

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, April 12, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Board of Education Meeting

MINUTES

Present: Lee Bridgewater, Michelle Palumbo, Sally Greaves, Don Perreault, Dee Adorno, Kim Walker, Jackie Lyman

Absent: Marti White, Mary Ella Luft

Also Present: Superintendent Patricia A. Ciccone; Administrators, Ruth Rose, Cori DiMaggio; Tara Winch; Madeline Illinger, Special Services Director, Business Manager Lesley Wysocki; Ben Russell, IT Specialist

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Lee Bridgewater, Chair, called the regular meeting of April 12, 2016 to order at 7:00 p.m. in the WHS library.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. **BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** No acknowledgements
- IV. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT** – Caitlin McNary reported on school activities including spring sports, College Fair for Juniors, and the Seniors' College Commitment Board.
- V. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
- VI. **ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS**
 - A. Student Climate Partnerships – Ms. Winch introduced Mr. Bialicki and students, Madeleine Archer, Charlotte, Barton, and Lindsey Prevost. These students provided a thorough presentation on the recent activities of the students working on climate partnerships including their participation at a Shoreline Professional Development program and at Woodstock Academy where they spoke to faculty on the school climate program in Westbrook. At the Shoreline Professional Development, the group heard from Dr. Allen from Pathways and learned that 83% of students in high school feel stressed; the top indicators of stress are those found in their efforts to manage grades, exams and relationships.. The students talked about the activities they are currently involved: working on *A Bill of Student Success*, meeting and presenting to 8th grade boys and girls, preparing May Awareness Day, and an upcoming chapter for a National School Climate publication.
 - B. English Language Learners at Daisy – Ruth Rose updated the Board on English Language Learners at Daisy. Of the 264 students at Daisy, there are 35 ELL students. Mrs. Rose talked about support ELL students receive and training for staff members.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Set Graduation Date** - After April 1, Boards of Education can establish a firm graduation date without any changes. Taking into consideration the two cancelled days due to inclement weather, the Board voted to approve graduation on June 13, 2016. Moved by Kim Walker and seconded by Sally Greaves to establish June 13, 2016 as graduation day and the last day of school for students. Vote unanimous.
- B. Bus Contract Renewal** – As discussed at a previous BOE meeting, data was given to the Board on transportation costs and comparisons with other towns. In an effort to get on the same contract bidding track as other shoreline schools and to obtain better rates, it was recommended that the contract with First Student be renewed for two years. Moved by Dee Adorno and seconded by Michelle Palumbo to extend the First Student contract for an additional two years (2016-17, 2017-18.) Vote unanimous.
- C. Non-Tenure Notification** - Superintendent Ciccone explained the non-tenure teacher notification process as it relates to town approval of the budget. She stated that our legal representation recommends the issuance of the non-tenure teachers notification of non-renewal. Moved by Kim Walker and seconded by Jackie Lyman to continue with the process of notification of the non-tenure teachers. Vote unanimous.
- D. Re-Appointment of Medical Advisor, Dr. Adam Perrin:** Superintendent Ciccone reported that our school physician, Dr. Adam Perrin, provides excellent support to our schools and is easily accessible and dedicated. She recommended the Board approve that Dr. Perrin continue as Westbrook Public School’s medical advisor and his contract be renewed. Moved by Michelle Palumbo and seconded by Sally Greaves. Vote unanimous.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A. Enrollment:** Superintendent Ciccone reported April 1st enrollment totals equal 787 students. Pre-K through 12 – 778 plus 8 out placed and one exchange student. Currently, 48 children have registered for kindergarten for 2016-17 school year.

Regarding the budget process, the Superintendent shared a *Citizens Guide*, provided by the Town of Westbrook, to be distributed via mail and placed at town locations. She said that a vote on the budget will occur at the Annual Town meeting and there will be no referendum.

Superintendent Ciccone talked about a recent issue related to the State of Connecticut’s effort to reduce their budget by greatly reducing the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) dollars that go to each town/municipality. She said she will be participating in a news conference on Wednesday morning at the Clinton Town Hall with Legislators and school superintendents. The Board of Finance reacted to this news by recommending changes to the Capital Improvement Plan. It is their recommendation that some of the BOE CIP projects go out for bonding. The State budget proposals by the governor and others are at odds. In the present governor’s budget, Westbrook ECS cut is 100%; all \$427,677 will be removed from the ECS reimbursement. She will continue to monitor this news.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Water Filling Station(s) – WMS PTO:** Superintendent Ciccone reminded the BOE re: WMS PTSO’s offer to install water filling stations at the middle school using existing water fountains. One BOE member has suggested trying one station installation if PTO will cover costs of plumbing that may arise. With BOE discussion and agreement, the Superintendent recommended

the Board defer the project until the fall, as there are numerous building projects planned for the summer. Moved by Jackie Lyman and seconded by Kim Walker to defer the decision to the fall to approve the WMS PTSO Water Filling Station project. Vote unanimous.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes:

1. Regular Meeting – March 08, 2016: Moved by Dee Adorno and seconded by Jackie Lyman to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 08, 2016. Vote unanimous.

XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Review of Check Listing:** Board members reviewed check listings for March 11, 2016, in the amount of \$143,259.63 and for March 24, 2016, in the amount of \$108,890.08.
- B. Budget Narrative/Review of Expenditure Report:** Lesley Wysocki, Business Manager, provided a summary of the budget as it stands through March 31, 2016.
- C. Line Item Transfer:** Mrs. Wysocki provided the Board with information on line item transfers for the month of March.
- D. Insurance Report:** The Board received a current USI report

XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. LEARN report – D. Adorno** reported that she has a Science Standards PowerPoint from LEARN that she will share with those interested. She will forward the presentation to Superintendent Ciccone.
- B. Enrollment Subcommittee:** no meeting
- C. Policy:** no meeting
- D. Communications - J. Lyman** reported on topics discussed at the Communications Subcommittee meeting including creation of an article for the Westbrook Events publication, English Language Learners Program, and the Superintendent’s visit to the Senior Center to discuss budget news.
- E. Long Range Planning –** no meeting
- F. Insurance –** It was suggested the Insurance Subcommittee meet in early May.
- G. Negotiations - S. Greaves** reported the Negotiations Subcommittee had completed the Superintendent’s contract
- H. PTSO Representatives - J. Lyman** said that 8th grade parents met and fundraising ideas were discussed as well as election of new officers in September. Kim Walker reminded the BOE of the May 6th Ice Cream Social at Daisy and the next Daisy PTO meeting is scheduled for May 25th. Michelle Palumbo reminded BOE that a fundraiser for WMS PTSO (Joey and Maria’s Wedding) is scheduled for April 29.

XIII. PERSONNEL

A. Professional Resignation(s)

1. Status of WHS Spanish position: Superintendent Ciccone stated that a middle school Spanish teacher is instructing three Spanish classes in the high school in the afternoons, and Mr. Synott, a high school Spanish teacher, is working with two classes, to fill the current vacancy.

B. Non-Certified Resignation(s): None

- C. New Hires: The Board was informed that Alex Oporto was hired as a WHS part time day custodian; and Ellen Miller transferred to a full-time night custodian at Daisy. As of 3/28/16, Gerald Hughes was hired as a part-time night custodian at Daisy.

Moved by Jackie Lyman and seconded by Michelle Palumbo to adjourn public session at 8:45 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Moved by Jackie Lyman and seconded by Michelle Palumbo to move into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. to review the completed Superintendent's contract. Vote unanimous.

Moved by Don Perreault and seconded by Jackie Lyman to move back into regular session at 9:17 p.m.

- D. Renewal of Superintendent's Contract: Moved by Don Perreault and seconded by Jackie Lyman to approve the renewal of the 2016-2019 contract for Superintendent Patricia A. Ciccone. Vote unanimous.

XIV. ADJOURN: Moved by Kim Walker and seconded by Dee Adorno to adjourn at 9:22 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Walker, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk