

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, September 17, 2018

Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order (7:06 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Claire Coleman, Dr. Steve Fleischman, Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Dr. Todd Jokl, and Ms. Lynn Piascyk.

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; Cheryl Mammen, Special Services Director; Al Pullo, Director of Business Services/Operations; Gina Prisco, Principal; Analisa Sherman, Assistant Principal; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Teresa Nakouzi, WEA; Pua Ford, Michael Strambler and Bettina Thiel, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Ms. Hamilton welcomed Dr. Jokl to the Board. Dr. Jokl replaces Mr. Vultee who relocated out-of-state.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Genovese

IN FAVOR: Ms. Hamilton, Ms. Coleman, Dr. Fleischman, Ms. Genovese and Ms. Piascyk

ABSTAIN: Dr. Jokl

MOTION PASSES 5-0-1

REPORTS

WBOE Goals – Ms. Hamilton presented the 2018/19 Board Goals developed at the Retreat in July.

MOTION #2 – 2018/19 BOARD GOALS

Move that we adopt the 2018/19 Board Goals as presented.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Piascyk

UNANIMOUS

WBOE Committee Priorities – Suggestions were made under Facilities to add sustainability initiatives (cost saving matrix, green building standards) as item 7 and to broaden the energy savings report to include evaluation of school performance based on environmental standards, costs, and health improvements. Also, under Curriculum recommendations from the Ad Hoc Enrichment Committee should be included under number 3.

WBOE Schedule of Meeting Topics – Ms. Hamilton noted that World Language had been moved to Curriculum and the Capital Budget from November to October. It was agreed that the Strategic Plan would move from October to November. A suggestion was made to move sustainability to October to coincide with the Town composting event occurring on October 6. It was noted that at the October regular meeting the committee charge, timeline etc. for the recently formed Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee would also be shared.

PTO Update – No Report

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Gilbert highlighted current enrollment, recent humidity issues throughout the building and the independent engineering firm hired to assess and recommend solutions, open houses, the retirement of Lyn Lucas on November 1 and the commencement of a comprehensive policy review by CABA beginning in October.

BRS Report – Ms. Prisco noted the school-wide building walk, the ice cream social, our changeover to Swift K12 for parent communications, safety and security drills and curriculum writing projects in Grades 1 and 2. Ms. Sherman provided a brief overview on the implementation of the “peaceful bus” initiative as part of our safe school climate plan.

Open Choice – The Board reviewed state funding allocations, a breakdown of our current diversity population versus five years ago, present enrollment and school /classroom capacity as well as neighboring district participation comparisons. Our practice has been to have children begin in Kindergarten to afford them the greatest opportunity for success. Presently, 14 slots (1.8%) are allotted for participation. It was suggested that participation be increased to 3%, which would result in state reimbursement funding of approximately \$6,000 per student. Discussion ensued regarding our growing enrollment, the potential for increased class sizes, the financial per pupil expenditure of \$17,000 - \$18,000 to educate a student at Beecher, and the lack of available options for additional classroom spaces should an increase of 25-30 students per year occur. Presently, our class sizes at the maximum in adherence to class size guidelines. There is minimal benefit for a few thousand dollars reimbursement given the cost of \$100,000 for an additional classroom. Further, state funding/ reimbursement remains an unknown given the current fiscal condition of the state.

MOTION #3 – OPEN CHOICE PARTICIPATION

Move that we increase our open choice enrollments to 2% of our student population.

Ms. Coleman

Second by Dr. Fleischman

WITHDRAWN

Given 29% of our student population is non-white, our diversity levels are comparable to surrounding districts, what level of diversity are we trying to achieve. It was also noted that with completion of the recent building upgrade project, it is unlikely that there will be support for funding for additional classrooms and that discussion is larger than the Board of Education.

MOTION #3A – OPEN CHOICE PARTICIPATION

Move that we increase our open choice enrollments to 2% for the 2019/20 school year.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Hamilton

UNANIMOUS

SBAC – Ms. Sherman provided an overview of the SBAC Testing conducted in the late spring. SBAC is a mandated global assessment aligned to common core standards. Since testing is done completely on-line, throughout the year students are provided with opportunities for daily exposure to similar web sites, question formats and navigation of the various online tools to achieve an individual comfort level. Also, it is a multiple choice Q&A computer adaptive test that changes for each student depending upon the answer selected. While SBAC testing is only one measurement, it does provide helpful information in determining strengths and weaknesses in daily instruction. An in-depth analysis is performed on each of the content data areas to ascertain individual student growth targets and expected growth levels, cohort growth as well as vertical strengths and weakness to inform and guide instruction. The overall scores for students in Woodbridge (*DRG B*) meeting or exceeding the state standard were: ELA (English/ Language Arts) – 74.4% (*State Average 55.3 %*) and Math –69.6% (*State Average 46.7%*). While Woodbridge has chosen not to spend inordinate amounts of time on test preparation, ideas are being explored for targeting specific areas/strands/assessments for increasing overall test performance. Internal reviews measures will also assess practices/supports, individual topic/content knowledge and understanding, and skills/concept integration/placement within strands in correlation to student performance.

Teacher Evaluation Plan Overview – Ms. Prisco provided an overview of the mandated requirements for evaluation of teachers. For 2017/18 there were 35 proficient and 40 exemplary staff members. The evaluation rating is comprised of goal setting (45%), formal/informal observations (40%), parent feedback (10%), state accountability (5%) and includes a mid-year review as well as an end-of-year reflection. Non-tenured teachers, as well as those new to Beecher, receive three formal and informal observations per year while tenured teachers receive one formal and three informal observations per year.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – *Summer Programs* – budget implications/shortfalls, program success, enrollment/ participation rates, identification of any recommendations for change. *Structures in Place to Promote Student Engagement*

– what are the structures for recess, movement/breaks, time outside/inside, facts by grades and how it falls within the framework of responsive classroom. *Curriculum Review Overview* – what topics will be covered and when as well as an outline for what direction we are proceeding in. It was agreed that the World Language presentation would be given at the September Curriculum Committee meeting, the Strategic Plan would move from October to November, the Capital Budget would move from November to October, and Sustainability would move from November to October.

Facilities Committee – No Report. The next meeting will be September 24 at 6:00 PM.

Finance Committee – Dr. Fleischman presented the transfers for reconciliation of the 2017/18 budget. As has been past practice, transfers are made at the end of the budget process. These items were reviewed by the Finance Committee at their August 20 meeting.

MOTION #4 – 2017/18 LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Move that we authorize line item transfers in the 2017/18 budget as presented by administration.

Ms. Hamilton
Second by Ms. Piascyk
UNANIMOUS

Curriculum Committee – No Report. The next meeting will be September 20 at 4:30 PM in the District Office.

Policy Committee – No Report. This Committee will commence review of all policies beginning in October.

Ad Hoc Enrichment Committee – The next meeting will be held September 24 at 7:00 PM.

ACES Liaison – No Report

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese encouraged Board members to attend the CABE/CAPSS Convention in November as well as a webinar on K-12 Cyber Security on September 19.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION #5 – PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH GRANT

Move that we approve the 2018/19 Primary Mental Health Grant for submission to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Piascyk
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #6 – TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT (McCRUM)

Move that we accept the termination of contract from Dorothy (Dottie) McCrum and award the remainder of that transportation contract to B&B Transportation.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Coleman
IN FAVOR: Ms. Hamilton, Ms. Coleman, Dr. Fleischman, Ms. Genovese and Dr. Jokl
ABSTAIN: Ms. Piascyk

MOTION PASSES 5-0-1

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:46 PM)
Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Piascyk
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board