

EDUCATE, CHALLENGE, & INSPIRE

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Special Board of Education Meeting

Members Present: Z. Hayden, S. Greaves, M. Luft, M. Palumbo, K. Walker, D. Perreault,
C. Kuehlewind, M. Esposito

Absent: L. Bridgewater

Also Present: Interim Supt. Dr. Patricia Charles; Administrators – R. Rose, T. Winch, M. Illinger, B. Russell, IT Specialist, T. Cosgriff, Athletic Dir.

Minutes – July 14, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER – Z. Hayden, BOE Chair, called the Regular meeting of July 14, 2020 to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. School re-opening draft: Interim Superintendent Dr. Patricia Charles presented a Draft of the Plans for Re-opening School. Dr. Charles met with the Task Force Committee comprised of staff, parents, students, school physician, Director of Health, Town officials, and BOE representation. The discussion focused on screening of students and staff, cleaning and sanitizing, supplies, protocols, PPE supplies, transportation, etc. Feedback from staff and the community was shared. Dr. Charles stated that the draft was due to CSDE by July 24 and will continue to change based on current circumstances. The Board was given the opportunity for comments which included concerns of children wearing masks all day, concerns from teachers, costs for materials and supplies and reimbursement, staffing for isolation rooms, and absenteeism. Dr. Charles responded to each of the concerns and commented that a special meeting may be scheduled to discuss adjustments to the school calendar. M. Esposito stated that he would like to see more details of the plan.

B. Alumni Letters re: Social Justice: Board members received copies of letters from Westbrook Alumni about social justice and concerns about how Westbrook Schools approaches topics such as racism, gender identification, ethnicity, etc. Dr. Charles stated that the letters were well thought out and the Board should consider a response. She stated that updated curriculum helps to address concerns, there should be staff training and she and another administrator are already scheduled to attend workshops related to

these topics. The Board was given the opportunity to comment, and overall, BOE members were proud to have alumni communicate concerns and suggestions and that work should continue and improve in this area.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes:

1. Regular Meeting – June 9, 2020: MOTION by M. Luft and seconded by S. Greaves to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 9, 2020. Vote unanimous.
2. Special Meeting – June 25, 2020: MOTION by M. Palumbo and seconded by M. Luft to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2020 Special Meeting. Vote unanimous.
3. Special Meeting – July 7, 2020: Moved by C. Kuehlewind and seconded by M. Palumbo to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 7, 2020. Vote unanimous.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. School Calendar – Discussion regarding beginning of school year: Dr. Charles brought to the attention of the Board a consideration to adjust the school calendar at the beginning of the year to a couple of half days for students to adjust to wearing masks and to provide staff more professional development time related to COVID 19. Given the decision by CSDE to waive the 180 school days and allow for 177, Dr. Charles would like to discuss options with the administrators and will request a special meeting in the near future. Board members were in agreement that the calendar should be adjusted.
- B. Accept the leadership profile for our superintendent search – Mary Broderick & Paul Gagliarducci/CABE Search: Z. Hayden introduced Mary Broderick and Paul Gagliarducci who presented a report with their findings through surveys and Focus Groups for the CABE Superintendent search. M. Broderick reported a great turnout for the size of Westbrook. She suggested the Board use the document for interviews and as a foundation at a Board retreat. Key points were identified through the Focus Groups and Surveys. The Board was given the opportunity to comment on the document prior to a vote. The consensus was to accept the document. M. Esposito expressed that he felt participation in surveys was not good. Mr. Gagliarducci commented that the turnout was consistent with what he has seen in other districts and provides a good sense of what Westbrook is looking for in a Superintendent. M. Esposito questioned the full time vs part time superintendent and it was concluded Westbrook is in search of a full time Superintendent previously agreed upon by the Board. MOTION by S. Greaves and seconded by M. Palumbo to accept the document presented from Paul Gagliarducci and Mary Broderick, CABE Search Consultants. Motion Carries - Vote unanimous.

VII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Policy– K. Walker commented that the Subcommittee is doing some “homework” and a meeting date will soon be set. There will also be COVID related policies coming from Shipman & Goodwin to be considered.
- B. Long Range Planning – No report

- C. Insurance – No report
- D. Negotiations - S. Greaves reported the Subcommittee has met and negotiations will begin on August 11.
- E. Town Energy Ad Hoc Committee – No report
- F. PTO Representatives – No report
- G. WMS Interim Principal Search Subcommittee: Dr. Charles reported the Subcommittee has met and candidate interviews are scheduled.

MOTION by S. Greaves and seconded by M. Palumbo to add a Personnel item to the agenda –
Vote unanimous.

VIII. PERSONNEL

A. Professional Resignation(s)

1. Irene Duncan – WMS Teacher – Irene Duncan submitted her letter of intent to Retire effective June 30, 2020. She has served our students for 35 years. *Dr. Charles recommended the Board accept with regret Irene Duncan's letter of retirement effective June 30, 2020. Vote unanimous.*
2. Jessica Brown – Daisy Ingraham Teacher – Jessica Brown submitted a letter of resignation effective immediately after 20 years of service. *Dr. Charles recommended the Board accept with regret Jessica Brown's letter of resignation effective immediately. Moved by M. Palumbo and seconded b C. Kuehlewind. Vote unanimous.*

Dr. Charles informed the Board that Ann Mauro, Paraprofessional, is also retiring, effective immediately.

IX. ADJOURN

MOTION to adjourn at 8:56 by D. Perreault and seconded by M. Palumbo. Vote unanimous.

BOE approved: August 11, 2020