WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATE, CHALLENGE, & INSPIRE

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, September 08, 2015 @ 7:00 a.m.
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Board of Education Conference Room

MINUTES

Members Present: Maureen Westbrook, , Marti White, Sally Greaves, Jackie Lyman, Kim Walker, Pat Labbadia, Dee Adorno, Michelle Palumbo

Members Absent: Lee Bridgewater

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

I. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular Meeting of September 8, 2015 was called to order by Maureen Westbrook, Chair, at 7:00 p.m. in the Westbrook High School library.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Caitlin Eichler – 2015-16 Teacher of the Year. Caitlin will be recognized at the October BOE meeting.

IV. Brief Recess: New Teacher/Staff Reception – The following new teachers and staff members were introduced to the Board: Susan Hourihan, WHS Art Teacher; Molly McKenna, WHS English Teacher; Kara Lesandrine, Sp. Ed. Teacher; Taylor Price, Life Skills Teacher; Linnea Fitzgerald, Sp. Ed. Teacher; Brittany Palermo, Sp Ed. Teacher; Jenna Brady, Sp. Ed. Teacher; Teg Cosgriff, Athletic Director; Kelly Hunt, Job Coach; Joanna Brother, Tesol Teacher; Paraprofessionals: Elizabeth Divenere, Sarah Gomes, Jerushia Wrighten-Kelly; Shealyn Redfield, Daisy Secretary; Sheryl Cannata, Cafeteria Aide.

Moved by Kim Walker and seconded by Marti White to recess for a brief reception to meet new staff members. Vote unanimous.

Maureen Westbrook, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. after the brief reception.

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V. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Caitlin McNary was designated as the student representative to the Board of Education. Caitlin is a high honors student, involved in Buddy Baseball and an All state Class S swimmer. Caitlin reported on the opening of school from the student perspective. She commented on school climate in regard to teachers and welcoming incoming freshman by upperclassmen. Caitlin also talked about the beginning of the fall sports season.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments

VII. ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS

A. School Opening/Transition:
WHS Principal Tara Winch talked about the positive freshmen transition, interactive activities with parents and students, resources in the community and the smooth opening of school.
Cori DiMaggio, WMS Principal, spoke about the middle school opening activities including a student led scavenger hunt. There was also a parent orientation and personal phone calls to incoming 5th graders.
Ruth Rose, Daisy Principal, talked about kindergarten orientation, the diverse group of students, nine of whom do not have English. Mrs. Rose also thanked the Board for providing a luncheon for staff.

B. Bilingual Designation: Madeline Illinger, Special Services Director and Joanna Brother, TESOL Teacher reported to the Board that Westbrook has twenty Spanish speaking students at Daisy. Westbrook qualified for a Bilingual grant of $1767 and Title II grant is $4084. Last year ESL enrollment was 35 students compared to this year currently at 50 ESL students. Services are available for any students in need and also help with testing.

C. Athletics – Teg Cosgriff, Athletic Director, spoke about the opening of the Fall sports season. The girls' soccer team attended a Jamboree, a 9/11 Memorial. He said that parents have been introduced to on-line registrations for athletics, with the help of Ben Russell, IT Coordinator. Mr. Cosgriff held a fall sports parents meeting on August 31. At an all coaches meeting he talked about core values of Westbrook athletics, areas to be developed, and the image of Westbrook athletics. He has met with the health office, Greenscape, Rich Annino (Park and Rec), OSYFAL and First Student on transportation. He commented that Westbrook students are friendly, outgoing, and welcoming and that he is fortunate to be a part of Westbrook athletics.

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS**: Maureen Westbrook mentioned the need to schedule a "Community Conversation" on how we maintain quality education in Westbrook.

IX. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

A. Enrollment: The Superintendent reported enrollment of 780 student at this time, including six out-placed and one exchange student. She commented that she is still waiting to hear from the Rotary on an exchange student who requested attending WHS.

B. Mastery Tests: Reporting: The Superintendent provided a thorough PowerPoint presentation on Smarter Balanced Assessment. She will send the presentation to the Board electronically. The report included background information and scoring information. Superintendent Ciccone reported that the scores are good and the administrators will present their findings to the Board in October. She reported that grades 3-8 will take the SBAC's but juniors will take SAT's , which are being redesigned, as their mastery test. which are being redesigned. She will be attending a workshop with the high school principal on that.

C. Subcommittee meetings: The Board was given a schedule of dates for subcommittee meetings, which follows the same format as last year. The first Policy meeting is scheduled for September 17. Jackie Lyman would like to become the high school PTSO representative from the Board and either Lee Bridgewater or Michelle Palumbo would represent the Board at the middle school.

D. Meeting with Selectman, BOF Chair and Finance Director: Superintendent Ciccone talked about a recent meeting with First Selectman Noel Bishop, BOF Chair, Paul Connelly and Westbrook Finance Manager, Andrew Urban on the subject of surplus expenditures. The Board of Education requested placement on the September 16 BOF agenda. Maureen Westbrook commented that the topic of ECS funds should also be discussed.

Superintendent Ciccone briefed the Board on the issue of drones. She mentioned that conversations on the use of drones during sports games in Westbrook and Old Saybrook. The Board should be aware that Old Saybrook is vetting the use of drones for liability, intrusion issues, FAA regulations, distractions, etc.

X. **OLD BUSINESS**

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes:

1. Regular Meeting – August 11, 2015: *Moved by Dee Adorno and Seconded by Kim Walker to approve the minutes of August. (Ayes) K. Walker,* D. Adorno, M *Westbrook, M. Palumbo, P. Labbadia, J. Lyman L. Bridgewater (Abstained) S. Greaves, M. White*
2. Special Meeting – September 1, 2015: *Moved by Pat Labbadia and seconded by Michelle Palumbo to approve the minutes of the special meeting of September 1, 2015 with the modification of wording in item VI. Vote unanimous.*

XII. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. Review of Check Listing: Board members reviewed check listings for August, 2015: The Board reviewed check listings for August 13 in the amount of $106,911.92 and for August 27, 2015 in the amount of $134,443.49.

B. Budget Narrative/Review of Expenditure Report: Mrs. Wysocki provided an overview of the budget as it stands. She reported that August is a "holding pattern" and September will give a more accurate report with adjustments in salary and benefits

C. Line Item Transfer: No requests

D. Insurance Report (not available)

XIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Policy– M. White (no report)

B. Communications (no report)

C. Long Range Planning – Although the LRP has not met, Pat Labbadia said the School Building Committee is continuing to make progress with the windows project, etc.

D. Insurance- L. Bridgewater (no report)

E. Negotiations - S. Greaves (no report) Superintendent Ciccone commented that language issues are being worked out and a meeting to finalize will occur soon.

F. PTSO Representatives - J. Lyman, K. Walker, L. Bridgewater (no report) Kim Walker mentioned the Daisy Family Picnic at 5:00 on Wednesday, September 09.

XIV. PERSONNEL:

A. Professional Appointment(s)

1. Susan Hourihan, WHS Art Teacher
2. Molly McKenna, WHS English Teacher

Moved by Pat Labbadia and seconded by Kim Walker to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Susan Horihan as WHS Art Teacher and Molly McKenna as WHS English Teacher. Vote unanimous.

B. For the Boards' information, the following are recent non-certified appointment(s)

1. Taylor Price – Special Education Life Skills Class
2. Kelly Hunt - .1 Special Education Paraprofessional
3. Elizabeth DiVenere – WHS Special Education Paraprofessional
4. Jerushia Wrighten-Kelly – WHS Paraprofessional
5. Sheryl Cannata - Cafeteria personnel (Daisy)

C. Child Rearing Leave Request(s)

1. Julie-Lynn Silva requested leave to begin on December 7 or earlier pending earlier delivery of her child. Moved by Kim Walker and seconded by Marti White to approve child rearing leave for Julie-Lynn Silva through the end of the 2015-16 school year. Vote unanimous.

   The Board was informed that Abbey Fredrickson delivered her baby on September 1 and plans to return to work on November 3.

   The Board was also informed of the resignation of Jackie Cerase, Daisy Secretary, effective November 18, 2015.

XV. ADJOURN: *Moved by Mari White and seconded by Kim Walker to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Vote unanimous.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Walker, Board Secretary *Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk*