

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, May 10, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

Regular Board of Education Meeting

MINUTES

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

Absent: Sally Greaves

Also Present: Superintendent Patricia A. Ciccone; Administrators, Ruth Rose, Cori DiMaggio; Tara Winch; Madeline Illinger, Special Services Director, Business Manager Lesley Wysocki; Ben Russell, IT Specialist, Students, Parents

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Lee Bridgewater, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

III. **BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** The BOE recognized the following students and presented them with Certificates of Excellence: Two high school students, **Carmen Borca Carrillo** and **Bradley Cates** and two middle school students, **Morgan Pill** and **Brandon Jacques**, were recognized for having received the CABE Student Leadership Awards. These awards are based on a student's willingness to accept challenges, capability to make difficult decisions, concern for others, ability to work with others, willingness to commit to a project, diplomacy, ability to honor a commitment, and their personal integrity. **Isabel Araya**, **Madison Liberatore** and **Carson Waldron**, WMS students are the recipients of the CAS (Connecticut Association of Schools) Scholar/Leader Awards, based on their scholarship and leadership as prescribed by CAS. WMS students, **Isabel Araya** and **Sarah Davey** have received recognition for essays submitted to the UCONN Student Writers Magazine. Isabel, for her short story, *The Blanket*, will be published in the magazine and Sarah, for her story *Bella's Tail*, won honorable mention. WMS students, **Daniel Genovese** and **Lexi Koplas**, are the prestigious award winners for their American History essays submitted to the Daughters of the American Revolution. The topic was the Stamp Act of 1765. Principals Cori DiMaggio and Tara Winch reviewed the accomplishments of each of the deserving students.

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

V. PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments

VI. ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS

- A. Wellness Council Policy/Annual Report Update – Madeline Illinger gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Wellness Council’s work on the Wellness Policy. She said that she, Linda LaBrec (Consumer Science teacher), and Lesley Wysocki attended a CSDE training. In the creation of the Wellness Policy, Mrs. Illinger said the Council, consisting of a broad spectrum of members including administrators, parents, community members and staff, pulled information from many resources including the UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity and they used the Alliance Policy as a model. The content of the policy covers nutrition, physical activity and other activities that promote student wellness. Mrs. Illinger is working on an annual report to be presented at a later date. Lee Bridgewater extended appreciation to the Wellness Council and cited the policy as being a wonderful tool to educate our children to eat healthy and promote wellness.
- B. Update on NEASC visit – Tara Winch updated the BOE on the 2017 NEASC visit. She and the Steering Committee attended a NEASC workshop and learned that Westbrook is on track in the accreditation process. In the area of Civics and Social Studies, CSDE changes are still being processed, but she told the BOE these changes in the NEASC progress and the items of most concern to the accreditor. We are hoping to front-load much of the training’s preparation before the fall.
- C. Overview of new conceptual math program @ Daisy - Ruth Rose gave an overview of the new math program at Daisy. She said teachers have been using “Investigations”. Led by Lesley Harrington, Math Specialist, several programs were studied and it was decided to go with “Bridges”, which is aligned to the Common Core and aligned to technology. The decision was unanimous. Teachers will be trained during PLC meetings and professional development to get acquainted with the Bridges program. In answer to Mr. Perreault’s question about informing parents of the new math program, Mrs. Rose talked about using Math Nights, where students show parents how to do the math and she will also consider presenting at PTO meetings.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Healthy Food Certification** – Superintendent Ciccone reviewed the Healthy Food Certification program with the Board which is aligned with the National School Lunch Program. She said that on a yearly basis the Board must submit the ED099 to CSDE in order to receive reimbursements which amount to approximately \$7000. The Superintendent recommended that the Board of Education certify that all foods sold to Westbrook students will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and that the Board will exclude from certification food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that (1) such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store. Moved by Mary Ella Luft and seconded by Marti White to approve the

Superintendent's recommendation to continue with the Healthy Foods Certification program. Vote unanimous.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Enrollment:** Superintendent Ciccone reported May 1st enrollment totals equal 784 students which includes a recent student enrollment from Ecuador. Pre-K through 12 equals 775 plus 8 outplaced and one exchange student equals 784.) Currently, 50 students have registered for kindergarten for 2016-17.
- B. Budget Expectations:** Superintendent Ciccone reminded the Board of the Town Meeting on Wednesday, May 11. The BOE budget will be presented first. Lee Bridgewater, Chair, encouraged everyone to attend the meeting which will call for the budget vote. The Superintendent said the BOE budget figures remain at \$17,738,511, which is an increase of \$275,000 from last year. The average percentage increase throughout Connecticut is 2.3 to 2.5%. Westbrook is at 1.57%. She said staff can and should attend and listen, even if they are not residents.
- C. SBAC Testing:** The Superintendent reported that SBAC testing is going well. In reference to SAT testing, the Superintendent reported that students now have access to their individual scores, but the district will not have access to aggregate data until sometime after May 12.
- D. Graduation Preparation:** The Superintendent reminded BOE members that June 13 is graduation day. Lineup is at 4:30 with a graduation start at 5:00 p.m. She also mentioned that the Westbrook Foundation was honored at a ceremony at the town hall. They have given \$83,650 worth of scholarships on average each year.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Wellness Policy – 6142.101 – First Reading:** The Board was given the opportunity to review the Wellness Policy for a First Reading. Marti White expressed appreciation to Madeline Illinger for her presentation earlier in the meeting. Kim Walker said she is not comfortable with wording in the celebrations section of the policy. Michelle Palumbo expressed her opinion that she likes giving children options. Marti White said it is the duty of the board to educate people to make healthy choices. Superintendent Ciccone stated that we are an educating institution and our policy is taking us in the direction we need to go. It is a policy with goals to meet into the future. Adult education is a big part of that. The next Policy meeting is on May 19 at 4:30 p.m.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes:

- 1. Regular Meeting – April 12, 2016 – Moved by Jackie Lyman and seconded by Kim Walker to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 12, 2016.
(ayes) L. Bridgewater, M. Palumbo, M. White, D. Perreault, K. Walker, J. Lyman
(Abstained) Mary Ella Luft, Dee Adorno)

XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Review of Check Listing: Board members reviewed check listings for April 7, 2016, in the amount of \$171,213.27 and for April 21, 2016, in the amount of \$92,157.20.
- B. Budget Narrative/Review of Expenditure Report – Lesley reviewed current expenditures, stating there are balances and administrators are prioritizing their needs. Also, there are curricular spring expenses yet to impact our balances.
- C. Line Item Transfer: None
- D. Insurance Report: The Business Manager reported on the current insurance report.

XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. LEARN report – D. Adorno said she met on April 14 at LEARN. The topic was ECS and Jeff Newton, Superintendent in E. Lyme reported on how E. Lyme is dealing with declining enrollment.
- B. Enrollment Subcommittee – no meeting
- C. Policy– M. White reiterated that the Policy Committee will meet on May 19 at 4:30 p.m.
- D. Communications - No meeting
- E. Long Range Planning: Michelle Palumbo reported on the recent Long Range Plan meeting and that projects are moving forward including track and tennis courts, gyms, WMS air conditioning, paving and theater projects. Also, a quote was given for the blinds at Daisy and Lesley is anticipating a quote for the high school as well.
- F. Insurance – No meeting
- G. Negotiations – No meeting
- H. PTO Representatives –WMS PTO will meet on May 19 and Daisy PTO will meet on May 25.

XIII. PERSONNEL

- A. Professional Resignation(s)
 - 1. Jennifer D’Aiuto, WMS Math Specialist, submitted her resignation effective July 1, 2016. Moved by Kim Walker and seconded by Michelle Palumbo to accepted with regret the resignation of Jennifer D’Aiuto effective July 1, 2016. Vote unanimous.
 - 2. Julie-Lynn Silva, Daisy Ingraham Special Education teacher submitted her resignation letter effective June 30, 2016. Moved by Michelle Palumbo and seconded by Kim Walker to accept with regret the resignation of Julie-Lynn Silva effective June 30, 2016. Vote unanimous.
- B. The Board was informed of the Non-Certified Resignation of Emily Wright, WHS Paraprofessional, effective May 20, 2016.
- C. The Board was informed of a new hire in the middle school cafeteria effective April 25, 2016, Barbara Perkins.

XIV. ADJOURN: Moved by Marti White and seconded by Mary Ella Luft to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Vote unanimous. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Walker, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk