

**WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Tuesday, April 10, 2018 @ 7:00 pm.**

**Regular Board of Education Meeting**

**MINUTES**

Present: Lee Bridgewater, Sally Greaves, Kim Walker, Jackie Lyman, Michelle Palumbo, Don Perreault, Mary Ella Luft, Zachary Hayden

Members absent: Dee Adorno

Also Present: Superintendent Patricia A. Ciccone; Administrators Tara Winch, Ruth Rose, Taylor Wrye; Madeline Illinger, Special Services Director; Lesley Wysocki, Business Manager; Ben Russell, Technology Specialist

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – The regular meeting of April 10, 2018 was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Lee Bridgewater, Chair, in the WHS library.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

L. Bridgewater, Chair, made a motion to add to Section IV. A. an item to rescind the School Calendar vote for 2018-19 approved on Dec. 12, 2017. Moved by S. Greaves and seconded by M. Palumbo. Vote unanimous.

**III. BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

- A.** CAS Art Awards: Daisy students Patrick Pluck and Alyssa Leandri were selected by their teachers, Mr. Biegaj, Ms. Bellizzi, and Mrs. Hammond, for their talents and hard work in the area of Art and Music. They were present with their families and accepted certificates of excellence from the BOE.
- B.** CAFE Student Leadership Awards: WHS students, Olivia Fabrizi and Damarys Nicol Jara and middle school students, Jami Sacco and Gianni Salisbury were selected by faculty members to receive the CAFE Student Leadership Awards this year. These students exhibit exemplary leadership skills. The criteria for this award includes: \*Willingness to take on challenges, \*Capacity to make difficult decisions, \*Concern for others; \*Ability to work with others, \*Diplomacy, \*Ability to understand issues clearly, and \*Ability to honor a commitment. The BOE presented the students with Certificates of Excellence.
- C.** BOE Recognition: Superintendent Ciccone acknowledged the BOE members for BOE Recognition Month. She complimented them on their dedication, enthusiasm and caring

concern for students and staff, and acknowledged their impressive hours of service laboring over decisions and budgets, and more; making sure we get what we need.

**IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT** – Katelyn Wallace reported on school activities including the beginning of spring sports, success of the High School Bowl, JV and Varsity Math Teams, an upcoming event for the Theater department for a 24 hour play festival with proceeds to benefit next year's season, and a trip to New York City, pending BOE approval, for Ms. McManus' class to visit the Federal Reserve Bank among other New York landmarks.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Patrick Hanssen, WHS teacher and WEA President, commented on his 2018-19 calendar research showing that the faculty is 65% in favor of adjusting the February vacation and 33% against.

**VI. ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS**

**A. NEASC Accreditation Final Report** – T. Winch updated the Board on the NEASC final evaluation report. She thanked the co chairs, Nancy Malafronte and Caitlyn Eichler, the Steering Committee and everyone involved for their hard work. She reported that the school was awarded continued accreditation, its highest level, and there were many commendations including a strong focus on school climate, electronic portfolios, etc. She was appreciative of the early groundwork of the former principal, Robert Hale and former ELA teacher, Steven Albrecht. The committee visited in October and was impressed with student leadership. There is a requirement of a two year and a five year progress report on which the high school is already working. Ms. Winch thanked the Board for their support. Katie Wallace, Student Representative, commented that the student body came together to give a great impression to the committee. BOE members echoed praise and celebrated the impressive process and results.

**B. Schools of Distinction** – R. Rose presented to the Board on the Next Generation Accountability Report. She talked about the accountability index based on 12 indicators and Westbrook's average of 84.2% compared to the State at 73.2%. Westbrook ranks #3 out of 169 districts in Westbrook students' SBAC growth in ELA and in Math, #2 out of 169 districts. The participation rate in state testing is ranked very high Daisy Ingraham School's two Counts of Distinction are Highest Performing Elementary School and Highest Growth – all students. The middle school's two Counts of Distinction are Highest Growth – all students and Highest Growth - High Needs Students. Board members were more than pleased and applauded our student success.

**C. WMS & Computer Science** – T. Wrye, WMS Principal and D. Runkle, WMS Technology teacher, reported to the Board on the WMS Computer Science Pilot program. They are excited to be the first middle school potentially in Connecticut to have a curriculum. Ms. Runkle has been awarded a fully scholarshiped seat for a week long professional development course in Arizona this summer. The curriculum will cover grades 5-8. Grade 5 will learn about computer science basics and keyboarding; Grade 6 – Digital Citizenship and keyboarding, Grade 7 will participate in a free curriculum called CODE.org and Grade

8 will learn digital media. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will have a hand in the creation of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion presentation.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. District Calendar**

1. Graduation Date 2018: The Board was presented with options for setting the graduation date for 2018. Superintendent Ciccone recommended Tuesday, June 26 as WHS graduation date and the last day of school for students and staff. Moved by K. Walker and seconded by Z. Hayden to designate June 26, 2018 as WHS graduation. Vote unanimous.
2. February Vacation Week:  
Lee Bridgewater, Chair, made a motion to rescind the December 12, 2018 vote to approve the 2018-19 calendar. Moved by Z. Hayden and seconded by S. Greaves. Vote unanimous. The Board was provided with three options surrounding the February break: 1) The full week 2/18-2/22. 2) Presidents' Day plus One Day. 3) Presidents' Day only. Some members thought the calendar should stand as voted with the full week of February vacation, as consideration should be given to those who have already made plans. Another member stated that it is the Board's job to look at the educational value for the students and February break is an interruption in learning. Another comment was that it is unfair to change this year; but should be considered changing for the following year. Z. Hayden suggested considering the quality of school instructional environment comparing the quality of teaching in February as opposed to June.

S. Greaves moved to table rescinding the vote and to schedule a special meeting to further discuss the issue. Seconded by K. Walker. Vote unanimous.

- B. Field Trip Request –Susan McManus, Business Teacher, requested an out of state field trip to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on April 26. Approximately 20 students, grades 10-12, will participate with two teacher chaperones. Students will tour the Federal Reserve Bank and the Financial District, and visit One World Trade Building. Travel will be by coach bus (paid by Perkins Grant). Cost to students for admissions is \$20/student. The bus will leave at 6:30 am and return at 8:00 pm. Superintendent Ciccone recommended the BOE approve the field trip request to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York City, NY on April 26, 2018. Moved by M. Palumbo and seconded by M. Luft. Vote unanimous.

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

- A. Enrollment – Superintendent Ciccone reported April enrollment totals of 738 students (Pre K through 12 = 732 plus 6 out-placed).
- B. S-T-C position & Grant Application Progress: The Superintendent updated the Board on a collaboration with the Economic Assistance Team of the Westbrook Basic Needs Task Force to provide School to Career program. This would require the

services of a School-to-Career position to work with students and to develop Job Placement, Shadowing, Internship, Apprenticeship, Community Service and Capstone Authentic Research opportunities with business, public and private. Thus, a grant application has been submitted to The Westbrook Foundation to request funding for the position for two years. The program would benefit students and employers.

- C. Community Conversation Impact – Superintendent Ciccone expressed appreciation to the Board, faculty, students and community for attending the Community Conversation event on April 4th, stating it was well worth the effort relative to the topic on school violence. She suggested this should be the first of many as topics of interest to the wider community develop.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Capital Improvement Plan: The Capital Improvement Plan has not been approved and requires further discussion.
- B. Oil Tank Removal/Generator Project & Town Building Committee: This item has been moved to the Building Committee and will be discussed on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **X. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of Minutes:

1. Special Meeting – March 13, 2018: Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by M. Luft to approve the minutes of March 13, 2018 (Ayes) Z. Hayden, M. Luft, M. Palumbo, L. Bridgewater, S. Greaves, J. Lyman, D. Perreault (Abstained) K. Walker
2. Special Meeting – March 27, 2018: Moved by K. Walker and seconded by M. Palumbo to approve the minutes of March 27, 2018 (Ayes) Z. Hayden, M. Luft, M. Palumbo, L. Bridgewater, K. Walker, D. Perreault (Abstained) S. Greaves, J. Lyman

## **XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- A. Review of Check Listing: Board members reviewed check listings for March 9, 2018, in the amount of \$158, 681.22 and for March 21, 2018 in the amount of \$151,940.95.
- B. Budget Narrative/Review of Expenditure Report: L. Wysocki reported expenditures are typical for the month of March.
- C. Line Item Transfer: None
- D. Insurance Report: An insurance report was provided for the Board's review.

## **XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. LEARN report – (no report)
- B. Policy– (no report)
- C. Communications - (no report)

- D. Long Range Planning –Business Manager, L. Wysocki, referenced last CIP and its shifted plan design. This item needs more discussion after the Building Committee meeting.
- E. Insurance - L. Bridgewater reported on a productive meeting prior to the BOE meeting.
- F. Negotiations - S. Greaves reported the committee has met once with AFT and has 4 scheduled dates to meet again.
- G. Town Energy Ad Hoc Committee – L. Wysocki reported the micro grid project is back on the table.
- H. PTSO Representatives – M. Palumbo reported the WMS PTSO discussed fundraising, ideas for game night, the success of the middle school play, SBAC testing, Teacher Appreciation Week, Book Fair and Conferences. The PTSO purchased a drill bit for Mr. Abbott and are looking at sound equipment. J. Lyman mentioned that \$10,000 was raised at the Pasta dinner for Project Graduation.

Moved by M. Palumbo and seconded by J. Lyman to move into Executive Session at 9:15 pm.  
Vote unanimous.

Discussion of matters that would result in the disclosure of exempt matters.

Moved by M. Palumbo and seconded by J. Lyman to move back into regular session. Vote unanimous.

**XIII. PERSONNEL:** No personnel actions

**XIV. ADJOURN:** Moved by M. Palumbo and seconded by J. Lyman to adjourn at 9:31 p.m.  
Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Walker, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk