

**WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, June 8, 2021
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Google Meet**

MINUTES

BOE Members Present: Zachary Hayden, Kim Walker, Christine Kuehlewind, Sally Greaves, Mary Ella Luft, Michelle Palumbo, Don Perreault, Mike Esposito, Michele Brigham

Also Present: Superintendent Kristina J. Martineau; Business Manager, Lesley Wysocki, Administrators Tara Winch, Ruth Rose, Susan Miller, Fran Lagace; Technology Director, Ben Russell

MINUTES -June 08, 2021

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Z. Hayden, Chair, called the Regular BOE Meeting of June 8, 2021 to order at 7:03 p.m.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**
 - A. BOE Senior Student Representative – On behalf of the BOE, Z. Hayden expressed appreciation to Jesse McGannon for Jesse’s service to the BOE during this historic and disruptive time and for his positive communication to the BOE. Jesse will receive a gift on behalf of the Board of Education.
 - B. Daisy Art and Music Awards – Ryan Miguel (Visual Arts) and Vienna Maragliano – (Music): Ryan was selected by his art teacher, Mr. Biegaj and Vienna by her music teacher, Ms. Kowalski, as the recipients of Excellence in art and in music.
 - C. Above and Beyond Award – Nia Sharma – Daisy: Mrs. Rose, Daisy Principal was pleased for the Board to honor Nia with an “Above & Beyond” Award for having developed and produced a virtual “Kids’ News” Program.
The students received Certificates of Excellence from the BOE.
- IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:** Jesse McGannon – Jesse reported on the successes of spring sports. He was happy to report that graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 11th at 5:00 p.m and there will be no limit on the number of guests. Jesse expressed his appreciation to the BOE for giving him the opportunity to serve as Student BOE Representative.

Introduction of BOE Student Representative: Andrew Livingstone – Tara Winch, WHS Principal, introduced Andrew Livingstone as the new BOE Student Representative. She described Andrew as being highly involved in school and in the community.
- V. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Safe Return to In Person and Continuity of Service Plan 2021-2022 (Draft): Superintendent Martineau presented the Safe Return to In Person and Continuity of Service Plan for 2021-2022 highlighting mask wearing, physical distancing, hand washing, cleaning procedures, vaccine eligibility, and accommodations for Special Education and 504 students. The plan is to be revised every 6 months until June, 2023 and the public will be given the opportunity for feedback.

Superintendent Martineau commented that surveys will continue to be conducted through emails and on the website.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT –

Leslie Fuchs was appreciative of the plan and encouraged social distancing and wearing of masks and suggested going forward to treat the school body as a whole.

Adam Bache commented regarding the schools' reaction of fear, shutting down sports, and in-person learning. He questioned the data being used to implement the Plan; are we "beholding" to the state requirements and is the end goal to receive money?

Ryan Jochim, Doctor of infectious diseases, commented he is in favor of mask wearing and is concerned about spread of influenza in children in September and October. He complimented the excellent job Daisy has done while focusing on student learning.

Norma Delara, a 20 year educator, commented the \$700,000 price tag is for our children; not on our children, and our administrators should do what is best for our community and schools; advocating for us and not necessarily CDC recommendations.

Richard Spash offered his opinion that through his research he believes masks are no longer needed and cited Old Lyme Schools as not requiring masks for the fall.

VII. ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS

A. Graduation update – T. Winch reported that WHS graduation will take place outside and all friends and families are invited to attend.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Enrollment: Superintendent Martineau reported the June 1st enrollment totals of 648 students, Pre-K through 12, including 7 out placed students.
- B. ARP ESSER Update: Superintendent Martineau reported two grants; one is for the town and one is for the schools. The grant money must be used by September 2024. She has received 100 responses on how to use the grant money including air conditioning upgrades in all three buildings, building outdoor learning spaces, staffing including SEL, Social Workers and Counselors, instructional needs, new clubs and sports. Before submitting the grant, Superintendent Martineau will ask for a special meeting and LRP meeting.
- C. Senior Exit Interviews – Superintendent Martineau met with most of the seniors and talked about college and career plans and received feedback on what they felt worked well or did not work well for them in their schooling. Most students had high praise for teachers and staff and were happy to be part of Westbrook Schools and community. They voiced the need for air conditioning, AP courses, more college visits, career path electives, a financial literacy course or unit built into math classes, lessons in retirement planning, options in cafeteria for healthy food, (salad bar), partnerships with other schools with sports (softball), offerings for world languages, and automotive program, apprenticeships and possible trade certifications in health care, EMT, CNA, more clubs and robotics and help finding jobs. Superintendent Martineau was appreciative of the feedback.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes:

- 1. Regular Meeting – May 11, 2021 –
- 2. Special BOE Meeting – May 20, 2021

MOTION by K. Walker and SECOND by M. Palumbo to approve the minutes of the Regular BOE meeting of May 11, 2021 and the Special BOE meeting of May 20, 2021. Vote unanimous.

XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Review of Check Listing: Board members reviewed check listings for May 13, 2021 in the amount of \$222,388.11 and May 27, 2021 in the amount of \$146,429.81.
- B. Budget Narrative/Review of Expenditure Report – L. Wysocki provided a report on the budget as it stands. Upon recommendation by the Superintendent and Business Manager, an additional \$150,000 beyond the figure discussed at previous meeting for a total of \$450,000 will be forwarded to the health reserve account. In addition, it was the Board’s consensus to use projected operational budget surplus funds to include the allowable 2% to be sent to the Capital account, completion of the middle school carpet replacement cycle, and additional circuits added to the Daisy generator.
- C. Line Item Transfer - None
- D. Insurance Report – The Board received a current insurance report.

XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. LEARN – M. Brigham reported on the election of officers and vote on budget. Guest speaker, Superintendent Thomas Giard presented on Equity and Culture Plans in the Waterford Public Schools. The Board will meet in person on Thursday, June 10.
- B. Policy– K. Walker reported the policies should be live on the website in a few weeks.
- C. Long Range Planning – D. Perreault reported on LRP and discussion of ventilation projects.
- D. Fiscal & Budget – M. Esposito reported Fiscal & Budget met and he was elected Chair. In September, the Committee will review high level line items and offset review.
- E. Teaching & Learning – D. Perreault that Superintendent Martineau provided updates – The Leadership Team will be doing summer professional development on Portrait of a Graduate. At the appropriate time, communication on Portrait of a Graduate will be sent out. D. Perreault offered the Board’s support.
- F. Communications & Marketing – M. Luft provided a synopsis and said the Committee will submit articles to *Westbrook Events*, *Harbor News* and the school and town website. The Committee will also reach out to the booster clubs for involvement and to gather information. M. Luft requested anyone with suggestions to email her.
- G. Negotiations - S. Greaves reported Negotiations met on some renewals.
- H. Town Energy Ad Hoc – L. Wysocki reported the solar project at town hall is on hold.
- I. PTSO Representatives – M. Luft reported on end of the year events and promotion at Daisy; Z. Hayden reported middle school PTSO elected officers and was involved in field day and 8th grade picnic, breakfast and announced 8th grade Promotion on Thursday, June 10th; M. Esposito said WHS PTSO did not meet since the last report.

XIII. PERSONNEL – No action

XIV. ADJOURN: MOTION by M. Brigham and **SECOND** by K. Walker to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Vote unanimous.

TBA at next meeting