

Agenda

I. Preliminary Business / WebEx Log-in / Motions

<https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=mb7a193fff455c6faf0cbb11d2d341384>

Meeting Number: 2493 325 2189

Meeting Password: NnZJGVuA283

This meeting is being conducted as a hybrid meeting consistent with Connecticut Public Act 22-3. The public may attend in person at the location indicated above or electronically via WebEx with the link provided above.

- A. 6:15 Executive Session, in accordance with state statute
 - 1. Overview of Insurance Negotiations
- B. 7:00 PM - Public Session
- C. Call to Order
- D. Pledge of Allegiance - SCASA Recipients Matthew Messina and Yuna Ahmed
- E. Student Recognition of SCASA Award Winners - Matthew Messina and Yuna Ahmed
- F. Correspondence - *Correspondence may be submitted via email no later than 4:00 PM on the day of the meeting to mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org*
- G. Public Comment - *The Board welcomes public participation. We ask that speakers please limit their comments to three minutes. Please be aware that the Board will not respond to any comments made during the public comment period, except to clarify issues, but we will take into consideration your comments, and when appropriate, district administration will follow-up with you at a later point in time. Public Comments may be submitted electronically to mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org*
- H. PTO Update

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of March 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. Budget Narrative Report
- C. Budget Summary Report
- D. Budget Detail Report
- E. Combining Financial Statements
- F. Accept Policies for 30-Day Review
 - 1. 9000-Role of Board and Members (Powers, Purposes, Duties)
 - 2. 9005-Statement of Integrity

3. 9010-Limits of authority
4. 9012-Legal Responsibilities of Boards of Education
5. 9020-Public Statements
6. 9020.1 Advocacy
7. 9030-Commitment to Democratic Principles in Relation to Community, Staff and Students
8. 9040-Board Related Responsibilities
9. 9110-Number of Members, Terms of Office, Election of Members
10. 9120-Officers and Auxiliary Personnel

III. Reports

- A. Superintendent's Report
 1. EDay Update
 2. BRS Update
- B. BRS Town Building Committee Update
- C. Curriculum Committee
- D. Finance Committee
- E. Policy Committee
- F. CABE Liaison Report

IV. New Business

V. Other

- A. Public Comment - *The Board welcomes public participation. We ask that speakers please limit their comments to three minutes. Please be aware that the Board will not respond to any comments made during the public comment period, except to clarify issues, but we will take into consideration your comments, and when appropriate, district administration will follow-up with you at a later point in time.*
- B. Executive Session, in accordance with state statute

VI. Adjournment





Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] MAG transition plan updates?

1 message

Hillary Drumm <hiljor@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 20, 2024 at 11:51 AM

To: Marsha Degennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

Letter in regard to MAG transition plan for Louise Golden retirement for WBOE meeting 4/24/24.

Dear WBOE members,
Thank you for all you do.

Can you please clarify what the process will be in the coming weeks to search, interview and choose a replacement for Ms. Golden (founder and current 3rd year adult teacher in MAG).

As a program that is unique at the school with more parent/teacher interaction and involvement, we are starting to get concerned about not hearing any updates regarding the transition as the year is coming to an end and her retirement will take effect. Ms Golden is an invaluable member of the adult teacher team and as a parent with a child in the program I am very concerned with how and who will replace her and that it will be someone who can embody the principles of MAG.

The MAG program is very specific and valuable and I want to feel confident that WBOE and administration understands the importance that the spirit and integrity of MAG stays the same as my child continues to grow within it with the help of the current team and any additions.

Ms Golden is irreplaceable, however, as we must find someone to fill her shoes, it is of the utmost priority to ensure that her replacement is considered in a way that is faithful to the MAG mission and vision for our students, current, past and future.

Thank you and best regards,

Hillary Drumm

MAG parent of current student and Ancestor

Beecher Road School



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] For this week's BoE Meeting

jennifer gelband <jsgelband@yahoo.com>

Mon, Apr 22, 2024 at 10:26 AM

To: Woodbridge School District - Beecher Road School <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

Hello, I'd like the BoE to address concerns about replacing the MAG teacher. What is the process for hiring and replacing the teacher, and how does that uphold the spirit and integrity of MAG?

Thank you,
Jennifer Gelband & Jeff Darling



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] 4/24 BoE Meeting

1 message

jessica killian <ammerman77@hotmail.com>

Tue, Apr 23, 2024 at 10:08 AM

To: "mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org" <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

Could the BoE please provide clarity on the process for replacing the MAG teacher. Is the uniqueness of the program being taken into consideration in the hiring process?

Thank you,
Jessica and James Killian



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

Fwd: [External Email] BOE mtg. public comment

1 message

Lynn Piascyk <lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org>

Tue, Apr 23, 2024 at 11:10 PM

To: Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>, Vonda Tencza <vtencza@woodbridgeps.org>

Marsha -
Please include this letter in Boardbook as Board Correspondence.
Many thanks, Lynn

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kate Cook Griffiths** <katejcook@hotmail.com>

Date: Tue, Apr 23, 2024 at 9:49 PM

Subject: [External Email] BOE mtg. public comment

To: lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org <lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org>, slawrence@woodbridgeps.org <slawrence@woodbridgeps.org>, sdelprete@woodbridgeps.org <sdelprete@woodbridgeps.org>, mstrambler@woodbridgeps.org <mstrambler@woodbridgeps.org>, lfrancese@woodbridgeps.org <lfrancese@woodbridgeps.org>, jhughes@woodbridgeps.org <jhughes@woodbridgeps.org>, jdahya@woodbridgeps.org <jdahya@woodbridgeps.org>, bhopkins@woodbridgeps.org <bhopkins@woodbridgeps.org>, ewilliamson@woodbridgeps.org <ewilliamson@woodbridgeps.org>

Dear Board of Education members,

I am not able to attend the BOE meeting in person; please consider my letter as public comment. I am a parent of two children, one at AMSB and the other a student at Beecher. Both of my children participated in MAG. With Mrs. Golden retiring at the end of the school year, I'm writing to inquire what the process is for replacing her. MAG has many treasured qualities, one of which is that it is multi-age team taught. How will a search committee be prepared to identify an appropriate candidate? Will the remaining MAG team members be participating on the search committee, since MAG is team-taught? Will any current or former MAG parents be invited to participate on the search committee?

I am grateful that my children were able to participate in MAG. It has been a highlight of their elementary school years.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kate Griffiths

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Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] Public comment at WBOE meeting 4/24/24

1 message

Andrea Siksay <andreasiksay@yahoo.com>

Wed, Apr 24, 2024 at 10:59 AM

To: "mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org" <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

Cc: "lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org" <lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org>, "lfrancese@woodbridgeps.org" <lfrancese@woodbridgeps.org>, "sdelprete@woodbridgeps.org" <sdelprete@woodbridgeps.org>, "jdahya@woodbridgeps.org" <jdahya@woodbridgeps.org>, "bhoppkins@woodbridgeps.org" <bhoppkins@woodbridgeps.org>, "jhughes@woodbridgeps.org" <jhughes@woodbridgeps.org>, "slawrence@woodbridgeps.org" <slawrence@woodbridgeps.org>, "mstrambler@woodbridgeps.org" <mstrambler@woodbridgeps.org>, "ewilliamson@woodbridgeps.org" <ewilliamson@woodbridgeps.org>, "asherman@woodbridgeps.org" <asherman@woodbridgeps.org>, "jsapia@woodbridgeps.org" <jsapia@woodbridgeps.org>, "ctafel@woodbridgeps.org" <ctafel@woodbridgeps.org>, "vtencza@woodbridgeps.org" <vtencza@woodbridgeps.org>

Dear Woodbridge Board of Education,

I am a parent of a MAG student and I have been extremely concerned with the proposed process for the replacement of one of the founding adult MAG teachers, Ms. Louise Golden.

The current hiring system that allows only 2 teachers on the hiring committee for new teachers is reasonable for the regularly classroom. It should be recognized that the MAG program is different from the standard classroom, and that hiring a new adult teacher for this program should also look different. The core of the MAG program is working together.

I am profoundly concerned that the WBOE and current administration do not understand or value what they have in the MAG program. Just as Woodbridge values equity, diversity, and inclusivity in the community. This should also be reflected in our schools as well. The adult MAG teachers work so closely together that ALL need to be included in the hiring process.

For 30+ years the MAG program has thrived. Despite all the challenges over the years, i.e., a global pandemic, remote learning, changing security restrictions, and so much more, the MAG adult teachers have worked TOGETHER to ensure the continued success and excellence of the MAG program by being true to its core values. The MAG adult teachers have continued to nurture highly educated, well-rounded students who love to learn.

I would urge the Woodbridge Board of Education to consider the uniqueness and value of the MAG program. Show our children that you support them and this amazingly unique program that brings so much to Beecher Road School and this community by including ALL of the remaining adult MAG educators in the decision to hire a new member of their team.

Respectfully,

Andrea Siksay

Parent of MAG 2 student

 Dear Woodbridge Board of Education.docx
17K

Beecher Road School



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] MAG

Kloczynski, Tracy <tracy.kloczynski@yale.edu>

Tue, Apr 23, 2024 at 1:22 PM

To: "mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org" <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

Hello,

I'm writing as a parent of a MAG second year student. My son will be entering MAG 3 with a new MAG teacher next year and I'm wondering what the replacement process is and how we, as parents, can be sure that the process and selection will uphold the integrity and spirit of the MAG program. We are very fortunate to be part of the MAG family and want to be sure the integrity of the program remains intact.

Thanks in advance,

Jeremiah & Tracy



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] Letter of Public Comment for WBOE Meeting 4/24/24

1 message

Shary Parker <shary.in.africa@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 24, 2024 at 12:40 PM

Reply-To: shary.in.africa@gmail.com

To: mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org

Cc: lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org, lfrancese@woodbridgeps.org, sdelprete@woodbridgeps.org, jdahya@woodbridgeps.org, bhopskins@woodbridgeps.org, jhughes@woodbridgeps.org, slawrence@woodbridgeps.org, mstrambler@woodbridgeps.org, ewilliamson@woodbridgeps.org, Beecher Road School <asherman@woodbridgeps.org>, James Sapia <jsapia@woodbridgeps.org>, ctafel@woodbridgeps.org, vtencza@woodbridgeps.org

Dear Woodbridge Board of Education,

I am a parent of a MAG student and am highly concerned with the proposed process for the replacement of one of the beloved and founding adult MAG teachers, Ms. Louise Golden. I am fairly new to Woodbridge, having chosen to move here specifically for the school system. The MAG program is unparalleled in public school systems not only statewide but nationwide, and is indeed a jewel in the Woodbridge crown of education. It provides an opportunity for students to learn in a nonconventional way, yet still be a part of the amazing Woodbridge school district. With the emphasis on pass-it-along teaching and MAG ancestry, not only is MAG helping to shape the current generation of learners, but it will continue to contribute to future generations of this community, helping to ensure the longevity of Woodbridge's excellence in education.

It needs to be recognized that the MAG program is different from the standard graded programs, and that hiring a new adult teacher for this program will indeed look different than hiring an educator for a different part of the school district. The core of the MAG program is working together. The MAG program exemplifies this by its teachers interacting and collaborating on a seamless basis as a team. ALL need to be included in the hiring process. For 32 years MAG has flourished. Despite a global pandemic, remote learning, changing security restrictions, and more, the MAG adult teachers have all worked together to ensure the continuity and excellence of the MAG program, being true to its core values and most importantly continuing to produce highly educated, well rounded, amazing students who are eager to learn and support their community.

I urge the Woodbridge Board of Education to consider the uniqueness and value of the MAG program, and include ALL of the adult MAG educators in the decision to hire a new member of their closely knit team. Show our children equity in action by fully supporting a unique program that brings so much to this community.

Respectfully and appreciatively,
Shary Parker
Parent of MAG 2 student



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] For the BoE meeting on 4/24/24

1 message

Whitney Randall <whitney.randall@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 24, 2024 at 12:27 PM

To: Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

To Whom it May Concern:

I understand that Louise Golden will be retiring at the end of this year. I currently have a 4th year MAG student who will be leaving the program this year, and a second child in MAG 2. I'm hoping my youngest son, who's entering K in the fall, will join in a couple of years. We've really enjoyed this program, and would love for my younger two to have the same wonderful experience my oldest has.

With Ms. Golden retiring, there are questions being raised about how a replacement teacher will be chosen. Would it be possible for the board to discuss this at the next meeting, including speaking to how the job search will attract applicants who would maintain the values and mission of the MAG program?

I also feel that it is important for all of the remaining MAG teachers to participate in the interview process. It is only customary with hiring practices that close colleagues and managers have an opportunity to weigh-in on a candidate's fit for the position. The MAG teachers must be able to work together seamlessly in order for the program to function, so it is important that all remaining MAG teachers have a say in choosing Ms. Golden's replacement. I strongly encourage you to consider allowing for this process to be a collaborative one, as is in the spirit of the MAG program.

Thanks so much for your consideration,
Whitney
21 Evergreen Dr.

Beecher Road School



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] Request for 3 MAG Teachers to be a part of the hiring process

1 message

Rachel Forbes <rachel.yf.forbes@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 24, 2024 at 1:00 PM

To: mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org

Cc: Analisa Sherman <asheraman@woodbridgeps.org>, James Sapia <jsapia@woodbridgeps.org>, ctafel@woodbridgeps.org, vtencza@woodbridgeps.org, lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org, lfrancese@woodbridgeps.org, sdelprete@woodbridgeps.org, jdahya@woodbridgeps.org, bhopkins@woodbridgeps.org, jhughes@woodbridgeps.org, slawrence@woodbridgeps.org, mstrambler@woodbridgeps.org, ewilliamson@woodbridgeps.org

Dear Woodbridge Board of Education,

(This is echoed in copy and paste form from Shary Parker, as I am showing absolute support and agreement for the same request as I, too, am a MAG parent).

I am a parent of a MAG student and am highly concerned with the proposed process for the replacement of one of the beloved and founding adult MAG teachers, Ms. Louise Golden. I am fairly new to Woodbridge, having chosen to move here specifically for the school system. The MAG program is unparalleled in public school systems not only statewide but nationwide, and is indeed a jewel in the Woodbridge crown of education. It provides an opportunity for students to learn in a nonconventional way, yet still be a part of the amazing Woodbridge school district. With the emphasis on pass-it-along teaching and MAG ancestry, not only is MAG helping to shape the current generation of learners, but they contributed significantly to the previous generation, and will continue to contribute to future generations of this community, helping to ensure the longevity of Woodbridge's excellence in education. The WBOE needs to recognize what they have in the MAG program and honor their values and expertise.

The core of the MAG program is working together, and with the lack of communication regarding Ms. Golden's replacement, I am extremely concerned that the WBOE and current administration do not understand or value what they have in the MAG program. Just as Woodbridge values equity, diversity, and inclusivity in the community, so too do they need to honor these values in the school. It needs to be recognized that the MAG program is different from the standard graded programs, and that hiring a new adult teacher for this program will indeed look different than hiring an educator for a different part of the school district. The adult MAG teachers work so closely together that ALL need to be included in the hiring process. You would not want to hire an additional principal or assistant principal without the input of the three current administrators. The same is true for MAG. For 32 years it has flourished. Despite a global pandemic, remote learning, changing security restrictions, and more, the MAG adult teachers have ALL worked TOGETHER to ensure the continuity and excellence of the MAG program, being true to its core values and most importantly continuing to produce highly educated, well rounded, amazing students who are eager to learn and support their community.

I urge the Woodbridge Board of Education to consider the uniqueness and value of the MAG program, and include ALL of the adult MAG educators in the decision to hire a new member of their closely knit team. Show our children equity in action by fully supporting a unique program that brings so much to this community.

Respectfully and appreciatively,
Rachel Forbes
Parent of MAG 2 student

--

Rachel Forbes
C: 203-641-0020



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

[External Email] Letter of Public Comment for WBOE Meeting 4/24/24

1 message

Shary Parker <shary.in.africa@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 24, 2024 at 12:40 PM

Reply-To: shary.in.africa@gmail.com

To: mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org

Cc: lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org, lfrancese@woodbridgeps.org, sdelprete@woodbridgeps.org, jdahya@woodbridgeps.org, bhopskins@woodbridgeps.org, jhughes@woodbridgeps.org, slawrence@woodbridgeps.org, mstrambler@woodbridgeps.org, ewilliamson@woodbridgeps.org, Beecher Road School <asherman@woodbridgeps.org>, James Sapia <jsapia@woodbridgeps.org>, ctafel@woodbridgeps.org, vtencza@woodbridgeps.org

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Respectfully and appreciatively,
Shary Parker
Parent of MAG 2 student

PTO Update for WBOE

April 24, 2024

BRS PTO Update

BEECHER ROAD



SCHOOL

Beecher Road School PTO 2023-24 Program on a Page

August

- Kindergarten Social ✓
- Welcome Back Teachers ✓

September – GM Mtg ✓

- Ice Cream Social ✓
- Grade Level Socials ✓
- Original Works Kids' Art fundraiser ✓
- Woodbridge Like Me ✓

October

- Picture Day ✓
- Halloween Hoot ✓

November

- Thanksgiving Drive ✓
- Fall Book Fair ✓

December – GM Mtg ✓

[School Events]

- *PTO Donation Ask ✓

January – GM Mtg ✓

- Planning

February

- STEM Night ✓
- V-Day Gratitude Project ✓
- Math Night ✓

March – GM Mtg

- International Night ✓
- Book Swap ✓

April

- Spring Book Fair ✓
- Arts Week/Arts Night

May – GM Mtg (elections)

- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Fun Run Kick Off
- Quassy

June

- *Field Day* – FUN RUN
- 6th Grade Graduation

Book Swap Success!

- The Community generously donated books and all children went home with at least one book



School Educational Enhancement Examples



Teacher grants (e.g. subscriptions; sensory materials;)



In-school presenters (e.g. Birds of Prey Show; Yoga)



In School Field Trips (Planetarium; Eli Whintey)



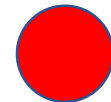
Scholastic Classroom Grants



STEM event partnerships



Author Visits – planning for Fall 2024



SCHOLASTIC

Beecher Road School PTO 2023-24 Program on a Page – In School PTO Funded Activities/Enrichment

All School

- Scholastic Magazines
- Picture Day
- Fall & Spring Book Fairs
- Book Swap
- Original Works
- Arts Week
 - Yoga Bill
 - Music performance(?)
- Field Day
- Author Visits (?)

Kindergarten

- Chris Rowland Beardsley Zoo

First Grade

- Chris Rowland Beardsley Zoo

Second Grade

- Chris Rowland Beardsley Zoo
- Science event TBD

Third Grade

- New Haven Museum, "Quinnipiac Life in Early New Haven"
- Birds of Prey

Fourth Grade

- Eli Whitney in school

MAG

- TBD

Fifth Grade

- Eli Whitney in school
- Global Earth
- Yale Med Science speakers

Sixth Grade

- Global Earth
- STEAM robotics project

Staff

- Welcome Back Teachers
- V-Day Gratitude Project – teacher breakfast
- Teacher Appreciation Week

We thank you all!

Sincerely,

PTO 2023-24 Executive Board

President – Cindy Kruger

Vice President – Monica Philipp

Secretary – Jennifer Plonsky

Treasurers – Saurabh Vilekar & Betsy Hull

Chair of Communications – Cara Rosner

Chairs of Social Events – Jennifer Clarke-Lofters

Chair of Academic Events – Sumi Sudhir

Chair of Fundraising – Susan Lettelleir

Teacher Liaisons – Aimee Meacham & Larissa Crocco

MINUTES OF THE HYBRID REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, March 18, 2024

Via WebEx <https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=m345e660a599340ac89edcceb379fcd08>

Meeting Number: 2495 218 0349

Meeting Password: CKft3paa9K3

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair, called the meeting to order (6:15 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Dr. Jay Dahya (in-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (in-person); Dr. Lauren Francese (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (in-person) and Mr. Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair (in-person).

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session in accordance with State statute to receive an update on security strategy, the deployment of security personnel, and/or devices affecting public security.

MOTION #1 – EXECUTIVE SESSION (6:15 PM)

Move that we enter Executive Session to receive an update on security strategy, the deployment of security personnel, and/or devices affecting public security and invite Superintendent Tencza, Business Manager Coonan, Principal Sherman, Facilities Manager Esparo and Security Officer Lynch to join the Board.

Dr. Dahya

Second by Ms. Hopkins

UNANIMOUS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Dr. Jay Dahya (in-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (in-person); Dr. Lauren Francese (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (in-person); and Mr. Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair (in-person).

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations; Vito Esparo, Facilities Manager and Vinny Lynch, Security Officer.

MOTION #2 – RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Move that we return to Public Session (7:07 PM).

Ms. Hopkins

Second by Dr. Dahya

UNANIMOUS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Piascyk, Chair (in-person); Dr. Jay Dahya (in-person); Ms. Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (in-person); Dr. Lauren Francese (in-person); Ms. Brooke Hopkins (in-person); Mr. Jeff Hughes (in-person); Mr. Steven Lawrence, Vice Chair (in-person); Dr. Michael Strambler (remote) and Erin Williamson (remote).

STAFF: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Cheryl Tafel, Assistant Principal; Carrie Borcharding, Special Services Director; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Del Prete acknowledged that any correspondence received was available in BoardBook.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

PTO Update – Ms. Kruger noted the upcoming Book Swap next week and commencement of planning for the Spring Book Fair, teacher appreciation week, and Artsweek. Successful events recently concluded were the Math Night as well as International Night. Teacher grants and funding of scholastic classroom grants is in process.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #3 – CONSENT AGENDA

Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Lawrence

Second by Mr. Hughes

UNANIMOUS

WBOE Appreciation – Superintendent Tencza presented token gifts to Board members along with a gratitude card. Board members were thanked for their dedication, leadership, support and collaboration to build a successful school system in support of our learners. First Selectman Mica Cardozo presented a proclamation, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, declaring March 18, 2024 as *Board Member Appreciation Day* in the Town of Woodbridge and extended a sincere thank you for the countless volunteer hours they have served in the community.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Tencza reminded everyone that BRS will not be accessible during the summer months once the roofing project begins. It was noted that in response to recent action by the BOF to modify the BRS Building Committee charge *to develop a Education Specification and Feasibility study and subsequent financial projections to explore options for increasing capacity and appropriate educational and programmatic learning spaces for the Woodbridge School District in response to population projections and programmatic challenges*, an education consulting firm has been retained to provide assistance with building community understanding, garnering ideas and opinions to collectively and collaboratively develop a comprehensive approach to determine long and short term needs. The RFQ/P will include various options.

Technology Update – Mr. Billings noted the various changes and improvements associated with network infrastructure, expansion of wireless coverage both internally and externally, repurposing of older technologies / equipment, the switchover of the phone system from copper wiring to digital and adapting technologies for the future inclusive of AI. Questions were raised regarding student internet security measures / processes, sharing of personnel information and the status of electronic report cards, grades, classroom assignments, progress reports etc. being available for parents in Powerschool.

BRS Update – Principal Sherman noted the *Read Across America* literacy celebration, Grade 4 writing museum tribal boards, completion of Grade 6 FBI challenges, Kindergarten super powers reading unit and leprechaun hunts, women’s history month, the teacher evaluation process and providing student supports for Ramadan.

BRS Town Building Committee Update – Mr. Hughes noted that the roof project is moving forward with the required forms and documents submitted to the CSDE.

Facilities Committee – Mr. Hughes reviewed the March 7 meeting detailing completion of building repairs and grounds projects.

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence reviewed the March 12 meeting inclusive of the standard monthly reports.

Policy Committee – Ms. Williamson presented the modifications made to Policy 5111 – inclusive of the new Kindergarten Age legislative changes and clarified the documentation necessary for substantiation of residency compliance.

MOTION #4 – POLICY ADOPTION – 5111 ADMISSION / PLACEMENT

Move that we adopt Policy 5111 as revised.

Ms. Williamson

Second by Ms. Hopkins

UNANIMOUS

CABE Liaison Report – No Report

Ms. Piascyk noted that she attended the Town sponsored FOI Workshop on March 5 and that the complete video is available on the Town web site.

Upcoming Meeting Presentation – Extended Day / Summer Programs

Upcoming WBOE Committee / Meeting Schedule – Curriculum Committee on April 4 at 4:00 PM, Policy Committee on April 1 at 4:30 PM; Finance Committee on April 9 at 4:30 PM, and the regular WBOE Regular Meeting April 22 at 7:00 PM. The Town Preliminary Budget Hearing will be held on April 25.

Healthy Food Certification – These verbatim motions are required by the CSDE related to compliance with the Healthy Food Program for the 2024/25 school year. The first verifies participation in the Healthy Food program and the second verifies the exemptions that would be applicable during the 2024/25 school year.

MOTION #5 – HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION

Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-215f, the Woodbridge Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Dr. Francese
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #6 – FOOD / BEVERAGE CERTIFICATION

Move that the Woodbridge Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: (1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; (2) the sale is at the location of the event; and (3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events, but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

Mr. Lawrence
Second by Ms. Del Prete
UNANIMOUS

Superintendent noted the retirement of a Grade 4 teacher who has been with the district for approximately 19 years.

MOTION #7 – CERTIFIED STAFF RETIREMENT

Move that we accept the retirement of Elena Lavigne effective June 30, 2024 with regret.

Ms. Hopkins
Second by Mr. Hughes
UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (8:22 PM)

Dr. Dahya
Second by Ms. Hopkins
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board

Woodbridge Public School's 2023-2024 Budget Narrative

April 7, 2024

The attached financial reports represent nine months (75%) of the fiscal year.

100 Series Salaries - Salaries represent 61% of the budget. Total projected saving in salaries grew by \$24K to a total of \$156K. Although we will continue to make every effort to hire our vacancies, we are being more conservative about the likelihood of making quality hires with 12 weeks to go in the school year. Consistent with prior months, the main drivers of our salary saving are para vacancies, a Psychologist vacancy, teacher turnover and maternity leave.

200 Series Benefits – Benefits are 21% of our budget is based on the elections of last year's staff. This month we decreased our estimated savings in the benefits category to a total of \$89K. Our medical insurance expenses continue to run close to the budget. Continued vacancies have us trending upward to additional savings in CMERS and payroll taxes. A combination of para vacancies and the CMERS rate coming in 4% less than budgeted is driving the most of these savings.

300 Series Purchased Professional Services- This category represents 3% of our budget and includes legal, audit and other expenses that are generated on a month-by-month basis. This category has not changed materially from the prior month. Our substitute line is \$14K over budget. Our SPED consultant line is \$13K over budget since we are down a part time Psychologist, we are contacting out more evaluations. We still have the savings from employing our School Resource Office giving this category a net \$81K savings for the year.

400 Series Purchased Property Services - Purchased Property Services are 4% of the total budget and were increased over the previous year to keep up with higher natural gas prices. The combination of mild to average winter coupled with the pool being empty for 6 months has allowed us to increase our utility savings estimate. With 75% of the year complete, we are projecting a savings of \$87K in this category.

500 Series Other Purchased Services - This category is 9% of our budget and includes student transportation, tuition, interns, liability insurance and items that do not fall within the professional services/property services categories. We increased our estimate for outplaced tuition by \$45K over the prior month, bringing the estimated overage for the year to \$153K.

600 Series Materials and Supplies – These supplies account for 2% of our budget. With the exception of custodial/maintenance supplies, this category is direct support for classroom instruction. In light of our current surplus, we have purchased new emergency lighting for the building and additional stock of motors and parts for our building maintenance. This gives this category a \$10K overage for the year.

700 Series Furniture and Equipment - This category represents 6/10 of one percent of the budget and we anticipate utilizing all of the funds before the end of the fiscal year. Previously we were showing a savings due to the pre-purchase of some student devices with last year's surplus, but we now anticipate spending all of the funds.

800 Series Dues and Fees – This budget category is small but important as it links staff to professional organizations that help keep them up-to-date in their respective academic fields. We anticipate utilizing all available fund.

900 Series Misc. Expenses - The primary expense in this category is the Ezra Nurse, a non-public health expense we are required by law to maintain.

Existing bylaw, number 9000 adopted 10/17/11, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Role of the Board and Member (Powers, Purposes, Duties)

The Woodbridge Board of Education is the governing body of the Woodbridge School District and derives its authority from, and exists under the Constitution and General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and the Charter of the Town of Woodbridge.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-200 Definitions

10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules

10-240 Control of schools

10-241 Powers of school districts

Charter of the Town of Woodbridge

Bylaw adopted by the Board:

WOODBRIIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Woodbridge, Connecticut

Existing bylaw, number 9005 adopted 10/17/2011, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Role of the Board and Its Members

Statement of Integrity

The long-term health of a representative democracy requires that citizenship and leadership act upon what is right, rather than what is popular. As Board of Education members, our goal is to improve the education of our children and to advocate for them and their best interests. Board members must be working effectively together and with others in the community to successfully reach this goal. A Board of Education that operates with integrity will be a more effective Board. Integrity is first, discerning what is right and what is wrong, second, acting upon what you have discerned even at personal cost; and third, saying openly that you are acting on your understanding of right from wrong. It requires that students, colleagues, constituents, and others in the community be considered in every decision. A Board of Education with a sense of integrity will consider what is right, and what is wrong. This takes discipline and an awareness of one's environment.

To this end, as a Board of Education with integrity, we will:

1. Understand that our first and greatest concern is the educational welfare of the students, and that all decisions must be based on this understanding;
2. Render all decisions based solely on our judgment of the available facts and not surrender that judgment to individuals, special interests, or our own personal agendas;
3. Attend all Board meetings insofar as possible, and be responsible for becoming informed on any and all issues coming before the Board, as well as being prepared to discuss and/or act upon all agenda items;
4. Be responsible for becoming informed on any and all issues coming before the Board;
5. Seeks to facilitate ongoing communication between the Board and students, staff, parents and all elements of the community;
6. Conduct our meetings and foster an environment where all elements of the community can express their ideas;
7. Declare a conflict of interest when it arises and excuse ourselves from related discussion and action on that issue;
8. Refrain from using our position on the Board for personal or partisan gain;
9. Insist on regular and impartial evaluation of all staff, and conduct a yearly self-evaluation and set annual goals;
10. Fairly assess all non-instructional aspects of the school operation;
11. Support all decisions by the Board to the community once a decision has been reached;
- ~~12. Attend all Board meetings insofar as possible and be responsible for becoming informed on any and all issues coming before the Board, as well as being prepared to discuss and/or act upon all agenda items;~~

Bylaws of the Board

Role of the Board and Its Members

Statement of Integrity (continued)

13. Understand that we have no authority beyond that which is exercised at the Board meeting, and that we shall not lend the impression that we are speaking on the Board's behalf unless that authority has been so delegated.

The Woodbridge Board of Education is committed to the highest legal and ethical standards essential in governing its school system. It endeavors to encourage growth and support established and innovative educational objectives.

(cf. 9000 - Role of Board and its Members)

(cf. 9271 - Code of Ethics)

Existing bylaw, number 9010 adopted 10/17/2011, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Limits of Authority

The nine member Woodbridge Board of Education is the unit of authority. A Board member has no individual authority. Individually, a Board member may not commit the district to any policy, act or expenditure. A Board member is prohibited from doing business with the Woodbridge School District, and from being employed for compensation by the Woodbridge School, nor shall the Board member have an interest in any contract with the Woodbridge School District. A Board member does not represent any factional segment of the community, but is rather a part of the body which represents and acts for the community as a whole.

No individual member of the Board, by virtue of holding office, shall exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools, nor as an individual command the services of any school employee.

No members of the Board of Education shall be asked to perform any routine or clerical duties which may be assigned to an employee.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

I 0-232 Restrictions on employment of members of the board of education.

Bylaw adopted by the Board:

WOODBRIIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Woodbridge, Connecticut

Existing bylaw, number 9011 adopted 10/17/2011, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Accountability

The public is accountable for:

1. Maintaining a vigorous interest in, concern for, and constructive criticism of the schools;
2. Electing the most able men and women available to represent them on the Board of Education;
3. Providing the resources necessary for the Board and staff to accomplish publicly endorsed goals and objectives of the school district.

The Board is accountable for:

1. Being responsive to the community's desires and concerns regarding the quality and performance of the school system;
2. Carrying out its mandate to plan, to make policy, and to lead in the identification of goals and objectives;
3. Requesting the resources necessary for the achievement of the goals and objectives through the budget process;
4. Evaluating the degree to which the goals and objectives are accomplished;
5. Selecting and evaluating the Superintendent of Schools.

The Superintendent is accountable for:

1. Providing creative professional leadership counsel and management in all aspects of the school district programs;
2. Being responsive to the Board of Education's desires and concerns regarding the quality and performance of the school district;
3. Effecting the policies, goals and objectives established by the Board of Education;
4. Providing fiscal leadership in the implementation of the budget process;
5. ~~Overseeing the selection~~ ~~Selecting~~ and evaluating all professional staff.

The administration, the teachers and other employees are accountable for:

1. Achieving the goals and objectives related to their stated job responsibilities;
2. Being responsive to the Superintendent of School's desires and concerns regarding the quality and performance of their job responsibilities;
3. Maintaining communications with students, parents and the community regarding their stated job responsibilities;
4. Conforming to the policies established by the Board of Education.

Bylaws of the Board

Accountability

The parents are accountable for:

1. Providing an atmosphere that supports the education of their child;
2. Maintaining close communication with the school.

The students are accountable for:

1. Diligently pursuing their own learning;
2. Following the rules of the school district.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-220 Duties of boards of education.

Existing bylaw, number 9012 adopted 10/17/2011, appropriate as written with update to legal reference.

Bylaws of the Board

Legal Responsibilities of Board of Education

The Board of Education shall have authority to take all action necessary or advisable to meet its responsibilities under state statute and Town Charter including but not limited to the following:

- I. To annually establish, with the Superintendent of Schools, educational priorities for the school district.
2. Create, abolish, modify and maintain such positions, schools, divisions and classifications as may be necessary for the efficient administration of the educational enterprise.
3. To elect a Superintendent of Schools in accordance with state statutes.
4. To consider, **amend** and adopt an annual budget, prepared by the Superintendent of Schools.
5. To determine the number, classification, duties and remuneration of employees.
6. To establish policy for employment, promotion and dismissal of personnel in accordance with state statutes.
7. To provide for the appraisal of the performance of personnel.
8. ~~To initiate and approve the acquisition and disposition of school sites and to initiate and approve plans for school buildings.~~
9. To consider any specific recommendations made by the Superintendent of Schools.
10. To keep the citizenry informed of purposes, values, conditions and needs of public education in the Town.
11. To consider, revise and adopt any changes in the curriculum.
12. To make reasonable provision to implement the educational interests of the State, as defined by law, so that
 - a. Each child shall have for the period prescribed in the General Statutes equal opportunity to receive a suitable program of educational experiences;
 - b. The school district shall finance at a reasonable level an educational program designed to achieve this end;
 - c. The school district shall provide educational opportunities for its students to interact with students and teachers from other racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds;
 - d. The mandates in the General Statutes pertaining to education within the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education shall be implemented.
13. To take any other actions required or permitted by law.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-220 Duties of boards of education.
~~Charter, Town of Windham, Ch. X Sec. 6, "Duties of Board of Education on Budget," November 3, 1992, p. 18~~

Bylaw adopted by the Board:

WOODBRIIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Woodbridge, Connecticut

Existing bylaw, number 9020 adopted 10/17/2011, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Public Statements

The Woodbridge Board of Education recognizes that communication is a continuous two-way process. The Board believes that it is important to keep the public informed about educational programs, and, in turn, that the community should have the opportunity to provide input.

Communication will be a concurrent responsibility of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools will work with the members of the Board of Education to conduct an active and comprehensive program throughout the school district and community for the prompt dissemination of information **as needed** about decisions made at **all** Board meetings. Releases to the press and brief summaries of Board meeting actions prepared for distribution to staff members and parent/guardians are regarded as appropriate media of information for meeting the requirements of this bylaw. Press releases relative to Board of Education action shall be released only by the Board Chairperson or the delegated agent of the Board.

(cf. 1112.2 - School News Releases)

(cf. 1120 - Board of Education Meetings)

Bylaw adopted by the Board:

WOODBRIIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Woodbridge, Connecticut

Existing bylaw, number 9020.1 adopted 10/17/2011, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Public Statements

Advocacy

The Board of Education believes that advocacy is a critical part of its activity and an important responsibility of school Board members. Advocacy is engagement in the political process at local, state and national levels to influence the public policies that affect Boards of Education and school children.

Education advocacy requires the Board of Education to publicly state what is needed to achieve effective public education. It is a recognition that the Board of Education has an important message to deliver to all governmental levels, the media and community, that affect educational policy and power to influence outcomes.

Education must be a priority in local, state and national policy and actions. Advocacy is necessitated by the many laws mandated on the school district by the state and federal government as well as regulations promulgated by State and Federal Departments of Education.

School Board members **are** respected by legislators **and** are powerful advocates with the responsibility to explain to legislators, the local impact of state and federal policy decisions. ~~Local school Board members must help the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education deliver its message to legislators.~~

In fulfilling its advocacy responsibilities, the Board of Education will cooperate with parent groups, other educators, special interest groups, business and service organizations, other school Boards, **CABE**, and community members to achieve favorable legislation on education issues. ~~Coalition building is critical to effective advocacy.~~

~~The Board of Education will develop a plan to fulfill its advocacy responsibilities.~~

~~To fulfill its advocacy role, the Board of Education will:~~

- ~~1. Join a broad advocacy network, including CABE membership, at the state and national levels;~~
- ~~2. Nominate, at the annual organizational meeting, a point person to be the conduit for information and action; with the power to write and contact legislators on behalf of the entire Board;~~
- ~~3. Schedule time at Board meetings for a report on state and national advocacy issues;~~
- ~~4. Recognize the Board of Education Chairperson, or his/her designee, as the press spokesperson for the Board of Education on state and national educational issues;~~
- ~~5. Use varied available means of communication, such as newsletter, general media, public forums to publicize federal and state legislative policy issues being addressed by the Board;~~

Bylaws of the Board

Public Statements

Advocacy (continued)

- ~~6. Agree, as a Board, in its lobbying effort on the particular issues and tactics, to be given priority;~~
- ~~7. Cooperate, in a coalition with other Boards of Education, teachers, parents, administrators, local elected officials, business and community leaders on agreed upon education lobbyist issues;~~
- ~~8. Use media as an advocacy tool, meeting with the editorial board of newspapers serving the local area, writing letters to the editor and talking with reporters on educational legislative issues.~~

Existing bylaw, number 9030 adopted 10/17/2011, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Commitment to Democratic Principles in Relation to Community, Staff, Students

Board-Staff Communications

The Woodbridge Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain open communication between itself and the staff. Essentially, communications with staff deal with three general areas administration, policy and philosophy. While the Board recognizes the necessity for Board-staff communications, it also recognizes that administrative matters must be dealt with through its chief administrator. Hence, the basic line of communication for administrative matters shall be through the Superintendent.

1. Staff Communications to the Board

All formal reports to the Board or any Board committee from administrators, supervisors, teachers or other staff members shall be submitted through the Superintendent. This necessary procedure shall not be construed as denying the right of any employee to appeal to the Board from administrative decisions on important matters, provided that the Superintendent shall have been notified of the forthcoming appeal and that it is processed in accordance with the Board's policy on complaints and grievances. (cf. 4135.4 and 4235.4 re Complaints/Grievances)

Staff members are also reminded that Board meetings are public meetings. As such, they provide an excellent opportunity to observe and participate first-hand in the Board's deliberations on problems of staff concern.

2. Board Communication to Staff

All official communications, policies and directives of staff interest and concern will be communicated to staff members through the Superintendent, and the Superintendent will employ all such media as are appropriate to keep staff fully informed of the Board's problems, concerns and actions. (cf. 9020 - Public Statements)

3. Visits to Schools

Individual Board members interested in visiting schools or classrooms will make arrangements for visitations through the administrators of the various schools. Such visits shall be regarded as informal expressions of interest in school affairs and not as "inspections" or visits for supervisory or administrative purposes. Official visits by Board members will be conducted only under Board authorization and with the full knowledge of staff, including the Superintendent, building administrators and other supervisors.

Bylaws of the Board

Commitment to Democratic Principles in Relation to Community, Staff, Students

Board-Staff Communications (continued)

4. Social Interaction

Staff and Board members share an interest in the schools and in education generally, and it is to be expected that when they meet at social affairs and other functions, they will informally discuss such matters as educational trends, issues, and innovations and general school district problems. Individual Board members have no special authority except when they are convened at a legal meeting of the Board or vested with special authority by Board action. Board of Education members are expected to avoid discussion of:

- a. Matters that are, or have the potential of becoming, the subject of an executive session;
- b. Information and data contained in personnel records protected by the privacy act;
- c. Contested issues that may require final resolution by the Board.

(cf. 2220 - Representative and Deliberative Groups re staff involvement in decision making)

(cf. S145 - Civil and Legal Rights & Responsibilities)

(cf. 9133 - Special/Advisory Committee re: staff advisory committee and student advisory committee)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

Existing bylaw, number 9040 adopted 10/17/2011, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Board-Related Responsibilities

The Board of Education shall:

- I. Employ an able and qualified Superintendent of Schools.
2. Adopt policies to govern the operation of the school system.
3. Communicate the educational program to the people of the community.
4. Keep abreast of future educational needs of the Town as well as the present.
5. Adopt an annual budget.
6. Take such specific actions as are required by law.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education.

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules.

Bylaw adopted by the Board:

WOODBRIIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Woodbridge, Connecticut

Existing bylaw, number 9110, adopted 2/28/2022, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Number of Members, Terms of Office, Election of Members

The Board of Education shall consist of nine members. Their terms of office shall be four years in length in accordance with the Woodbridge Town Charter and any other governing laws. Before entering upon their official duties, members of the Board of Education shall take the oath of office before the Town Clerk or their designee.

No more than five nor less than four members of the Board of Education shall be elected to each serve for a four-year term at each regular Town election.

The Board of Education shall conduct its organizational meeting at its first meeting in November or December following Board elections. The Board of Education shall elect from its members at the organizational meeting a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Secretary. The organizational meeting shall be called to order by the current Board Chairperson who will preside until a Chairperson is elected. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson or Secretary in that order shall preside until a new Chairperson is elected. Election of officers shall be in writing and the vote of each member shall be made available for public inspection within forty-eight hours and recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If a Chairperson and/or Secretary are not chosen within one month, because of a tie vote of the members, Town Selectmen shall choose such officers from the Board membership.

Upon his/her election the Chairperson shall assume the chair and proceed with the election of the Board Vice Chairperson and Secretary.

If the office of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or Secretary becomes vacant between organizational meetings, the Board shall, within 30 days thereafter, fill the vacancy for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the members of the Board present, at a meeting warned for that purpose.

(cf. 9321 -Time, Place, Notification of Meetings)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-218 Officers. Meetings.

Charter of the Town of Woodbridge Section 8-1S(a)(b)

Bylaw adopted by the Board:

WOODBRIIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Woodbridge, Connecticut

Existing bylaw, number 9120 adopted 10/17/2011, appropriate as written.

Bylaws of the Board

Officers

The officers of the Board of Education shall consist of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Secretary.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-218 Officers. Meetings.

Bylaw adopted by the Board:

WOODBRIIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Woodbridge, Connecticut

Woodbridge Board of Education Curriculum Committee
Superintendent's Conference Room
April 4, 2024

<https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=m42fb6ccb8f81c7a1d08e0808c03d8ea4>

Meeting Number: (access code): 2486 411 5152

Meeting Password: 67kXbZpHKg6

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Strambler, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Michael Strambler, Chair (remote); Lynn Piascyk (in person); Sarah Beth Del Prete (in person); Dr. Lauren Francese (4:07 PM / remote); Erin Williamson (4:14 PM / remote) Board Members; Vonda Tencza, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Monique MacDonald, WEA Liaison.

Public Comment - None

ELA Update – Ms. Sherman presented an overview of the CSDE Resource Pilot process since the denial of our Reading Waiver. The Literacy Committee reviewed and identified seven (7) options. The committee was comprised of 2 teachers from each grade level (Grades K-3), 2 MAG teachers, 2 SpEd teachers, 3 Literacy specialists and administration. The committee utilized a shared rubric to review and select resources as well as school visits. The sample rubric included whole group instruction meeting varied student needs / differentiation, assessments, opportunities for independent reading, alignment with Science/Social Studies standards and opportunities for process writing.

The frontrunner resource identified to pilot in the spring is HMM. The committee will reconvene in the spring to determine the strength of the resource, alignment to BRS curriculum and student needs and alignment to current practices and beliefs. If selected, over the summer required resources will be purchased, a rollout plan developed and summer curriculum work will identify components for implementation in year 1 / incorporation into the current ELA curriculum and identification of a calendar for staff training with full integration slated for the 25/26 school year. Questions were raised regarding future integration of science and social studies content in “pre-packaged” resources, future pilot options should the identified resource not fit our needs and possible anticipated costs associated with implementation.

Master Class and Right to Read – administration and literacy specialists participating in the master class and right to read training are nearly finished. Upon conclusion, a district literacy plan will be developed and shared with faculty as required by participation in the class.

Strategic Plan / Project Based Learning – continue the work with Dr. Rafferty and Ross Cooper with a mindset shift to “application” connecting the “why” and “what” to teaching and our vision of learning.

Potential suggestions for future meeting topics include a presentation on the former “DARE” program, Spanish / World Language and the program alignment / transition of our Grade 6 students with the Amity Middle School and an update on HMM.

Meeting Adjourned 5:11 PM

MINUTES OF THE HYBRID WBOE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

<https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=m476bb10eb47cb64bee31bb344c5fc37f>

Meeting number (access code): 2492 222 0676

Meeting password: fRp27FJ8vB7

Attendees: Steven Lawrence (in-person), Sarah Beth Del Prete (in-person), Dr. Lauren Francese (in-person), Lynn Piascyk (in-person), WBOE; Vonda J. Tencza, Superintendent; Donna Coonan, Business Operations Manager, Maureen Krawec, WEA Liaison.

Mr. Lawrence, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM.

Public Comment: None

Items reviewed and discussed included the monthly financials inclusive of the FY Budget Narrative, Summary, Detail and Combined Financial Reports. Financials are running close to budget with significant savings identified in certified / non-certified salaries / vacancies, SRO, utilities and property services. Increases continue to occur in substitutes and special education consultant line items.

2023/24 Budget Surplus – It is anticipated there will be a significant projected surplus upon completion of the 2023/24 school year. We are currently in process of obtaining quotes for a refresh of the Café (painting, signage etc.) and it is anticipated EDay will be funding the painting of the fitness center over the summer. Other possible projects identified by administration include:

- gravel / brick / tree repair work in the loop area
- replenishment of classroom libraries
- technology app renewals / increasing external wireless areas
- asbestos removal by band area
- backup battery operated safety light units
- headphone replacements
- communication board displays
- teacher furniture
- exterior painting in south entrance area
- server surge protectors
- fence behind tennis court area
- refinishing of north office conference room floors
- online student record system

Suggestions were made to hold on the landscaping projects until the drainage issue is rectified and items that directly impact instruction be prioritized.

Public Comment: None

Meeting Adjourned: 5:07 PM

MINUTES OF THE WBOE POLICY COMMITTEE

Superintendent's Conference Room

April 1, 2024

WebEx <https://woodbridgeps.webex.com/woodbridgeps/j.php?MTID=m42fb6ccb8f81c7a1d08e0808c03d8ea4>

Meeting Number (access code): 2486 411 5152

Meeting Password: 67kXbZpHKg6

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Williamson called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

IN ATTENDANCE: Erin Williamson, Chair (in person), Lynn Piascyk (in person), Steven Lawrence (remote); Brooke Hopkins (remote), Board of Education Members; Vonda Tencza, Superintendent; and Teresa Ramia, WEA Liaison.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

The Committee reviewed Policies

- ❖ 9000-Role of Board and Members (Powers, Purposes, Duties)
- ❖ 9005-Statement of Integrity
- ❖ 9010-Limits of authority
- ❖ 9011-Accountability
- ❖ 9012-Legal Responsibilities of Boards of Education
- ❖ 9020-Public Statements
- ❖ 9020.1 Advocacy
- ❖ 9030-Commitment to Democratic Principles in Relation to Community, Staff and Students
- ❖ 9040-Board Related Responsibilities
- ❖ 9110-Number of Members, Terms of Office, Election of Members
- ❖ 9120-Officers and Auxiliary Personnel

Changes were made as follows:

- Policy 9005 – Number (12) was deleted as it was a duplication of the language in Number (3).
- Policy 9011 – under Superintendent (5) was modified to “*overseeing the selection*”. This policy will be placed on hold for review at the next meeting until further information is obtained from the WEA pertaining to modification of the language under “Parents” as there is no policy pertaining to code of conduct for parents.
- Policy 9012 – Number (4) was modified to add “*amend*” after *consider* and before *and*. Since BRS is owned by the Town and the WBOE does not control the building (8) was deleted. It suggested to move (12) to the last item.
- Policy 9020 – It was questioned whether the BOE disseminates information about decisions made at all BOE meetings. We communicate about certain topics not sure it is something that is done in a formalized way. In the second paragraph, second sentence “*as needed*” was added after information and the word “*all*” deleted at the end of the same sentence.
- Policy 9020.1 – in the 4th paragraph, first sentence “*are*” was added after members, “*and*” was added after legislators and the last sentence deleted in its entirety. In the 5th paragraph, (,) was added after organizations and “*CABE*” was deleted. Beginning with “*Coalition*” all following text was deleted.
- Policy 9030 – in the title “*Democrat*” was changed to “*Democratic*”. Under (1) 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence “*in*” was added after *first-hand*.

Policies forwarded to the WBOE for 30-day review at the April 23, 2024 meeting: 9000, 9005, 9010, 9012, 9020, 9020.1, 9030, 9040, 9110, 9120.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Meeting Adjourned: 5:12 PM