

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, October 21, 2024

BRS South Assembly Room

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the meeting to order (7:06 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Dr. Jay Dahya, Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary; Dr. Laura Francese; Jeff Hughes; Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair; Dr. Michael Strambler and Erin Williamson.

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Jimmy Sapia, Assistant Principal; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Del Prete acknowledged receipt of an email regarding Grade 1 classroom space which is available in BoardBook.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Ms. Williamson arrived (7:09 PM)

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Ms. Del Prete

UNANIMOUS

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Tencza provided an update on enrollment, a status update on the 1st grade opening; development of an upcoming parent forum on the Literacy program, enhancements to the Cafeteria environment and menu offerings, the anticipated return of the contractors for sidewalks/grounds and the celebration of learning occurring throughout the building.

Educator Evaluation Plan – Superintendent Tencza presented an overview of the Educator Evaluation Plan process as all districts were charged by the CSDE to develop a new teacher and administrator evaluator plan. Every plan is unique as each district has different strengths / weaknesses. This comprehensive plan was developed in collaboration with administration and the Professional Development Committee. As part of the CSDE approval process, each plan requires Board approval to ensure the Board is apprised of plan components.

MOTION #2 – EDUCATOR EVALUATOR AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PLAN

Move that we adopt the Educator Evaluation and Professional Learning Plan as submitted and approved by the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Ms. Williamson

UNANIMOUS

SBAC Presentation – Mr. Sapia presented an overview for how the assessment is conducted as well as the results from spring testing. SBAC is a mandated global assessment aligned to common core standards with testing done completely on-line. SBAC measures students' progress/attainment of knowledge and skill and accurately described student achievement and growth. It is a multiple choice Q&A computer adaptive test that changes for each student depending upon the answer(s) selected. While SBAC testing is only one measurement of a snapshot in time, it does provide helpful information in determining strengths and weaknesses in guiding daily instruction. An in-depth analysis is performed on each of the content data areas by BRS data teams to ascertain individual student growth targets and expected growth levels, cohort growth as well as vertical strengths and weakness that inform and guide instruction not only in individual classrooms but across grade levels as well.

As in past years, overall students performed well with Woodbridge ranking first (1st) in DRG B for Language Arts and second (2nd) in Math. The overall scores for students in Woodbridge (*DRG B*) meeting or exceeding the state standard were ELA (English/ Language Arts) – 81.17% (*State Average 48.9 %*) and slightly lower than last year in Math – 79.37% (*State Average 44.1%*) and Grade 5 Next Generation of Science – 79.5% (*State Average 48.5 %*). The Growth Rate for students that met or exceeded their individual growth targets as determined by the CT Growth Model were: ELA (English/ Language Arts) – 57.3% (*State Average 58.7 %*) and Math – 59.2% (*State Average 61.4 %*). Woodbridge ranked 3rd in the State for ELA and 5th in the State for Math. Resources will be explored to provide additional instructional support strategies and an analysis of data trends will be performed to determine gaps and next steps.

BRS Update – Principal Sherman noted that the first round of interviews have been completed for the new Grade 1 opening, development of a chain of command process, the Halloween Hoot this weekend, the anticipated dissemination of a communication survey in the coming weeks and painting enhancements in the Cafeteria.

An overview of technology integration / coding for each grade level was presented. Technology / coding is integrated daily within each classroom beginning in Kindergarten through instruction and collaborative age-appropriate projects / tasks that ensure “assured” experiences across grade levels. In Grade 6 there is a shift in instruction to focus on social media interactions, discord, digital citizenship, password protection and student computer lab opportunities. Technology experiences are fluid and flexible, and depending on the grade level, may differ from year-to-year with new projects, new units of study, new books etc. The Technology Scope and Sequence is available on the district web site and as grade level curriculums are developed they will be posted as well. It was noted that a Technology Forum will be held in the spring. In addition at the next curriculum meeting, one of the discussion topics will be Math, Science and STEAM.

BRS Infrastructure Upgrade Building Committee Update – Dr. Madonick provided an overview of the current process and the prior work of the Ad Hoc Enrollment Instructional Needs and Space Planning and BRS Town Building Committees to address the roof replacement, site work / drainage issues, enrollment / spacing concerns etc. This Committee has been meeting monthly to examine possible expansion concepts / options, plan for appropriate education spaces for now and identify instructional needs / spaces for the future based on projected enrollment increases over the next several years. In addition conversations with surrounding communities, who have pursued similar processes, are being explored, Town leadership was engaged to explore existing feasible and/or repurposing of spaces within the Town, formal discussions with BOWA on shared services as well as regionalization have occurred and the gathering of pertinent data relative to assessing the viability of various options for community decisions has begun. Two immensely experienced and incredibly knowledgeable consulting groups were hired to conduct a feasibility study and an educational specification study to guide the committee in their work. It is anticipated a TriBoard meeting (BOE/BOS/BOF) will occur in January / February to further discuss options and deployment of this information to the community-at-large.

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Strambler indicated this committee met on October 2 to review the SBAC presentation, and discuss technology as well as its impact on Grade 6 specifically. The next meeting in December will focus on the transition of the former “DARE” program and other research based programs around this topic.

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence noted that the projected deficit in the budget as a result of the hiring of four (4) additional paras, one (1) additional classroom teacher and the potential hiring of a part-time psychologist.

2024/25 Draft Budget Calendar – It was noted that this calendar follows a similar meeting pattern as last year. It was suggested that information on “budget drivers”, metric comparisons among other districts, trend identification and potential areas of savings be gathered in October and presented to the Board prior to development of the budget. Board members were asked to hold December 9, January 6 and 7 in their individual calendars.

Policy Committee – Ms. Williamson reviewed the changes made at the October 7 meeting to the policies accepted for 30-day review under the Consent Agenda which nearly completes the 9000 series. It was suggested that the Technology policy be reviewed sooner rather than later. Also, should Board members have a preference for which series should be reviewed next, they should communicate that to Superintendent Tencza or Ms. Williamson.

CABE Liaison --- Board members were reminded of the CABE/CAPSS Convention on November 15/16. CABE is offering a *New Board Member Orientation and Leadership Conference* on December 3; two (2) concurrent programs – *New Board Member Track* and the *Board Leadership Track* for current officers / committee chairs. It was noted that Superintendent Tencza, Ms. Del Prete and Vinny Lynch attended the remote school threats webinar which is also

available in CABC's library. Superintendent Tencza and Chair Piascyk also participated in two additional webinars---*Managing Effective Meetings and Leading Through Difficult Times* and *How the Budget is Developed, Adopted and Board Oversight in that Process*.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – The regular November 18 meeting will include a report on LAS Links/MLL and a Strategic Plan update. This meeting will be held in the Main Meeting Room at Town Hall. Committee meetings will be held as follows: Facilities on November 7 at 7:30 AM and Finance November 12 at 4:30 PM

NEW BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:28 PM)

Dr. Dahya

Second by Dr. Strambler

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.