

**MINUTES OF THE HYBRID REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**Monday, June 20, 2022**

**South Assembly Room Beecher Road School**

**Via WebEx** <https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=mef563cb94cdfbca87753ea81675d4c08>

**Meeting Number:** 2480 119 6346

**Meeting Password:** K2QiHSjuF53

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (In-person); Dr. Jay Dayha (In-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (7:12 In-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (In-person); Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair (In-person); Dr. Michael Strambler (In-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence (In-person); and Ms. Erin Williamson (Remote).

**STAFF:** Dr. Jonathan Budd, Superintendent; Richard Huot, Interim Director of Business Services / Operations; Analisa Sherman, Principal; James Sapia, Assistant Principal; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

**GUESTS:** Beth Heller, First Selectman; Joi Prud'homme, PTO.

Chair Piascyk welcomed Mr. Lawrence who was recently appointed to the Board of Education to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Ross.

*CAPSS Student Award Recipients* – Superintendent Budd recognized the Grade 6 recipients of the CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Award: Carmella Brown, Sean Choi, Noah Hutchinson, Anna Maloney, Marina Serapiglia and Victoria Shafir. This award is designed to honor students who excel in three categories: community service and/or service to others; academic prowess relative to their ability; and leadership to their school community.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

*First Selectman – Beth Heller* – Ms. Heller extended best wishes for a safe and happy summer.

*Board of Selectmen Update* – None

*PTO Report* – Ms. Prud'homme noted the very successful Quassy Night in collaboration with Bethany Community School; Artsweek; the installation of two trees – one South and one North with the repurposing of the tree removed from the South entrance into a tree bench; dedication of the climbing wall at the Logan Testa Triathlon in memory of Logan Testa; 6<sup>th</sup> grade graduation, pool party and field day; \$50,000 in support of enriching the STEAM curriculum inclusive of a new pottery wheel, a Bose music system, a color printer, Logitech crayons, iPads, a new Kiln, refurbishment of the Greenhouse in the STEAM Lab with raised garden beds, a 3D printer, a robotics lab, multi-sensory equipment for the library, engineering math games and maker space activities, and a kitchen reno in MAG. The Board extended a sincere thank you to the PTO for their generosity and to Ms Prud'homme for her seven years of service to the students of BRS as this was her last meeting.

Ms. Del Prete arrived (7:12 PM).

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Dr. Madonick

Second by Dr. Dayha

**IN FAVOR:**

Dr. Dahya, Ms. Del Prete, Ms. Hopkins, Dr. Madonick, Ms. Piascyk, Dr. Strambler and Ms. Williamson

**ABSTAIN:**

Mr. Lawrence

***MOTION PASSES 7-0-1***

## **REPORTS**

### **Superintendents Report**

**Safe Return Plan** – Superintendent Budd presented an overview of the year.

- ❖ 100% of BRS students were in-person. Remote learning remained an option for quarantined students via a negotiated agreement with the WEA.
- ❖ There were approximately 372 Confirmed COVID-19 cases in BRS community during the year with 99% of staff, and 70% of students vaccinated.
- ❖ Approximately 120 students and 25 staff members participated in optional in-school weekly testing.
- ❖ Free Covid Rapid Self-Test Kits were distributed via the District office courtesy of the CT DPH/CSDE.
- ❖ Contact tracing requirements were reduced in January and subsequently eliminated and the length of quarantine requirements were shortened.
- ❖ Masking moved from a requirement to a choice in the early spring.
- ❖ It is anticipated that in the 2022/23 school year, remaining restrictions on cafeteria usage, social distancing in classrooms, use of desk shield and dismissal cohorting will be removed.

Based on these advancements, it is recommended that the Board remove this item as a standing Board agenda item for the 2022/23 school year. This will not preclude the Board from being informed should significant changes occur or the need arises for additional action.

### **MOTION #2 – SAFE RETURN PLAN AND COVID-19 GUIDELINES**

Move that we remove a COVID-19 update as an agenda item on the monthly Regular Meetings of the Board of Education.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Ms. Del Prete

**UNANIMOUS**

**Celebrating BRS** – Superintendent Budd reviewed the District Goals and Ms. Sherman reviewed the School Goals for the 2021/22 school year. Continued areas of focus will be professional development; collaboration on diversity, equity and inclusion; curriculum development and communication.

**Facilities Committee** – As Mr. Hughes was not present, there was no formal report except for the minutes of the June 7 meeting available in Board Book.

**Finance Committee** – Dr. Dahya reviewed both the June 8 and 14 meetings. At the June 8 meeting grant revenues, Capital Projects and Excess Cost funding were discussed. The June 14 meeting reviewed the standard monthly financials including reconciliation of the 2022/23 budget. The 2022/23 Budget Reconciliation included

- 43 classroom teachers
- the addition of an additional social worker
- continuation of an additional SpEd Teacher
- elimination of the STEAM teacher
- reduction in curriculum writing
- the addition of 10 paraeducators
- a reduction in Supplies
- a reduction in Dues and Fees

### **MOTION #3 – FY 2023 BUDGET RECONCILIATION**

Move that we approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Woodbridge Board of Education operating budget reconciliation as presented.

Ms. Piascyk

Second by Ms. Del Prete

**UNANIMOUS**

It was also noted that the BOWA Transportation Coordinator, Beth Cohen, was retiring and that the Bethany, Woodbridge and Amity districts would now share the cost for this position.

**Policy Committee** – Dr. Madonick noted that the Policy Committee met on June 14 to develop an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Dr. Madonick presented the policies currently under 30-day review for adoption.

**MOTION #4 – POLICY 4118.113 / 4218.113 HARASSMENT (STAFF)**

Move that we adopt Policy 4118.113 / 4218.113 Harassment (Staff) as revised.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Dr. Dahya  
**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #5 – POLICIES 4118.238 / 4218.238 / 5141.81 TRAVEL AND SELF-QUARANTINE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Move that we adopt Policies 4118.238 / 4218.238 / 5141.81 Travel and Self-Quarantine during the COVID-19 Pandemic as revised.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Ms. Hopkins  
**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #6 – POLICIES 9121 CHAIRPERSON / 9122 VICE-CHAIRPERSON / 9123 SECRETARY OF THE BOARD**

Move that we adopt Policies 9121 Chairperson / 9122 Vice-Chairperson / 9123 Secretary of the Board as revised.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Ms. Hopkins  
**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #7 – POLICY 9325.43 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS VIA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Move that we adopt Policy 9325.43 Attendance at Meetings via Electronic Communications as revised.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Ms. Hopkins  
**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #8 – POLICY 6172.1 GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS PROGRAM**

Move that we adopt Policy 6172.1 Gifted and Talented Students Program as revised.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Ms. Hopkins  
**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #9 – 6171.1 SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Move that we adopt 6171.1 Special Education as revised.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Dr. Dahya  
**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #10 – POLICY 6163.3 LIVE ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM**

Move that we adopt Policy 6163.3 Live Animals in the Classroom as revised.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Ms. Hopkins  
**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #11 – POLICY 5131.111 VIDEO SURVEILLANCE**

Move that we adopt Policy 5131.111 Video Surveillance as revised.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Ms. Hopkins  
**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION #12 – POLICY 5125 STUDENT RECORDS - CONFIDENTIALITY**

Move that we adopt Policy 5125 Student Records - Confidentiality as revised.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Ms. Hopkins  
**UNANIMOUS**

CABE Liaison Report – Dr. Madonick informed the Board of the Summer Leadership Conference on August 18 and the CABE / CAPSS Convention on November 18 and 19.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Also presented at the June 14 Finance Committee meeting was a Solar Roof Replacement proposal as part of the upcoming roof replacement project. Titan Energy has worked with the Town on several projects and it is anticipated this project, if approved, would result in a cost-savings for taxpayers. It was noted that an initial application has already been submitted to Titan Energy.

**MOTION #13 – SOLAR INITIATIVE**

Move that we approve the application of the Woodbridge Board of Education for solar development through Titan Energy as outlined.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Dr. Dahya  
**UNANIMOUS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

Chair Piascyk acknowledged the work of Superintendent Budd during his 18 month tenure as this was his last meeting.

The Board entered Executive Session to discuss the appointment of the Director of Special Services and matters related to security strategy, the deployment of security personnel, and/or devices affecting public security.

**MOTION #14 – EXECUTIVE SESSION (9:51 PM)**

Move that we enter Executive Session to discuss the appointment of the Director of Special Services, and to discuss matters related to security strategy, the deployment of security personnel, and/or devices affecting public security and invite the Superintendent to join the Board for both topics, and the candidate to join the Board for the first topic.

Dr. Madonick  
Second by Ms. Hopkins  
**UNANIMOUS**

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**STAFF:** Dr. Jonathan Budd, Superintendent.

The Board discussed the appointment of the Director of Special Services and matters related to security strategy, the deployment of security personnel, and/or devices affecting public security.

**MOTION #15 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

Move that we return to Public Session (11:03 PM).

Ms. Hopkins  
Second by Dr. Madonick  
**UNANIMOUS**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (In-person); Dr. Jay Dayha (In-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (7:12 In-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (In-person); Dr. Maria Madonick, Vice Chair (In-person); Dr. Michael Strambler (In-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence (In-person); and Ms. Erin Williamson (Remote).

**STAFF:** Dr. Jonathan Budd, Superintendent; Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

Chair Piascyk called the Public Session back to order (11:04 PM).

**MOTION #16 – APPOINTMENT SPECIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR**

Move that we accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to hire Carolyn Borcharding as Director of Special Services for the Woodbridge School District, effective on or about July 1, 2022, and that we authorize the Superintendent to commence the employment process consistent with the discussion of Executive Session.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** (11:08 PM)

Ms. Hopkins  
Second by Dr. Strambler  
**UNANIMOUS**

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board