

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, September 19, 2016

Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Fleischman, Vice Chair called the Public Session to order at 7:02 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; (7:03 PM) Dr. Steve Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Lisa Connor, Ms. Karen Kravetz (7:03 PM); Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Keri Matthews, 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: Dr. Richard Dellinger, Jenn Blaise, Amity Middle School; Stephanie Goldberg, Emily Roberts, Caron Stebinger, Teachers; Maria Kayne, BOS Liaison; Pua Ford, Bettina Thiel, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Connor indicated an email had been received from Megan Cofrancesco regarding continuation of her studies.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Matthews

Second by Ms. Connor

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

PTO Update – No Report

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Gilbert highlighted the start of school, impressive test scores, continuation of NAEYC accreditation for the PK program, bus safety drills that will be held in October, participation of Grade 4 students in the national assessment of education, the upcoming Superintendent's *Parent Update* inclusive of bios on each WBOE member and the induction of four BRS students to the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Superintendent's Entry Plan – Superintendent Gilbert noted that as indicated in his Entry Plan he is getting to know district and attending numerous activities, including the QUVH Community Conversation and meeting with various building contractors regarding the upgrade project. Parent "*Listen and Learn*" sessions are scheduled for September 28 at 3:30 PM and October 13 at 9:30 AM. A Poetry Club, Math Olympiad and Robotics Club have been added to the after-school offerings.

BRS Update – Ms. Prisco highlighted the Ice Cream social, open houses, the school-wide CARES initiative, Universal STAR Screening and staff professional development activities. STAR screening is conducted three times during the school year, commencing in the fall for Grades 1-6 and in January for Kindergarten. Data is shared with parents and provides longitudinal and vertical testing data on each individual student as well as the school as a whole. This universal screening tool is also utilized in other BOWA districts, and has the capability to generate student growth data K-12.

World Language Update – Ms. Goldberg and Ms. Roberts presented an overview on the World Language program and the expansion of language acquisition beyond the classroom. Student growth has been increased through the years with approximately 95% of students performing at Novice-Mid or higher in Listening Skills; 96% at Novice-Mid or higher in Reading, 88% in Novice-Mid or higher in Speaking and 86% at Novice-Mid or higher in Writing. Adjustments to the Exit

Survey will be made to reinforce the writing component and a Grade 5 assessment is also being created to further inform and guide instruction.

SBAC Report – Ms. Sherman gave a summary of the spring testing for Grades 3-6. SBAC is a mandated assessment based on the Common Core Standards. In Language Arts, skills and knowledge are measured in the areas of Reading, Writing, Listening and Research/Inquiry, and in Math – Concepts/ Procedures, Problem Solving, Communicating/ Reasoning and Modeling/Data Analysis. Overall students performed very well and significant growth was achieved. In Language Arts and Math, BRS ranked 5 out of 21 districts in our DRG, (15 and 17 respectively out of 188 districts in the state) and Grade 5 students scored the highest in the state in Science. While SBAC testing is only one measurement, it does provide helpful information in determining strengths and weaknesses in daily instruction. An in-depth analysis will also be performed on the data to ascertain individual student growth, cohort growth as well as individual student strengths and weakness.

Parent Survey Results – In comparing 2014 to 2016, Superintendent Gilbert outlined the process utilized to measure the effect of the “neutral” response in each of the primary areas of focus. Regardless of whether you measured the “neutral response” in the “A” or “B” process, the ranking outcome was quite similar. It was agreed that options would be explored in future surveys to eliminate “neutral” responses and questions on similar subjects will also be grouped together rather than randomly placed throughout the survey.

Facilities Committee –Ms. Kravetz noted this Committee met on September 15 and received an update on the building upgrade, grounds priorities, paving of the north parking lot, tools for schools, sustainability and generation of energy savings data related to the micro-turbine.

Finance Committee – No further report. The committee met on September 12 and reviewed the monthly financials approved earlier under the Consent Agenda.

Policy Committee – Ms. Connor informed the Board this committee will meet on Wednesday, September 28 at 5:30 PM in the District Office Conference Room.

CABE Liaison – Ms. Connor apprised the Board of a webinar on the recent legal decision regarding the funding of education in Connecticut. She noted that she will be attending a workshop on legal issues in October.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations

Entry Plan Status – October observations, trends and categories – vision of school/district, curriculum instruction, support services, programs/resources etc. how to move forward, which direction and why.

Columbia Workshop Model – what does it look like in the classroom; how was it developed and molded to meet our needs, why this program was selected and what data supports that it is the right direction to follow.

NEW BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

The Board entered Executive Session to discuss evaluation of the Superintendent.

MOTION #4 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Move that we enter Executive Session (8:20 PM).

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Kravetz

UNANIMOUS

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the Executive Session to order (8:25 PM).

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

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:38 PM)
Dr. Fleischman
Second by Ms. Hamilton
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board