

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, May 21, 2019  
Stella Library Media Center

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order (7:01 PM).

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Chair; Ms. Claire Coleman (via telephone), Ms. Maeghan Genovese, Secretary; Ms. Lynn Piascyk and Ms. Joyce Shavers.

**STAFF:** Mr. Robert Gilbert, Superintendent; Al Pullo, Director of Business Services/Operations; Gina Prisco, Principal; Analisa Sherman, Assistant Principal; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Joi Prud'homme, PTO; Teresa Nakouzi, WEA; Jessica Cebulski, Lauren Esposito, Kristy Laydon, Maria Madonick, Andrea Polinsky, PTO Executive Board Members; Dan Cowan and Dan Esposito community.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

As it was not known how long a quorum would be available, it was agreed all action items would be moved up in the agenda.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ms. Piascyk  
Second by Ms. Shavers  
**UNANIMOUS**

**Special Appropriation Request** – Superintendent Gilbert presented a special appropriations request to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance to fund the deficit in the 2018/19 budget as a result of out-of-district special education costs and HVAC remedies/environmental cleaning.

### **MOTION #2 – SPECIAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST**

Move that we authorize the Board Chair to request that the Boards of Selectmen and Finance provide a supplemental appropriation not to exceed \$289,000 for the 2018/19 school year.

Ms. Piascyk  
Second by Ms. Shavers  
**UNANIMOUS**

**Policy Adoption** – These policies were presented for 30-day review at the April meeting and action may now occur.

### **MOTION #3 – POLICIES FOR ADOPTION**

Move that we adopt Policies 4212.42 Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers; 5141.21 Administering Medication; 5145.5 Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment; 5145.511 Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program; 5141.4 Child Abuse and Neglect and 6141.322 Computers/Web Sites/Pages as presented.

Ms. Genovese  
Second by Ms. Piascyk  
**UNANIMOUS**

**Wintergreen Magnet School (WIMS)** – Superintendent Gilbert was requesting elimination of the current contract with ACES to maintain five (5) slots for participation in the Wintergreen Magnet School. Four of the five participating districts have all rescinded their participation in this regional initiative as Wintergreen will relocate to North Haven in the coming school year and will no longer be located in Hamden.

## **MOTION #4 – WINTERGREEN MAGNET SCHOOL**

Move that we terminate the partnership between the Woodbridge School District and the Wintergreen Magnet School effective June 30, 2019.

Ms. Piascyk  
Second by Ms. Shavers  
**UNANIMOUS**

## **REPORTS**

*PTO Update* – Ms. Prud’homme noted the upcoming Book Swap, tee shirt sales during Artsweek and chive tasting from Massaro Farm. The BRS Owl Fun Run/Boosterthon, raised over \$30,000 with \$15,000 going to BRS. Quassy Night also garnered the highest attendance as this was the first time it was held on a Friday night. In the coming school year, all volunteer sign-ups, tickets/activities, meeting minutes etc. will be housed on the PTO Board electronic system. Concern was raised regarding Boosterthon funding with half the proceeds going to the vendor as well as aggressive fund-raising tactics and timing of the event right before SBAC testing. It was noted that it is very likely this fundraiser will be structured differently next year to retain a larger portion of the monies raised. In addition, the PTO is working to raise awareness for the various events they support as it is not yet known if the Hoot will continue and to date that has been the largest fund raising event held.

*Superintendent Report* – Superintendent Gilbert highlighted the Town Budget meeting with the Board of Finance maintaining the 3.6% budget increase for the coming year; CAPSS Superintendent/Student Awards, negotiations with the WEA and CSEA unions, completion of SBAC testing, the DARE program, the upcoming Board Retreat, attendance at minority recruitment fairs, completion of the hiring process for the vacancies in Speech/Language, payroll, and accounts payable vacancies as well as commencement of the hiring process for the MAG, Music and EL openings.

*BRS Report* – Ms. Prisco noted the Earth Balloon, Artsweek, the DARE Graduation, afternoon and evening music concerns, BRS Graduation on June 12, reading/writing celebrations and the unit study on Phonics for students in Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2. Also noted was the Phonics program presentation for either the September or October WBOE Curriculum agenda, the upcoming retirement celebration in MAG, and the teaching of ELA.

*Strategic Plan* – Superintendent Gilbert presented an overview on the Strategic Plan and the accomplishments achieved in the 2018/19 school year. While this continues to be a “work in progress”, it is a road map that will continue to move the district forward, identify priorities and increase student achievement. This plan incorporates enhanced personalized student learning inclusive of enrichment clusters / curriculum compacting across multiple grade levels and subjects, piloting of innovative practices and efficiencies (Learning Walks, Makerspace), balancing assessments/instruction and data analysis in identification of strengths and weaknesses.

Ms. Coleman left the meeting (8:00 PM) and a quorum was no longer present.

Discussion ensued for how to accurately identify student growth/gaps/redundancies, assessing whether what we are teaching and the way we are teaching it is what we should be doing to gain student achievement and if the training/professional development options being provided are helpful or not and are there more effective quantitative measures available to assess the issues raised. Suggestions were made to include MAG under Goal 2 and to utilize/explore community, regional and global partnership options as a means to leverage resources.

## *Upcoming Meeting Presentations* –

- TAG Identification Process – should include a report for how the process was implemented.
- Wellness –standard annual report.
- Ad Hoc Sustainability –committee recommendations will be presented.
- Panorama Survey Results – it was requested that neutral comments not be included in “favorable” and certain questions be rephrased to generate more accurate data. It was noted that questions are consistent from year to year in order to attain consistent data comparisons.
- Teacher Evaluation Plan – the plan was recently revised based on recent CSDE requirements/changes and Board action is mandated by the CSDE.

## *Facilities Committee* – No Report

Finance Committee – No Report

Policy Committee – No Report

CABE Liaison – Ms. Genovese urged Board members to take advantage of professional development offerings including the CABE / CAPSS Conference, Collective Bargaining Workshop, New Board Member Orientation and the Leadership Conference.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dan Cowen – believed that parents were informed of the net / gross ratio of the Boosterthon fund-raiser and that the PTO was effective in communicating that information to parents.

Dan Esposito – expressed his appreciation to the PTO for the countless hours, time and effort to raise funds for the benefit of BRS students. Parents received plenty of notification of how the proceeds would be split, what process would be utilized and when the event would occur. There was no intent to undermine the testing process, which encompassed an hour of each day over a two-week time period.

Maria Madonik – noted that the PTO is seeking more efficient ways to raise monies in support of the numerous events they fund. Each fund raiser has associated costs. There is not a lot of opportunity that exists for volunteering with most families being overscheduled, overcommitted and overworked. Boosterthon had already done the market research and knew how many emails were necessary to reach the given population as well as how to implement and structure the program to make it a successful fund raising event as similar events have been held across the county in various capacities. This was not all about fund-raising and there was an educational component as the theme (STEAM) as well as a focus on team building and community for students.

Lynn Piascyk – on behalf of the Amity Historical Society, thanked the BRS librarians for their support and efforts at the May 5 Children Days at the Old School House.

**ADJOURN:** (9:19 PM)

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board