

# MINUTES OF THE HYBRID REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, August 15, 2022

South Assembly Room Beecher Road School

Via WebEx <https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=m509d948ed7ba5909f9aec0bf98c5f2b0>

Meeting Number: 2492 161 8811

Meeting Password: C2Gbd4fKDX7

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Madonick, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order (7:04 PM).

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Jay Dayha (7:29 PM Remote); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (7:08 PM Remote); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (Remote); Mr. Jeff Hughes (In-person); Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair (In-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence (Remote); and Ms. Erin Williamson (Remote).

**STAFF:** Christine Syriac, Interim Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; James Sapia, Assistant Principal; Carrie Borcharding, Special Services Director; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

**GUESTS:** Ruchi Jain, PTO.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**PTO Report** – Dr. Jain noted the Kindergarten Social, the Ice Cream Social on September 2, the staff welcome back luncheon on August 25, initiation of a parent and staff survey, preparation of the back-to-school packets and the funding of Scholastic Magazine for all students in Grades K-6.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Hopkins

Second by Mr. Hughes

**UNANIMOUS**

## **REPORTS**

**Board Chair Report** – Dr. Madonick presented the committee roster and meetings dates for the 2022/23 school year.

**Superintendent Report** – Interim Superintendent Syriac noted dates for returning to school – staff will return on August 23 and students on August 29 with minimum days on both August 29 and August 30; various vacancies --- paraeducators, school nurse and one classroom teacher; summer custodial tasks; changes in enrollment since the July report and Covid protocol changes with masks remaining optional for the start of the year.

**Strategic Planning Process** – Interim Superintendent Syriac indicated that the consultant, Judy Wilson, will meet with the co-chairs of the three goal committees to develop an action plan moving forward. These groups will meet in October November and December to develop the plan that will carry forward into 2024.

Dr. Dayha arrived (7:29 Virtual).

**2022/23 Calendar** – Interim Superintendent Syriac apprised the Board of the mistake made in recognizing the New Year Day holiday in December and not January 2. Current statute does not allow for recognition of the holiday on the Friday before when the holiday falls on Sunday. The calendar will be adjusted to close school on January 2 and one day will be added to the end of the school year.

### **MOTION #2 – 2022/23 CALENDAR**

Move that we revise the 2022/23 calendar as presented.

Ms. Hopkins

Second by Mr. Hughes

**UNANIMOUS**

**BRS Update** – Ms. Sherman noted that during the summer teachers participated in revising the Math and Literacy curricula and will be sharing these revisions with the grade level PLC teams as part of the professional development activities later in August. The summer programs, inclusive of the Enrichment Program, Learning Academy and Extended School Year, have concluded. Class lists will be mailed out by the end of the week and parents will be able to login on the parent portal in Powerschool to see who their child’s teacher is.

**Policy Committee** – Dr. Madonick noted that the Policy Committee met in May, June and July to review Policy 0523 - Equity, Diversity. The purpose of the policy is to establish a framework that welcomes respect and strengthens the values of the District and presented it for adoption.

**MOTION #3 – POLICY 0523 EQUITY AND DIVERSITY**

Move that we adopt Policy 0523 Equity and Diversity.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Mr. Lawrence

Discussion ensued for removing the word “promote” in Paragraphs 4 and 7 to ensure there is no implied intention to promote diversity over academics. It was also suggested that in the last sentence before the “Responsibility” section, “promote” be changed to “support”. It was noted that diversity is embedded throughout BRS initiatives to create global citizens and that we are building and enhancing what is in place not replacing it. This is not a prescribed policy but rather a framework explaining/outlining what our value system is. The District supports, appreciates and celebrates diversity throughout the curriculum and community and that will not change nor will equitable opportunities for high academic achievement be weakened or lessened.

**MOTION #3A – POLICY 0523 EQUITY AND DIVERSITY**

Move that we adopt revised Policy 0523 Equity and Diversity removing “promote” in Paragraphs 4, 7 and changing last sentence to “support” instead of “promote”.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Ms. Hopkins

**UNANIMOUS**

**CABE Liaison Report** – Dr. Madonick reminded Board members that early registration for the November CABE/CAPSS Convention ends on August 28.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Certified Staff Resignations** – Interim Superintendent apprised the Board of three resignations that had been received since the July meeting.

Ms. Trofimchik was the STEAM teacher for the past four years.

**MOTION #4 – CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION (TROFIMCHIK)**

Move that we accept the resignation of Heather Trofimchik effective July 28, 2022 with regret.

Ms. Hopkins

Second by Mr. Hughes

**UNANIMOUS**

Ms. Komninakas was a part-time Speech / Language Pathologist for two years.

**MOTION #5 – CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION (KOMNINAKAS)**

Move that we accept the resignation of Christina Komninakas effective August 5, 2022 with regret.

Ms. Hopkins

Second by Mr. Hughes

**UNANIMOUS**

Ms. Smerekanicz was with the district for 15 years serving as a Grade 6 teacher and most recently in Grade 4.

**MOTION #6 – CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION (SMEREKANICZ)**

Move that we accept the resignation of Nancy Smerekanicz effective August 10, 2022 with regret.

Dr. Dayha

Second by Mr. Hughes

**UNANIMOUS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** (7:56 PM)

Dr. Dayha

Second by Ms. Del Prete

**UNANIMOUS**

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board