WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, September 13, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Board of Education Meeting

MINUTES

Present: Lee Bridgewater, Marti White, Don Perreault, Mary Ella Luft, Dee Adorno, Kim Walker, Michelle Palumbo, Sally Greaves

Absent: Jackie Lyman

Also Present: Superintendent Patricia A. Ciccone; Administrators; Ruth Rose, Cori DiMaggio; Tara Winch; Special Services Director, Madeline Illinger; IT Specialist, Ben Russell; Michele Hammond, Curriculum Lead Teacher; English/Language Arts Dept: Caitlin Eichler, PLC Leader, ELA Dept. Molly McKenna, Craig O'Connor-Hall (Nancy Malafronte was unable to attend)

I. CALL TO ORDER – Lee Bridgewater, Chair, called the regular meeting of September 13, 2016 to order at 7:00 p.m. in the WHS library.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. **Heather Gersz** – 2016-17 Teacher of the Year. The BOE presented Heather Gersz with a plaque to honor her as having been selected as 2016-17 Teacher of the Year. Superintendent Ciccone spoke of Heather's attributes which led her to this honor. She was selected by her colleagues and the Teacher of the Year committee. Superintendent Ciccone complimented the Committee on the work they did in selecting Heather as the Teacher of the Year.

New teachers and staff were introduced to the Board and a brief welcoming reception was held. New staff included: Matthew Talmadge, WMS Music Band/Chorus Gr. 5 teacher; Stephen Trojan, Elementary School Teacher (3rd Grade); Special Education Teachers: Rebecca Lyon (WMS), Kara Lesandrine (WHS/WMS); Taylor Price (Daisy). Paraprofessionals: Jacqueline Hartley (WHS), Daniel Jennings (WHS), Robin Rotondi (WMS), Meghan Condren (Daisy), Rachael Benisvy (WMS). Also Tiffini Hovey as IT Assistant and Brianna Banach – WMS Secretary.

Moved by Sally Greaves and seconded by Michelle Palumbo to adjourn regular session for a brief reception at 7:10 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Regular session resumed at 7:35 p.m.

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Caitlin McNary, Student BOE Representative, talked about Boys' and Girls' Soccer Teams and Field Hockey having won all of their games thus far. Upcoming events include NHS applications, Open House and Field Day. *The Board of Education commended Caitlin on her many college acceptances and scholarships.*

V. PUBLIC COMMENT: No Comments

VI. ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS

A. Second Language Acquisition at Daisy: M. Illinger and R. Rose: Currently, Mrs. Rose reported there are 45 ELL students at Daisy, an increase from April, 2015 of ten students. In total, she said that 17% of the school population are ELL students. She talked about the many resources available, including WECC and WELL, technical support, and the work of the TESOL teacher, Joanna Brother, and Lisa Finnigan at the high school, who is teaching an ESL class. Madeline Illinger talked about plans for professional development for the Daisy staff. The district is servicing 73 ELL students in 2016-17 compared to 43 in 2014.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. WHS English Language Arts Curriculum Presentation. Michele Hammond, Curriculum Lead Teacher, was present with the WHS English Language Arts Department, (Caitlin Eichler, Craig O'Connor-Hall, and Molly McKenna). The group talked about the process in writing the high school English/Language Arts curriculum. Caitlin Eichler, PLC 9-12 Leader, expressed appreciation to those involved in writing the curriculum and to Michele Hammond for her insight and support. Dee Adorno acknowledged the phenomenal amount of work involved as well. Superintendent Ciccone recommended the Board approve the curriculum work of the English/ Language Arts department. *Moved by Don Perreault and seconded by Marti White* to *approve the high school English/Language Arts curriculum as presented. Vote unanimous.*

B. Field Trip Request:

1. Ski Trip Request to Breckenridge, CO – Heidi Joslyn, Ski Club Advisor, requested board approval for a ski trip during February break, to Breckenridge, CO. It is anticipated that approximately ten students will participate, with the appropriate number of chaperones. Ms. Josyln has organized successful ski trips in past years. She provided an itinerary and travel plans for the Board's review. *Moved by Mary Ella Luft and seconded by Marti White to approve the ski trip to Breckenridge, CO during the February 2017 school break. Vote unanimous.*

2. "Facebook InspirEd Summit" – Superintendent Patricia Ciccone reported that WHS is one of 25 high schools in the nation to be named a pioneer school due to their commitment to create a positive school climate. Chet Bialicki, Tara Winch and two Teen Leadership students are requesting approval to attend the 2016 InspirEd Summit in Menlo Park, CA, the result of an award sponsored by Facebook and the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence (Changemaker award). The cost of the trip is completely paid for by Facebook for two adults and two students. Travel is by airplane and limousine. The two students will be preparing a presentation for the Facebook InspirEd Summit, pertaining to WHS and the school climate efforts. They will be awarded a $5,000 unrestricted grant awarded. *Moved by Kim Walker and seconded by Dee Adorno to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to support the trip to Menlo Park, CA, October 6-9. Vote unanimous.*

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Enrollment: Superintendent Ciccone reported current enrollment of 769 students and pending are 5 additional students to be added soon.

B. October BOE Retreat: The Superintendent reminded the Board of the October 15 (8 am-2 or 3 pm) designated day for the Board Retreat to be held at Oxford Academy. Anne Littlefield will be the facilitator. She and Marti White recently met with Atty. Littlefield to talk about strategies for the retreat. She said the Board will be updated as plans are decided upon for the retreat. Lee Bridgewater and Marti White spoke of the benefits of the retreat.

C. Regional/State Informational Update: Updates from the Superintendent included the results of the water testing at the schools by CT water. There are no issues and a formal report will be forthcoming. Also, the Superintendent reported that the facilities director is following through on plans to install a Water Bubbler System in the middle school, which is being funded by the PTSO. She also reported on the design and progress of the new Westbrook Public Schools webpage.

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Policy 5145.511 – Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention & Education

B. Policy 5141.4 – Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

These policies were reviewed at the August meeting with the revisions from the work of the Policy Subcommittee. It was recommended the full board approved the policies as revised by the Policy Subcommittee. *Moved by Marti White and seconded by Dee Adorno. Vote unanimous.*

X. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes:

1. Regular Meeting – August 9, 2016 : Moved by Marti White and seconded by Mary Ella Luft to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2016. Ayes: L. Bridgewater, D. Perreault, M. Luft, D. Adorno, M. White (via phone) Abstained: K. Walker, S. Greaves, M. Palumbo.

XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. Review of Check Listing: Board members reviewed check listings for August 11, 2016 in the amount of $92,785.12 and for August 25, 2016 in the amount of $51, 366.29.

B. Budget Narrative/Review of Expenditure Report: Mrs. Wysocki provided an overview of the budget as it stands.

C. Line Item Transfer: None

D. Insurance Report: Not available

XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Standing Subcommittees – Subcommittee membership was reviewed. Mary Ella Luft will replace Kim Walker as the Board representative to the Daisy PTSO.

B. LEARN – D. Adorno reported that the LEARN Board of Directors talked about concerns regarding the reduction of grant money and the recent court case on equitability of funding. They also heard a report on the NEASC evaluation of the Marine Science School. Also, there was a discussion on the number of subcommittees of boards of education at each of the schools, ranging from zero to several.

C. Policy– No recent meeting

D. Communications – No recent meeting

E. Long Range Planning – No report

F. Insurance- At a recent meeting, insurance renewal processes were discussed, and well as student accident insurance renewal and use of reserve funds. The committee will meet in December.
G. Negotiations - S. Greaves reported there were no meetings.
H. PTSO Representatives - J. Lyman, K. Walker, M. Palumbo (have not met)

XIII. PERSONNEL: Vote Anticipated

A. Professional Appointment(s)

1. Rebecca Lyon – Special Education Teacher.
2. Stephen Trojan, Elementary School Teacher

Moved by Don Perreault and seconded by Kim Walker to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Rebecca Lyon as Special Education Teacher and Stephen Trojan as an elementary teacher. Vote unanimous.

B. FYI: Non-certified Appointment(s)

The Board was informed of the following non-certified appointments.

1. Jacqueline Hartley – Life Skills Paraprofessional (5-12)
2. Daniel Jennings - Life Skills Paraprofessional (5-12)
3. Robin Rotundi – Life Skills Paraprofessional (WMS)
4. Meghan Condren – Paraprofessional (Daisy)
5. Rachael Benisvy – Paraprofessional (WMS)

C. FYI: Non-Certified Resignation(s)

The Board was notified of the following non-certified resignations.

1. Elizabeth DiVenere – Paraprofessional/Home Base program, submitted her resignation effective August 29, 2016.
2. Karen Martin – Paraprofessional at WMS submitted a resignation letter effective August 31. 2016.

XIV. ADJOURN: Moved by Dee Adorno and seconded by Kim Walker to adjourn at 9:16 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Walker, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk