

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, March 17, 2025

Town Hall Main Meeting Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the meeting to order (7:04 PM).

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (7:17 PM); Dr. Laura Franchese; Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair; Dr. Michael Strambler, and Erin Williamson.

**STAFF:** Vonda Tencza, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Jimmy Sapia, Assistant Principal; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

**GUEST:** First Selectman, Mica Cardozo.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Dr. Strambler

**UNANIMOUS**

**Board Member Appreciation** – Superintendent Tencza thanked the Board for their spirit of volunteerism and the impact they have on BRS. Board members received a tee shirt and a cupcake as well as a write-up from CABA on the value of Board members. First Selectman, Mica Cardozo shared the annual proclamation declaring March 17 as School Board Appreciation Day in Woodbridge.

**Superintendent Search Update** – Chair Piascyk apprised the community that the Board voted on March 3 to act as a personnel search committee and sent out an RFP to 13 educational search firms with a closing date of March 21 at Noon. To date, three proposals have been received and a meeting will be scheduled next week for review of all proposals.

**Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Tencza reviewed current enrollment numbers. Antinozzi continues to provide different options for repurposing current space as well as creating new spaces with more than one floor. Plans will be shared with the community-at-large once associated costs are developed. The March Madness Book Bracket is between *Spoon* and *Chopsticks*. The March PD day will include topics on school climate policy, curriculum development and K-3 literacy.

**BRS Update** – Ms. Sherman noted vertical articulation conversations with BOWA and participation of the Grade 6 science, math and steam teachers with the Bethany Middle School staff. The first round of Kindergarten entrance assessments and the transition of registration to an online portal have been completed. The HMH coach visited various classrooms to provide small group instruction. The Read Across America program will be held on March 19. Dr. Tracey visited Grade 6 students and the naughty leprechauns in Grade 1 left footprints on many desks and turned the toilet water green.

**BRS Infrastructure Update** – The town has partnered with MP Planning Group to conduct a demographic and enrollment study. The next meeting is March 27 at 3:30 via WebEx.

**Facilities Committee** – This committee met on March 6. ADA compliant doors have been installed in the North entrance, the new fire panel is in place and the merry-go-round may be completed by spring break. It is anticipated Guerrera Construction will be returning to the grounds to complete the site / drainage work started in the fall.

**Finance Committee** – Mr. Lawrence noted this committee met on February 11 to review the standard monthly financial reports. We are 2/3 of the way through the 2024/25 budget year with a projected surplus of \$31,000. It was noted this

figure could require adjustment as there will be unanticipated costs associated with the retirement of the superintendent and the search for a new one.

Policy Committee – Ms. Williamson presented the policies reviewed at the February 3 meeting and currently under 30-day review for adoption.

**MOTION #2 – POLICY ADOPTION – 6000 CONCEPT AND ROLES IN INSTRUCTION**

Move that we adopt Policy 6000 Concept and Roles in Instruction as submitted.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Dr. Franchese

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #3 – POLICY ADOPTION – 6111 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Move that we adopt Policy 6111 - School Calendar as revised.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Mr. Lawrence

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #4 – POLICY ADOPTION – 6114 EMERGENCIES AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

Move that we adopt Policy 6114 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness as submitted.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Dr. Strambler

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #5 – POLICY ADOPTION – 6114.1 FIRE EMERGENCY DRILLS / CRISIS RESPONSE DRILLS**

Move that we adopt 6114.1 Fire Emergency Drills / Crisis Response Drills as revised.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Ms. Del Prete

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #6 – POLICY ADOPTION – 6121 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: INSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

Move that we adopt Policy 6121 - Affirmative Action: Instruction Program as submitted.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Dr. Franchese

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #7 – POLICY ADOPTION – 6142.10 PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS**

Move that we adopt 6142.10 - Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students as revised.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Dr. Strambler

**UNANIMOUS**

CABE Liaison Report – Ms. Del Prete noted her, the Superintendent and Business Manager attended CABE Day on the Hill on March 12 as well as a discussion on special education funding.

Upcoming Meeting / Presentations –The regular April meeting will be held on April 21 at 7:00 PM in the Main Meeting Room at Town Hall and will include presentations on summer programs, a curriculum update and the celebration of staff May 5-9. Committee meetings will be held as follows: Curriculum, April 3 at 4:00 PM; Policy, April 7 at 4:30 PM and Finance, April 8 at 4:30 PM. The Preliminary Budget Hearing is April 24.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Healthy Food Certification – These verbatim motions are required by the CSDE related to compliance with the Healthy Food Program for the 2025/26 school year. The first verifies participation in the Healthy Food program and the second verifies the exemptions that would be applicable during the 2025/26 school year.

**MOTION #8 – HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION**

Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-215f, the Woodbridge Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Mr. Lawrence

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #9 – FOOD / BEVERAGE CERTIFICATION**

Move that the Woodbridge Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: (1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; (2) the sale is at the location of the event; and (3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events, but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Dr. Franchese

**UNANIMOUS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** (7:46 PM)

Dr. Franchese

Second by Dr. Strambler

**UNANIMOUS**

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.