

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, March 16, 2026

Town Hall Main Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Lawrence, called the meeting to order (7:03 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Lawrence, Chair; Lynn Piascyk, Vice Chair; Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary; Jackie Cappiello; Megan Conaster; Jeff Hughes; Dr. Michael Strambler; and Erin Williamson.

STAFF: Christopher Montini, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Matthew Madruga, Cheryl Tafel, Assistant Principals; Carrie Borcharding, Special Services Director and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – an email was received related to the BRS Building project.

Imri Fisher spoke regarding anti-Semitism incidents that occurred at Amity several years ago. The Board was urged to be a district that leads rather than reacts and ensure that the anti-bias curriculum protects children.

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented. (*Piascyk/Conaster Unanimous*)

Board Member Appreciation – Superintendent Montini acknowledged the proclamation signed by first Selectman Mica Cardozo designating March 16 as School Board Day in Woodbridge. The Board was extended a sincere thank you from Superintendent Montini. They were recognized for their deliberate decision-making process and preparation as elected officials and volunteers and their engagement with kindness and respect to ensure Beecher Road School children flourish with success.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Montini indicated that enrollment has remained steady at 869 students. He noted the favorable renewal rate in Healthcare benefits for the 2026/27 budget, which will further reduce the budget by another \$160,000 for an overall increase of 2.89%. Also noted were recent Literacy walks / classroom observations in Grade 4 and assorted writing projects.

BRS Update – Ms. Sherman noted recent literacy activities inclusive of small group instruction from the HMH coach, the visit to 6th grade students from Dr. Tracey, Principal of the Amity Junior High in Bethany, International Read to Me Day on March 19 with guests readers and the Leprechaun traps created by Kindergarten students to catch Leprechauns for St. Patrick's Day.

Facilities Committee – Ms. Piascyk reviewed the March 5 meeting highlighting the aging infrastructure of the building. Installation of the Annihilare system was completed, servicing of the microturbine to replace the leaking pump as well as a faulty compressor on the walk-in cooler. Repairs still in process include damper actuators, the timer on the lights in the North parking lot, replacement of a failed computer board on the chiller, assessment of a plan for replacement of classroom thermostats that are no longer available as well as the two 20-year old Toro snow-blowers that failed during the last snow storm.

BIUBC Committee – Mr. Hughes noted this committee met in a joint meeting with the Board of Education on February 26 and endorsed a recommendation on the revised Ed Specs, which incorporate the expansion of the PK program in both square footage and enrollment specifics in space utilization and planning as well as identification of additional reimbursement opportunities. In addition, it was the recommendation of the committee that a communications consultant be retained. The selected firm will be responsible for the sharing of important and accurate information / explanations to the community to support a successful referendum process and how the decision to build a new school was attained.

MOTION #2 – REVISED ED SPECS Move that we approve the revised Education Specifications pertaining to the BRS Infrastructure Upgrade project as presented by Antinozzi Associates and Construction Solutions Group for submission to the BRS Infrastructure Upgrade Building Committee and CSDE. (*Hughes/Piascyk Unanimous*)

MOTION #3 – BIUBC COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT Move that we authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract agreement with *Tall Timbers Marketing* engaging their services as a communications consultant as recommended by the BRS Infrastructure Upgrade Building Committee. (*Hughes/Lawrence Unanimous*)

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence noted the projected surplus of \$62,000 with minimal changes occurring from last month.

Policy Committee – Ms. Williamson reviewed the policy changes adopted earlier in the meeting under 30-day review.

CABE Liaison Report – No Report

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – Policy March 30 at 4:30 PM, Curriculum April 1 at 4:00 PM and Finance April 6 at 4:30 PM all in the Superintendent’s Conference Room. The regular WBOE meeting is April 20 at Town Hall at 7:00 PM with a presentation on IT in collaboration with Project Based Learning activities.

NEW BUSINESS

Healthy Food Certification – These verbatim motions are required by the CSDE related to compliance with the Healthy Food Program for the 2026/27 school year. The first verifies participation in the Healthy Food program and the second verifies the exemptions that would be applicable for the 2026/27 school year.

MOTION #4 – HEALTHY FOOD PARTICIPATION

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Woodbridge Board of Education or governing authority) certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, 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, 2026, through June 30, 2027. 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. (*Conaster/Del Prete Unanimous*)

MOTION #5 – HEALTHY FOOD EXEMPTION

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 and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. (*Williamson/Strambler Unanimous*)

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 7:58 PM (*Conaster/Hughes Unanimous*)

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board