

MINUTES OF THE HYBRID REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, March 18, 2024

Via WebEx <https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=m345e660a599340ac89edcceb379fcd08>

Meeting Number: 2495 218 0349

Meeting Password: CKft3paa9K3

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the meeting to order (6:15 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Dr. Jay Dahya (in-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (in-person); Dr. Lauren Francese (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (in-person) and Mr. Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair (in-person).

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session in accordance with State statute to receive an update on security strategy, the deployment of security personnel, and/or devices affecting public security.

MOTION #1 – EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:15 PM)

Move that we enter Executive Session to receive an update on security strategy, the deployment of security personnel, and/or devices affecting public security and invite Superintendent Tencza, Business Manager Coonan, Principal Sherman, Facilities Manager Esparo and Security Officer Lynch to join the Board.

Dr. Dahya

Second by Ms. Hopkins

UNANIMOUS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Dr. Jay Dahya (in-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (in-person); Dr. Lauren Francese (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (in-person); and Mr. Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair (in-person).

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations; Vito Esparo, Facilities Manager and Vinny Lynch, Security Officer.

MOTION #2 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (7:07 PM).

Ms. Hopkins

Second by Dr. Dahya

UNANIMOUS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Dr. Jay Dahya (in-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (in-person); Dr. Lauren Francese (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (in-person); Mr. Jeff Hughes (in-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair (in-person); Dr. Michael Strambler (remote) and Erin Williamson (remote).

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Cheryl Tafel, Assistant Principal; Carrie Borcharding, Special Services Director; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Del Prete acknowledged that any correspondence received was available in BoardBook.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

PTO Update – Ms. Kruger noted the upcoming Book Swap next week and commencement of planning for the Spring Book Fair, teacher appreciation week, and Artsweek. Successful events recently concluded were the Math Night as well as International Night. Teacher grants and funding of scholastic classroom grants is in process.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #3 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Mr. Hughes

UNANIMOUS

WBOE Appreciation – Superintendent Tencza presented token gifts to Board members along with a gratitude card. Board members were thanked for their dedication, leadership, support and collaboration to build a successful school system in support of our learners. First Selectman Mica Cardozo presented a proclamation, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, declaring March 18, 2024 as *Board Member Appreciation Day* in the Town of Woodbridge and extended a sincere thank you for the countless volunteer hours they have served in the community.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Tencza reminded everyone that BRS will not be accessible during the summer months once the roofing project begins. It was noted that in response to recent action by the BOF to modify the BRS Building Committee charge *to develop a Education Specification and Feasibility study and subsequent financial projections to explore options for increasing capacity and appropriate educational and programmatic learning spaces for the Woodbridge School District in response to population projections and programmatic challenges*, an education consulting firm has been retained to provide assistance with building community understanding, garnering ideas and opinions to collectively and collaboratively develop a comprehensive approach to determine long and short term needs. The RFQ/P will include various options.

Technology Update – Mr. Billings noted the various changes and improvements associated with network infrastructure, expansion of wireless coverage both internally and externally, repurposing of older technologies / equipment, the switchover of the phone system from copper wiring to digital and adapting technologies for the future inclusive of AI. Questions were raised regarding student internet security measures / processes, sharing of personnel information and the status of electronic report cards, grades, classroom assignments, progress reports etc. being available for parents in Powerschool.

BRS Update – Principal Sherman noted the *Read Across America* literacy celebration, Grade 4 writing museum tribal boards, completion of Grade 6 FBI challenges, Kindergarten super powers reading unit and leprechaun hunts, women's history month, the teacher evaluation process and providing student supports for Ramadan.

BRS Town Building Committee Update – Mr. Hughes noted that the roof project is moving forward with the required forms and documents submitted to the CSDE.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Hughes reviewed the March 7 meeting detailing completion of building repairs and grounds projects.

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence reviewed the March 12 meeting inclusive of the standard monthly reports.

Policy Committee – Ms. Williamson presented the modifications made to Policy 5111 – inclusive of the new Kindergarten Age legislative changes and clarified the documentation necessary for substantiation of residency compliance.

MOTION #4 – POLICY ADOPTION – 5111 ADMISSION / PLACEMENT

Move that we adopt Policy 5111 as revised.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Ms. Hopkins

UNANIMOUS

CABE Liaison Report – No Report

Ms. Piascyk noted that she attended the Town sponsored FOI Workshop on March 5 and that the complete video is available on the Town web site.

Upcoming Meeting Presentation – Extended Day / Summer Programs

Upcoming WBOE Committee / Meeting Schedule – Curriculum Committee on April 4 at 4:00 PM, Policy Committee on April 1 at 4:30 PM; Finance Committee on April 9 at 4:30 PM, and the regular WBOE Regular Meeting April 22 at 7:00 PM. The Town Preliminary Budget Hearing will be held on April 25.

Healthy Food Certification – These verbatim motions are required by the CSDE related to compliance with the Healthy Food Program for the 2024/25 school year. The first verifies participation in the Healthy Food program and the second verifies the exemptions that would be applicable during the 2024/25 school year.

MOTION #5 – HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION

Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-215f, the Woodbridge Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale 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, 2024, through June 30, 2025. 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.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Dr. Francese
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #6 – FOOD / BEVERAGE CERTIFICATION

Move that 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.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Ms. Del Prete
UNANIMOUS

Superintendent noted the retirement of a Grade 4 teacher who has been with the district for approximately 19 years.

MOTION #7 – CERTIFIED STAFF RETIREMENT

Move that we accept the retirement of Elena Lavigne effective June 30, 2024 with regret.

Ms. Hopkins
Second by Mr. Hughes
UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:22 PM)

Dr. Dahya
Second by Ms. Hopkins
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board