

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, March 21, 2016
BRS Library Media Center

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Fleischman, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
7:12 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Steve Fleischman, Vice Chair; Ms. Chris Jaffe, Secretary; Ms. Lisa Connor, Ms. Karen Kravetz (7:01 PM), Mr. Garrett Luciani (7:01 PM), Ms. Keri Matthews, Ms. Emily Melnick (7:03 PM) and Ms. Lynn Piascyk.

STAFF: Dr. Guy Stella, Superintendent; Gina Prisco, Principal; Analisa Sherman, Assistant Principal; Clare Kennedy, Special Services Director; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Beth Heller, Deputy First Selectman; Adrienne Coleman, Peter Halsey, Joe Holowienko, Larry Hurwitz, Teresa Nakouzi, Michelle Shepard, Sandy Simowitz, Teachers; Kathy Holowienko, Teacher Assistant; Pua Ford, community.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Ms. Connor

UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

Board Member Appreciation – Ms. Heller read a proclamation proclaiming March 21, 2016 as School Board Member Appreciation Day. Superintendent Stella presented each Board member with a copy of the book entitled *Coherence, The Right Drivers in Action for Schools, Districts and Systems* by Michael Fullan and Joanne Quinn.

PTO Update – No report.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Stella highlighted the recent production of *Alice in Wonderland*, Read Aloud Nutrition Day on March 31, the BOWA collaborative of dinner and a play at Amity and his impending trip to China. B&B Transportation was also recognized for their safety record.

BRS Update – Ms. Prisco noted several outside district visits to BRS for lesson demonstrations in Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science. Teachers open their classrooms, answer questions and share ideas and learning strategies internally and externally in small groups. Communication continues to be a primary focus through bi-monthly eBlast messages, email, telephone and meetings.

School Climate Action Plan – Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Sherman, Mr. Halsey and Ms. Shepard outlined various activities that support the three-year plan inclusive of objectives and strategies to meet the changing needs of children. In addition to the primary focus on Responsive Classroom, other initiatives include student play sessions, family yoga, the peaceful bus, expansion of classroom and curriculum materials to support BKind and anti-bullying and the systemic implementation of CARES (*cooperation, acceptance, responsibility, empathy and self-control*) across all grade levels. As part of creating a positive school environment, work has begun to develop a behavior intervention protocol that has clear, defined steps and resources for teachers to handle classroom behaviors.

Facilities Committee – Ms. Jaffe indicated the building project is in the final stages with work continuing on adjustments to the heating controls throughout the building. Acoustic panels have been installed over the areas that cover the A7/A8 rooms. An environmental wellness update has been incorporated into the weekly WBR News broadcast. Damage to the stone benches around the loop are being assessed for repair.

BRS Building Update – No report.

Finance Committee – No further report. The Committee met briefly on March 14 and reviewed the monthly financials approved earlier under the Consent Agenda.

Superintendent Search Update – Dr. Fleischman apprised the Board that the stakeholders meetings held on February 26 and 29 for all Woodbridge boards/ commissions, BOS/BOF, all staff, BRS parents and the community-at-large produced a “leadership profile” that will be available on the district website. The position has been posted and the Board is hopeful that the interview process will be concluded prior to July 1.

CABE Liaison – Ms. Connor informed the Board of the workshop on *Collective Impact – Creating Change* on April 19.

Policy Committee – Ms. Connor noted this committee met on March 16 to review changes to the Medications and Video Surveillance policies presented under the Consent Agenda.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations

Math Update

Parent Survey – Dr. Stella informed the Board that Panorama will conduct the parent survey this spring. Questions will be similar to those asked in the past survey.

NEW BUSINESS

Certified Staff Retirements – Superintendent Stella acknowledged the achievements of four certified staff members and informed the Board that they would retire upon completion of the 2015/16 school year – Adrienne Coleman, Joe Holowienko, Larry Hurwitz and Sandy Simowitz. The Board extended their sincere appreciation of their service to BRS.

MOTION #2 – CERTIFIED STAFF RETIREMENTS (COLEMAN, HOLOWIENKO, HURWITZ, SIMOWITZ)

Move that we accept the retirements of Adrienne Coleman, Joseph Holowienko, Larry Hurwitz and Sandy Simowitz effective June 30, 2016 with much regret.

Ms. Piascyk
Second by Ms. Matthews
UNANIMOUS

Healthy Food Certification – Superintendent Stella presented the Healthy Food Certification. State-wide 74% of school districts participate in this program. Reimbursement is approximately 10 cents per lunch. Participation excludes after-school activities, weekend and special events. It was noted that Extended Day is under the auspice of this program and utilizes the same approved snacks as those sold in the Cafeteria ala carte offerings.

MOTION #3 – HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION

Move that we approve participation in the Healthy Food Certification program in the 2016/17 school year, for submission to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Ms. Connor
Second by Ms. Jaffe
UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:08 PM)
Ms. Connor
Second by Ms. Matthews
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board