

Woodbridge Board of Education
Woodbridge Board of Education Regular
Meeting
Monday, November 15, 2010 6:30 PM

Woodbridge BOE Regular Meeting November
15, 2010 6:30 PM Executive Session 7:00 PM
Public Session Library Media Center Beecher
Road School

Agenda

- I. **Preliminary Business**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Executive Session, in accordance with State Statute (6:30 PM)
 1. Pending Claim: CILU Labor Board Complaint
 - C. Return to Public Session (7:00 PM)
 - D. Salute to the Flag
 - E. Correspondence
 - F. Public Comment
- II. **Consent Agenda**
 - A. Approval of October 18 Regular Meeting Minutes
- III. **Reports**
 - A. Superintendent's Report
 1. BRS Update
 - a. BRS Monthly Enrollment Report
 - B. PTO Update
 - C. Committee of the Whole
 1. Policy Revisions
 2. Curriculum Update
 - D. BRS Building Committee
 - E. CABE Liaison Report
- IV. **New Business**
 - A. Act on Out-of-State Field Trip Request to Sturbridge Village
- V. **Old Business**
- VI. **Other**
 - A. Public Comment
 - B. Executive Session, in accordance with State Statute
 1. BOE Self-Evaluation and Function
- VII. **Adjournment**

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, October 18, 2010
Library Media Center, Beecher Road School

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. McCreven, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Sheila McCreven, Chair; Dr. Clotilde Dudley-Smith, Dr. Steve Fleischman, Ms. Margaret Hamilton, Mr. Carl Lindskog, and Dr. YanYun Wu (7:42 PM).

STAFF: Dr. Guy Stella, Superintendent; Al Pullo, Director of Business Services/Operations; Carol Bequary, Primary Grades Principal; Dr. Len Tomasello, Intermediate Grades Interim Principal; Sheila Haverkamp, Special Services Director and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Sandy Stein, BOS Liaison, Sandy Simowitz, Joe Holowienko, WEA; Linda Acheson, Barbara Ahern, Elizabeth Belisle, Adrienne Coleman, Nadio Collado, Diane Dolan, Jeanne Dempsey, Dee Don, Peter Halsey, Larry Hurwitz, Kris Kaloides, Bill, Letsch, Monique MacDonald, Jean Molot, Doreen Merrill, Teresa Nakouzi, Visa Ngov, Ellen Regan, Mary Riley-Maier, Cathy Salindardi, Shannon Sanders, Debra Sokol, Caron Stebinger, Michelle Waldron, Shannon Wyman, Caterina Zdrowski, Teachers; Lisa Carlson, Adam Gorelick, Juanita Halepas, Viviana Livesay, Lee Nakouzi, Stacey Schultz, Sadroldin and Homa Solati, community.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

The Board received several emails regarding the anticipated Grade 2 vacancy/change.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Dolan – thanked the Board and administration for bringing a former teacher back to BRS.

Both Mr. Gorelick and Ms. Carlson deferred comment until the end of the meeting.

Sandy Simowitz – read a prepared statement on behalf of the WEA requesting Board members to stand behind administration and staff in moving forward with career choices and staffing decisions.

Juanita Halepas – expressed sincere appreciation to a Grade 2 teacher for her hard work and dedication. She felt the teacher earned the opportunity to move ahead in her career, and will continue to be a great asset in any department.

Viviana Livesay – expressed disappointment regarding the mid-year reassignment of a teacher, the manner in which it was executed and believed this was an unnecessary disruption that would impact negatively on students. Parents should not be the last informed of decisions affecting their children and urged consideration for doing things differently in the future.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

MOTION #1 – MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010 REGULAR MEETING

Move that we approve the minutes of the September 20, 2010 Regular Meeting.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Dr. Dudley-Smith
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #2 – MINUTES, OCTOBER 4, 2010 SPECIAL MEETING

Move that we approve the minutes of the October 4, 2010 Special Meeting.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Dr. Dudley-Smith
UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

➤ **Beecher Road School Update** – Superintendent Stella highlighted the BRS Band performance at the Sound Tigers, the hosting of the Winterguard Tournament on January 29 at Amity High School, the visit of SCSU professors in support of technology utilization in the World Language program, the work of the Safety Committee and attendance at the CECA Technology Conference. Dr. Tomasello provided a brief update on his activities since his arrival on October 1.

PTO Update – Ms. Hamilton invited everyone to the Halloween Hoot on Saturday, October 23.

Facilities Committee – No Report

BRS Building Committee – Ms. Stein reviewed the October 5 meeting, where Scheme B was recommended at a cost of approximately \$17m. Scheme B provides the most impact to the school to rebuild the infrastructure, upgrade heating, ventilation, casework and other features that will enhance the learning environment at BRS. It is anticipated Mr. Genovese will prepare a financial assessment for how this project could be funded/phased over a period of time. While there is support for this project, educating the community is paramount. A full presentation will be given to the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education when the Capital Projects budget is presented.

Facilities Committee – No Report

Policy Committee – No Report

CABE – Ms. McCreven reminded Board members of the CABE/CAPSS Convention in November. Board members were asked to notify the Superintendent's Office if they are attending.

ACES – No Report

NEW BUSINESS

2010/11 Consolidated Grant

Superintendent Stella presented the Consolidated Grant, which funds instructional resources under Title I (Improving Basic Programs), Title II (Teacher and Principal Training) and Title III (English Language Acquisition/Language Enhancement).

MOTION #3 - 2010/11 CONSOLIDATED GRANT

Move that we approve the 2010/11 Consolidated Grant for submission to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Dr. Fleischman

Second by Dr. Dudley-Smith

UNANIMOUS

Certified Staff Appointment

Superintendent Stella outlined the process followed for the hiring of a new Grade 2 teacher. He provided assurances that decisions surrounding selection were not arbitrary, nor capricious. Decisions made were in the best interest of children and would educationally benefit all the children of the school. Ms. McCreven reviewed Policy #1321 – Public Complaints. A Board member reminded the Board of their responsibilities regarding oversight, committee structure and Board functionality. Board members were urged to take action to restore oversight.

MOTION # 4 - CERTIFIED STAFF APPOINTMENT (SHEPARD)

Move that we ratify the appointment of Michelle Shepard, as an elementary teacher for the remainder of the 2010/11 school year, at a salary of \$38,561.02 MA, Step 4 effective October 18, 2010.

Ms. Hamilton

Second by Dr. Fleischman

IN FAVOR:

Drs. Dudley-Smith, Fleischman, Ms. Hamilton and Ms. McCreven

ABSTAIN:

Mr. Lindskog

MOTION PASSES 4-0-1

FINANCE

Ms. Hamilton presented the reports reviewed by the Finance Committee at their meeting of October 12. It was noted that the monthly Cafeteria Report will be reviewed quarterly.

MOTION #5 - 2010/11 BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Move that we approve the 2010/11 BOE Monthly Summary Financial Report through September 30, 2010, F1, as submitted by the Director of Business/Operations.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Dr. Dudley-Smith
IN FAVOR: Drs. Dudley-Smith, Fleischman, Ms. Hamilton and Ms. McCreven
AGAINST: Mr. Lindskog

MOTION PASSES 4-1-0

Mr. Pullo noted that the projected surplus is the result of staff retirements, organizational changes and diligent review of all accounts.

MOTION #6 - 2010/11 BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY DETAIL FINANCIAL REPORT

Move that we approve the 2010/11 BOE Monthly Detail Financial Report ending September 30, 2010, F2-6, as submitted by the Director of Business/Operations.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Dr. Dudley-Smith
IN FAVOR: Drs. Dudley-Smith, Fleischman, Ms. Hamilton and Ms. McCreven
AGAINST: Mr. Lindskog

MOTION PASSES 4-1-0

MOTION #7 - 2010/11 COMBINING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Move that we approve the 2010/11 BOE Combining Financial Statements through September 30, 2010, F7-8, as submitted by the Director of Business/Operations.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Dr. Dudley-Smith
IN FAVOR: Drs. Dudley-Smith, Fleischman, Ms. Hamilton and Ms. McCreven
AGAINST: Mr. Lindskog

MOTION PASSES 4-1-0

2011/12 Budget Timeline

Mr. Pullo noted this was an informational timeline and that the budget process was underway. The BOE will receive an initial update on the process at their November 8 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

2011/12 Capital Projects Budget

The Capital Projects budget presentation is scheduled for November 30. The Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education will discuss, in detail, the capital budget request as well as the BRS building project. A minor reduction in Technology is the result of the completion of SmartBoard installations, earlier than anticipated, and software purchases versus hardware.

Dr. Wu arrived (7:41 PM).

The three-year Technology Plan will be adjusted to reflect these changes. Concern was expressed for voting on items without having a plan for implementation. It was noted that a very detailed presentation is provided to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, especially in the area of Technology. The Board requested a preview of the changes in the Tech Plan prior to the Capital Budget presentation.

MOTION #8 - 2011/12 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Move that we approve the 2011/12 Capital Projects budget submission as presented by administration.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Dr. Dudley-Smith

Ms. McCreven suggested a friendly amendment to have the BRS Building Project placeholder reflect \$17m, which was rejected by Dr. Fleischman. Placeholder figures do not prohibit the Board from further discussion of items under consideration.

Mr. Lindskog suggested a friendly amendment, requesting an asterisk (*) explanation on Technology indicating “that we will not spend more than that and reserve the right to spend less” which was accepted by Dr. Fleischman.

MOTION #8A - 2011/12 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Move that we approve the 2011/12 Capital Projects budget submission as presented by administration with an additional asterisk () explanation on Technology indicating “that we will not spend more than that and reserve the right to spend less”.*

Mr. Lindskog
Second by Dr. Fleischman
UNANIMOUS

OLD BUSINESS

Board Structure

Ms. McCreven reviewed the motion made at the October 4 meeting and the discussion of the BOE to meet as a “Committee of the Whole” for topics dealing with Curriculum, Finance, Policy and Facilities. It is hoped this change will enhance the functioning of the Board.

MOTION #9 - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Move that the Woodbridge BOE meet twice a month, on the second Monday of the month as a “Committee of the Whole” and the third Monday as their regular business session.

Ms. McCreven
Second by Dr. Fleischman

Dr. Dudley-Smith indicated she would not be able to attend additional meetings due to her work schedule.

IN FAVOR: Drs. Dudley-Smith, Fleischman, Wu, Ms. Hamilton and Ms. McCreven
AGAINST: Mr. Lindskog

MOTION PASSES 5-1-0

MOTION #10 - SUSPEND POLICY 9132 - STANDING COMMITTEES

Move that we suspend Policy 9132 (Standing Committees) through June 30, 2011 and act as a “Committee of the Whole” for Finance, Policy, Curriculum and Facilities issues.

Dr. Fleischman
Second by Dr. Wu

IN FAVOR: Drs. Dudley-Smith, Fleischman, Wu, Ms. Hamilton and Ms. McCreven
AGAINST: Mr. Lindskog

MOTION PASSES 5-1-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Adam Gorelick – expressed disappointment and frustration regarding the appointment of the Grade 2 teacher, and the lack of checks and balances between the BOE and administration. The Board was urged to review and revise policies to create checks and balances and to give parents a voice in the hiring/firing of staff. Board members were asked to provide feedback on the situation.

Lisa Carlson – cited WEA contract language related to transfer/change of assignment and clearly this was a serious disruption for an entire class of students. She believed that administration had plenty of time to act on the reassignment and that the decisions made were not in the educational best interest of children.

Several Board members chose to respond to the parents. Careful thought and consideration went into the casting of votes and not simply a “rubber stamp”. Support was expressed for assessment of “checks and balances” in process and procedures. There is always room for improvement in the way we do things and perhaps the situation could have been handled differently. The role of the Board is to provide oversight and part of that responsibility is to annually evaluate the Superintendent in his role as the leader of the district.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:08 PM)
Mr. Linskog
Second by Dr. Dudley-Smith
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board

WOODBRIDGE FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM

Print Form

Please allow at least four (4) weeks for processing of any field trip request

Date of Request: 10-19-10

Date of Field Trip: 5-19-11

Field Trip # 18

Assigned at Business Office

Teacher(s) Blin, Chase, Cencilio, McCall, Mulligan, Ngom

Grade 5

Field Trip Destination Sturbridge Village

Address 1 Old Sturbridge Village Rd City Sturbridge

Phone # 508-310-4733
State/Zip MA 01562

Time of Departure: 8:45

Time of Return: 4:30

Location of pick-up: NORTH SOUTH

- Will the children be absent during lunch? Yes No If so, please advise the Cafeteria staff.
- Is a SPECIAL SERVICES bus needed for this trip? Yes No If so, please specify need _____
- Is a NURSE needed for this trip? Yes No If so, please discuss with the Nurse.
- Can we MAIL THE CHECK to them for the admission? (Preferred) Yes No

TRIP ATTENDANCE: # of CHAPERONES using bus: _____ Limited number of seats (chaperones pay for themselves)

of Students 116 # of Teachers 7 # of Nurses 1 Requested # of Buses

of BOE paid Children 8 # of Teacher Assistants 2

COST OF ADMISSION PER CHILD (per attached invoice) \$ 7.00 AND/OR FLAT FEE \$

THE ABOVE MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO CALCULATE TRIP COSTS

Description of how this trip relates to classroom curriculum & the real world.

During March + April 5th grades study The New Republic and westward Expansion of the early 19th century. In order to understand and view the lives of people during that time period we would like to visit Old Sturb. Village.

At least 2/3's of the time (exclusive of travel & lunch) will be devoted to the following field-oriented study:

O.S.V. is an outdoor history museum that recreates everyday life in a New England town of the 1830's.

SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL

Sharon Blinstrubas Teacher Print S. Blinstrubas Teacher Sign 10/20/10 Date

[Signature] Principal 10/20/10 Date

Debra F. Heller Superintendent 10/20/10 Date

Out of State Trips Require B.O.E. Approval _____ Board Chairperson _____ Date _____

BUSINESS OFFICE USE:

This request has been: APPROVED _____ DENIED _____ COST PER CHILD IS \$ _____

Your BUS DRIVER is: _____ # of Buses: _____ Copied to: School Office; Nurse; Teacher/Para