

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL WOODBRIDG BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, November 14, 2016

Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the Public Session to order at 7:00 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Lisa Connor, Secretary; Ms. Karen Kravetz; Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Emily Melnick and Ms. Lynn Piascyk.

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Aimee Meacham, PTO; Megan Cofrancesco, Andrew Lavaway, Doreen Merrill, Teresa Nakouzi, Teachers; Gillian Fattal, Pua Ford, Jason Johannesen, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT –Gillian Fattal spoke on behalf a group of parents in support of project based learning and the desire for an alternate program for Grades 5 and 6. It was noted that this group conducted a survey with the 3rd and 4th grade parents, receiving 52 responses out of 160 surveyed in support of alternative program options in Grades 5 and 6 for BRS students. It was suggested that the survey be shared with Board members.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Connor requested extraction of Policy 5141.21 *Administration of Medication*.

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as amended.

Ms. Connor

Second by Ms. Piascyk

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

PTO Update – Ms. Meacham reviewed the various events that have been held since the beginning of the school year inclusive of the Ice Cream Social, Halloween Hoot, fall wrapping paper fundraiser, the Thanksgiving Food Drive and the upcoming Book Fair.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Gilbert highlighted the CABE/CAPSS Convention, Veterans Day celebrations, the Lego/Robotics events at Shelton High School, safety drills, the recently developed powerpoint presentation on Cafeteria offerings, the November Professional Development Day for certified staff, his selection of expanded cabinet members as denoted in his Entry Plan, and announced the new Physical Education/Health teacher, Andrew Lavaway. He also noted that in light of recent national events, children have been reassured that they are in a safe environment, and that while questions and discussions in the classroom occur, we remain focused on our curriculum.

Teacher-of-the-Year – Superintendent Gilbert introduced Doreen Merrill as the Teacher-of-the-Year. Doreen provided an overview of the selection and application process.

BRS Update – Ms. Prisco expressed appreciation for everyone who participated the Veterans Day celebrations as well as the Student Council members who, through their fund raising efforts, made donations to the Jeremy Saxe Foundation, K-9 First Responders and the Woodbridge Food and Fuel Fund.

Math Update – Ms. Prisco and Ms. Sherman presented an overview of Math Workshop in support of the Action Plan developed as a result of the 2015/16 Tri-State visit. Development of a curriculum template is in process and will ultimately tie to the pacing guides previously developed as well as link to the common core standards across each grade level. Flexibility is required to structure student units within the pacing guide dependent upon strengths/weaknesses of the

class as a whole as well as individual student need. An assortment of resources inclusive of *Investigations, Exemplars, Big Ideas Math, Standards for Mathematical Practices* and a variety of others support and deliver the curriculum. Concrete sequential manipulatives are utilized to ensure students learn different ways to represent their numeric thinking process through problem solving and explanation of their work – how and why is the answer they arrived at correct. The approach and language are similar to what is used for reading and writing and very common to students. Summer work packets are also made available to students in Grades 3-6.

Facilities Committee –Ms. Kravetz noted this Committee will meet on November 17 at 7:15 AM in the District Office Conference Room. At the October 20 meeting, the Committee received general updates regarding sustainability, grounds and the building project punch list.

Finance Committee – Superintendent Gilbert apprised the Board on receipt of an Energy Star Award for the Town of Woodbridge as well as Beecher Road School. It is estimated that there is an annual energy savings of approximately \$439,000 as a result of all buildings being energy certified.

Superintendent Gilbert recommended ratification of a multi-year contract for procurement of natural gas in collaboration with the BOWA Consortium.

MOTION #2 – NATURAL GAS CONTRACT

Move that we authorize the Superintendent and/or designee to enter into a multi-year contract for procurement of natural gas in conjunction with the BOWA Consortium.

Ms. Kravetz
Second by Ms. Connor
UNANIMOUS

Policy Committee – Ms. Connor recommended adoption of *Policy 9325 - Meeting Conduct* as revised. This policy was reviewed by the committee at their September 28 meeting. The changes reflect current Board practice of not responding to Public Comment and additional language to be read prior to Public Comment. The Medication policy is still undergoing changes and will be referred back to Committee.

MOTION #3 – ADOPTION OF POLICY 9325 – MEETING CONDUCT

Move that we approve Policy 9325 (Meeting Conduct) as revised.

Ms. Kravetz
Second by Ms. Connor
UNANIMOUS

CABE Liaison – Ms. Connor noted that Ms. Hamilton and Superintendent Gilbert would be attending the CABE/CAPSS Convention on November 18 and 19.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations

2017/18 Budget Presentation – It was questioned whether certified staff Early Retirements would be known as part of the presentation. Since there is a December deadline as well as a January one, it may not be known.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Gilbert presented a certified staff appointment to fill the recent vacancy in Physical Education/Health.

MOTION #4 – CERTIFIED STAFF APPOINTMENT (LAVAWAY)

Move that we ratify the appointment of Andrew Lavaway at a salary of \$44,610.06, MA, Step 9 effective November 23, 2016.

Ms. Kravetz
Second by Ms. Connor
UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

The Board entered Executive Session to receive a brief safety and security update.

MOTION #5 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Move that we enter Executive Session (8:31 PM).

Ms. Connor

Second by Ms. Kravetz

UNANIMOUS

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the Executive Session to order (8:35 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Lisa Connor, Secretary; Ms. Karen Kravetz; Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Karen Kravetz, Ms. Emily Melnick and Ms. Lynn Piascyk.

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:56 PM)

Ms. Kravetz

Second by Ms. Connor

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board