

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, April 28, 2015
BRS Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Dr. Steve Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Lisa Connor, Mr. Matthew Gilbride, Ms. Chris Jaffe, Secretary; Ms. Karen Kravetz, Ms. Keri Matthews, and Ms. Emily Melnick.

STAFF: Dr. Guy Stella, Superintendent; Al Pullo, Director of Business Services/Operations; Sheila Haverkamp, Special Services Director; Gina Prisco, Principal; Nancy White, Assistant Principal; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Laurence Grotheer, BOS Liaison; James Crawford, Cherri Guerra, Maureen Krawec, Jean Molot, Leigh Mulligan, Teresa Nakouzi, Teachers; Lynn Piascyk, Pua Ford, community.
Extraction

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Mr. Lindskog

Ms. Connor requested extraction of the minutes.

UNANIMOUS

A correction was requested on Page 2, under Upcoming Meeting Presentation, second sentence that “differently” be changed to “differentiate”.

MOTION #2 – MEETING MINUTES

Move that we approve the March 16, 2015 meeting minutes as amended.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Matthews

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

PTO Report – None

Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Stella highlighted the installation of the Sally Port during the April break. The sally port creates an additional security area and requires visitors to leave their license to gain entrance into the building. The new software system allows for instant screening of all visitors entering BRS.

BRS Update – Ms. Prisco noted Family Night at the Book Fair, student artwork around the building and a 5th grade project entitled, “The Flame Challenge” a concept proposed by Alan Alda and funded by StonyBrook College. Ms. Mulligan and Ms. Guerra explained the challenge where scientists, from around the world, provide an answer to a question in a manner that is understandable by an 11 year old. The question this year was “*What is Sleep*”. Ten schools from around the country as well as India are selected to review the 25 submitted proposals in response to the question. Students and scientists participate in a world-wide assembly and critique proposals through video, creative writing and in-depth analysis on five specific objectives in response to the question. BRS students have been selected as one of the 10 schools to participate for the 2015/16 school year.

Web Site Update – Mr. Crawford outlined the changes to the new web site, inclusive of scrolling and rotating student artwork throughout the site, automatically generated calendar updates, direct links for mobile applications, email notifications of “new” items, visitor logs and tracking systems as well as the ability for personalized “vanity” urls.

Math Update – Ms. Krawec and Ms. Molot provided an overview on the upcoming Tri-State process, grade level team meetings and professional development on common core standards, all with a focus on student problem solving strategies for multi-step and tiered problems, computation and fact fluency. Across all levels, students are being taught to dissect and assess what is being asked before arriving at a conclusion. Daily lessons are differentiated for individual learning pathways to build computation and fluency skills for student growth. The common core also restructured grade level strands to provide a more cohesive and natural approach in math.

Safe School Climate Plan – Ms. Haverkamp presented the revised plan. Recent CSDE mandates broaden the scope of the plan to include teen dating violence and applicable behavioral supports for social emotional development. The plan encompasses tiered intervention supports, community outreach activities that benefit students, adults and families, as well as enhancements for the cafeteria environment and bus ride experiences. It was also noted that the deadline for the School Climate Survey has been extended as parent participation was only 17%.

MOTION #3 – SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE PLAN

Move that we approve the revised Safe School Climate Plan for submission to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Mr. Lindskog
Second by Ms. Matthews
UNANIMOUS

Dr. Fleischman left the meeting (7:55 PM) and not present for vote.

Summer Program Update –The Extended Day and Summer Enrichment Programs will be based at Amity again this summer starting June 29. As was done last year, Ezra Academy will host the Special Education program.

BRS Building Upgrade Project – No Report

Facilities Committee – Ms. Kravetz reviewed the April 2 meeting which focused building project work during the April break, updates on Tools for School and sustainability initiatives. The next meeting will be May 7.

Finance Committee – No Report

ACES – No Report

CABE Liaison – Ms. Connor attended *CABE Day on the Hill* and noted the recurring theme on awareness and sensitivity to assessments and testing.

Upcoming Meeting Presentation – It was agreed the World Language update would be deferred to a later meeting once assessment data has been completed. It was requested that grade level scheduling and time allocations be included in the presentation. As anticipated, the Superintendent’s Cafeteria Task Force Committee will provide a report at the May meeting.

It was questioned whether a formal or informal process had been established to receive parent feedback on the digital report card. Are the report cards an effective tool and should an additional workshop, i.e., parent academy, be held. There appears to be a disconnect and lack of conformity among different teachers for what is provided in the narratives.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Stella presented a leave of absence request from a teacher currently on leave.

MOTION #4 – CERTIFIED STAFF LEAVE OF ABSENCE (CHICK)

Move that we grant a leave of absence for the 2015/16 school year to Nicole Chick.

Mr. Gilbride

Second by Mr. Linskog

UNANIMOUS

Superintendent Stella apprised the Board of the retirement of a part-time certified staff member in Art.

MOTION #5 – CERTIFIED STAFF RETIREMENT (SLEPIAN)

Move that we accept the retirement of Marcie Slepian effective June 30, 2015 with regret.

Mr. Linskog

Second by Mr. Gilbride

UNANIMOUS

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:11 PM)

Mr. Linskog

Second by Mr. Gilbride

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board