

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, February 22, 2021

Via WebEx <https://woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=mff99418e1d7c40b629250b6277501def>

Meeting Number (access code): 187 372 5655

Meeting Password: mdSgQQjj573

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Mr. Daniel Cowan, Ms. Lor Ferrante Fernandes, Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Mr. Jeff Hughes, Dr. David Ross, Ms. Joyce Shavers, Vice Chair, Dr. Michael Strambler and Dr. Jeffrey Townsend.

STAFF: Dr. Jonathan Budd, Superintendent; Cheryl Kiesel, Special Services Director; Al Pullo, Director of Business Operations/Services; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Doreen Merrill, Assistant Principal; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Kristen DeManche, Christa Demetro, Maria DePalma, Lisa Farnen, Carrie Fanelli, Kim Franklin, Kris Hart-Rooney, Monique MacDonald, Kathy Marlor, Katie McCollom, Jean Molot, Visna Ngov, Rose Piscitelli, Tim Rourke, Meghan Saunders, Nancy Smerekanicz, Anthony Taddei, Michelle Waldron, Mary Vincitorio, Cathy Zdrowski, Teachers; Kit Dunbar, Shari Foldy, Wendy Glynn, CSEA; Vicky Burford, Jay Dahra, Pua Ford, Ruchi Jain, Maria Madonick, Joi Prud'homme, Jane Roddy, Call-In User 12037, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

As Policy 4131 was a new policy, it was suggested that the Board have the opportunity to discuss the policy prior to acceptance for 30-Day Review.

MOTION #1 – EXTRACTION

Move that we extract Policy 4131 from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Cowan

Second by Ms. Genovese

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #2 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Townsend

Second by Ms. Shavers

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

PTO Report – Ms. Prud'homme noted the virtual author visit by Tom Angleberger to the Grade 2 classes. The spring online Book Fair will take place from March 15 – 28. A parents Trivia Night will also be held on March 18. Artsweek 14 is scheduled for May 24-28 with the theme of “fish”. The *Rainbow Fish* school-wide empathy read will be held the first week in March. The Grade 2 Social hosted by Ms. Meacham is February 26. Work is also underway to partner with the Recreation Department to create a “treasure hunt” on the Town’s trail system in March. The PTO is exploring the possibility of creating certified “wildlife habitats” in various locations throughout the town. The BRS community cookbook should be available shortly.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Budd acknowledged recent donations to the Library fund in memory of John Ploski as well as the \$5,744 donation from the PTO to fund scholastic magazine for the year. Any remaining snow days will be virtual learning days thus alleviating the need to extend the school year in June. The last day is currently June 21. It is anticipated the Assistant Principal posting will occur in the next week. The process will include three rounds of

interviews and a performance task with appointment occurring in late April. Enrollment is on the rise. Our continued mitigation strategies help to ensure BRS remains a safe and healthy environment.

ESSER II Funding (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) – The district is slated to receive over \$202,000 and will focus on five major initiatives:

1. School facility repairs and improvements (*HVAC, touchless sinks and bottle fillers*) \$60,000
2. Supplies for sanitizing, cleaning, & reducing virus spread (*additional PPE and furniture*) \$10,000
3. Addressing learning loss among students (*summer / after-school programs in collaboration w/BOWA*) \$75,000
4. Providing technology for online learning to all (*additional devices / classroom support for blended learning*) \$27,000
5. Providing the resources necessary to address the individual needs of Beecher (*outdoor education*) \$30,000

2021/22 Budget – Superintendent Budd noted that the Board of Selectmen will meet February 23 to make their budget recommendations to the Board of Finance. Depending upon the guidance from the CSDE, it may be possible that the ESSER funds could potentially offset costs in the 2021/22 budget.

Mr. Cowan and Dr. Ross left meeting (7:48 PM).

BRS Report – Ms. Sherman commended BRS staff on their flexibility, patience and creativity to enhance student learning in challenging times and weather. Recognition of the 100th day of school occurred on February 18. Remote teachers participated in additional training for integration of resources to support remote learning. It was noted that Flipgrid is a great mix of technology and fun to enhance student engagement regardless of whether they are in-person or remote learners.

Mr. Cowan returned to the meeting (7:55 PM).

Facilities Committee – Mr. Hughes reviewed the February 12 meeting which focused on cleaning protocols and procedures. The next meeting is March 12 at 7:30 AM.

Finance Committee – Ms. Shavers apprised the Board on the February 8 meeting which included review of the current budget deficit of approximately \$70,000, inclusive of a \$19,000 subsidy for the cafeteria as well as significant unemployment costs associated with the Eday program which currently has a fund balance of \$35,000. The next meeting is March 8 at 6:30 PM.

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Strambler noted this committee met February 17 and reviewed STAR data assessments, Lexia and Symphony Math as well as their respective values for informing instruction. The committee also received an update on Grade 6 departmentalization. In preparation for the experience at the Middle School, students would have the opportunity to take courses with teachers having a subject specific instruction expertise in math, science and social studies. An additional offering will be added in Pre-Algebra for students with age-advanced abstract cognitive skills.

Policy Committee – Ms. Genovese reviewed the February 9 committee meeting which focused on Policy 4131 Professional Development. While this is not a required policy, it does validate the Board's commitment to professional learning as an integral component of moving the district forward. The next meeting of this committee is March 9 at 8:00 AM.

MOTION #3 – POLICY 4131 (PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Move that we accept Policy 4131 - Professional Development for 30-day review.

Ms. Genovese
Second by Dr. Townsend
UNANIMOUS

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese invited Board members to participate in the virtual CABE Day on the Hill on March 17. It was noted that Dr. Budd and Mr. Cowan participated in the February webinar series on the importance of policy.

NEW BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:15 PM)

Dr. Townsend
Second by Ms. Genovese
UNANIMOUS