

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Via WebEx <https://woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=m6f4a66594a1b985d887290f1b23f88a6>

Meeting Number (access code): 146 074 0169

Meeting Password: MXbSyFb4Y53

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Piascyk, Chair called the meeting to order (7:02 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; Linda Acheson, Christine Campbell, Dan Chase, James Crawford, Kristen DeManche, Christa Demetro, Maria DePalma, Madison Eucalitto, Carrie Fanelli, Kim Franklin, Kris Hart-Rooney, Monique MacDonald, Kathy Marlor, Katie McCollom, Jean Molot, Visna Ngov, Rose Piscitelli, Tim Rourke, Meghan Saunders, Nancy Smerekanicz, Anthony Taddei, Michelle Waldron, Mary Vincitorio, Cathy Zdrowski, Teachers; Kit Dunbar, Shari Foldy, Wendy Glynn, CSEA; Vicky Burford, Jay Dahra, Michael Fitzgerald, Pua Ford, Ruchi Jain, Aimee Meacham, Joi Prud'homme, Jane Roddy, RQ, Allison Schaefer, Call-In User 12037, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Cowan

Second by Ms. Shavers

IN FAVOR:

Mr. Cowan, Ms. Ferrante Fernandes, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Piascyk, Dr. Ross, Ms. Shavers,
Dr. Strambler and Dr. Townsend

ABSTAIN:

Ms. Genovese

MOTION PASSES 8-0-1

PTO Report – Ms. Prud'homme noted that an on-line subscription to scholastic magazine has been approved for the whole year as well as the purchase of new books for the Library. In addition virtual author visits have been arranged - Grade 2 with Tom Angleberger with other grades having similar events in March and/or April. A BRS cookbook is in development and will be available for purchase in the coming months. Virtual grade level socials kick off on Friday, January 22 with Kindergarten and Cara Rosner recently joined the Executive Board.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Budd acknowledged the passing of John Ploski, a former teacher, principal and superintendent, and donations in his memory to the BRS Library in the amount of \$95. Also noted was the virtual visit of Tom Angleberger (Origami Yoda Series) on February 11 for Grade 2 students. It was acknowledged that despite the challenging times we are facing, Woodbridge is a community that will engage in conversations that support and assure equity and safety for all students and adults. Goals for 2020/21 were outlined inclusive of:

- *Build on and strengthen the BRS community, including through a clarified vision and focus that embraces all.*
- *Continue to develop and implement a strong consistent curriculum in all areas, including academic and social / emotional and to support staff through professional development for implementation.*
- *Development and implementation of stronger communication systems and protocols.*
- *Support for all learners inclusive of those needing intervention as well as those who require additional enrichment.*

- *Improvement of remote teaching / learning at BRS.*
- *Clarify, strengthen and implement strong hiring processes.*
- *Development and implementation of strong structures, goals and objectives for ongoing district committees.*

2021/22 Budget –Superintendent Budd presented the 2021/22 Budget comprised of \$15,692,447 representing a net increase of \$490,493 (3.23%) over the current budget. A significant portion of the increase is the result of medical insurance estimates (17%), the inclusion of Technology (\$100,200, which was funded by a grant last year) as well as a moderate increase for professional development and curriculum writing. It was noted that should remote learning continue into the 2021/22 school year, learning would become a blended model thus alleviating the need for hiring additional staff as was necessary this year. In addition, there will be a certified staff reduction of 0.50 FTE, although it has not yet been determined which area(s) will be directly affected. The proposed budget is predicated on the achievement of four key goals:

- (1) *To maintain the strength of programs for children;*
- (2) *To support all learners in their growth;*
- (3) *To develop and implement a strong, consistent curriculum; and*
- (4) *To realize new savings and cost efficiencies.*

Suggestions were made for inclusion of funding for WebEx meetings, exploration of technology leasing specifics, delineation of staffing models and equitable class sizes across all grade levels. It was noted that the 2021/22 budget presentation to the joint Boards of Selectmen and Finance will occur remotely on January 26 at 6:00 PM.

MOTION #3 – 2021/22 BUDGET

Move that we approve the Superintendent’s 2021/22 Budget as presented

Ms. Shavers
Second by Dr. Townsend
UNANIMOUS

Open Choice – Statute requires that local boards of education indicate available Open Choice seats annually. The Area Cooperative Education Resource Center (ACES) is charged with the responsibility of coordinating the identification of available seats in local school districts and establishing and implementing the annual process to fill open seats. Currently, 18 slots are allotted for participation with 16 filled for the 2020/21 school year. In addition to the two vacant slots, two sixth graders will be leaving, creating a total of four (4) vacancies for the 2021/22 school beginning in Kindergarten. State reimbursement for transportation is approximately \$4,000 per student based on our current tier. Should we reduce our allocation from 18 to 16, the reimbursement rate would drop to \$3,000 per student. It was the recommendation of the Superintendent that the district maintain the 18 slots for the 2021/22 school year.

BRS Report – Ms. Sherman noted various supports and activities being provided for remote students and teachers, world read aloud day at the beginning of February and the recent WTNH news segment highlighting the BRS Kindergarten program

Facilities Committee – Mr. Hughes reviewed the January 8 meeting which focused on cleaning protocols and procedures. The next meeting is February 12 at 7:30 AM.

Finance Committee – Ms. Shavers noted the January 11 meeting included review of the 2021/22 budget proposal, the current budget deficit of \$94,000, inclusive of unanticipated special education costs, a subsidy for the cafeteria as well as significant unemployment costs associated with the Eday program. The BOWA fuel bid rate will be \$1.69, which has the potential for a \$9,000 savings. The next meeting is February 8 at 6:30 PM.

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Strambler noted this committee will meet on January 21 at 4:30 PM and with continued discussion(s) on remote learning and instruction.

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese extended an invitation for Board members to participate in the remote Legislative Breakfast on January 22. Also noted was the initiation of the new Legislative Session which concludes on June 9 and updated Covid 19 resources available on their web site. Ms. Piascyk noted the participation of her and Dr. Budd in the

January webinar workshops related to promoting constructive relationships with board members, municipal leaders, legislative staff, parents and greater community in building a positive school climate and culture.

NEW BUSINESS

Questions were raised relative to what presentations will be made at the February meeting. Superintendent Budd indicated that updates may be provided on upcoming meetings of the Community and Diversity Committee and/or the Ad Hoc Safety Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:50 PM)

Dr. Ross

Second by Dr. Townsend

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