

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, July 17, 2017
Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order (7:01 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Dr. Steve Fleischman, Ms. Maegan Genovese, Mr. Garrett Luciani, Nancy Maasbach, Ms. Emily Melnick (7:05 PM), Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Mr. Paul Testa and Mr. John Vultee.

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; Al Pullo, Director of Business Services/Operations; Analisa Sherman, Assistant Principal; Clare Kennedy, Special Services Director and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Aimee Meacham, Pua Ford, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Ms. Hamilton opened the floor for nominations for officers of the Board.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR

Dr. Fleischman nominated Margaret Hamilton to serve as Chair of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

MOTION #1 – CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR

Move that we close nominations for Chair.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Piascyk

UNANIMOUS

Ms. Hamilton was unanimously elected as Chair of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

NOMINATIONS - VICE CHAIR

Mr. Luciani nominated Steve Fleischman to serve as Vice Chair of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

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

MOTION #2 – CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR VICE CHAIR

Move that we close nominations for Vice Chair.

Ms. Hamilton

Second by Ms. Piascyk

UNANIMOUS

IN FAVOR – DR. FLEISCHMAN: Dr. Fleischman, Mr. Luciani, Ms. Piascyk and Mr. Testa

IN FAVOR – MS. MAASBACH: Ms. Hamilton, Ms. Genovese, Ms. Maasbach, Mr. Vultee

TIE 4-4-0

Dr. Fleischman called for written ballots.

Ms. Melnick arrived (7:05 PM).

IN FAVOR – DR. FLEISCHMAN: Dr. Fleischman, Mr. Luciani, Ms. Piascyk and Mr. Testa

IN FAVOR – MS. MAASBACH: Ms. Hamilton, Ms. Genovese, Ms. Maasbach, Ms. Melnick, Mr. Vultee

Ms. Maasbach Voted Vice Chair 5-4-0

NOMINATIONS - SECRETARY

Ms. Maasbach nominated Dr. Fleischman to serve as Secretary of the Woodbridge Board of Education. *Dr. Fleischman declined the nomination.*

Ms. Hamilton nominated Ms. Piascyk to serve as Secretary of the Woodbridge Board of Education. *Ms. Piascyk declined the nomination.*

Mr. Vultee 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. Piascyk

Second by Ms. Hamilton

UNANIMOUS

The three officers of the Woodbridge Board of Education are:

Margaret Hamilton – *Chair*

Nancy Maasbach – *Vice Chair*

Maegan Genovese – *Secretary*

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #4 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Mr. Luciani

UNANIMOUS

Board Retreat – Ms. Hamilton reviewed the preliminary agenda for the Board Retreat on July 24 with Bob Rader, Executive Director of CAFE. The Retreat will focus on Board roles, responsibilities, goal setting, review of the Strategic Plan, development of Board Goals and direction for the 2017/18 school year. It was requested that ample time be provided for Board discussions.

Committee Assignments – Ms. Hamilton asked Board members to forward their committee requests to the Board Clerk by the end of the week.

PTO Update – Ms. Meacham reminded of the Summer Book Fair and noted that the PTO now had a Bulletin Board in the BRS North Lobby.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Gilbert highlighted the recent release of SBAC test results. Overall, BRS mirrored the state trends. Math was up slightly from 71.2 to 71.6 and Language Arts dipped slightly from 80.1 to 76.4. Detailed data will be provided at the September Board meeting. With the discontinuation of the internal student data collection software Inform, we are continuing to research options for a replacement program. Since our students transfer to Amity in Grade 7, whichever program is selected will be compatible and interface with their student tracking program. Also, acknowledged were recent staffing changes inclusive of the reassignment of a current Grade 3 teacher to Health, the hiring of a new Grade 3 teacher, a part-time technology teacher and the resignation of the Facilities Manager. The MOU with the Police Department has been signed off and is in place for the 2017/18 school year. Transportation options will be explored in the coming year as the contract expires June 30, 2018. The current contract will be reviewed by the WBOE Finance Committee at their August meeting for the possibility of state-wide bidding. Meetings have also been held with ACES to ascertain savings through the pooling of resources from various districts for the transportation of students identified with special needs. Negotiations were recently completed with the administrators union and the Board will be asked to ratify the new contract at their August meeting. The intern model will be utilized in the coming year. It is anticipated that the University of Bridgeport will be able to provide approximately 10 interns, who will deliver daily coverage for substitute teaching. A two-day administrator retreat was held in mid-July.

The Superintendent apprised the Board on recent developments concerning the request for approximately 4-5 students in the primary grades to attend an alternate out-of-district program one day a week at Common Grounds. Since no formal

written agreement is required between the facility and the district, parents may elect participation without the consent of the district. The CSDE has recognized this program as an “extraordinary educational opportunity” thus allowing students to attend without being marked absent. Based on these criteria it is being recommended that this be a pilot program for the coming year with close monitoring and collaboration between administration, teachers and parents.

Concerns were raised regarding the impact on the classroom and students keeping pace with projects, homework, etc. at the expense of those students attending every day. Whose responsibility is it to ensure that students “stay on task”, the district or the parents? Since there are only two participating districts, Hamden and New Haven, how are these types of issues addressed? As this program is only a year old, what longitudinal data is available to determine the impact on the classroom and/or student(s). Also, there is no Board policy in existence to govern participation in this type of venture. What are the definitions for “extraordinary educational opportunity” and “absent” as well as the liability to the district in monitoring student attendance? What are the pros and cons as well as the implications in statute given the limited knowledge and function of this program? Should the Board be endorsing a program that is not successful? It was suggested that this discussion be continued at the Board Retreat in the coming week.

BRS Report – Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Sherman informed the Board of participation rates for the summer programs. Both programs have increased participation this year. Summer curriculum work is being done in math, science, language arts and technology.

Facilities Committee –No Report.

Finance Committee – Dr. Fleischman presented the monthly financials for approval by the Board. It is anticipated that approximately \$13,000 would be returned to the town.

MOTION #4 – MONTHLY SUMMARY REPORT

Move that we approve the Summary Financial Report ending June 30, 2017, F1, as submitted by the Business Manager.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Mr. Luciani

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #5 – MONTHLY DETAIL REPORT

Move that we approve the Monthly Detail Financial Report ending June 30, 2017, F2-5, as submitted by the Business Manager.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Mr. Luciani

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #6 – COMBINING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Move that we approve the Combining Financial Statements ending June 30, 2017, F7-8, as submitted by the Business Manager.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Mr. Luciani

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #7 – QUATERLY CAFETERIA REPORT

Move that we approve the Quarterly Cafeteria Report ending June 30, 2017, F9, as submitted by the Business Manager.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Mr. Luciani

UNANIMOUS

Policy Committee – It is anticipated this committee will be commenced in the fall to review class size guidelines, develop a process and policy for memorial requests and develop a policy for evaluation of external of programs.

CABE and ACES Liaisons – Ms. Hamilton advised Board members on the role for each organization. If interested, Board members are asked to forward their intent to the Board Clerk.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – The August meeting will include discussions on Open Choice and Class Size Guidelines, finalization of Board and Superintendent Goals for 2017/18 and SRO funding for 2018/19 inclusive of plan development on how to proceed.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Gilbert presented two new certified staff hires.

MOTION #9 – CERTIFIED STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Move that we ratify the appointments of Aimee Meacham at a salary of \$59,072, MA, Step 6 and Jeanne Ciarleglio at a salary of 38,090, MA, Step 3 both effective August 22, 2017.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Piascyk

UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:47 PM)
Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Piascyk
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board