brian Luciani who recently lost his battle with cancer.

CORRESPONDENCE – Chair Piascyk noted that an email had been received from a BRS parent regarding the cost of school supplies.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Kristine Turkosz spoke regarding changes in student placement procedures, the revised criteria process for PreAlgebra and the lack of communication to parents.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Dr. Madonick

UNANIMOUS

PTO Update – Ms. Kruger highlighted changes in PTO leadership, the recent incorporation of the PTO, and fund raising financials.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Tencza apprised the Board on the addition of 52 students since October of last year, security drills, the anticipated pool opening, the lack of response from the CSDE on the status of our reading waiver, attendance at the Master Reading class and the honoring of Chair Piascyk at the Living Treasure Dinner.

On behalf of the full Board, Dr. Madonick congratulated Chair Piascyk on receiving the Living Treasure Award from the Town. Chair Piascyk was acknowledged for her countless hours and commitment to numerous Town committees / groups; her guidance through the recent pandemic and multiple leadership changes; and her consistency in placing the climate and culture of BRS and the education of children above everything else. Chair Piascyk thanked the Board for their generous and continued support.

Technology Update – Mr. Billings noted the projects that were completed over the summer inclusive of smartboard installations; wiring of new access points throughout the building as well as various areas outside the building, the upcoming rollout of the new student pick-up app and the purchase / shift of Chromebooks for Grade 6 students.

Ms. Hopkins left the meeting (7:34 PM).

Facilities Update – Mr. Esparo noted the cleaning, scrubbing and waxing of all classrooms and hallways; the near completion of HVAC / air balance testing; the wiring upgrade of the PA system, deployment of the Tools for Schools Survey to teachers; completion of in-house HVAC preventative maintenance items / repairs, roof handler / unit ventilator inspections; and his recent appointment as Vice President of the CT Schools and Grounds Association.

BRS Update – Ms. Sherman noted the opening of school, celebration of Dot Day and National Hispanic Heritage Month, the well attended open houses and ice cream social, the first fire drill and upcoming bus evacuation drill and the return of the salad bar and ice cream machine in the Café.

Questions were raised regarding the shift in Grade 6 math classes, the PreAlgebra criteria assessment and the lack of communication to parents. Parents of students who participated in the assessment were notified of the outcome, however, a broad communication to the full Grade 5 / 6 parent base did not occur. Given the low number of eligible students, it was determined that PreAlgebra would not be offered as a class. Instead identified students would be offered accelerated concept projects as part of the flexible student group structure. It was suggested that the Board receive an updated presentation on PreAlgebra as well as explanations for the change and that a communication be sent out to the community.

BRS Town Building Committee – Mr. Hughes apprised the Board that at the September 8 Ad Hoc meeting, David Stein from Silver, Petrucelli provided a projected timeline for the roof repairs. There are numerous roofs on the building. This particular roof represents approximately 25% of all the roofs. The projected timeline for completion would be:

- Schematic Designs – October / November
- Construction Documents – November / December
- Reimbursement Submission Documents to CSDE – November
- Local Approval by BOS / BOF – January / March
- Out to Bid – April
- Award Bid – May
- Construction Begins – Mid / June

Site improvements, including asphalt repaving of parking lots and egress areas, will follow a similar timeline.

- Schematic Designs – October / November
- Construction Documents – November / December
- Local Approval by BOS / BOF – January / March
- Out to Bid – April
- Award Bid – May
- Construction Begins – May / June

It was noted that summer programming (SEP / ESY) will be impacted and alternate sites will be explored.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Hughes reviewed the September 7 meeting which included discussion of the roof repairs, outdoor lighting, leaks around the Rotunda, and a walk of the building. Areas of concern are the aging infrastructure, elevator and windows/doors. A walk of the exterior grounds will be conducted at the November 2 meeting.

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence noted several savings in the budget, the significant surplus in the Cafeteria and Expendable Trust accounts and the 2024/25 budget calendar that provides five opportunities for Board discussion of the budget. The budget timeline allows teachers and administrators, who are actually doing the work, time to prepare before presenting to the Board. It was suggested that the timeline be adjusted to stagger these meetings over a 4 week timeframe instead of 2-3 and moving the Town submission date to February or March.

Policy Committee – Dr. Madonick presented Policy 1110, currently under 30-day review, for adoption. This policy was revised to align with BOWA and CABA models. The intent of the policy is to promote non-voting parent engagement and participation through clear communication channels.

MOTION #2 – POLICY 1110 – COMMUNICATIONS AMONG THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE ADMINISTRATION, THE PARENTS AND THE STAFF AT BEECHER ROAD SCHOOL ADOPTION

Move that we adopt Policy 1110 – Communications among the Board of Education, the Administration, the Parents and the Staff at Beecher Road School as revised.

Dr. Madonick

Second by Steven Lawrence

UNANIMOUS

Dr. Madonick noted recent legislative changes including the extension of the air quality deadline to 2024, school climate policy revision, a Title IX tool kit as the recent revision does not allow for consideration of intent and allocation of funding for new construction grants.

CABE Liaison Report – Dr. Madonick reminded Board members of the reduced hotel rate for the CABE / CAPPS Convention, the Delegate Assembly on November 16 and free webinars in the CABE library. Also, the Board will be submitting documentation for Board Leadership Award Recognition.

Upcoming WBOE Committee / Meeting Schedule – Policy Committee on October 2 at 4:30 PM, Curriculum Committee on October 5 at 4:00 PM, Finance Committee on Tuesday, October 10 at 4:30 PM and the regular WBOE Meeting October 16 at 7:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:02 PM)

Dr. Dahya

Second by Mr. Hughes

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board