

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

**Monday, July 18, 2022**

**South Assembly Room Beecher Road School**

**Via WebEx** <https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=mf7a1248444ec63c64f0176a4e9df7bb3>

**Meeting Number:** 2483 972 6645

**Meeting Password:** 7wgHAZbFT54

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Piascyk, Chair, called the meeting to order (7:02 PM).

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (In-person); Dr. Jay Dayha (Remote); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (In-person); Mr. Jeff Hughes (In-person); Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair (7:09 PM In-person); Dr. Michael Strambler (In-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence (Remote); and Ms. Erin Williamson (In-person).

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

**GUESTS:** Beth Heller, First Selectman; Ruchi Jain, PTO.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**PTO Report** – Dr. Jain noted the new PTO officers, the \$50,000 donation in support of STEAM initiatives and the upcoming social for incoming Kindergarten students on July 30.

Dr. Madonick arrived (7:09 PM).

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Madonick

Second by Dr. Strambler

**UNANIMOUS**

**REPORTS**

**Board Chair Report** – Ms. Piascyk extended a sincere welcome to Interim Superintendent Syriac, Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services / Operations and Carolyn Borcharding, Special Services Director. The Board is in the process of coordinating a date and time to conduct a Board Self-Evaluation. Committee Chairs were asked to submit their upcoming meeting schedule to the Board Clerk. Board Members were invited to register for the CABE Leadership Conference on August 18 and the CABE / CAPSS Conference on November 18 and 19.

**First Selectman Beth Heller** – Ms. Heller apprised the Board on the formation of a Town BRS Building Committee to address the various Capital Projects (asphalt replacement, Kucinkas Loop, roof replacement, water incursion, overgrown trees, etc). Representation on this committee will include Ms. Sheila McCreven (BOS), Mr. Donavon Lofters (BRS Parent) and Mr. Jeff Hughes (WBOE). It is anticipated that funding reimbursement will be sought from the State for any eligible projects.

**Superintendent Search Update** – Chair Piascyk noted that six firms responded to the RFP to conduct the search for a new superintendent. Four firms were selected for interview. The Board is recommending the search be conducted by the CABE Executive Search team of Dr. Mary Broderick and Dr. John Reynolds.

**MOTION #2 – FIRM SELECTION FOR SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**

Move that we enter into a contract with CABE Executive Search Services to conduct a search for a new superintendent.

Dr. Madonick

Second by Mr. Hughes

**UNANIMOUS**

Superintendent Report –Interim Superintendent Syriac noted the upcoming financial audit, hiring for various vacancies, summer custodial tasks, summer programming and changes in enrollment since the June report. While student numbers have increased slightly it does not appear that we are exceeding class size guidelines. The Board will be kept apprised of any changes.

Policy Committee – Dr. Madonick noted that the Policy Committee met on July 14 to review the Policy 0523 - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the removal of an obsolete phrase in the recently revised Policy 9122 Vice-Chair.

**MOTION #3 – POLICY 9122 VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

Move that we adopt Policy 9122 Vice-Chairperson as revised.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

Authorization to Hire

As required, when a change in superintendent leadership occurs, the incoming superintendent is authorized to hire all staff in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-151(b).

**MOTION #4 – AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE**

Move that we authorize Christine Syriac, Interim Superintendent, to hire staff for the Woodbridge School District in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-151(b) effective July 1, 2022.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Dr. Strambler  
**UNANIMOUS**

Authorized Signatures

As required when changes in leadership occur, authorized signers for the district are required to be designated.

**MOTION #5 – AUTHORIZED SIGNERS**

Move that we approve Christine Syriac and Donna Coonan as authorized signatures and representatives for the Woodbridge School District, effective July 1, 2022.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Ms. Del Prete  
**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #6 – ED-099 SIGNATURE CHANGE**

Move that we accept the Permanent Single Agreement for the Connecticut State Department of Education’s Child Nutrition Programs and authorize the Board of Education Secretary, Sarah Beth Del Prete, to certify the action of the Woodbridge Board of Education that authorizes Christine Syriac, Interim Superintendent of Schools and Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services and Operations as signers of the CSDE reimbursement claims submitted on behalf of the Woodbridge School District.

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

Interim Superintendent Syriac presented several staff resignations that occurred at the end of the 2021/22 school year. Ms. Zima was the Music teacher, Ms. Zdrowski was Special Education and Ms. Franklin was Grade 6 / Math.

**MOTION #7 – CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION (ZIMA)**

Move that we accept the resignation of Lisa Zima effective June 30, 2022 with regret.

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

**MOTION #8 – CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION (ZDROWSKI)**

Move that we accept the resignation of Caterina Zdrowski effective June 30, 2022 with regret.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Dr. Madonick

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #9 – CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION (FRANKLIN)**

Move that we accept the resignation of Kim Franklin effective June 30, 2022 with regret.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Dr. Madonick

**UNANIMOUS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** (7:44 PM)

Dr. Dayha

Second by Ms. Del Prete

**UNANIMOUS**

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board