

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 @ 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, 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, Students, Parents

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A. BOE Recognition: Steven Mazeau, a volunteer reader at Daisy was recognized for sharing his time reading to the children. Ruth Rose spoke about Mr. Mazeau's contribution to the district in that he has been reading to the children since 2008. This year he has read to over 260 students. The Board presented Mr. Mazeau a Certificate of Appreciation.

B. BOE Student Representative – Katie Wallace, BOE student representative, was acknowledged for two years of service to the Board. Superintendent Ciccone and Chair, Lee Bridgewater commended Katie for her excellent reporting and for her many achievements throughout her high school years, including having received the "Faculty Cup" and for her recent invitation to keynote for the Holbrook event. The Board presented Katelyn with a gift of appreciation.

C. Retiree Recognition:

1. Virginia White, Diane Lewis, Philip Mielcarz , Alison Mielcarz: Each of the retirees were honored with remarks from Superintendent Patricia A. Ciccone regarding their careers with Westbrook Public Schools, and the Board held a brief reception in their honor. Each were given tokens of gratitude for their service to Westbrook Public Schools, and each retiree expressed their gratefulness for having been a part of Westbrook Public Schools.

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Katelyn Wallace reported to the Board on the success of the spring sports teams and that all teams were represented in the Shoreline and/or State tournaments. She said that students are taking finals as the school year draws to a close. Recent events were the HALO awards, Senior and Underclassmen awards, Holiday Hill, and Prom. Katie also recognized The Westbrook Foundation and other contributions from the community for scholarships. She also thanked the Board for giving her the opportunity to serve as student representative.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT: The BOE heard from the following audience participants:

- A. Ben Schreck, WHS student, spoke on a student issue, asking for understanding, compromise and forgiveness, and offered a counter proposal as a means to make up for the actions of fellow classmates.
- B. Meghan Bavely, parent, expressed her opinion that the student issue was impulsive and inappropriate, but supports the students being able to walk at the commencement. She believes punishments should be handed out with consistency and that safety is a paramount concern.
- C. John Hall commented that he graduated from WHS 49 years ago in good standing. He commented that he was a good student but remembered contributing to a prank or two. He spoke in support of the student who is an employee of his and felt that this incident is not representative of the student's character.

VI. ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS

- A. College/Career Readiness and Graduation Requirements: Ms. Winch talked about the recent hiring of Leslie Carson, who brings a wealth of experience to help our students fulfill community service, job shadowing, and internships as part of the College/Career Readiness program and graduation requirements.

A. NEW BUSINESS:

- B. Ratification of AFT Contract: Superintendent Ciccone recommended the BOE ratify the AFT contract as requested by AFT representative Mike Osga. *Moved by S. Greaves and seconded by Z. Hayden to ratify the AFT contract. Vote unanimous.*
- C. Field Trip Request – France 2020. Lisa Finnigan, WHS French Teacher submitted a request for a trip to France from June 15 – 24, 2020. The plan is for students to visit historical sites and to utilize the French language. Participants will stay in hotels as it is not part of the exchange program this time. The trip is planned for after the school year ends to avoid conflicts such as athletics, theater commitments, etc. *Superintendent Ciccone recommended the BOE approve the trip to France from June 19-28, 2020. (Dates subject to change based on actual last day of school) Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by M. Luft. Vote unanimous.*

VII. POLICY

- A. New Policy – Electronic Communications – Second Reading: K. Walker reported that after having been reviewed by legal counsel, she approved the Electronic Communications policy as ready for a second reading. *Superintendent Ciccone recommended the Board approve the Electronic Communications policy as presented. Moved by D. Adorno and seconded by J. Lyman. Vote unanimous.*

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Enrollment: The Superintendent reported June 1st enrollment totals equal 699 students.
- B. Graduate Acceptances - Westbrook Events Journal: Superintendent Ciccone provided an article to the Board on Westbrook college acceptances, complimenting the successes of our students being accepted at impressive colleges. The article will be published in the June 17th Westbrook Events magazine. It was brought to her attention that Bowdoin and Mercyhurst University were inadvertently left off the list.
- C. Summer Meals Program: A flyer was handed out with a list of several meal sites. Westbrook summer meals will begin July 8-August 1 at Daisy.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- A. 403B Plan - *Superintendent Ciccone recommended the BOE approve the 403(b) plan document which legally complies with the tax code requirements. Moved by Z. Hayden and seconded by M. Palumbo. Vote unanimous.*

X. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes:

1. Regular Meeting – May 14, 2019

The Superintendent recommended the BOE approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 14, 2019. Moved by M. Luft and seconded by J. Lyman. Vote unanimous.

Moved by K. Walker and seconded by D. Perreault to move Item. XIV. Personnel up on the agenda. Vote unanimous.

XII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Review of Check Listing: Board members reviewed check listings for May 2 in the amount of \$146,133.37, May 16 in the amount of \$174,469.08 and May 30, in the amount of \$75,267.23.
- B. Budget Narrative/Review of Expenditure Report. There was discussion regarding potential expenditures of 2018-19 surplus funds.
- C. Line Item Transfer - None
- D. Insurance Report – L. Wysocki reported WPS is in good standing on the May insurance report.

XIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. LEARN Report – D. Adorno (breakfast meeting on Thursday, June 13 – Dee invited Board members to attend.)
- B. Policy– K. Walker (See Item VII.A) Electronic Communications policy was approved as a second reading.
- C. Long Range Planning – M. Palumbo (no meeting)
- D. Insurance - L. Bridgewater (a meeting will be set to possible coincide with a special BOE meeting in July)
- E. Negotiations - S. Greaves – See Item VII.A. – AFT contract was ratified.
- F. Town Energy Ad Hoc Committee – L. Wysocki reported on virtual net metering solar project and the street light program
- G. PTSO Representatives – M. Luft attended an end of the year PTSO meeting at Daisy – Committees were formed, there was discussion on Promotion, and there was mention of providing funds for a climbing wall.

XIV. PERSONNEL

- A. Professional Appointment(s) Superintendent Ciccone referred to the resumes' the Board received for the following new appointments, stating that it has been an impressive hiring season thus far:
 - 1. Leslie Carson – WHS College/Career Readiness Coordinator
 - 2. Meta Wallace – WHS Science Teacher
 - 3. Kristin Magnano – WMS Science Teacher
 - 4. Michelle Tomek – PreK Teacher
 - 5. Sarah Cunningham – WHS Counselor
 - 6. Stephanie Merriman – Kindergarten Teacher

Superintendent Ciccone recommended the BOE approve the above-named appointments to the Westbrook Public Schools. Moved by M. Palumbo and seconded by M. Luft. Vote unanimous.

B. Professional Resignation(s)

- 1. Alina Britchi – WHS Physics Teacher, submitted her resignation effective June 30, 2019. *Superintendent Ciccone recommended the Board of Education, accept with regret, the resignation of Alina Britchi effective June 30, 2019. Moved by Z. Hayden and seconded by S. Greaves. Vote unanimous.*

C. Non-Certified New Hires: The Board was informed of the following non certified new hire:

- 1. Jennifer Hickey – Paraprofessional

D. Non-Certified Retirement: The Board was informed of the following non-certified resignation:.

- 1. Alison Mielcarz – WHS Guidance Secretary, submitted a letter of her intent to retire effective June 30, 2019.

Moved by K. Walker and seconded by Z. Hayden to move into Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. for the purpose of BOE training. Vote unanimous.

Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by J. Lyman to move back into Regular Session at 9:12 p.m. Vote unanimous.

XV. ADJOURN: *Moved by M. Palumbo and seconded by M. Luft to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. Vote unanimous.*