

**WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATE, CHALLENGE, & INSPIRE**

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION Tuesday, April 16, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. Regular Board of Education Meeting WHS Library

MINUTES

PRESENT: K. Walker, C. Kuehlewind, D. Perresult, M. Luft, S. Greaves, E. Fernandes, A., Miesse, H. Jalil

ABSENT: G. Carlo

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Kristina J. Martineau, Administrators R. Rose, T. Winch, M. Talmadge, Director of Finance, A. Burke; Director of Technology, Ben Russell, and CT Representative Devin Carney

Minutes–April 16, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – K. Walker, Chair, called the Regular BOE meeting of April 16, 2024 to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** No acknowledgements
- IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT** – Elliot Koplas reported on high school activities including fundraisers, Interact Club activities, spring sports, Student Leadership workshop in Old Lyme; upcoming theatre production of *Little Shop of Horrors* on April 26 and 27; Junior/Senior Prom on May 31 at Waters Edge; and college selections for seniors.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
- VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** – State Representative Devin Carney reported on current legislation topics including *Right to Read* and kindergarten age legislation as well as bills that did not pass, including para educator wages and minimum teachers’ salaries. and the impact of the state budget. Representative Carney touched on other topics including a plan for teacher recruitment and an easier certification process, and CT based Dalio Education report on disconnected and at risk youth.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Healthy Food Certification 2024-2025**

Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that each local board of education or governing authority for all Connecticut public school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) **must take action annually** to certify whether all food items sold to students **will or will not** meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards.

Superintendent Martineau recommended that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Westbrook Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

MOTION 1: MOTION by D. Perreault and SECOND by A. Miesse to agree to comply with C.G.S. Section 10-215f for the 2024-2025 school year as described. (Ayes) E. Fernandes, M. Luft, S. Greaves, C. Kuehlewind, D. Perreault, A. Miesse, H. Jalil, K. Walker Vote unanimous

Superintendent Martineau recommended that the Westbrook Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.

MOTION 2: MOTION by D. Perreault and SECOND by M. Luft to agree to allow exemptions of food items to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, given the conditions outlined are followed for the 2024-2025 school year. (Ayes) E. Fernandes, M. Luft, S. Greaves, C. Kuehlewind, D. Perreault, A. Miesse, H. Jalil, K. Walker Vote unanimous

Information on Beverages

Note: C.G.S. Section 10-221q addresses requirements for the sale of beverages to students in public schools, and allows exemptions if beverage sales meet specific conditions. Beverage exemptions are not part of the annual HFC Statement, which applies only to food sales. If the district chooses to allow beverage exemptions, the CSDE recommends that the board of education or school governing authority conducts the vote on beverage exemptions at the same time as the vote on HFC participation and food exemptions. Sample language for beverage exemptions is below.

Superintendent Martineau recommended the Westbrook Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

MOTION 3: MOTION by D. Perreault and SECOND by H. Jalil to agree to comply with C.G.S. Section 10-221q for the 2024-2025 school year as described. (Ayes) E. Fernandes, M. Luft, S. Greaves, C. Kuehlewind, D. Perreault, A. Miesse, H. Jalil, K. Walker Vote unanimous

- B.** Policy 6172 – Credit for Online Courses–K. Walker reported the Policy Subcommittee reviewed and revised the Distance Education Virtual Online Courses policy. The full Board reviewed the Distance Education Virtual Online Courses policy as a First Reading and will review and vote on Policy 6172 at the May BOE meeting.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A.** Enrollment –Superintendent Martineau reported on April enrollment totals equal to 603 students: 263 Daisy students, 160 middle school students and 175 high school students. Currently there are 5 out placed students.
- B.** Budget Update: Superintendent Martineau reminded the Board of the Town Budget Hearing on April 17 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall and the Annual Town Budget Meeting on May 13 in the WHS Auditorium (vote on the budget).

IX. OLD BUSINESS: None

X. CONSENT AGENDA

- A.** Approval of Minutes
- 1.** Regular Meeting – March 12, 2024
 - 2.** Special Meeting – March 26, 2024

MOTION to approve the minutes of March 12 and March 26, 2024 by M. Luft and SECOND by S. Greaves. Vote unanimous.

XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A.** Review of Check Listing: Board members reviewed check listings for March 27, 2024 in the amount of \$102,913.55 and March 14, 2024 in the amount of \$170,445.50.
- B.** Budget Narrative/Review of Expenditure Report – A. Burke, Director of Finance, provided a brief narrative on the budget as it stands and a list of new vendors.
- C.** Line Item Transfer - none

XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A.** Policy– K. Walker reported on the actions of the Policy Subcommittee on Policy 6172 – Credit for Online Courses. Policy will meet again on May 2, 2024.
- B.** Fiscal & Facilities – A. Miesse reported that Fiscal & Facilities will meet on May 2, 2024
- 1.** HVAC Ad Hoc – A. Miesse reported bids have been selected and work is in progress. Supt. Martineau reported electrical upgrades are in process and we are still waiting for the electrical panel.
- C.** Teaching & Learning – C. Kuehlewind reported the committee met and talked about the teacher evaluation plan and reviewed examples of vision statements.
- D.** Communications & Marketing – M. Luft reported that Communications discussed the vision statements and reviewed statements of other schools.
- E.** Negotiations – D. Perreault – no report
- F.** Town Energy – A. Miesse reported on solar arrays and process of getting quotes for electric vehicle charging stations.
- G.** LEARN - E. Fernandes will attend her first LEARN meeting on Thursday.
- H.** PTSO Representatives - M. Luft (Daisy) will meet on 4/29 at 6 pm; Activities included Daisy Dash, Alice In Wonderland play, and upcoming third grade concert and art show. R. Rose will send dates of upcoming events to BOE members; A. Miesse (WMS) (no report); D. Perreault reported on WMS participation in Daisy Dash and upcoming grade level breakfasts.

XIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS

- A.** Professional Development and Activities
- 1.** NSBA Conference – D. Perreault reported on the NSBA conference workshops and

shared PowerPoint presentations with the board members. Topics of workshops he attended were Running an Effective Meeting Using Roberts' Rules; Building Collaborative Partnerships with the Community; Building Skills for Dignified Disagreements by speaker, Dr. Tim Shriver, and Navigating Political Storms. He also shared information about a workshop on Artificial Intelligence. Mr. Perreault found the conference to be very worthwhile and recommended future board member participation.

2. Multiple Pathways to Secondary Success – Superintendent Martineau was part of a panel presenting on the topic of Multiple Pathways to Secondary Success.

XIV. PERSONNEL

A. Professional Resignation(s)

1. Brittany Cussano – Special Education Teacher (Daisy) resignation effective June 30, 2024

MOTION to move to EXECUTIVE Session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss evaluation of legal counsel.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Contract Negotiations – Evaluation of Legal Counsel

MOTION to move back to regular session at 8:15 p.m.

XVI. AJDOURN: MOTION to adjourn at 8:15 pm by. D. Perreault and SECOND by M. Luft.

Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Kuehlewind, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk