

**MINUTES OF THE HYBRID REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**Monday, November 21, 2022**

**South Assembly Room Beecher Road School**

**Via WebEx** <https://woodbridgepeps.webex.com/woodbridgepeps/j.php?MTID=m971f628e3843468ee226a3901a53b98a>

**Meeting Number:** 2496 615 9577

**Meeting Password:** CavdVxdx993

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Dr. Jay Dahya (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (remote); Mr. Jeff Hughes (remote); Mr. Steven Lawrence (in-person); Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair (in-person); Dr. Michael Strambler (in-person) and Ms. Erin Williamson (in-person).

**STAFF:** Christine Syriac, Interim Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; James Sapia, Assistant Principal; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services / Operations; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

**GUESTS:** Vonda Tencza, Incoming Superintendent; Ruchi Jain, PTO.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**PTO Report** – Dr. Jain noted that the Halloween Hoot raised over \$20,000, completion of the Thanksgiving Food Drive, the Scholastic Book Fair will run from November 28 – December 2 with Family Night on November 30.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Madonick

Second by Dr. Strambler

**UNANIMOUS**

**REPORTS**

**Superintendent Report / Extended School Day and School Year Programs Presentation** – Interim Superintendent Syriac noted the long-term commitment the Board has provided to ensure consistent after-school care for students in the Extended Day program through an assortment of after-school enrichment and academic offerings. As part of this commitment, it is recommended that Policy 3170 be revised to clarify the daily presence of a nurse and the regulations presented outline the hiring process. The regulations presented align with the WEA contract as well as feedback received from the administrative team to gain professional development time for TA's due to recent CSDE mandated changes.

Currently, expectations of the WEA contract are not being followed. The leadership positions for this program are stipend positions, posted annually and individuals assigned to the positions should be current members of the WEA bargaining unit. This allows for continuity of best teaching practices, student behavior expectations and internal leadership opportunities. The morning component offered prior to Covid with minimal participation, and which has not been in effect for the past three years, will be eliminated entirely. In addition, this program will not operate on parent / teacher conference days, to fulfill the CSDE mandate for professional learning for TA's.

Questions were raised regarding continuity of leadership, loss of teaching time and whether there would be any impact on program disruption. It was noted that in the regulations in Paragraph (1c) and (2i) *Woodbridge Teacher Association* should be changed to *Woodbridge Education Association* and “collective bargaining unit” added following *Association*.

**MOTION #2 – POLICY 3170 - EXTENDED SCHOOL DAY / EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAMS**

Move that we approve Policy 3170 (Extended School Day / Extended School Year Programs) as revised.

Dr. Madonick

Second by Dr. Strambler

**IN FAVOR:** Ms. Piascyk, Ms. Hopkins, Mr. Hughes, Dr. Madonick, Dr. Strambler and Ms. Williamson

**AGAINST:** Dr. Dahya and Mr. Lawrence  
***MOTION PASSES 6-2***

BRS Update – Ms. Sherman noted the school-wide Halloween costume walk, the Veteran’s Day assembly, sports jersey day, and professional development activities for certified staff on November 8 and 23.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – TAG Update and 2023/24 operating budget.

Town Building Committee – Mr. Hughes reviewed the November 10 meeting regarding grant reimbursement deadlines, current conditions of the pool / future use and the November 28 BRS walk-through with members of the BOS/BOF/BOE. Discussion ensued regarding the use of the pool, the possible \$1M price tag for repairs and whether this topic should be bundled with the BRS capital projects issue on the referendum. While there was general consensus that the pool is a valuable community resource and asset, it is important the referendums remain separate. These topics are not mutually exclusive, however, it is the Board’s responsibility to prioritize education for our children now and for the future and not waste taxpayer dollars in the process. The BRS capital repairs – roof replacement, drainage and technology/security should not be delayed and need to remain a priority. Further, it is of paramount importance that discussions occur with the Town Boards of Selectmen and Finance regarding long-term planning encompassing increasing enrollment, ensuring a structurally sound and safe building for students and staff and/or the building a new school.

Finance Committee – Dr. Dahya reviewed the November 10 meeting inclusive of the standard monthly financial reports, Open Choice reimbursement and the increased deficit in Special Education costs with an additional out-of-district placement. It was noted that a request will be made to the Town for monies associated with the Excess Cost Grant to offset the deficit in Special Education.

Policy Committee – Dr. Madonick reviewed the November 10 meeting which included submission of three policies (1313, 2400 and 3280) for 30-day review under the Consent Agenda and Policy 3170 adopted earlier in the meeting. In addition, two policies previously under 30-day are being recommended for adoption. Policy 2120 Organizational Chart realigns certain areas to a previous alignment and Policy 4111 – Recruitment and Selection of Administrative Staff had minor language changes, established guidelines for a more comprehensive process and outlines how to conduct the search process. The next meeting of this committee will be February 7 at 4:30 PM.

**MOTION #3 – POLICY 2120 - ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

Move that we approve Policy 2120 (Organizational Chart) as revised.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Ms. Williamson  
**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #4 – POLICY 4111 - RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Move that we approve Policy 4111 (Recruitment and Selection of Administrative Staff) as revised.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Mr. Lawrence  
**UNANIMOUS**

CABE Liaison Report – Board members Pisacyk, Madonick, Del Prete, Hopkins and Lawrence attended various workshops at the CABE / CAPSS Convention and handouts from the various sessions will be shared with all Board members.

**NEW BUSINESS**

2023/24 School Calendar – Interim Superintendent Syriac presented the 2023/24 draft calendar. This calendar was developed collaboratively among the BOWA districts and aligns with the current calendar. This calendar will be presented for action at the December meeting.

Chair Piascyk reminded everyone of the December meeting schedule. The WBOE Curriculum and Policy Committees will not meet in December; the Finance Committee will meet on December 12 at 4:30 and the regular WBOE meeting is December 19 at 7:00 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Dr. Jain hoped that the changes adopted this evening to the Extended Day program will be communicated to parents in a timely manner. It was noted that these changes do not go into effect until July 1, 2023.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** (8:59 PM)

Dr. Dahya

Second by Dr. Madonick

**UNANIMOUS**

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board