

**WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Tuesday, March 08, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Regular Board of Education Meeting**

***MINUTES***

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

**Also Present:** Superintendent Patricia A. Ciccone; Administrators, Ruth Rose, Cori DiMaggio; Business Manager Lesley Wysocki; Parents, Students

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

1. Fourth grade students, Norah Hayden and Jerli Espinoza, were recognized by the Board of Education for their excellence in Music and Art. These students were also honored at the CAS Music and Art Elementary Awards Ceremony held on February 22 at the Aqua Turf. Lee Bridgewater, Chair, presented Norah and Jerli with Certificates of Excellence. Ruth Rose gave the students an opportunity to speak with the Board about their experience at the award's ceremony.
2. BOE Recognition: As the month of March being designated as Board of Education Appreciation Month, Superintendent Ciccone talked about the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Education. She thanked each of the board members for promoting teaching and learning and for their numerous volunteer hours. They were each given tokens of appreciation.

**IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – No report**

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT Re: Matters of General Concern & Agenda Items: No comments**

**VI. ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS**

- A. T. Winch – AP Courses Update: The Superintendent reported for Principal Winch, who was attending the Westbrook Girls' Basketball First Quarter State Semi-Finals. Principal Winch is increasing AP offerings. She said that WHS has offered UCONN ECE courses which have provided students with challenging academic opportunities and the possibility of obtaining UCONN credit. Advanced Placement courses would offer students, considering colleges other than UCONN, more opportunities. Subjects

currently being offered are AP Psychology, AP European History, AP Calculus, and AP Statistics.

- B. R. Rose – Literacy Initiative Progress: Principal Rose gave an update on literacy and reading at Daisy Ingraham school. The recent book fair and Read Across America Week provided an opportunity to involve students and faculty in celebrating reading and gave students a chance to get involved and excited through choices of reading materials, buddy classes, book discussions and guest book readers.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Water Filling Stations – PTO Recommendation: Superintendent Ciccone reported that the WMS PTO is interested in buying water filling station(s) for the middle school. The research shows there will be electrical and plumbing work needed as part of the installation process. There may be a small amount of masonry work necessary to retrofit the units, but that is not yet clear. The filtration devices would have to be maintained and monitored by maintenance. Each filter would cost \$125 per filter. The Board was asked to give the PTO's recommendation consideration and this item will be placed on the April agenda for Board approval.

## **VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Enrollment – Superintendent Ciccone reported that the March 1st enrollment is 784 students, which equals 776 PreK through 12, plus 7 outplaced and one exchange student.
- B. Connecticut Next Generation Accountability System: The Superintendent reported on data from the Next Generation Accountability report for 2014-15. She said that although the data appears to be correct she has concerns. She talked about the SBAC testing designed to measure student performance, but not teacher quality. She presented her thoughts on the scoring. She said there is a lot going on with the state legislative bill related to this topic. Specifically, the Education Committee took testimony on one bill that would prohibit the use of standardized state test results from being used relative to teacher evaluations. The Superintendent will continue to analyze the data for a full report at the April Board of Education meeting.
- C. Schools and School Funding: Superintendent Ciccone reported that education reformers believe that giving more money to schools is not going to improve them. However, it appears that there is evidence that used wisely dollars do matter. In the near future, with state budget cuts, it appears that there will be more local control related to municipal budget funding without state dollars. She said the relatively new research indicates that money cannot ease all problems that pertain to education, but schools using funding in reasonable ways is part of the solution.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. 2016-17 School Budget Review and Discussion: The Board reviewed and discussed the Superintendent's proposed budget, which was down a bit from the review at the February meeting. The Superintendent went through each of the categories again

and with some adjustments, the budget is now down to 1.57% from 1.76% at last month's presentation.

- B. 2016-17 School Budget: Final Review and Adoption of Superintendent's Recommended Budget: Board Chair, Lee Bridgewater, commended Superintendent Ciccone and Business Manager Lesley Wysocki for their work on the 2016-17 budget. The Board voted to adopt the Superintendent's Budget at \$17,738, 511.00, an increase of 1.57%. Moved by Marti White and seconded by Dee Adorno. Vote unanimous. The budget will be presented to the Board of Finance on March 16 at 6:30 p.m.

## **X. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of Minutes:

- 1. Special Meeting – February 12, 2016: Moved by Marti White and seconded by Sally Greaves to approve the minutes of February 12, 2016. (Ayes) L. Bridgewater, M. White, M. Luft, M. Palumbo, S. Greaves, D. Perreault (Abstained) Kim Walker, Dee Adorno, Jackie Lyman

## **XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- A. Review of Check Listing: Board members reviewed check listings for February 11, 2016 in the amount of \$151,181.21 and for February 25 in the amount of \$96,517.15.
- B. Budget Narrative/Review of Expenditure Report. The Business Manager provided the Board with information relative to the budget and indicated that she has no concerns.
- C. Line Item Transfer: None
- D. Insurance Report: Not available

## **XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. LEARN report – D. Adorno reported that the regional calendar was discussed, as well as Professional Development. LEARN Director, Eileen Howley, talked about LEARN Board members' roles, and New London Superintendent of Schools presented on their Strategic Plan. Also discussed was the construction on the Marine Science Magnet High School.
- B. Policy– M. White reported on the Policy Subcommittee meeting of February 25. The committee reviewed the Wellness Policy. With some minor tweaks in the language, this policy will be brought to the April meeting for a first reading. The next Policy Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for March 31 at 4:30 p.m.
- C. Communications - J. Lyman (no meeting)
- D. Long Range Planning (no meeting) – Michelle Palumbo reported that the Building Committee is moving forward with window replacements at the high school and Daisy.
- E. Insurance - L. Bridgewater (no meeting)
- F. Negotiations - S. Greaves (no meeting)
- G. PTSO Representatives - J. Lyman, K. Walker, M. Palumbo: Kim Walker reported on the huge success of the Daisy Father/Daughter dance. Jackie Lyman announced the

Project Graduation Pasta Dinner on April 2 at St. Mark's Church from 6 – 9 p.m.  
Michelle Palumbo mentioned the fundraiser on April 29 at Waters Edge (Joey and Maria's Wedding performance.)

**XIII. PERSONNEL:**

**A. New Hires – Non-Certified (FYI)**

1. Julia Hall – PT Paraprofessional – Westbrook Middle School – Ms. Hall has recently worked with Kelly Educational Staffing as a substitute teacher and a paraprofessional.
2. Donna Kos – Spanish Teacher – Westbrook High School – Ms. Kos most recently taught Spanish in several schools as a short and long term-substitute. She holds degrees from Bowling Green State University and University of Akron and from the University of California at Santa Cruz (USCS), a Certificate ESL. Ms. Kos will teach at the high school through the end of the school year.

**B. Resignation(s)**

1. Sarah Bouchard Stockton – WMS Music Teacher – Sarah, WMS Music Teacher, submitted a letter of resignation effective July 1, 2016. Sarah will complete work on the curriculum over the next few months. Moved by K. Walker and seconded by Jackie Lyman to accept with regret the resignation of Sara Bouchard Stockton, effective July 1, 2016. Vote unanimous.

**XIV. ADJOURN:** Moved by Marti White and seconded by Michelle Palumbo to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Walker, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk