

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Board of Education Meeting

MINUTES

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

Absent: Kim Walker, Dee Adorno

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

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Regular Board of Education meeting of March 12, 2019, was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Board Chair, Lee Bridgewater.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

III. **BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

A. **Board member recognition:** Superintendent Ciccone complimented the Board of Education members for all of their efforts in structuring the future for our students and they were presented with tokens of appreciation. Chair, Lee Bridgewater, also acknowledged working with this Board, and thanked Board members.

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

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT** Re: Matters of General Concern & Agenda Items: No comments

VI. **ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS**

A. CSDE Accountability Growth Model Results Briefing: R. Rose, Principal, Daisy Ingraham Elementary School, with assistance from T. Wrye, WMS Principal, and T. Winch, WHS Principal, gave a thorough Power Point report on the Next Generation Accountability Report from data collected by CSDE. The results are from 2017-18, and this report gives a broad view of school performance based on a set of 12 indicators. The report measures achievement vs. growth for each student. Based on the 12 indicators points are earned. In comparison to the State's accountability index of 74.9, Westbrook's accountability index is 82.4%. The District's participation rate in testing is very high. In comparison to surrounding towns, the accountability index is higher. Superintendent Ciccone mentioned that Westbrook values the amount of contact time/direct instruction we have with our students and that culture and climate is the foundation of that contact. She talked about the development of strong relationships and the effect on academics. There was a discussion on absenteeism and chronic absenteeism and engaging parents in school partnership.

VII. NEW BUSINESS – Vote anticipated

- A. Possible Ratification of AFT contract: *Motion to table ratification of the AFT contract: Moved by M. Palumbo and seconded by S. Greaves. Vote unanimous.*
- B. Field Trip Request – Mrs. Finnegan, WHS French teacher, submitted a field trip request for French students to Boston, MA on March 31, 2019 to visit the Boston Tea Party Museum. *Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by J. Lyman to approve the field trip to Boston, MA on March 31, 2019. Vote unanimous.*

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A. Enrollment – Superintendent Ciccone reported the current enrollment of 693 students Pre K through 12.
- B. ARS Update: Superintendent Ciccone updated the Board on the Anonymous Reporting System. She reported that she followed Guilford’s experience with the start up of the ARS program. She learned that the high school experienced a rocky start at first, but the middle school start-up was solid. Both schools have settled into the system and it is proving beneficial. We will begin writing a MOA for local partners.
- C. Legislative Testimony: Superintendent Ciccone mentioned her testimony to the legislature regarding Bill 7150 on efforts to require school districts to regionalize.
- D. Ellington Late Start Video: The Board viewed a video created by the Ellington Public Schools promoting their legislative proposal to allow seniors to be exempt from the 180 days of school in order to set a firm graduation date which will not change due to inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances. The benefit would be for families to plan better for graduation and to avoid students missing high school graduations due to college orientation obligations, etc.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- A. 2019-20 Budget: Superintendent Ciccone recommended the Board’s approval of the 2019-20 budget at 1.08%. The Board reviewed the proposed budget at the special meeting of February 26, 2019. Board Chair, Lee Bridgewater, commented that area town budgets are coming in at higher percentages and she applauds and supports this budget at 1.08%. *Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by J. Lyman to approve the 2019-20 budget as presented. Vote unanimous.* The education budget will potentially be presented to the Board of Finance on March 26th, along with the Capital Improvement Plan.
- B. Capital Improvement Plan Approval – Lesley Wysocki, Business Manager, reviewed the proposed Capital Improvement Plan for 2020-2024. *Superintendent Ciccone recommended the Board approve the Capital Improvement Plan (2020-2024) as presented. Moved by Z. Hayden and seconded by M. Palumbo. Vote unanimous.*
- B. Policy 4151.4 – Professional Leave – This policy was reviewed at the January meeting. *Superintendent Ciccone recommended the BOE approve Policy 4151.4, Professional Leave, as presented. Moved by J. Lyman and seconded by D. Perreault. Vote unanimous.*
- C. Policy 4133 – Travel Reimbursement – This policy was also reviewed at the January BOE meeting. *Superintendent Ciccone recommended the BOE approve Policy 4133, Travel Reimbursement, as presented. Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by Z. Hayden. Vote unanimous.*

X. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes:

1. Regular Meeting – January 08, 2019: *Moved by Z. Hayden and seconded by M. Luft to approve the minutes of January 8, 2019. Ayes: Z. Hayden, M. Luft, M. Palumbo, S. Greaves, J. Lyman, D. Perreault; Abstained: L. Bridgewater*
2. Special Meeting of February 26, 2019: *Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by M. Palumbo to approve the minutes of the special meeting of February 26, 2019. Ayes: Z. Hayden, M. Luft, M. Palumbo, L. Bridgewater, S. Greaves, D. Perreault; Abstained: J. Lyman*

XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Review of Check Listing: Board members reviewed check listings for January 10th in the amount of \$172, 020.80, January 24th in the amount of \$107,442, February 7th in the amount of \$101,445.25 and February 22nd in the amount of \$144,923.18.
- 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 –The Board received the most recent Insurance report.

XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. LEARN Report – No report
- B. Policy – No report
- C. Long Range Planning - There was discussion regarding the ongoing generator project and where it stands. The Board of Education requested that Superintendent Ciccone draft a letter on their behalf and on behalf of the Board members on the School Building Committee to request a meeting to hear from the Chair of the Building Committee and its consultant.
- D. Insurance - No report
- E. Negotiations - S. Greaves - AFT negotiations still pending.
- F. Town Ad Hoc Committee – L. Wysocki reported a meeting is scheduled for 3/13/19.
- G. PTO Representatives - J. Lyman, M. Luft, M. Palumbo (no reports)

XIII. PERSONNEL – Vote anticipated

- A. Superintendent’s contract renewal: *Moved by Z. Hayden and seconded by D. Perreault to approve the renewal of Superintendent Ciccone’s contract. Vote unanimous.*
L. Bridgewater, Chair, expressed appreciation to Superintendent Ciccone for all she has done and continues to do for the district.
- B. Personnel:
 1. Professional Resignation(s)
 - a. Jenna Brady. Special Education Teacher, submitted a resignation effective March 15, 2019. Superintendent Ciccone recommended the BOE accept with regret the resignation of Jenna Brady, Special Education Teacher, effective March 15, 2019. *Moved by M. Palumbo and seconded by Z. Hayden to accept with regret the resignation of Jenna Brady effective March 15, 2019. Vote unanimous.*
 2. Non-certified resignation(s) (FYI)
 - a. Jaclyn Cerase, Special Services Secretary. Submitted a letter of resignation effective February 19, 2019.
 - b. Jackie Hartley, Paraprofessional, submitted a letter of resignation effective March 7, 2019.

XIV. ADJOURN: Moved by M. Palumbo and seconded by M. Luft to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. Vote unanimous.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kim Walker, Board Secretary*

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk