

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, February 25, 2019

District Office Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order (6:10 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Dr. Steve Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Ms. Claire Coleman, Dr. Todd Jokl, Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Lynn Piascyk, and Ms. Joyce Shavers.

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent

The Board entered Executive Session to conduct the mid-year evaluation of the Superintendent.

MOTION #1 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Move that we enter Executive Session (6:11 PM).

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Mr. Luciani

UNANIMOUS

MOTION #2 – PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (6:55 PM).

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Mr. Luciani

UNANIMOUS

Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the Public Session back to order (7:12 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Dr. Steve Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Ms. Claire Coleman, Dr. Todd Jokl, Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Lynn Piascyk, and Ms. Joyce Shavers.

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Joi Prud'homme, PTO; Teresa Nakouzi, Cathy Zdrowski, Teachers; and students, parents and staff of Extended Day of Legos/Robotics Club, Pua Ford, Sandy Simowitz and Bettina Thiel, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Mr. Luciani

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

Board Process – Sentiments were expressed for routine reports/various activity updates to be provided in writing to the board ahead of time to allow for more in-depth and/or robust “think tank” discussions at board meetings. It was noted that Board meetings serve multiple purposes and that information shared not only informs the Board but the community at

large as well since these meetings are televised. There is no intent to preclude members from engaging in open discussions. An effort has been made to streamline the agenda to avoid lengthy multiple hour meetings as in-depth, comprehensive analytical discussions occur at the committee level. It was also noted that the Board Retreat provides an opportunity for Board members to determine annual topics for review, develop strategic analysis frameworks and objectives as well as evaluation models and assorted methodologies.

PTO Update – Ms. Prud'homme apprised the Board of a change in treasurers as Ms. Miller has resigned due to health issues and Ms. Madonick will assume her duties. As part of this transition process, the PTO is conducting a fundraising audit to ensure proper financial management and identification of potential revenue strategies for greater sustainability. Successful fund raisers include the Hoot, Picture Day, fall and spring Book Fairs and Quassy Night. The spring Book Fair will be held April 1-4 with Family Night on April 3 and Quassy Night, in collaboration with Bethany Community School, will be May 17 and Artsweek will be held from May 20-24 with this year's theme of "water". For the first time a Boosterthon will be conducted with a kickoff pep rally on April 24 and a fun run on May 2. It was also noted the PTO agreed to partial funding of the ADL training programs held recently for students, staff and parents.

Legos/Robotics Club Update – Student presenters from Space Surfers, Space Cadets, Orbiting Owls and Space Eagles gave a brief presentation on their recent achievements at the state-wide tournament league competition in December. This year's topic was *Into Orbit* with teams designing projects that explore "living in and traveling through space". The core values include robotics/programming, discovery, teamwork and innovation. Space Surfers project was on recycling of air through plants to provide food; Orbiting Owls focused on daily exercise to generate happiness and well-being; Space Eagles created a multi-directional virtual reality treadmill and Space Cadets created a device for nail cutting. It was suggested that student work be shared in a student assembly as a motivation to generate greater student participation.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Gilbert highlighted the recently released Accountability Index Report from the CSDE which will be presented at the March meeting; the Grade 3 team enrichment cluster program that was selected to a present at the state-wide innovation Ignite Conference in March; the top state transportation safety rating of B&B; the March 20 CABE Day on the Hill, public hearings in Hartford on mandated regionalization on Friday; the upcoming BOWA shared services discussion on March 5 at Amity; the upcoming Read with Empathy program on March 5 and the March 7 BOF/BOS meeting on town budget reductions for all departments. Superintendent Gilbert thanked the BRS community and Board for the numerous condolences he received on the recent passing of his mother.

BRS Report – Ms. Prisco and Ms. Sherman noted the "super powers" celebration of reading with Kindergarten students; the school-wide book reading of *The Day You Begin* as a kick-off to BKindness Month in March; the zip lining team building event for student council and their community service in providing dinner to guests at the Ronald McDonald House.

ADL Report – Ms. Prisco and Ms. Sherman presented an overview of the purposeful interactions created every day in classrooms, playgrounds and assorted areas for both students and staff. The foundation of these interactions emanate from the tenements of responsive classroom to build a safe school climate and culture with multiple lenses. Expectations are carefully focused to promote a welcoming learning community, develop leadership skills and behavioral supports all in the spirit of kindness. As part of the work on bias, we have partnered with Columbia to increase diverse student books within the classroom library that portray modern families/communities and teach tolerance. In addition, the beautification committee has brainstormed a number of words to define who BRS is. The North soffit area will now carry the words "Yes we can, Be Kind, Create, Inspire, Dream, Persevere and Succeed". Suggestions were made to increase staff diversity as part of the hiring process. It was noted that while consistent efforts are made during this process, all districts in the state are clamoring for approximately 10% of the overall teaching population.

Summer Program Update – Superintendent Gilbert presented a summary preview of the summer program dates, inclusive of Recreation, Summer Enrichment and Extended Day.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – It was agreed TAG would be deferred to either April or May. *School-Wide Enrichment* should reflect what is happening, where we are going, depiction of programs and grades and if this program is accomplishing what was anticipated or is something different required. *Policy Committee Overview* should highlight direction, timeline and overall focus for the comprehensive review process. *School Accountability Index* should follow formats of prior reports inclusive of quartile growth, vertical cohort growth and movement within grade level ranges.

In anticipation of the March 11 meeting with the WEA, it was questioned whether Board members could receive teacher responses to the spring staff survey. It was noted survey results are confidential. The March 11 is a conversation/discussion on a “day in the life a BRS teacher” in preparation for upcoming contract negotiations and was requested by the WEA.

Facilities Committee – Ms. Coleman provided a summary of the various committee topics and issues addressed since September. This committee continues to meet monthly with the next meeting slated for March 13.

Finance Committee – Dr. Fleischman urged residents to advocate in support of the budget by contacting local elected officials. BRS is the only school in BOWA with enrollment increases, clearly indicating that BRS is one of the reasons for people moving the Woodbridge. The Board has been a good steward of education and the budget supports the needs of the school. It was noted that the Measurement and Verification report would be deferred until it has been vetted at a full Finance Committee meeting.

Curriculum Committee – Ms. Piascyk noted the committee met on February 14 to receive a presentation on Technology. The March 14 meeting will have a continuation of the Technology Presentation.

Policy Committee – Ms. Genovese indicated the committee met on February 7 and reviewed 3 policies that were submitted for 30-day review under the consent agenda.

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese extended an invitation for Board member to attend the CABE Day on the Hill on March 20. Ms. Shavers noted that she will be participating in the Leadership Institute.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Gilbert presented the agreement the Healthy Food Program participation certification for adoption by the Board.

HEALTHY FOODS CERTIFICATION PARTICIPATION 2019/20

Move that we approve continued participation in the Healthy Food Certification to certify that all food items offered for sale to students, including school cafeterias and vending machines, at Beecher Road School will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Furthermore the Woodbridge Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards 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; or 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Genovese
UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:15PM)
Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Piascyk
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board