

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, March 15, 2021

Via WebEx <https://woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=m03b4f9840df309270f346d9d8ff4e3a5>

Meeting Number (access code): 187 883 9177

Meeting Password: M3gBV6ka9MJ

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: Beth Heller, First Selectman; Sandy Stein, BOS; Nicole Chick, Christa Demetro, Kristin DeManche, Maria DePalma, Carson Echeverry, Carrie Fanelli, Kim Franklin, Liz Heagney, Nicole Rizzo, Meghan Saunders, Mary Vincitorio, Teachers; Kit Dunbar, Shari Foldy, Wendy Glynn, Suzanne Sugarmann, CSEA; Connie Arnold, Debby Criscuolo, Aisling Fagan, Sami Merit, Nurses; Elisabeth Matuska, Ali Mulvihill, Karen Wolujewicz, QVHD; Pua Ford, Ruchi Jain, Joan, Maria Madonick, Aimee Meacham, Jane Roddy, Call-In User 12037, RR2383, Bettina Thiel, Ashley Walker, community; Grace Millard, SCASA recipient and Robert and Hun Millard, parents.

SCASA Award – Superintendent Budd recognized Grace Millard as a recipient of the SCASA Award (South Central Area Superintendents' Association). This award is designed to honor students who excel in three categories: community service and/or service to others; achieve academic prowess relative to their ability; and leadership to their school community.

QVHD / Nurse Recognition – Superintendent Budd and the Board extended a sincere thank you to the BRS nursing staff and QVHD for their efforts in organizing and coordinating the vaccine initiative to BRS educators and staff.

Board Member Recognition – Ms. Heller acknowledged the contributions and efforts of Board members and proclaimed March 15, 2021 as Board Member Appreciation Day in Woodbridge.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ruchi Jain, a BRS parent, created a new virtual community club to focus on appreciating the gains learned during the past year and extended an invite for participation and sharing of talents, passions and skills in promoting community and technology.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was requested that Policies 2131-Superintendent of Schools and 21110-Equal Employment Opportunity be extracted from 30-day review for further discussion by the Board.

MOTION #1 – EXTRACTION / CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we extract Policies 2131 Superintendent of Schools and 2111 Equal Employment Opportunity from the Consent Agenda and approve the remaining consent agenda.

Mr. Cowan

As there was no second to the motion, the motion does not pass.

MOTION #2 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Genovese

Second by Dr. Townsend

It was clarified that while Policy 2131 requires additional modifications, it was the preference of the Policy Committee to have a policy in place prior to proceeding with the Evaluation of the Superintendent. It was noted that there was a clerical

error and the document under 30-day should have had the specific items discussed and agreed to at the March 9 Policy Committee included. The document being voted has the text on Pages, 4 5 and 6 left intact and should not have a strike through. A corrected copy was provided electronically to each Board member prior to action. It was verified that the document placed under consideration for 30-day review was correct.

IN FAVOR: Ms. Ferrante-Fernandes, Ms. Genovese, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Piascyk, Dr. Ross,
Ms. Shavers, Dr. Stambler and Dr. Townsend

AGAINST: Mr. Cowan

MOTION PASSES 8-1-0

REPORTS

PTO Report – Ms. Madonick noted the virtual book fair and read alouds, the adult trivia night on Thursday from 7:00 – 9:00 PM, teacher appreciation in May, a virtual booster-thon to benefit technology, teacher grants and sixth grade graduation in June.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Budd provided a BRS Covid update and outline of the overall process at BRS and the formation of a workgroup to explore expansion of outdoor education.

2021/22 Budget – Superintendent Budd presented \$130,827 reduction recommendations to reconcile the 2021/22 budget proposal to \$15,561,620 (2.37% increase) inclusive of:

- \$42,000 from savings in certified resignations and replacements at lower salary level.
- \$40,202 from recalculation of anticipated medical insurance premium increase based on updated statistics.
- \$14,000 from anticipated additional personnel savings.
- \$13,800 from technical edit in online subscriptions district-wide.
- \$10,500 from shift of Covid-related building improvements from operating budget to ESSER II grant funding.
- \$5,000 from shift of Covid-related custodial/maintenance supplies from operating budget to ESSER II grant funding.
- \$4,170 from shift of Covid-related nursing supplies from operating budget to ESSER II grant funding \$1,155 from strategic reduction of physical printers and copiers.

It was suggested that exit interviews be conducted with staff members who choose to leave the district.

MOTION #3 – 2021/22 BUDGET

Move that we reconcile the 2021/22 proposed budget as recommended by the Superintendent.

Ms. Shavers

Second by Ms. Genovese

UNANIMOUS

BRS Report – Ms. Sherman commended BRS staff who have helped to make this year a success and noted the MAG informational night on March 25, the scholastic book fair, professional development activities on Friday, March 19, the virtual Kindergarten Orientation the week of March 22, the Kindergarten “Super Reader” parade, brush box day and the Grade 1 celebration of 120 days.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – Technology at BRS 2020/21 and 2021/22. It was noted emphasis should include resources for more effective and efficient teaching.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Hughes reviewed the March 12 meeting which focused on an average energy savings of \$120,000 over the last several years as a result of the HVAC renovation project. The next meeting is April 9 at 7:30 AM.

Finance Committee – Ms. Shavers apprised the Board on the March 8 meeting which included review of the current budget deficit of approximately \$34,000, inclusive of a \$20,000 subsidy for the cafeteria as well as significant unemployment costs in the range of \$80,000 associated with the Eday program which currently has a fund balance of \$31,000. Also noted were the anticipating funding allocated by the ESSER II grant in the range of \$200,000 to offset costs associated with Covid. It is anticipated Woodbridge will also benefit from the recently signed American Rescue Act with approximately \$500,000 allocated for use with Covid related expenses in the area of technology infrastructure, building improvements etc. The next committee meeting is Thursday, April 8 at 6:30 PM.

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Strambler noted this committee will meet on Thursday, March 18 at 4:30 PM and will focus on topics related to technology and learning loss.

Policy Committee – Ms. Genovese presented Policy 4131 Professional Development for adoption.

MOTION #4 – POLICY 4131 (PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Move that we adopt Policy 4131 - Professional Development.

Ms. Genovese
Second by Dr. Townsend
UNANIMOUS

Ms. Genovese reviewed the March 9 committee meeting. The committee reviewed the three policies adopted for 30-day review earlier in the meeting. The next meeting of this committee is April 6 at 8:00 AM.

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese invited Board members to participate in several virtual webinars - *CABE Day on the Hill* on March 17, Education Committee Bills, Appropriations Committee Budget and the Legislative Wrap-up.

NEW BUSINESS

Healthy Food Certification – Superintendent Budd explained the motion required by the CSDE related to participation in the Healthy Food Program for the 2020/21 school year. While the prior Board voted on exemptions, the CSDE requires a separate motion for participation.

MOTION #5 – HEALTHY FOOD PARTICIPATION 2020/21

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Woodbridge Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in Beecher Road School, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organization,; and groups.

Mr. Cowan
Second by Ms. Shavers
UNANIMOUS

Healthy Food Certification 2021/22 – Superintendent Budd clarified the motions required by the CSDE related to compliance with the Healthy Food Program for the 2021/22 school year. The first verifies participation in the Healthy Food program and the second verifies the exemptions that will be applicable during the 2021/22 school year.

MOTION #6 – HEALTHY FOOD PARTICIPATION 2021/22

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Woodbridge Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in Beecher Road School, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Mr. Cowan
Second by Ms. Shavers
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #7 – FOOD AND BEVERAGE EXEMPTIONS 2021/22

The Woodbridge Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: (1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; (2) the sale is at the location of the event; and (3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but

soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held.

Mr. Cowan
Second by Ms. Shavers
UNANIMOUS

Board Member Request

Mr. Cowan requested that the Board review the quarantine and masks policies as the Governor and CDC have made changes and our policies are not flexible as currently written. It was not clear if the intent was to add the topic to tonight's meeting or if a request was being made to the Policy Committee to have this discussion. It was noted by several members that this topic could be included on the next Policy Committee agenda so it may not be necessary to have a discussion this evening.

MOTION #8 – MODIFY AGENDA

Move that under New Business on tonight's agenda, the Board of Education adds as a discussion item policies related to quarantine and masks.

IN FAVOR: Mr. Cowan
AGAINST: Second by Mr. Hughes
Mr. Cowan, Mr. Hughes and Ms. Piascyk
Ms. Ferrante Fernandes, Ms. Genovese, Dr. Ross, Ms. Shavers, Dr. Stambler and
Dr. Townsend
MOTION FAILS 3-6-0

Certified Staff Resignations

Superintendent Budd presented two certified staff resignations - Nicole Chick and Nicole Rizzo. Both individuals are currently on a leave of absence and resigned to pursue other endeavors.

MOTION #9 – CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATIONS (CHICK / RIZZO)

Move that we accept the resignations of Nicole Chick and Nicole Rizzo, effective June 30, 2021, with regret.

Ms. Ferrante Fernandes
Second by Ms. Genovese
UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

The Board entered Executive Session to discuss a certified staff leave request and evaluation of the Superintendent.

MOTION # 10 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Move that we enter Executive Session (8:53 PM).

Ms. Ferrante Fernandes
Second by Dr. Townsend
UNANIMOUS

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Piascyk, Chair called the Executive Session to order (8:55 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.

The Board received a recommendation from the Superintendent pertaining to a certified staff leave request for the 2021/22 school year and discussed specifics related to the process for evaluation of the Superintendent.

MOTION #11 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (9:18 PM).

Mr. Cowan
Second by Ms. Genovese
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #12 – CERTIFIED LEAVE REQUEST (WAGNER)

Move that we accept the recommendation of the Superintendent in Executive Session.

Mr. Cowan

Second by Dr. Townsend

UNANIMOUS

The Board requested that the Superintendent relay the decision of the Board to the teacher involved.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:19 PM)

Dr. Ross

Second by Ms. Ferrante Fernandes

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board