

**WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Meeting**  
**MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, May 11, 2010**  
**Theresa Mulvey Center**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** The special meeting of May 11, 2010 was called to order by Maureen Westbrook, Vice-Chair at 5:37 p.m.

**Members Present:** Maureen Westbrook, Myrn Keryc, Lee Bridgewater, Marti White, Pat Labbadia, Joseph Campbell @ 5:40 p.m., Sally Greaves @ 5:50 p.m., Dee Adorno @ 6:20 p.m.

**Absent:** Matthew Alaimo

**Also Present:** Patricia Charles, Superintendent; Katharine Bishop, Phil House, Bob Hale, Principals; Charles McWilliams, Business Manager; Nancy Malafronte, Teacher; Lisa Winch, PTSO Liaison

**II. PLEDGE**

**III. RECOGNITION** Trooper Gary Inglis: Trooper Inglis will be recognized at the June meeting for his service to Westbrook School as resource officer providing he is available.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:**None

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 13, 2010 – Moved by Mrs. Keryc and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 13, 2010. **Vote: 7 (ayes), one abstention (Maureen Westbrook)**

**VI. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- A. May bills – Moved by Mr. Labbadia and seconded by Mrs. Keryc to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$92,481.65. **Vote unanimous.**  
Supplemental bills: Moved by Mr. Labbadia and seconded by Mrs. Keryc to approve payment of supplemental bills in the amount of \$43,741.38. **Vote unanimous.**
- B. Budget: Moved by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Bridgewater to approve the budget for the period ending May 31, 2010. **Vote unanimous.**
- C. Grant bills: Moved by Mr. Labbadia and seconded by Mrs. Keryc to approve grant bills in the amount of \$42,052.43. **Vote unanimous.**
- D. Insurance Report: Mr. McWilliams reported to the Board on health insurance claims for the month of March.

**VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- A. **Enrollment** – Dr. Charles reported there are 977 students enrolled as of May 1, 2010. This is a decrease of three students since the October 1, 2009 enrollment count.
- B. **Business Office Support** – Dr. Charles reported that a temporary employee with accounting background was hired May 5 to support the business office in the transition to a new business manager and to complete the local, state

and national reports which must be submitted at the end of the fiscal year. Paper screening of 20 resumes will be completed this week.

- C. **Superintendent Survey** – Dr. Charles sent out a survey via telephone to parents of Westbrook students to assess the superintendent's effectiveness in leading the district. The responses will be shared with the Board.
- D. **Daisy Roof** – Dr. Charles reported that Dennis Hallahan held the final meeting of the Daisy Roof Committee on Friday, May 7, 2010 to pay the final bills to Silktown for the snow guards. Mr. Hallahan will recommend to the town that the committee be disbanded at the next available town meeting.
- E. **Administrator Report:** Mr. Hale gave a presentation on the Knight's Vault – Seasons Credit Union, now open for business at the high school. Representatives from Seasons attended. Mr. Hale is hoping to arrange after school and summer hours and eventually open up the credit union to the public. He stated there are some security issues, but those are being addressed and the representative from Seasons stated that they are willing to pay for additional security measures to be put in place. Mr. Hale said that we have a ten year commitment from the bank. Mrs. Greaves suggested the involvement of the young children from Daisy. It was suggested that a press release on the Seasons' Knight's Vault be sent out.

Mr. Hale highlighted aspects of the secondary reforms we anticipate for Westbrook as well as changes that will occur next year, relative to House Bill 438. Every student will be required to have credits in art/music or theatre. A total of eight teachers will need to be added to address requirements for Math, Science, Family Consumer Science, World Language, and Senior projects.

It was noted that we will need to modify our policy manual to reflect these changes, and that most likely, additional transportation expenses will be incurred.

Mr. Hale provided several scenarios for scheduling for next year.

Moved by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Bridgewater to recess in order to attend the Westbrook Town meeting at 6:50 p.m. **Vote unanimous.**

Moved by Mrs. Bridgewater and seconded by Mr. Campbell to move back into regular session at 8:55 p.m. **Vote unanimous.**

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Race to the Top II** – Dr. Charles reported that Commissioner McQuillan is again requesting that districts sign the Memo of Understanding obligating districts to comply with the school reforms outlined in the grant. A concern was voiced that the money from the grant doesn't begin to cover the cost of what we will need. After a thorough discussion it was the consensus of the board to sign-on for now providing specific questions are answered including that the Board can opt out once we have the Memorandum of Understanding; UConn classes would be considered and LEARN would act as a liaison as part of a consortium. Moved by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Bridgewater to sign the Memo of Understanding for the Race to the Top II application, on the condition that Dr. Charles can obtain written verification of the fact that we can subsequently withdraw for any reason our consent to participate after

the Memorandum of Understanding is finalized, and we have an adequate opportunity to review it, which shall be prior to the time that we will be required to begin to implement the plan. **Vote: 6 (ayes) Mrs. Bridgewater, Mrs. White, Mrs. Westbrook, Mrs. Keryc, Mr. Labbadia, Mrs. Greaves; 2 (nays) Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Adorno**

- B. **Westbrook & Zibo, China Partnerships** – Dr. Charles, Mrs. Bishop and Ms. Malafronte reported the information gained from their exchange with sister schools in Shandong. They were appreciative of the opportunity to visit the Chinese sister schools and hope to continue the partnership and encourage other Connecticut schools to develop partnerships. They intend to follow-up with letters of invitation to Westbrook and keep in touch through Skype, virtual exchanges of student work, and pen pals.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Out of State Field Trips

1. WHS SAS students trip to the Bronx, NY City & Central Park Zoo. Moved by Mr. Labbadia and seconded by Mrs. White to approve the trip to New York Central Park Zoo and Central Park on June 2, 2010. The approximate number of students is 30 with 4-5 chaperones. **Vote unanimous**

2. **Health Care Reform:** Dr. Charles reported on the two components of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 for the Board to consider.

- a. Dependents to age 26 – The Board has opted in the past to not cover dependants past age 23. With new legislation, Dr. Charles reported that it will be mandatory in 2011 to cover dependents to age 26. The Board of Education has the option of implementing this in September 2010. After discussion it was moved by Mr. Labbadia and seconded by Mrs. White to not approve coverage to age 26 prior to the effective date of the law. **Vote unanimous.**
- b. Early Benefits Reinsurance Program for Early Retirees: This item is tabled until the June meeting.

## X. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

- A. **Town/BOE Insurance Subcommittee** – No Report
- B. **Policy Subcommittee** – No Report
- C. **Communications Subcommittee** – Mrs. Keryc reported on communication regarding the budget.
- D. **Long Range Plan** – Matt Alaimo – No Report
- E. **Joint Business Manager Ad Hoc Committee** – No report.

## XI. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

## XII. PERSONNEL

A. **Resignation/Retirement** – Elaine Beals announced her intent to retire on June 30, 2010 after 34 years of service to Westbrook elementary children. Moved by Mr. Labbadia and seconded by Mr. Campbell to accept with great regret the resignation of Elaine Beals effective 6/30/2010. **Vote unanimous.**

B. Roberta Fulton has announced her intent to retire on June 30, 2010 after 28 years of service to Westbrook High School students. Moved by Mr. Labbadia and seconded by Mr. Campbell to accept with great regret the resignation of Robert Fulton effective 6/30/2010. **Vote unanimous.**

Mrs. Keryc added that Westbrook is losing extraordinarily dedicated teachers with years of valuable expertise.

**XIII. ADJOURN:** Moved by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Labbadia to adjourn at 10:20 p.m. **Vote unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Myrn Keryc, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk