

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Town Hall Main Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the meeting to order (7:00 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Dr. Jay Dahya (7:10 PM); Dr. Laura Francese; Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair; Dr. Michael Strambler and Erin Williamson.

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Carrie Borcharding, Special Services Director; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

CAPSS SUPERINTENDENT / STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS – CAPSS Awards were presented to Grade 6 students: Kavi Datta, Allison Griffiths, Arwyn Halstead, Vivian Hu, Taylor Morse, Alexander (Xander) Shamaly. 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. Mordecai Abraham and Lucy Kahn were also acknowledged as recent SCASA Award recipients.

Dr. Dahya arrived (7:10 PM)

MOTION #1 – RECESS

Move that we call a five minute brief recess.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Mr. Lawrence

UNANIMOUS

The Board held a brief recess to congratulate the students and their families.

Chair Piascyk called the Public Session back to order (7:17 PM).

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Student Council Update – Teresa Nakouzi provided a brief overview of the past 12 years that Student Council has been active at BRS. Students Myra Hurwitz and Nova Aponte highlighted the various activities and fund-raising events conducted during the past year inclusive of bake sales, can/metal tabs/plastic bottle donations, painting at the Senior Center, presents for children in need at Christmas, K9 First Responders, Cupcake Wars, Heart for Service, Math Night guides, Healing Paws, Helping Hands and participation in the Ronald McDonald tree event to benefit the Children's Hospital.

PTO – Cindy Kruger noted the successful activities conducted throughout the year, encompassing Quassy, International Night, Book Swap, Fall / Spring Book Fairs, Science, Math and Art Nights, creation of the Ambassador program, funding of 23 teacher grants, monthly stocking of faculty rooms with snacks, teacher/staff appreciation week, welcome back staff luncheon, various academic events in support of curriculum, and the change of leadership for the coming year. The focus this year was on community and spirit building. Also, the leadership of the PTO for the 2025/26 school year will change.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #2 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Dahya

Second by Mr. Lawrence

UNANIMOUS

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Tencza indicated the 2025/26 budget was approved at \$18,525,855 resulting in a 5.18% increase. It is anticipated the 2024/25 budget will have a surplus and areas are being explored as action will occur at the June 16 regular meeting. As part of the partnership with local CT farms, Board members received a taste bottle of maple syrup from Forest Mill Farm that will be used for “Brunch for Lunch” during the 2025/26 school year.

TAG / SpEd – Ms. Borcharding gave an overview of the 2024/25 TAG and SpEd programs. TAG is targeted for students in Grade 4-6 while SpEd serves identified students PK-6. This year 57 students participated in TAG. Next year will be a larger group as approximately 18% of Grade 3 students have been identified as TAG. Projects focused on Stop Motion Animation in Grade 4, Augmented Reality / HTTP & Me in Grade 5 and Artificial Intelligence, Genius Hour in Grade 6. The culminating activity will be a TAG Expo on May 29. Approximately 119 students PK-6 were identified to receive SpEd services, which is a slight decrease from the prior year. Our process is being updated to align with the state Multi-Tiered Systems of Support which is a focus on more behavioral intervention processes. We will be creating a manual during the summer months that outlines and explains the process. Over the April break, an all-inclusive merry-go-round was installed in the North playground area.

BRS Update – Ms. Sherman noted the successful recycling of 1,000 pounds of waste from the Cafeteria; completion of Tools for Schools; Kindergarten orientation and registration, which currently has 72 confirmed registrants; the return of Amity interns, most of which are former BRS students; and the school-wide BRS Book Bracket Parade. Questions were raised regarding the additional Grade 1 class and the number of incoming Kindergarten students.

BRS Infrastructure Building Committee – Site and drainage work has been completed with assorted enhancements to safety and security as well as significant drainage improvements. Various side-by-side photos of before and after were shared. Sincere appreciation was expressed to Mr. Esparro for his diligence in overseeing the project.

Facilities Committee – the May 1 meeting was reviewed which highlighted several fire panel repairs, signage installation around the loop and completion of playground repairs and improvements.

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence noted this committee met on May 13 to review the standard monthly reports. There is a projected surplus of approximately \$118,000 in the 2024/25 budget. It was noted that the Open Choice bill to New Haven has not yet been issued. Questions were raised regarding the Excess Cost Grant and offsetting that amount from the 2025/26 budget increase. It was suggested that consideration be given to using surplus dollars to offset classroom supplies similar to what was done last year.

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

MOTION #3 – POLICY 5131.911

Move that we approve Policy 5131.911 Connecticut School Climate as revised.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Dr. Franchese

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #4 – POLICY 6115

Move that we approve Policy 6115 School Ceremonies and Observances as revised.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Mr. Lawrence

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #5 – POLICY 6140

Move that we approve Policy 6140 Curriculum as revised.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Dr. Dahya

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #6 – POLICY 6141.312

Move that we approve Policy 6141.312 Migrant Students as revised.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Dr. Strambler

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #7 – POLICY 6141.321 / POLICY 6141.323

Move that we approve Policy 6141.321 Internet Acceptable Use as revised and delete Policy 6141.323.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Dr. Franchese

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #8 – POLICY 6141.322

Move that we approve Policy 6141.322 District/School/Staff/Student Publications as revised and Recodify to 6145.3.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Mr. Lawrence

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #9 – POLICY 6141.326

Move that we approve Policy 6141.326 Social Media as revised.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Mr. Lawrence

UNANIMOUS

CABE Liaison Report – CABE is soliciting government resolutions. Suggestions for a resolution should be sent to Lynn, for agenda discussion and action during the summer.

Upcoming Meetings – Policy – June 2 at 4:30 PM; Curriculum – June 5 at 4:00 PM; Finance – June 10 at 4:30PM; BIBUC – May 22 at 3:30 PM and June 12 at 3:30 PM both via WebEx, regular WBOE meeting June 16 at 7:00 PM with an Executive Session at 6:00 PM for purposes of the Superintendent annual evaluation and exit interview. Also, Superintendent Tencza will forward the annual Self-Evaluation documents to Board members on June 2 with a return date of June 16. All results will be compiled for Board discussion at the Retreat in July.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Tencza presented two resignations from certified staff members. Ms. Calabrese has been with the district for 11 years and Ms. McCollom 21 years.

MOTION #10 – CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION (CALABRESE)

Move that we accept the resignation of Lori Calabrese, effective June 30, 2025, with much regret

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Ms. Del Prete

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #11 – CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION (CALABRESE)

Move that we accept the resignation of Lori Calabrese, effective June 30, 2025, with much regret

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Ms. Del Prete

UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

(9:14 PM)

Dr. Franchese

Second by Dr. Dahya

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.