

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, March 16, 2015
BRS Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Lisa Connor, Mr. Matthew Gilbride, Ms. Chris Jaffe, Secretary (7:04 PM); 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: Ellen Scalettar, First Selectman; Laurence Grotheer, BOS Liaison; Monika Kaczmarczyk, Garrett Luciani, Rebecca Merkle, Lynn Piascyk, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – A letter was received from Carl Lindskog regarding 2015/16 budget reductions by the Town Board of Finance.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Connor

Second by Ms. Kravetz

UNANIMOUS

BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION

First Selectman Scalettar recognized Board members with a Proclamation in honor of Board Member Appreciation Month. Dr. Stella presented each Board member with a copy of *Finnish Lessons* by Pasi Sahlberg.

REPORTS

PTO Report – None

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Stella highlighted the SCASA Superintendent Award recipient, the Read Across America celebration, Kindergarten Orientation, the Cafeteria Task Force Committee and the 2014/15 school calendar.

BRS Update – Ms. Prisco noted the presentation of dictionaries by Woodbridge Rotary to third graders, read at the beach day, the distribution of digital report cards on March 27, various field trips and Kindergarten Orientation. Ms. White reviewed the schedule for SBAC testing, which will occur in the beginning of May.

School Climate Report – Ms. Haverkamp provided an overview on the mandated survey process, required changes and plan revisions. The survey will be given to staff, parents and students in Grades 3-6. Reference materials and FAQ's are available on the web site under Safe School Climate. The revised Safe School Climate Plan will be presented to the Board for adoption prior to the end of the school year. It was noted that even though we are only an elementary district, we are required to address the topic of "teen dating violence".

BRS Building Upgrade Project – Superintendent Stella indicated that during the spring break, ventilators will be installed in the Kindergarten Wing as well as a sally port in the North entrance. The sally port will change how parents and community access the North entrance.

Facilities Committee – No Report

Finance Committee – It was noted that business office practices were deemed commendable during the 2014 Town Audit Review performed by McGladry. The Town Board of Finance reduced the 2015/16 operating budget proposal by \$50,000 and Capital Project funding for Technology by \$65,000. Administration is recommending that the \$50,000 be covered through staff retirements and the elimination of the additional cafeteria aide. It is anticipated that grant funding will be received from the CSDE to support technology changes for SBAC. Administration recommended that \$50,000, from the projected surplus in the 2014/15 budget, be utilized to offset the remaining reduction in Capital Project funding.

MOTION #2 – 2015/16 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Move that we authorize administration to encumber \$50,000 of the anticipated 2014/15 projected surplus for capital technology purchases.

Ms. Connor
Second by Ms. Matthews
UNANIMOUS

ACES – No Report

CABE Liaison – Ms. Connor will be attending *CABE Day on the Hill* on March 25.

Upcoming Meeting Presentation (Math) – Board members requested a comprehensive overview of the curriculum and examples of how teachers are encouraged to differentiate instruction from prior years. As the parent survey will not be conducted next year, the April meeting will receive an update on the new web site.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Stella presented two certified staff retirements in response to the Early Retirement Incentive.

MOTION #3 – CERTIFIED STAFF RETIREMENTS

Move that we accept the retirements of Cathy Salinardi and Rick Wood effective June 30, 2015 with regret.

Ms. Jaffe
Second by Ms. Matthews
UNANIMOUS

Superintendent Stella presented a leave of absence request for a certified staff member currently on leave.

MOTION #4 – CERTIFIED STAFF LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST (ELECK)

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

Ms. Kravetz
Second by Ms. Matthews
UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

The Board entered Executive Session to discuss unanticipated personnel changes.

MOTION #5 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Move that we enter Executive Session (7:46 PM).

Ms. Matthews
Second by Ms. Jaffe
UNANIMOUS

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the Executive Session to order (7:48 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, 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.

The Board received an update on administrative personnel changes.

MOTION #6 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (8:06 PM).

Ms. Matthews

Second by Ms. Connor

UNANIMOUS

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:06 PM)

Ms. Jaffe

Second by Ms. Kravetz

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board