

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATE, CHALLENGE, & INSPIRE

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION Tuesday, March 10, 2020 Regular Board of Education Meeting WHS Library
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MINUTES

BOE Members Present: Lee Bridgewater, Sally Greaves, Zachary Hayden, Mary Ella Luft, Michelle Palumbo, Don Perreault, Christine Kuehlewind, Mike Esposito, Kim Walker

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

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Lee Bridgewater, Chair, called the regular meeting of March 10, 2020 to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

III. **BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

A. CT Association of Schools (CAS) Awards for Art & Music – Daisy Students, Cosimo Falcone (Music Award) and Isabella Newhouse (Art Award) were recognized by the Board of Education for having received the CAS awards in the areas of Art and Music. Isabella was present to receive a certificate and her artwork was displayed.

IV. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT** – Jesse McGannon reported on high school winter sports. He said the students are looking forward to the spring season with tennis, track, baseball and softball. He announced that the band concert is cancelled at this time. Juniors will be taking SAT's. There were four performances of *The Little Mermaid* which had great reactions. Tara Winch, WHS Principal, spoke to Jesse's success with the American Legion Oratorical Contest, as he was a local and regional winner for a speech that he researched and wrote.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT** Re: Matters of General Concern & Agenda Items: Shirley Bochanis spoke on behalf of her son, asking the Board's consideration to reassess the rules of his expulsion agreement so that he may participate on a trial basis in some sort of structured school activity. The Board Chair received a copy of Ms. Bochanis' letter. M. Esposito requested a copy.

VI. **ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS**

A. CSDE Accountability Growth Model Results Briefing: R. Rose provided a detailed presentation to the Board on WPS Next Generation Accountability report. She said Board members can review the report online on the Ed Site website. The report helps to track progress and helps schools and districts make improvements. She talked about the 12 indicators of which Westbrook is well

above the state average. Ms. Rose spoke about how the data is utilized to help improve student performance. The strategic planning will help to improve NGSS Science outcomes, close the gap between high needs and non-high needs students, continue support for EL students, and increase student attendance and participation rates.

VII. NEW BUSINESS – No new business

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A.** Enrollment – Superintendent Ciccone reported March enrollment totals equal 666 students Pre K through 12, which includes 6 out-placed students. She commented there have been new enrollments, but also a couple of withdrawals.
- B.** Excess Cost Special Education Cooperative Legislation – Superintendent Ciccone talked about the legislation with regard to the Excess Cost. Both CAPSS and CABE agree that it is a dangerous piece of legislation that some towns will struggle with. The House bill is #5433 for anyone who would like to review it. It is currently being reviewed by the Education Committee. This legislation session runs through May 6th.
- C.** School Security/ Safety Town Meeting – Superintendent Ciccone informed the Board of a meeting on Safety and Security planned by the First Selectman on March 24 at 2:00 at the Municipal Building. She plans to attend with WPS Safety Consultant. State troopers will also attend. What we are doing to insure the safety of our schools will be a topic. If a Board member is interested in attending please RSVP to the Superintendent. The superintendent also reminded the Board of a meeting on March 12 from 7-9 pm at the Municipal Building on Land Conservation.
- D.** Pandemic Update Planning – Superintendent Ciccone updated the Board as to activity regarding Corona virus, the direction schools are receiving regarding school activities, closing information, etc. At the moment and if closings are short term, remote learning is not being suggested. School days lost would have to be made up to equal 180 days. She is monitoring information closely and it would be her responsibility to enact mandates from the Dept. of Health. Field trips are being reviewed, as well as school events and activities such as the middle school play. CIAC has cancelled all state playoff games. Cleaning protocols are in place and although supplies have been ordered, some are on backorder such as hand sanitizer.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- A.** 2020-21 Budget: After a discussion and other possible cuts, the Board agreed to submit the 2020-21 education budget at 1.73%. Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by Z. Hayden - Aye(s): Z. Hayden, M. Luft, M. Palumbo, L. Bridgewater, S. Greaves, K. Walker, D. Perreault, C. Kuehlewind Nay: M. Esposito
- B.** Policy 5114 - Student Discipline – 2nd reading. *Superintendent Ciccone recommended the BOE approve to accept Policy 5114 with the changes as reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee.* Moved by Z. Hayden and seconded by M. Luft. Vote unanimous.

X. CONSENT Agenda

Approval of Minutes:

- 1. Regular Meeting – January 14, 2020: Moved by M. Palumbo and seconded by D. Perreault to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 14, 2020 as amended with a statement from M. Esposito that he made a motion to add an agenda

item for discussion of Chemistry at the high school. The Chair requested the meeting move forward, not allowing a “second”. Vote unanimous.

2. Regular Meeting – February 11, 2020: Moved by M. Luft and seconded by S. Greaves to approve the minutes of February 24, 2020. Vote unanimous.
3. Special Meeting – February 24, 2020: Moved by K. Walker and seconded by D. Perreault to approve the minutes of the special meeting of February 24, 2020. Vote unanimous.
4. Special Meeting – March 2, 2020: Moved by M. Palumbo and seconded by M. Luft to approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 2, 2020. Vote unanimous.

XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Review of Check Listing: Board members reviewed check listings for February 6, 2020 in the amount of \$155,160.51 and for February 20, 2020 in the amount of \$91,892.
- 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 – A current insurance report was provided.

XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. LEARN Report – no report
- B. Policy – K. Walker reported the Policy Subcommittee continues to review online policies. The Committee began reviewing the 0 series and found an overlap with 9313. It is suggested some policies be deleted that are not needed. It was also suggested to put 0500 online.
- C. Long Range Planning - L. Wysocki reported the CIP will be presented to BOF on 3/16/20 for approval.
- D. Insurance - L. Bridgewater (no report)
- E. Negotiations - S. Greaves (no report)
- F. Town Ad Hoc Committee – L. Wysocki reported the LED street light project is finished. She discussed energy audits and energy conversations will take place on March 16.
- G. PTSO Representatives - M. Luft reported on activities of Daisy PTSO: Sweetheart dance, a planned mother/son event at the YMCA, Art show on May 1, Book Fair & Read Across America and STEM night. Z. Hayden reported on the WMS PTSO meeting where the discussion was about parent participation on the PTSO. There was a suggestion to combine WMS PTSO with the WHS PTSO. Other topics were about a pie fundraiser, Parent volunteers for Field Day and Trivia Night on April 3 at 5:15 p.m.; M. Esposito reported on WHS PTSO. WHS PTSO will provide snacks for students for Field night. Other topics of discussion were Custodian Appreciation Day, Class breakfast, Teacher Appreciation (May 4-8), parent interest in search for superintendent, concerns about science/chemistry, athletics, and hiring of coaches

XIII. PERSONNEL

- A. Personnel: The Board was informed of the following non-certified appointment.
 1. Non-Certified Appointments – FYI
 - a. Kristen Barone, Special Services Secretary
 2. Non-Certified Resignations: The Board was informed of the following non-certified resignation.
 - a. Rebecca Williams – Special Education Paraprofessional

Moved by M. Palumbo and seconded by M. Luft to move into Executive Session at 9:06 p.m. Vote unanimous.

B. Superintendent's Contract Renewal – Executive Session

Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by M. Luft to move into Regular Session at 9:32 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by M. Palumbo to approve the Superintendent's evaluation with some edits. Aye(s): Z. Hayden, M. Luft, M. Palumbo, L. Bridgewater, S. Greaves, K. Walker, D. Perreault, C. Kuehlewind Nay(s) M. Esposito

XIV. ADJOURN: Moved by M. Palumbo and seconded by M. Esposito to adjourn at 9:34 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Walker, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk