

MINUTES OF THE HYBRID REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Via WebEx <https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=m5d140f18d2d91a6552a4bc687cda03c8>

Meeting Number: 2497 284 8317 **Meeting Password:** 3sTSm5qTpb7

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the meeting to order (6:29 PM).

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

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session in accordance with State statute to discuss the 2024/25 contract for the Director of Business Services / Operations.

MOTION #1 – EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:29 PM)

Move that we enter Executive Session to discuss the 2024/25 contract for the Director of Business Services / Operations and invite the Superintendent to join the Board.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Mr. Hughes

UNANIMOUS

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

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent

MOTION #2 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (6:51 PM).

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Dr. Strambler

UNANIMOUS

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the public session to back to order (7:05 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (in-person); Dr. Jay Dahya (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; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

CAPSS SUPERINTENDENT / STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS – Awards were presented to Grade 6 students: Mason Ackerman, Sadie Berkowitz, Jonah Cohen, Riaan Godawat, Annabel Maley, Sydney Reed and Qihan Yang. This award is designed to honor students who excel in three categories: community service and/or service to others; academic prowess relative to their ability; and leadership to their school community. The Board held a brief recess to congratulate the students and their families.

Return to order (7:27 PM).

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Del Prete acknowledged receipt of correspondence available in BoardBook.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

PTO Update – Ms. Kruger noted completion of the successful Spring Book Fair which raised over \$12,000 in scholastic dollars and \$10,000 in teacher grants, subscriptions and literacy anthologies. Other highlights included Arts Night, the Fun Run, Quassy Night, Grade 6 robotics project, Birds of Prey and the MAG garden.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #3 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Ms. Del Prete
UNANIMOUS

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Tencza provided a brief update on the Literacy Master Science / Reading course, the upcoming changeover from the Swift K12 parent communication program to another communication platform during the summer, the recent reassignment of Kristina Conroy to a Literacy Specialist creating another elementary teaching vacancy for the 2024/25 school year, finalization of the 2023/24 budget surplus recommendations for the June WBOE meeting as well as the reconciliation of the 2024/25 budget based on the reduction by the BOS/BOF. Also noted was the anticipated cost for asbestos remediation which could range from \$18,000-20,000 with an additional \$12,000 for flooring replacement in those areas. It was suggested that the Board develop a contingency fund line item, similar to Amity, for purposes of targeting projects for completion as funding becomes available. It was noted that as a regional district Amity has different statute requirements and that the Town has been gracious in funding additional unanticipated expenditures when necessary.

BRS Update – Principal Sherman extended sincere thank you to the Board and PTO for their acknowledgements during staff / teacher appreciation week, completion of PreAlgebra, SBAC and STAR testing, Kindergarten Orientation, Grade 6 Field day occurring and the review of the HMH pilot in Grades K, 1 and 2.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Hughes reviewed the May 2 meeting detailing completion of building repairs and grounds projects. Support was voiced for the asbestos remediation to occur over the summer of 2024 as the building will not be occupied by staff nor students as a result of the roofing project.

BRS Town Building Committee Update – Mr. Hughes noted this committee met recently to interview firms regarding space utilization and will meet again on Thursday.

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence reviewed the May 7 meeting inclusive of the standard monthly reports. It is anticipated that there will be a projected surplus in the 2023/24 budget and possible areas of use will be discussed at the June 11 meeting. It was recently discovered that an adjustment was required to cover funding of non-certified and certified 12-month employees which will result in an allocation of \$140,000 to rectify the payroll schedule, which has been in error since 2004. The Committee also discussed the anticipated costs associated with asbestos remediation and use of surplus funds to cover this unanticipated cost of approximately \$32,000 in order to expedite the funding process. It was suggested that surplus funds be used to directly impact students, i.e. class supplies, consummables, bulk buying etc. and not the building and that teacher input be solicited on the use of surplus dollars. It was noted that the facility is the Town's largest asset, and as such, should be a primary focus and maintained accordingly. Discussion ensued as to whether the use of the surplus should be the Town's decision or the Board of Education.

MOTION #4 – ASBESTOS REMEDIATION

Move that we appropriate funding from the 2023/24 budget surplus for asbestos remediation in the summer of 2024

Dr. Lawrence
Second by Dr. Strambler
UNANIMOUS

Policy Committee – Ms. Williamson presented the policies currently under 30-day review for adoption.

MOTION #5 – ADOPT POLICY 9000 (ROLE OF BOARD AND MEMBERS (POWERS, PURPOSES, DUTIES))

Move that we adopt Policy 9000 as revised

Ms. Williamson
Second by Mr. Lawrence
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #6 – ADOPT POLICY 9005 (STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY)

Move that we adopt Policy 9005 as revised.

Ms. Williamson
Second by Mr. Hughes
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #7 – ADOPT POLICY 9010 (LIMITS OF AUTHORITY)

Move that we adopt Policy 9010 as revised.

Ms. Williamson
Second by Dr. Strambler
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #8 – ADOPT POLICY 9012 (LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION)

Move that we adopt Policy 9012 as revised.

Ms. Williamson
Second by Dr. Dahya
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #9 – ADOPT POLICY 9020 (PUBLIC STATEMENTS)

Move that we adopt Policy 9020 as revised.

Ms. Williamson
Second by Ms. Del Prete
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #10 – ADOPT POLICY 9020.1 (ADVOCACY)

Move that we adopt Policy 9020.1 as revised.

Ms. Williamson
Second by Mr. Lawrence
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #11 – ADOPT POLICY 9030 (COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IN RELATION TO COMMUNITY, STAFF AND STUDENTS)

Move that we adopt Policy 9030 as revised.

Ms. Williamson
Second by Mr. Hughes
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #12 – ADOPT POLICY 9040 (BOARD RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES)

Move that we adopt Policy 9040 as revised.

Ms. Williamson
Second by Dr. Strambler
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #13 – ADOPT POLICY 9110 (NUMBER OF MEMBERS, TERMS OF OFFICE, ELECTION OF MEMBERS)

Move that we adopt Policy 9110 as revised.

Ms. Williamson
Second by Dr. Dahya
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #14 – ADOPT POLICY 9120 (OFFICERS AND AUXILIARY PERSONNEL)

Move that we adopt Policy 9120 as revised.

Ms. Williamson
Second by Ms. Del Prete
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #15 – MODIFY AGENDA

Move that we add Policy 9011 to the agenda.

Ms. Williamson
Second by Dr. Strambler
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #16 – ADOPT POLICY 9011 (ACCOUNTABILITY)

Move that we adopt Policy 9011 as revised.

Ms. Williamson
Second by Dr. Dahya
UNANIMOUS

CABE Liaison Report – Ms. Del Prete apprised the Board of the CABE Leadership meeting on August 8.

NEW BUSINESS

As discussed in Executive Session earlier in the meeting, the Board presented the contract for the Director of Business Services / Operations. Dr. Dahya noted that as he was not part of that discussion, he would abstain.

MOTION #17 – DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES CONTRACT

Move that we extend the contract of the Director of Business Services/Operations through June 30, 2027 including a three (3) % increase in salary for the 2024/25 school year.

Ms. Piascyk
Second by Mr. Lawrence
IN FAVOR: Ms. Piascyk, Ms. Del Prete, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Lawrence, Dr. Strambler and
Ms. Williamson
ABSTAIN: Dr. Dahya

MOTION PASSES 6-0-1

Upcoming WBOE Committee / Meeting Schedule – Curriculum Committee on June 6 at 4:00 PM, Policy Committee on June 3 at 4:30 PM, Finance Committee on June 11 at 4:30 PM and the regular WBOE Regular Meeting on Monday, June 17 at 7:00 PM. Chair Piascyk asked that all Board members complete and return the CABE Superintendent Evaluation document either via hard copy or electronically by June 3.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:57 PM)

Mr. Hughes
Second by Dr. Strambler
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board