

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, November 18, 2019

Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Fleischman, Chair called the meeting to order (7:05 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Steven Fleischman, Chair; Mr. Dan Cowan, Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Mr. Jeff Hughes, Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Vice Chair; Dr. David Ross, Ms. Joyce Shavers and Dr. Michael Strambler.

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; Cheryl Mammen, 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: Sandy Stein, BOS Liaison; Dr. Thomas Handler, BOF Liaison; Nancy Smerekanicz, Cathy Zdrowski, WEA; Pua Ford and two Amity High School students, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Genovese noted receipt of an email from a BRS parent regarding the principal search.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Dr. Fleischman

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

PTO Update – No Report

Ad Hoc Budget Task Force Report – Mr. Pullo noted the Task Force met three times and presented the developed overview which identified approximate savings in the 2020/21 budget in the range of \$4,000 – 10,000. It was suggested that consideration be given to contacting the Bethany Board of Education to assess potential savings through assorted cost sharing options. It was agreed Superintendent Gilbert would send a formal request to the Bethany Board of Education requesting a meeting.

MOTION #2 – BETHANY SHARED SERVICES

Move that we contact the Bethany Board chair to explore cost-sharing opportunities.

Ms. Shavers

Second by Mr. Hughes

UNANIMOUS

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Gilbert extended a sincere thank you to the community, staff, parents and students for the many cards and acts of kindness during his surgery and recovery. Superintendent Gilbert highlighted the search process for a new principal being conducted by CABA. Approximately 155 survey responses were received. The initial meeting of the committee will occur in December. Also noted were unanticipated staffing increases in Special Education to address increased student needs, implementation of Phase II of the HVAC recommendations during the December break, town approval of conversion to LED lighting in all town buildings, the December 12 presentation of the 2020/21 Capital Budget request to the BOS and BOF, the December 16 presentation of the 2020/21 budget proposal and the attendance of Ms. Shavers, Ms. Genovese and Superintendent Gilbert at the CABA/CAPSS Convention on November 15 where Dr. Fleischman was recognized for his 10 years of service to the Board.

BRS Update – Ms. Sherman apprised the Board of the November 5 professional development activities, the Veterans Day Assembly, the kindness tree and nomination of BRS for a STEM Grant by Representative Klarides. It was suggested that consideration be given to explore other character programs as Responsive Classroom does not appear to be effective.

2020/21 Calendar – Superintendent Gilbert noted that the calendar was developed in collaboration with other BOWA districts, is quite similar to the current calendar and mirrors the Amity calendar whenever possible. It is anticipated the BOWA Superintendents will review suggestions in December and then submit the calendar for adoption at each of the BOWA December meetings. It was suggested that a survey be conducted with all of BOWA to ascertain parent preference for vacation schedules during the 2021/22 school year.

Upcoming Meeting Topics – The 2020/21 Budget presentation should be similar to prior years and with a draft presented to the Finance Committee on Monday, December 9.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Hughes reviewed the November 8 meeting which discussed the heating changeover, replacement of the chiller control panel, PA system issues, the town LED lighting project, exterior door replacements, unit ventilator replacements and replacement of the pool door.

Finance Committee – Ms. Shavers reviewed the November 18 meeting held just prior to the Board meeting. The committee reviewed the monthly financials and a modification to the Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive for WEA members.

Curriculum Committee – Ms. Piascyk noted this committee will meet on November 21 to receive an overview on Special Education Services and an update on TAG. It was suggested that the overview report for this committee be moved to either the May or June meeting to ensure the entire academic year is covered.

Policy Committee – Ms. Genovese presented revised Policy 4112.5 Security Check / Fingerprinting for adoption by the Board. This policy was reviewed by the Committee at their October 8 meeting and submitted to the Board for 30-Day review at the October 21 meeting.

MOTION #3 – POLICY ADOPTION

Move that we adopt Policy 4112.5 Security Check / Fingerprinting as revised.

Ms. Genovese
Second by Mr. Cowan
UNANIMOUS

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese noted the December 10 New Board Member Orientation workshop and her attendance at the CABE / CAPSS Convention on November 15.

NEW BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

The Board entered Executive Session to review and discuss the revised Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Plan for WEA members.

MOTION #4 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Move that we enter Executive Session (8:14 PM).

Ms. Piascyk
Second by Ms. Genovese
UNANIMOUS

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Fleischman, Vice Chair called the Executive Session to order (8:25 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Steven Fleischman, Chair; Mr. Dan Cowan, Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Mr. Jeff Hughes, Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Vice Chair; Dr. David Ross, Ms. Joyce Shavers and Dr. Michael Strambler.

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; Al Pullo, Director of Business Operations/Services.

MOTION #5 – PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (8:28 PM).

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Ms. Genovese

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #6 – REVISED VOLUNTARY EARLY RETIREMENT PLAN (WEA)

Move that we approve the revised 2019/20 Voluntary Early Retirement Plan for the membership of the WEA as presented.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Ms. Genovese

UNANIMOUS

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

(8:29 PM)

Mr. Cowan

Second by Dr. Ross

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board