

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, December 21, 2015

BRS Library Media Center

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Dr. Steve Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Chris Jaffe, Secretary; Ms. Lisa Connor, Ms. Karen Kravetz, Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Keri Matthews, Ms. Emily Melnick and Ms. Lynn Piascyk.

**STAFF:** Dr. Guy Stella, Superintendent; Gina Prisco, Principal; Analisa Sherman, Assistant Principal; Art Poole, Interim Business Manager and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Tim Kelley, PTO; Maria Kayne, BOS Liaison; Teresa Nakouzi, Sandy Simowitz, Cathy Zdrowski, Teachers; Cathy Salinardi, Extended Day Director; Pua Ford and Rebecca Merkle, community.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Ms. Jaffe noted that an email had been received regarding establishing a “my payments plus” account with the Cafeteria, which was referred to the Main Office.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Matthews

Ms. Connor requested extraction of the minutes.

**UNANIMOUS**

Ms. Connor requested that on Page 1, under *TAG Update*, the first sentence be stricken “*Ms. Purcell outlined the direction TAG is moving forward in as a result of the audit conducted in 2011 and the 2012 follow-up*” and replaced with *Ms. Purcell presented a report entitled “Gifted and Talented Program: Sustaining Momentum”*.

### **MOTION #2 – MEETING MINUTES**

Move that we approve the November 16, 2015 meeting minutes as amended.

Ms. Matthews

Second by Dr. Fleischman

IN FAVOR: Ms. Hamilton, Ms. Connor, Ms. Jaffe, Mr. Luciani, Ms. Melnick and Ms. Piascyk

ABSTAINING: Dr. Fleischman, Ms. Kravetz and Ms. Matthews

***MOTION PASSES 6-0-3***

## **REPORTS**

**PTO Report** – Mr. Kelley informed the Board that Thanksgiving Food Drive baskets were delivered to 21 BRS families. The Book Fair raised \$4,100 and the student designed book covers from the Book Fair will be displayed throughout BRS as well as the Town Library. The two remaining grade level social nights will be held in January.

**Summer Programs Report** – Ms. Salinardi provided an overview of the programs held this summer at the Amity campus. The Extended Day Program has purchased a 3D printer and will be performing *Alice in Wonderland* again this year as part of the Drama Club. Ms. Simowitz noted the various offerings during the 4-week program this past summer as well as anticipated offerings for the coming year. Summer Enrichment will be a 5-week program and will return to the BRS campus. Dr. Stella apprised the Board that Bethany Community School has contacted him regarding participation in the summer program as they will be under construction this summer.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Stella highlighted the student designed book covers at the Book Fair, Family Night and the upcoming winter concert.

BRS Report – Ms. Prisco commented on the wonderful performance given by the BRS Choir downtown New Haven, the Rotary Club presentation of dictionaries to the entire third grade, and the “owl pals” pairing program between students in Grades 5, 6, Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup>.

2016/17 Budget Presentation – Dr. Stella presented the 2016/17 budget, inclusive of the addition of a .5 FTE art teacher and a part-time maintenance worker for a total increase of 2.48% over the 2015/16 budget. All mandated Special Education services have been included as well. The budget includes costs as well as savings from the building upgrade and supports the custodial and material needs necessary to maintain cleanliness and maintenance objectives of the facility. The 2016/17 budget was developed using a zero-based approach and directly supports district priorities, including: (1) development and implementation of updated curricula; (2) enhancement of a balanced literacy model; (3) embedded professional development and support for core curriculum areas; (4) continued implementation of a comprehensive embedded professional development program to promote technology as a tool of instruction; and, (5) continuation of a school-wide mathematics initiative. The budget also supports *recent federal and state mandates* related to the (1) Accountability Plan; (2) Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plans; (3) Common Core State Standards; and, (4) a Technology Adaptive State Standardized Testing Program (SBAC).

It was noted that Page 19, reflected an incorrect figure for the 2015/16 Superintendent and Business Manager salaries. This figure will be changed prior to submission to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance.

### **MOTION #3 – 2016/17 BUDGET**

Move that we approve the 2016/17 budget for submission to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance as amended.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Jaffe

**UNANIMOUS**

Finance Committee – No further report. The Committee met on December 14 and reviewed the monthly financials and the 2016/17 proposed budget.

Facilities Committee – Ms. Kravetz reviewed the meetings of November 19 and December 17. The building upgrade remains on schedule with punch list items being addressed. The committee also received brief updates on initiatives pertaining to sustainability and Tools for Schools.

BRS Building Update – No Report

CABE Liaison – Ms. Connor shared her experience at the CABE/CAPSS Conference.

### **Upcoming Meeting Presentations**

**STAR** – Please provide an overview on what Star testing is and how it is used.

**SBAC** – (1) How much time spent on focusing on the SBAC Assessment; (2) What efforts are used to ensure teachers are “not” teaching to the test; (3) How are teachers modifying daily learning/instruction to prepare students for testing.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

The Board entered Executive Session to receive an update regarding security.

**MOTION #4 – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Move that we enter Executive Session (8:14 PM).

Ms. Matthews

Second by Dr. Fleischman

**UNANIMOUS**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the Executive Session to order at 8:17 PM.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Dr. Steve Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Chris Jaffe, Secretary; Ms. Lisa Connor, Ms. Karen Kravetz, Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Keri Matthews, Ms. Emily Melnick and Ms. Lynn Piascyk.

**STAFF:** Dr. Guy Stella, Superintendent.

Dr. Stella apprised the Board of recent development pertaining to security in and around BRS.

**MOTION #5 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

Move that we return to Public Session (9:32 PM).

Ms. Matthews

Second by Ms. Kravetz

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** (9:33 PM)

Ms. Jaffe

Second by Ms. Hamilton

**UNANIMOUS**

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board