

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, September 18, 2017

Stella Library Media Center

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order (7:03 PM).

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Mr. Garrett Luciani, Nancy Maasbach, Vice Chair; Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Mr. Paul Testa and Mr. John Vultee.

**STAFF:** Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; 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:** Sandy Stein, BOF Liaison; James Crawford, Teresa Nakouzi, Teachers; Joy Prud'homme and Pua Ford, community.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Maasbach

Second by Mr. Luciani

**UNANIMOUS**

## **REPORTS**

**Town Board of Finance Update** – Ms. Stein spoke on behalf of the Town Board of Finance in providing parameters for all departments in development of their 2018/19 budgets. As everyone is aware, there is currently no state budget and it remains an unknown for what funding, if any, will be allocated to cities and towns. Currently, Woodbridge is facing a deficit of \$1.3million for funding of the teachers retirement fund. All departments are asked to have a maximum overall increase of no greater than 2% for their 2018/19 budget. Departments need to be creative in how they provide services and deliver programs. In order to save money, and whenever possible, they need to consolidate services, prioritize areas and identify “what is nice to have” versus “need to have”. Since the town does not have line item control, the district needs to set priorities for how the system will function given the short and long-term fiscal constraints the Town is facing.

**PTO Update** – Ms. Prud'homme remarked on the successful Ice Cream Social, the Charleston Gift Wrap fundraiser, the Harvest Hike on October 4, upcoming picture days on September 27 and 28 and the black bean and corn tasting on October 12. The PTO will be using bi-weekly eBlasts to keep parents informed as well as Facebook.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Gilbert highlighted the successful opening of school, open houses and discussions for student council involvement to support the recent hurricanes in the Caribbean, Texas and Florida. STAR universal screening is underway and we continue to explore the possibility of sharing facility services with Amity. ESG has been on site to rectify recent issues identified throughout the building related to the building upgrade. As part of the regional transportation system, the owner/operators presented a five-year proposal since their contract expires at the end of the 2017/18 school year. The Halloween Hoot will be held on October 21 and Truck or Treat on October 31. Also noted was notification to the BOS regarding the unanticipated special education deficits and health insurance expenditures in excess of \$350,000.

**BRS Report** – Ms. Prisco remarked on the number of families new to BRS, the annual open houses and building of classroom communities, the Kindergarten Social, initiation of the universal STAR screen assessment and the very well attended Ice Cream Social.

**Enrollment Report** – Superintendent Gilbert indicated our current enrollment is 831 despite the demographer projection of 811. Most class sizes are at the guidelines with several exceeding the current levels by one or two students. The guidelines range from 17-19 students per class in grades Kindergarten -2 and 19-21 for Grades 3-6.

Technology Plan – Mr. Crawford provided an update on mobile technology for staff and students and the replacement cycle for iPads, smartboards/doc cams and desk top computers. iPads slated for replacement in the coming year are the result of system software vs. hardware limitations and were the first generation of iPads deployed in the building. iPad centers have been established for Kindergarten and Grade 1 students with 1-1 devices for students in Grades 2-6. Approximately, \$46,000 for infrastructure and server upgrades will be requested in the 2018/19 Capital Budget. An additional \$75,000 will be incorporated into the 2018/19 Operating Budget request related to student / faculty computing and routine equipment replacements.

SBAC Report – 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. 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 instruction. Generally, our grade level scores followed the trend across the state decreasing slightly in ELA and increasing slightly in Math. The overall scores for students in Woodbridge (*DRG B*) meeting or exceeding the state standard were: ELA (English/ Language Arts) – 76.4% (*State Average: 54.2%*) and Math – 71.6% (*State Average 45.6%*). Grade 5 students scored 83% on the Science CMT with the State Average being 55.7%.

Ad Hoc SRO Committee – Ms. Hamilton noted that approximately six (6) survey questions have been developed and will be finalized at the September 25 meeting at 6:30 (parent forum) followed by the full committee meeting at 7:15 PM.

Curriculum Committee – Ms. Piascyk reviewed the September 7 meeting which highlighted summer curriculum work, math and science updates as well as the next generation of science standards. Curriculum templates were shared for both Science and Math depicting consistency across grade levels and differentiation across content areas. The October 5 meeting will focus on World Language. Responsive Classroom has been added to the calendar for discussion after December. The November 9 meeting will focus on after-school student enrichment opportunities.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Vultee reviewed the September 14 meeting. An update on projects completed in 2016/17 was provided inclusive of maintenance and reconciliation of the building project, electrical panel replacement, refurbishing cabinets, painting of the South Assembly, energy efficiencies and line/curb painting. Upcoming projects include North parking lot repaving / emergency access and review of the Fuss O’Neil site plan and the school beautification committee / walk through. Future meetings of this committee will be held on the third Monday at 6:00 PM prior to the regular Board meeting.

Finance Committee – Ms. Hamilton noted this Committee met on September 11 to review the monthly financial reports approved earlier under the Consent Agenda.

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese reviewed upcoming trainings, the CABE/CAPSS Convention and Delegate Assembly in November and the Leadership/New Board Member Orientation Workshop on December 7. Policy highlights include Equal Access for Student Groups, Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) as well as various articles in the *CABE Journal*.

ACES Liaison – Ms. Hamilton will serve as representative. Particular note was made of replacing the Skiff Street Schools and the anticipated funding by the state of 80% and ACES 20%.

#### Upcoming Meeting Presentations

Accountability Plan – in comparison to last year, what have we done, what are we planning on doing, specific areas of interest include chronic absenteeism, physical fitness, participation rate, achievement gap and their impact on school ranking.

Summer Programs – Extended Day, Summer Enrichment, Woodbridge Rec interface with Extended Day, expectations of an SRO for these programs, use of district resources, as well as prior year enrollment comparisons as well as budget.

#### NEW BUSINESS –

Board members were reminded not to “reply all” and to reply to the Board Clerk if they are unable to attend a meeting or wish to share information among other members.

Ms. Maasbach apprised the Board that she and Dr. Fleischman had met to discuss the proposed "Lecture Series" and suggested a timeline for various topics in November, January and May. While this was originally referred to the Curriculum Committee, it may be something the Board may choose to pursue as a community endeavor. It was agreed that this item would be placed on the agenda for the October 5 Curriculum Committee as well as the October 16 Board meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** (8:54 PM)  
Ms. Maasbach  
Second by Mr. Testa  
**UNANIMOUS**

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board