

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATE, CHALLENGE, & INSPIRE

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION Tuesday, June 10, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m. Regular Board of Education Meeting

MINUTES

Members Present: Lee Bridgewater, Marti White, Michelle Palumbo, Sally Greaves, Dee Adorno, Jackie Lyman, Kim Walker, Pat Labbadia III

Absent: Maureen Westbrook

Also Present: Superintendent Patricia A. Ciccone; Business Manager Lesley Wysocki;
Administrators: Robert Hale, Katharine Bishop, Cori DiMaggio, Madeline Illinger;
Tara Winch, Ruth Rose, Michele Hammond, Chet Bialicki, Faculty, Parents, Students,

I. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular Meeting of June 10, 2014 was called to order by Lee Bridgewater, Vice Chair, at 7:01 p.m. in the Westbrook High School library.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- A. Middle School Scholar Leaders,** Christine Banks and Tirzah Blomquist were recognized as two eighth graders who have excelled in school and community. Mrs. DiMaggio commented on each of their outstanding qualities and they were also recognized at the CAS Scholar/Leader banquet held in Cheshire, CT.
- B. Chet Bialicki and Advanced Teen Student Leaders.** Chet Bialicki and the following students were recognized for their work on School Climate: Seniors- Caroline Labriola, Annie Raunika, Lauren Cyr and Juniors- Sara Faucher, Erik Simon Vuoritie and Bryce Cassista. Superintendent Ciccone praised Mr. Bialicki and the students for their commitment to advance positive school climate. The students have given presentations both in the school and across the state. Each was awarded a certificate of recognition. Mr. Bialicki acknowledged Mr. Hale, Dr. Jo Ann Freiberg and Superintendent Ciccone for the opportunity to work with the students to promote a positive learning community.
- C. Recognition of Retirees:** Katharine Bishop, Robert Hale, Marilyn Toth, Carolanne Powers, Cecilia Cloutier, Joseph St. Martin – Mr. Hale commented on the teaching careers of Marilyn Toth, Art Teacher and Joseph St. Martin, Math and Physics Teacher, and Mrs. Bishop spoke about the accomplishments of retirees, Carolanne Powers and Cecilia Cloutier. Each was presented a gift from the Board of Education. Patricia Ciccone spoke about the careers of Katharine Bishop and Robert Hale and they were presented with retirement gifts. All were recognized for their dedication and years of service to the Westbrook Public Schools.

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Lydia Murphy, Student Representative, reported on the Awards Assembly, spring sports accomplishments, and end-of-year activities. Lee Bridgewater expressed appreciation to Lydia for her commitment to the Board of Education as

student representative and invited Lydia back next year to continue her service to the board.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. *Moved by Sally Greaves and seconded by Pat Labbadia to approve the minutes of May 13, 2014. Vote unanimous.*

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Curriculum Presentations** – Social Studies (5-8), Math (K-4 and 5): Michele Hammond, Curriculum Lead teacher, stated that 2009 was the first time curriculum was presented to the Board and as they complete the process, new state standards are being put into place and re-writing has already begun. Paul Garrity represented the Social Studies Department and Gerah Ventresca and Lesley Harrington presented for the Math Department. The Board was given copies of the curriculum for Math and for Social Studies prior to the board meeting. Ms. Ventresca commented that she was grateful to have had the guidance of Peggy Neal, CREC consultant, who guided math professional development for Westbrook. Lee Bridgewater praised the teachers involved in the writing of the curriculum stating that it is refreshing to see the drive the teachers have had with this task.
Moved by Kim Walker and seconded by Michelle Palumbo to approve the Social Studies 5-8 curriculum and the Math K-4 and 5 curriculums. Vote unanimous.

- B. Westbrook 2014-15 Evaluation and Support Plan:** Superintendent Ciccone discussed the most recent changes in the Evaluation and Support Plan agreed upon by the PDEC and provided board members with handouts of the most significant changes to both evaluation plans. Changes in the Westbrook plan reflect Connecticut State Department of Education language more closely. The plan has been amended and we await CSDE feedback. A vote by the Board is not needed.

- C. IDEA Grant** - The Superintendent explained that the federal IDEA grants provide federal entitlement funds to eligible applicants to assist with the excess costs of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities, as defined by 34 CFR Sections 300.16 and 300.202. Assistance for Education of all Children with Disabilities and Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities are included. The grant will provide staff, professional development, and instructional resources for special education students. Special Education Director, Madeline Illinger, gave concise examples of how those dollars are used to support special education needs. The amount of the grant is 611: $\$140,335 + 619 \times \$6596 = \text{Total grant funds } \$146,931$. *Superintendent Ciccone recommended the Board approved the submission of the IDEA grants totaling \$146,931. Moved by Dee Adorno and seconded by Marti White. Vote unanimous.*

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A.** The Board reviewed Check Listings for May 8, 2014 in the amount of \$98,811.18 and on May 22, 2014 in the amount of \$166,511.54.
- B.** Budget Narrative/ Review of Expenditure Report – Mrs. Wysocki provided an over view of the budget as it stands and stated that she has no concerns.
- C.** Line Item Transfer(s): The Middle School had made a request for one line item transfer from Physical Education to Computer Equipment in the amount of \$956.

- D. Insurance Report: The total surplus remains in the black.
- E. Utility Rates: Mrs. Wysocki reported that the Business Office has been contacted by utility experts, and informed that rates for natural gas and electricity increases will be approved by the regulatory commission shortly. With no new pipelines opening any sooner than December 2016, if then, it was recommended to lock in prices now. Pricing for electricity beginning January 1 2015-January 2016 (a 12 month contract) will be at a rate of .104 per kwh for electricity (not including transmission) and pricing for natural gas beginning July 1, 2014-November 2015 (a 17 month contract) will be at the rate of \$1.315 per ccf. (not including delivery) Pricing for diesel fuel is currently \$3.19. There is a chance that it may decrease slightly.
- F. Emergency Repair: Mrs. Wysocki reported that a slight leak has been discovered in the photography developer tank this week. Mr. Hayes has arranged for the tank to be drained and inspected as soon as student projects are complete. In the mean time, the leak itself is being monitored and contained. There is no risk of injury to anyone. It may be necessary to purchase a new tank following the thorough inspection.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. **Enrollment Report**—Superintendent Ciccone reported that the June 1, 2014 enrollment is 834 students, compared to 879 enrolled in June 1, 2013. October 1, 2013 enrollment is 833 students. There are currently 11 out-placed students.
- B. **Climate – Adults and Students:** The Superintendent reported that staff climate training continues. She reported that students' interest in climate continues to grow as a result of the core work of the student leaders. Mr. Bialicki will be representing Westbrook in New Haven on Friday at a Commission on Children meeting to continue the work.
- C. **Fall Reading Survey Assessments:** Superintendent Ciccone said that she has appointed Ruth Rose as the test liaison for the fall reading survey assessments. She said that these surveys are not to be used for evaluation or for certification purposes.
- D. **School Security and Safety Plan**
Superintendent Ciccone reported that a new All Hazard School Security and Safety Plan is required to be filed with the DESPP/DEMHS under CT Gen. Statutes Section 28-7 and Public Act No. 13-3 Section 87 (c) and in place for the 2014-15 school year by all public school districts. In collaboration with local authorities, (Law Enforcement, Emergency Management, Fire, Public Health, and Emergency Medical Services) a new plan, which includes information regarding Committee membership, procedures for Lockdown, Securing the Building, Evacuations, Weather events and other Safety Issues are addressed for each of our three schools. Comprehensive assessment data has also been provided to the State in this plan. For security reasons, this plan is not released to the public. The plan will be submitted by the July 1 due date and will come back to the Board with feedback from the State.

X. ADMINISTRATORS' COMMENTS

- A. **8th Grade Promotion** – Cori DiMaggio invited the Board members to attend 8th grade promotion on June 19 at 8:30 a.m. with a reception to follow. Also, June 12 is Pioneer Day and on Friday, June 13, sixth graders will be involved in a day-long program; the Mountaineer Program, which ties into Rope's Course team building and school climate format. Also, on June 13, is the eighth grade field trip to Boston.
- B. Mr. Hale invited the Board to attend high school graduation on June 19. There will be seating in the front for board members and their guests. Board members should arrive at

5:30 p.m. Also, Friday is the last day of lunches and ice cream will be served out on the lawn for the high schoolers. The high school PTO provides snacks for exam week.

- C. Mrs. Bishop invited the Board to attend 4th grade promotion on June 18 at 9:00 a.m. She also talked about the McKinney Wildlife Preserve and boat ride around Duck Island, and a 4 week E-Smarts Energy program.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **Policy** – This committee will schedule to meet in the summer.
- B. **Communications** – The next meeting will be in September.
- C. **Long Range Planning** – Pat Labbadia will provide some dates for the LRP to meet.
- D. **Insurance** – Lesley Wysocki will work with Lee Bridgewater
- E. **Negotiations** – Pat Ciccone is working on dates for the Negotiations Subcommittee. The first will occur on June 25 for Pat Ciccone, the Negotiation's Chair, Sally Greaves, and the Business Manager, Lesley Wysocki.
- F. **PTSO Representatives** – WHS PTSO met with Tara Winch present, and elected officers for next year. Kim Walker reported that the Daisy PTO had an emotional send off for Kit, talked about school Climate, and the possibility of a Garden Club. There were also many successful fundraisers at Daisy. The middle school PTSO's last meeting was reported on in May.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

XIV. PERSONNEL:

A. Non-Certified Appointments: FYI

- 1. The Board was informed that Herb Chappell has been hired as a full time one-on-one aide at the middle school.

B. Child Rearing Leave – The Board discussed a request for a Child Rearing leave. The Superintendent will meet with the employee to discuss options and upon the Superintendent's recommendation will come back to the Board in August for approval.

- XV. **ADJOURN:** *Moved by Kim Walker and seconded by Michelle Palumbo to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Vote unanimous.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Walker, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk