

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, July 15, 2019
Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Fleischman, Vice Chair called the meeting to order (7:00 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Steven Fleischman, Vice Chair; Mr. Dan Cowan, Ms. Maeghan Genovese, Secretary; Mr. Jeff Hughes, Dr. Todd Jokl, Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Ms. Joyce Shavers and Mr. Paul Testa (via telephone).

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; Cheryl Mammen, Special Services Director; Gina Prisco, Principal; Analisa Sherman, Assistant Principal; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Sandy Stein, BOS Liaison; Pua Ford, Tom Handler, David Ross, Michael Strambler, Bettina Thiel, community.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR

Ms. Piascyk nominated Dr. Fleischman to serve as Chair of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

MOTION #1 – CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR

Move that we close nominations for Chair.

Ms. Piascyk
Second by Dr. Jokl
UNANIMOUS

Dr. Fleischman was unanimously elected as Chair of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

NOMINATIONS - VICE CHAIR

Mr. Cowan nominated Ms. Genovese to serve as Vice Chair of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

Ms. Genovese nominated Ms. Piascyk to serve as Vice Chair of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

Dr. Jokl nominated Ms. Shavers to serve as Vice Chair of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

Dr. Fleischman called for written ballots.

MOTION #2 – CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR VICE CHAIR

Move that we close nominations for Vice Chair.

Mr. Cowan
Second by Ms. Genovese
UNANIMOUS

IN FAVOR – MS. PIASCYK: Dr. Fleischman, Ms. Genovese, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Piascyk and Mr. Testa

IN FAVOR – MS. GENOVESE: Mr. Cowan

IN FAVOR – MS. SHAVERS: Dr. Jokl, Ms. Shavers

Ms. Piascyk Voted Vice Chair 5-1-2

NOMINATIONS - SECRETARY

Dr. Fleischman nominated Ms. Genovese to serve as Secretary of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

MOTION #3 – CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR SECRETARY

Move that we close nominations for Secretary.

Ms. Shavers
Second by Dr. Jokl
UNANIMOUS

Ms. Genovese was unanimously elected as Secretary of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

The three officers of the Woodbridge Board of Education are:

Dr. Steven Fleischman – *Chair*

Ms. Lynn Piascyk – *Vice Chair*

Ms. Maegan Genovese – *Secretary*

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #4 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Ms. Shavers

UNANIMOUS

Mr. Testa left meeting 7:12

REPORTS

PTO Update – None

Board Retreat – The WBOE Retreat will be scheduled for August 19 from 5:00 – 9:00 PM in place of a regular meeting. The Retreat will be facilitated by Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel from CABA. The primary focus will be annual goal setting as well as reviewing Board roles and responsibilities. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

Committee Assignments – All Board members were asked to forward their committee preferences to the chair within the next week. It is anticipated committee assignments will be in place for August.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Gilbert highlighted the administrative retreat that was held recently, summer curriculum work currently in process, student summer programs, pending classroom placements in August, HVAC facility work and dissemination of *The Bridge* to all residents in Woodbridge. It was also noted that the First Selectman is forming a town committee to coordinate emergency situations. An outside consultant, along with fire, police, education and various department representations will assess and develop a systematic approach to ensure that during an emergency all pertinent departments operate in tangent with each other.

BRS Update – Ms. Prisco noted the upcoming work of the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee in differentiating learning in alignment with district goals for the August professional development days as well as the professional development days throughout the school year.

Panorama Survey – Superintendent Gilbert reviewed the results of the parent, staff and student surveys. As was done in prior surveys, neutral responses were not included in the positive or negative calculations and the same survey questions were asked to attain accurate comparison values. The survey fulfills mandated CSDE requirements, provides feedback for continuous improvement and measures growth in targeted areas. The family survey questions are district created while the surveys for student, teacher / staff are Panorama created/normed questions.

Overall, results were somewhat disappointing when compared with last year. Response levels decreased across all categories: families 25.9% compared to 28.7%; students 91/8% versus 93.5% and teacher/staff 86.3% compared to 90.3%. Specific targeted questions also reflected a drop in favorable responses in all categories with the exception of the student topic responses. These results provide an opportunity to accentuate the positive and identify future growth in targeted areas. While significant supports were created for both staff and students to minimize disruption to the education process by students exhibiting challenging behaviors, the results do not reflect nor substantiate the interventions implemented. A resource handbook will be created in the coming year as well as possible development of various focus groups to assess what is and is not working.

It was pointed out that the neutral responses skew the presentation and if removed create a very different picture. Whatever is happening with staff is affecting students. It was questioned whether Panorma has developed “best practices” from top performing schools that target specific response areas. Also, what size schools are the norms/averages based on, are there national trends, what norm group are we being compared to and how often is the data renormalized. As we are one school with a student population of 850, the ratio of teachers to administrators is not the same as a smaller school with 10 teachers and one administrator and is there even enough administrative support to meet the communication expectations of staff. Suggestions were also made to switch to a different survey company and to invoke the work started by the enrichment committee.

Finance Committee – Dr. Fleischman presented line item transfers in the 2018/19 budget. Transfers are made annually at the end of the budget process.

MOTION #5 – 2018/19 BUDGET TRANSFERS

Move that we approve the 2018/19 line item budget transfers as presented by administration.

Ms. Piascyk
Second by Ms. Shavers
UNANIMOUS

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese urged Board members to attend the CABE Summer Leadership Conference on August 7, the CABE/CAPSS Conference in November and the new Board Member orientation in December.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Ms. Shavers requested that meeting materials be distributed earlier than the Friday before the meeting as well as the addition of “safety issues” as a standard agenda item.

Dr. Jokl thanked the Board and the Town of Woodbridge for their trust in him to serve on the Board. As this was his last meeting, he was grateful to be able to volunteer for a great school district and extended his since thanks for the beautiful mantle clock.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:29 PM)
Ms. Piascyk
Second by Mr. Cowan
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board