

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, February 27, 2017

Stella Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the Public Session to order at 7:00 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Lisa Connor, Secretary; Ms. Karen Kravetz; Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Nancy Maasbach, 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: Aimee Meacham, PTO; Maria Kayne, BOS Liaison; Teresa Nakouzi, Mary Riley-Maier and Sandy Simowitz, BRS Staff; Claire Coleman, Jeff Hughes, Pua Ford, Bettina Thiel, Carissa Vega, Johannes Vultee, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Clare Coleman urged a broader diversity experience for BRS students through the Open Choice program that will benefit and guide their future. The more diverse the student population is the more accepting students will be of differences.

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 – Ms. Meacham apprised the Board of various guest speakers and class events sponsored by the PTO throughout the year inclusive of authors Jennifer Fosberry, Suzie Kline, Mary Pope Osborn, Geoff Rodkey, Monica Wellington, puppeteer/musician Chris Rollins, Flamingo Dancers- Flamenco and Birds of Prey presenter Julie Collier.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Gilbert highlighted the activities in celebration of February as Black History Month, Bingo Night, Beecher Wear, cancellation of the Café Task Force meeting due to weather and upcoming events – Read Across America, Kindergarten Orientation/Registration, Student Council visit to the Senior Center, distribution of dictionaries by the Rotary Club, the BOW elementary parent workshop on Sexual Assault and Abuse, a \$1,000 donation from Master Kim that will be used to support the Physical Education program, visits to other districts in support of the Entry Plan and grade level team training on project based learning. Inquiries were made regarding status updates on TAG, dyslexia and the training of staff, out-of-district placement costs and staff training relative to implicit biases.

BRS Update – Ms. Prisco acknowledged the Grade 3 Rotary Club dictionary event, the conclusion of the after-school Poetry Guild, the Student Council team-building event at Jordan's Furniture, the visit by Dr. Dellinger to Grade 6 students in preparation of Middle School Orientation and upcoming registrations for Kindergarten Orientation, Summer Enrichment and Extended Day.

Ms. Sherman informed the Board of the participation of Grade 4 students in the mandated National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) testing. Approximately, 50 students were randomly selected by NAEP to participate in this national testing process for Reading, Writing and Math. Random testing is conducted nationally by NAEP in development of the *Nation's Report Card* to assess subject-area achievement.

Facilities Committee – Ms. Kravetz noted the Committee met just prior to the Board meeting and received updates on conclusion of the building upgrade process, energy savings of approximately 57%, tools for schools, sustainability and the action by the BOS on the 2017/18 capital budget submission.

Finance Committee – No further report. The Committee met on February 13 to review the monthly financials and discuss the continued deficit associated with special education, out-of-district placements and transportation.

CABE Liaison – Ms. Connor invited Board member to attend the March 8th *CABE Day on the Hill*.

Upcoming Meeting Presentation: School Performance Index and Board Discussion on Open Choice and Class Sizes – Superintendent Gilbert noted that the CSDE Accountability Index has still not been received from the CSDE it is anticipated that it will be disseminated shortly. The Board conversation on Open Choice and Class Size will occur at the March meeting. The Board requested information on the average medium income throughout New Haven County and what income isolation looks like, what affect the broadening of the Open Choice program could have on our budget as well as what the potential impact could be for Amity and what the overall goal of the WBOE is relative to expanding this program.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Gilbert apprised the Board that after 20 years of service to BRS students Mary Riley-Maier will retire at the end of the school year under the Early Retirement Option offered by the Board. Throughout the years Mary served as a Reading Tutor, a Reading/Language Arts Consultant and a Special Education Resource Teacher.

MOTION #2 – CERTIFIED STAFF RETIREMENT (RILEY-MAIER)

Move that we accept the retirement of Mary Riley-Maier effective June 30, 2017 with regret.

Ms. Connor
Second by Ms. Matthews
UNANIMOUS

The Board entered Executive Session to conduct the mid-year evaluation of the Superintendent.

MOTION #3 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Move that we enter Executive Session (7:55 PM).

Ms. Kravetz
Second by Ms. Matthews
UNANIMOUS

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the Executive Session to order (7:55 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Lisa Connor, Secretary; Ms. Karen Kravetz; Mr. Garrett Luciani, Ms. Nancy Maasbach, Ms. Keri Matthews, Ms. Emily Melnick and Ms. Lynn Piascyk.

STAFF: Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:19 PM)
Ms. Kravetz
Second by Ms. Connor
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board