

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

BRS Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Lisa Connor, Mr. Matthew Gilbride, Ms. Karen Kravetz, Mr. Carl Lindskog, Ms. Keri Matthews, and Ms. Emily Melnick.

The Board entered Executive Session to receive an update on safety and security.

MOTION #1 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Move that we enter Executive Session (6:30 PM).

Mr. Lindskog

Second by Ms. Connor

UNANIMOUS

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the Executive Session to order (6:31 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Lisa Connor, Dr. Steven Fleischman, Vice Chair (7:05 PM); Mr. Matthew Gilbride, Ms. Chris Jaffe, Secretary (6:38 PM); Ms. Karen Kravetz, Mr. Carl Lindskog, Ms. Keri Matthews, and Ms. Emily Melnick.

STAFF: Dr. Guy Stella, Superintendent and Al Pullo, Director of Business Services/Operations.

MOTION #2 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (7:16 PM).

Mr. Lindskog

Second by Mr. Gilbride

UNANIMOUS

Mr. Lindskog left the meeting (7:17 PM).

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the Public Session back to order at 7:21 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Lisa Connor, Dr. Steven Fleischman, Vice Chair; 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; Gina Prisco, Principal; Nancy White, Assistant Principal; Sheila Haverkamp, Special Services Director and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Teresa Nakouzi, WEA; and Rebecca Merkle, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #3 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Matthews

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

PTO Report – No Report.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Stella highlighted the inclement weather process and the Instant Alert notification system, the Extended Day program inclusive of the Before/After School component and the upcoming production of *Follow the Yellow Brick Road* on April 9-10 by the Drama club.

Report Card Update – Superintendent Stella invited everyone to attend the Superintendent's Parent Academy on January 29, which will provide a complete overview on the new report card. Ms. Prisco noted the new digital report card will contain more detailed information as well as a comprehensive conversation on where the child is on their individual learning pathway. The new report card, while different for each grade level, has been tailored for language consistency, vertical alignment and personal narratives. It is a communication tool, for parents, which provides clear and concise explanations for what concepts we are teaching.

2015/16 Open Choice Participation – Superintendent Stella apprised the Board that we anticipate two openings in the upcoming year for Open Choice. These slots will be available commencing in Kindergarten to afford students optimal success and full integration into the school.

MOTION #4 – OPEN CHOICE PARTICIPATION

Move that we continue our participation in the Open Choice program and allocate 12 slots for the 2015/16 school year, with any vacancies beginning in Kindergarten.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Connor

UNANIMOUS

2015/16 Calendar – Superintendent Stella presented the 2015/16 calendar developed in collaboration with the BOWA districts. The primary changes include a before Labor Day start, a joint BOWA Professional Development Day on November 3 and the shortened February break.

MOTION #5 – 2015/16 CALENDAR

Move that we approve the 2015/16 calendar as presented by administration.

Ms. Connor

Second by Ms. Matthews

IN FAVOR: Ms. Connor, Mr. Gilbride, Ms. Hamilton, Ms. Jaffe, Ms. Kravetz, Ms. Matthews and Ms. Melnick

AGAINST: Dr. Fleischman

MOTION PASSES 7-1

Cafeteria Update – Mr. Pullo acknowledged the efforts of the Cafeteria staff, which services 800 students daily in four lunch periods. As a result of visiting neighboring communities, modifications have been made to serving line set-ups and 13 new offerings have been introduced. This operation continues to be a “work in progress” and will undergo an audit by the CSDE in the spring. An outside consultant was recently engaged to ensure that we are in compliance for recipe and menu analysis pertaining to serving sizes and weekly totals of protein, grains etc. in reimbursable meals and the overall business operations for accurate reporting and collections.

Superintendent Stella indicated he would be establishing a Superintendent's Task Force. Members will include Mr. Pullo, Ms. Roddy, Board of Education (2), medical/nursing (1), building administration (1) and the PTO (1). It is anticipated discussion will concentrate on the following parameters:

- Food offerings – both current and potential.
- Compliance with state and federal requirements.
- Space and budgetary limitations.
- Entrée vs. ala carte options, and the respective profitability.
- What are we doing differently than other districts.
- Identify areas for potential change as well as the impact on budget and staff.

Ms. Connor and Ms. Kravetz volunteered to serve as the Board representatives and Nancy White will be the administrative representative.

BRS Building Upgrade Project – Superintendent Stella noted the installation of the chiller on the roof during the holiday break.

Facilities Committee – Ms. Kravetz reviewed the January 8 meeting that included an update on the building project and work completed during the holiday break, update on Tools for Schools, custodial efforts over the break, and sustainability and recycling initiatives. The next committee meeting will be held on February 5, 2015.

Finance Committee – Dr. Fleischman noted that the committee met on January 12 to review the monthly financials. The audit report was deferred to the February 3, 2015 budget presentation to the town, when the auditor will be in attendance.

ACES – No Report.

CABE Liaison – Ms. Connor noted the Legislative Update was cancelled because of snow.

Upcoming Meeting Presentation - (Math and Differentiation) – Board members requested the following be included:

- ❖ Concrete examples of what is going on in classrooms;
- ❖ How is differentiation done across grade levels; is there consistency among and across grade levels; what percentage of staff are implementing differentiation;
- ❖ To what extent is administration monitoring what teachers are or are not doing;
- ❖ What are our expectations;
- ❖ What are the anecdotal differences across grade levels and classroom to classroom -- how is that monitored.

Questions arose regarding homework and the variances that exist from classroom to classroom. There was general consensus that homework and the homework policy would be a separate topic.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:13 PM)
Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Matthews
UNANIMOUS