

**WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, March 12, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Westbrook High School Library**

MINUTES

Members Present: Maureen Westbrook, Marti White, Michele Palumbo, Myrn Keryc, Sally Greaves, Dee Adorno, Pat Labbadia

Absent: Lee Bridgewater, Kim Walker

Also Present: Superintendent Patricia A. Ciccone; Administrators: Robert Hale, Jeffrey Newton, Business Manager, Lesley Wysocki; Faculty members, Community members, students

I. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular Meeting of March 12, 2013, was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Maureen Westbrook, Chair, in the Westbrook High School library.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Moved by Dee Adorno and seconded by Pat Labbadia to add 2012-13 calendar revision to the agenda under item X.B. **Vote unanimous.**

III. RECOGNITION:

- A. CAS Elementary Arts Awards: Two elementary students, Stephen Burr and Jessie McGannon, were recognized by the Connecticut Association of Schools for their outstanding skills in visual arts and music. Mr. Biegaj, Daisy Ingraham art teacher, was present to speak about the accomplishments of both students and the Board recognized Stephen and Jessie with certificates of recognition.
- B. BOE recognition: In commemoration of Board Appreciation Month, the Superintendent elaborated on the many duties and the laudable characteristics of those who give of their time to education. She recognized the Westbrook Board for their accomplishments. She read a letter from Dr. Jonathan Cohen, President of the National School Climate Center, congratulating the Board for its leadership in adopting the National School Climate Standards as the policy framework for all school and district improvement going forward. Westbrook BOE is the first school district nationally to officially adopt the NSCS as a board policy. Board members received a token of appreciation for their voluntary efforts on behalf of the Westbrook school community.

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Meghan Doran, Student Representative, provided the Board with a report on high school activities including activities of the Interact Club, field trip to Orange County Choppers, joint band concert with the Guilford Town Band, Faculty Recital and Art Exhibit, money raised for Shoreline Soup Kitchen through the efforts of the Wood Shop, the musical, “Chicago”, girls’ basketball, and the success of the boys’ basketball team and the start of spring sports.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT : No comments

VI. Minutes : The approval of the minutes was removed from the Consent Agenda.

A. Approval of the minutes of Regular Meeting of February 12, 2013: Moved by Myrn Keryc and seconded by Marti White to approve the minutes of February 12, 2013.

Aye(s): Maureen Westbrook, Marti White, Michele Palumbo, Myrn Keryc, Sally Greaves, Dee Adorno; Abstention: Pat Labbadia

B. Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 28, 2013. Moved by Mart White and seconded by Myrn Keryc to approve the special meeting minutes of February 28, 2013. Aye(s): Maureen Westbrook, Marti White, Pat Labbadia, Myrn Keryc, Sally Greaves, Dee Adorno; Abstention: Michelle Palumbo

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Curriculum – Michele Hammond, Curriculum Coach, introduced Health K-12 Curriculum Leader, Mark McCray, to present the Health/PE curriculum. Mr. McCray introduced Allison Sumecki and Ryan Percival as teachers involved in the curriculum writing process. Also, Tim Marshall and Bill Gombos who were unable to be present at the board meeting. Mr. McCray talked about incorporating the Common Core Standards and complimented Alison Sumecki for coming into a program that did not exist and doing a “nice job”. Technology Education teachers Greg Rydelek and Kim Godfrey presented the Technology curriculum. The Board viewed two computer videos to show the Board the integration of classes and technology. **Moved by Pat Labbadia and seconded by Myrn Keryc to approve the K-12 Health Curriculum and the K-8 Computer Technology Curriculum as presented. Vote unanimous.**

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. Review of Check Listings: The Board reviewed check listings for the month of February in the amount of \$114,458.03 (2/14/13) and for \$97,152.99 (2/28/13).

B. Budget Narrative/ Review of Expenditure Report – Mrs. Wysocki provided an overview of the current budget and reported that she has no concerns.

C. Line Item Transfers: No line items transfers reported for this month.

D. Insurance Report – Ganim: Mrs. Wysocki reported the stop loss ratio at 76%.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Enrollment – The Superintendent reported there are 884 students enrolled on March 1, 2013 compared to 871 enrolled on October 1 (an increase of 13 students.) Mr. Newton, Special Services Director compared last year’s identified students at 137 to a total of 98 for this year. He said there are five out placed students this year, compared to eight last year. Mr. Newton also commented on updating policies for the Special Education staff.

B. Educator Evaluation Plan: The Superintendent updated the Board on the Westbrook and the State Department of Education’s latest changes and decisions on educator evaluation, stating that it is a work in progress. The latest update is to form a “stakeholders” committee to react and provide input on documents to be used. The state has not given the final word on the board’s participation in the approval process.. The Superintendent said that in the past few weeks, the state of Connecticut sees the benefit of aligning S.E.E.D. with the Common Core of Teaching (CCT). There is also some legislative discussion on the phase in alternative.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2013-14 Budget

The Superintendent said that a concerted effort to look at safety and security has been taking place. She is co-chairing an Ad Hoc Safety Committee with the First Selectman and as a result of a review of our facilities there has been discussion on tightening up our current security procedures and infrastructure. Some items of discussion would fall under Capital Plan, but there are things that can be upgraded quickly. She proposed submitting with the budget these additional preventive security steps which would add a 1.19% additional increase to the overall budget. The Board agreed to 3.36% or \$15,784,537 at the last meeting. This would bring the total to \$15,965,237 (4.55%). The security part of the budget did include one new position; a district-wide social worker. **It was the Superintendent's recommendation to submit to the Board of Finance a base budget of 3.36% and separately the security aspect at 1.19%. Moved by Pat Labbadia and seconded by Michelle Palumbo to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent. Vote unanimous.**

B. 2012-13 Calendar: The Superintendent reconfigured the calendar for this school year to show the last day of school as June 24 for students. At this point no days have been taken from the April vacation.

XI. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Policy - Marti White scheduled the next Policy meeting for April 4, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

B. Communications – Myrn Keryc reported that the committee is still in the process of scheduling community meetings regarding the budget. She said that Pat Ciccone has provided several ideas for the committee such as summertime book clubs involving parents, students, and staff who wish to join, and an evening of discussion with the community on climate standards, technology, and other topics of interest. It was suggested the committee explore a Facebook page. Mr. Hale responded that he would work with the committee on that.

C. Long Range Planning –Pat Labbadia scheduled an LRP meeting for March 20 at 6:30 p.m.

D. Insurance – Lee Bridgewater: No activity

E. Negotiations –Sally Greaves: No activity

F. PTO Representatives –Myrn Keryc reported the PTO for high school will meet on March 25 at 6:30 p.m.; Daisy PTO will meet on March 26

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Several parents attended the meeting and expressed concern with the Board's decision to take days from February vacation in the 2013-14 school calendar. Several were concerned with taking away family time, while others did not want a long summer if school was out in early June. Others were concerned with illness (flue epidemics) if school stayed open in February without a break. Suggestions were given to take the wait and see approach. Some were okay with adding days at the end of June if necessary.

It was suggested that the 2013-14 calendar decision be revisited at the April Board of Education meeting.

Maureen Westbrook, Chair, explained that many districts have moved to remove February vacation and that it is the Board's charge to deliver the best quality of education.

XIII. PERSONNEL

- A. The Board was informed of a request for maternity leave for Julie-Lynn Silva, Special Services Teacher at Daisy Ingraham School from April 13, 2013 (or sooner/later depending on birth of child) through the end of the 2012-13 school year.

XIV. ADJOURN: Moved by Pat Labbadia and seconded by Michelle Palumbo to adjourn at 9:22 p.m. **Vote unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Myrn Keryc, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk