

EDUCATE, CHALLENGE, & INSPIRE

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, November 23, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

Special Board of Education Meeting

Google Meet

MINUTES

Members Present: Z. Hayden, S. Greaves, K. Walker, M. Luft, M. Palumbo, D. Perreault, C. Kuehlewind, M. Brigham, M. Esposito

Also present: Interim Superintendent Patricia Charles, Administrators: T. Winch, R. Rose, S. Miller, M. Illinger, IT Specialist B. Russell, Athletic Director T. Cosgriff; Faculty/Staff

I. CALL TO ORDER – Z. Hayden, Chair, called the Special Meeting of November 23, 2020 to order at 5:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. CREATING SMOOTH TRANSITIONS WHEN CHANGING LEARNING MODES – Discussion and Possible Vote: Dr. Charles provided an in-depth presentation on schedule changes from last year to this year for remote learning, including side by side of schedules for different modalities this year. An overview of Dr. Charles presentation included the following:

- Teachers have had more professional development which was front-loaded at the beginning of the school year in preparation for remote learning.
- Students are fluent with Google Education products
- Better use of paraprofessionals
- In-person services for special education students
- Social Emotional Learning Activities built into both modalities
- Teachers more comfortable with synchronous teaching
- Other considerations for remote schedules: screen time, movement time, breaks, lunch time, connections with parents/guardians

Dr. Charles provided a chart of the remote schedules for each of the schools showing instructional hours for in-person and remote learning and talked about ongoing challenges such as disengaged students, working parents, internet & technology issues, school/family connections, and staffing as well as staying healthy.

Board members were given an opportunity to speak regarding the presentation. Dr. Charles, Administrators and Board members discussed details about schedule changes,

efforts to create similar in-person and remote schedules, and ensuring clear and proactive communications to families about changes. Board members were appreciative of the presentation. It was suggested the Board have a follow up meeting on this topic in January. MOTION by K. Walker to meet in thirty days to follow up on the progress being made on distance Learning. SECOND by C. Kuehlewind. M. Brigham moved to amend the motion to change the wording to "meet after the first of the year". SECOND by C. Kuehlewind. Vote: Unanimous

IV. EXECUTIVE ORDER 7R:

The Board was given a copy of Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7R which addresses education work force sustainability. Dr. Charles said that Westbrook received interpretations from legal counsel. It was determined that employees continue to work-some support students online while others do their assignment in-person. There was conversation about the difference between a person being laid off as opposed to being furloughed. Dr. Charles is following up on this terminology. M. Esposito questioned how to address unemployment due to lack of work. Z. Hayden commented that keeping employees on board is a good option when faced with returning to in-person learning at any given time.

V. ADJOURN: MOTION by M. Palumbo and SECOND by D. Perreault to adjourn at 6:18 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Walker, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk

Approved: 12-8-2020