

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDG BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, April 24, 2018
Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order (7:00 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Maegan Genovese, Secretary; Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Nancy Maasbach, Vice Chair; Ms. Lynn Piascyk and Mr. John Vultee.

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Robert Guthrie, CAFE; Pua Ford community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Maasbach

Second by Mr. Luciani

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

CABE Award Presentation – Mr. Guthrie presented the CABE Communication Award to Ms. Prisco for electronic dissemination of her bi-monthly communication updates to parents.

PTO Update – No Report

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Gilbert highlighted the annual budget hearing, the conclusion of school in 8 weeks, the MAG Parent Orientation and lottery on May 4, safety and security updates, the posting of several teaching vacancies inclusive of PreK, Reading/Language Arts, STEAM and Music, the Panorama survey for parents, students and staff, the spring book fair, the March 29 staff professional development day and the potential for piloting the CABE Equity Tool Kit within the district.

BRS Report – Ms. Prisco noted the DARE Graduation on May 18, the BRS promotion ceremony at Amity on June 19, the upcoming book swap, the Extended Day drama production of Beauty and the Beast, distribution of dictionaries to Grade 3 students by Rotary, Amity STEAM Day for Grade 5 students, and the Eli Whitney field trip for Grade 2 students. Ms. Sherman indicated that Smarter Balanced Assessment testing for Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 will occur May 1 – 11. Testing is untimed, limited to one hour in duration with one Language Arts and three Math Assessments conducted. Test questions mirror the format and structure of SAT's and ACT's. Ms. Mammen outlined the PMT (*physical, psychological management*) training provided to teacher assistants on de-escalation techniques and strategies for managing aggressive student behavior. It was also noted that Ms. Mammen is a certified trainer in this area.

Communication Update – Superintendent Gilbert reviewed the systematic and comprehensive communications plan specifically designed to understand/generate public opinion, improve programs and services, and feature the myriad of communication tools utilized to apprise and connect with all stakeholders, both internally and externally, on important information, events as well as emergencies. Community expectations are high. The website, Superintendent Parent Updates, Principal messages, the Student/ Parent Handbook, the Bridge, local newspapers and assorted other media outlets provide numerous opportunities and options for dissemination of pertinent data as well as attendance at various town meetings and/or activities. Parental feedback and involvement remains an interesting challenge. Upcoming changes may include the addition of social media interaction and switching to Alert Solutions: Swift K12 Messenger from

Honeywell Instant Alert. While vigilant and protective of our elementary age population, stakeholders look for information in different ways and at different times and communication enhancement remains a continuous area of growth, refinement and improvement.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Vultee reviewed the Facilities Committee, held just prior to the Public Session, regarding repairs completed during spring break, discarding of furniture damaged by the December flood, completion of painting in the North vestibule and main hallway, mat replacement, and updates on the building as well as grounds.

Ad Hoc Building Committee Update – Mr. Vultee indicated that Messrs. Ward and Kula attended the last meeting and HVAC system control monitoring continues. The Committee is still reviewing assorted HVAC information as well as security items. It is anticipated an update will be provided to the Board of Selectmen at a future date.

Finance Committee – Ms. Hamilton noted at the April 9 meeting the Committee reviewed the monthly financials approved earlier and received an update on rising special education costs.

Curriculum Committee – Ms. Piascyk provided an overview of the Grade 3 presentation on enrichment clusters and programming at the April 12 meeting. There will be no May meeting and the next meeting is slated for June 7 at 4:30 PM.

Policy Committee – Ms. Maasbach indicated the Policy Committee did not meet.

ACES Liaison – No Report

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese stated the legislative wrap-up group will meet on Tuesday, May 18, the collective bargaining workshop on Tuesday, June 12, CABE is recommending that legislators vote against HR610 – School Vouchers and advocated reading of the *Journal* article on small class sizes in summer school minimizing learning loss.

Upcoming Meeting Presentation

Strategic Plan Update – include update on status of the Social Studies curriculum as well as updates for where we are strategically to ensure that things are happening and on target.

School-Wide Enrichment – it was suggested consideration be given to creating heritage months that replicate the student population; enhancement / expansion of field trips to broaden student learning opportunities short-term vs an in-depth curriculum review/change process, and providing detailed examples of how daily student learning is being enhanced for students at all levels both inside and outside the classroom.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Gilbert presented a certified staff resignation in Technology.

MOTION #2 – CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION (ULACCO)

Move that we accept the resignation of Danielle Ulacco, effective March 29, 2018, with regret.

Ms. Piascyk
Second by Ms. Maasbach
UNANIMOUS

Superintendent Gilbert presented a certified staff leave of absence request for the 2018/19 school year in accordance with the WEA contract.

MOTION #3 – CERTIFIED STAFF LEAVE OF ABSENCE (MARROQUIN)

Move that we grant Nadia Marroquin-Collado a leave of absence for the 2018/19 school year.

Ms. Maasbach
Second by Mr. Vultee
UNANIMOUS

Ms. Mammen provided an overview of the IDEA Grant. The proposal is similar to past years and provides additional support in Special Education.

MOTION #4 – IDEA GRANT SUBMISSION

Move approval of the 2018/19 IDEA Grant for submission to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Ms. Maasbach

Second by Ms. Genovese

UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:29 PM)

Ms. Maasbach

Second by Mr. Luciani

UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board