

**WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, January 11, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Board of Education Meeting**

Members present: K. Walker, D. Perreault, C. Kuehlewind, Z. Hayden, M. Luft, M. Palumbo, A. Miesse, via telephone: M. Esposito, S. Greaves

Also present: Superintendent Kristina J. Martineau: Business Manager, L. Wysocki; Administrators: T. Winch, M. Talmadge, R. Rose, F. Lagace; Technology Director B. Russell; Student BOE Representative: Andrew Livingstone

MINUTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER – The Regular BOE meeting of January 11, 2022, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Kim Walker, Chair.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS- None
- IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Andrew Livingstone reported on student activities prior to the holiday break. Student Council organized board games; students participated in assemblies, including Mr. Hale’s Magic Show. Students have organized a Lunch Committee to talk about how to improve lunch menus. Winter athletics have begun and are doing well. Westbrook is the recipient of the Michael’s Cup from CIAC. Students will participate in the CIAC Student Leadership Conference on January 21.
- V. SUPERINTENDENT’S BUDGET PREVIEW FOR 2022-2023: Superintendent Kristina Martineau gave a thorough overview of the budget recommendations at this point. She said the budget is built from the ground up through many discussions with teachers and administrators and she expressed appreciation for the input. Thus far, there have been two workshops. The following were topics of her PowerPoint presentation: Budget Development and Timeline, Program Improvements and Enhancements , College Career Readiness and STEM and Robotics offerings; New Requests in 2022-2023 Proposed Budget, Enrollment Projections and trends for each of the schools; suggested staffing changes and summary of changes directly related to retirement incentive offered; a summary of line items for the budget; proposed PLC Leadership Positions; Salaries and Staffing Levels, Benefits, Purchased Services, Transportation, Tuition, Supplies and Utilities , Equipment, Special Education, and Future Budget Considerations and Planning. The Superintendent’s Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 is \$18,746,554 which represents an increase of 1.27% over the 2021-2022 budget.

There was a discussion of possibly adding in two lunch aides, which would up the increase to 1.34%. Board members were given the opportunity to offer their thoughts:

Z. Hayden – Lunch aides are an important consideration and he suggested also looking at math intervention position, or math tutor;

S. Greaves in support of what we need to move forward

C. Kuehlewind – supports adding lunch aides in and also interested in math interventionist or tutor. She commented that this is a solid budget, enhancing progress but not sacrificing academics.

D. Perreault – commented that this is a good budget considering inflation; even though decrease in enrollment still improving our offerings and suggested teachers being part of decision making. He is in support of lunch aides and would like to see a bilingual support person for math.

M. Palumbo - In agreement of lunch aides and recess; teachers need support.

A. Miesse - Support lunch aides. He commented that he is excited to see STEM and AP courses.

M. Esposito – He would rather see math interventionist over aides. Prioritizing important – if adding something, something should be taken away. Consider declining enrollment and have a long term plan.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Colleen Bloom, parent, expressed concern about splitting teams at middle school. She commented her 6th grader's last normal school year was third grade. She understands being fiscally responsible, but we should invest in our children's' education; the needs of students are greater than ever before. People have moved to Westbrook because of small class sizes – “Do what we need to do for our students.”
2. Patrick Furcolo – Parent – Mr. Frucolo also expressed his concern regarding class sizes using his own experience with his children's' success having been due to the individualized education in the district. He supports keeping staff to do best for all of our students.
3. Leslie Fuchs – Parent – concern of using ESSER funds for improvements to our school and to make our budget look better; how will that affect future budgets?
4. Lauren Childs - a parent of 4 children and was drawn to Westbrook because of small class sizes which has benefited her children and expressed concerns about higher class sizes in the future.
5. Corey Ehrlich – Teacher – questioned reduction of math teachers. Ms. Ehrlich also suggested posting the budget presentation on the website.

M. Esposito expressed concern regarding the Board not engaging during public comment.

Chair, Kim Walker, commented that the Board would not be voting on the budget at this meeting and someone will follow up to discuss concerns expressed in the public comments.

VII. ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS: No comments

VIII. NEW BUSINESS: No new business

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Enrollment - Superintendent Martineau reported enrollment of 250 students a Daisy; 171 at middle school and 213 at high school for a total of 634 students.
- B. COVID-19 Quarantine Guidance Update: Superintendent Martineau reported on the latest guidance from DPH changing quarantine to five days. She also said that DPH and CIAC are aligning the requirements.
- C. Quarantine and Attendance Update – Superintendent Martineau continues to inform the school community of COVID absences and quarantines.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. 2022-2023 District Calendar – MOTION by Z. Hayden to approve the 2022-2023 calendar as presented and SECOND by M. Luft. Vote: (ayes) A. Miesse, M. Palumbo, D. Perreault, M. Luft, Z. Hayden, M. Esposito, S. Greaves, C. Kuehlewind, K. Walker. MOTION CARRIES unanimously.
- B. Policy 0300 (Policies for WPS) and Policy 0500 (Comprehensive Improvement Plan: Recommendation to delete – K. Walker reported the Policy Subcommittee's recommendation to delete Policy 0300 and 0500 as they are redundant and not required. Deletion of policies will be maintained in the BOE office. MOTION by M. Luft and SECOND by Z. Hayden to delete Policies 0300 and 0500 as recommended. Vote: (ayes) Z. Hayden, M. Luft, D. Perreault, M. Palumbo, A. Miesse, M. Esposito, S. Greaves, C. Kuehlewind, K. Walker – MOTION CARRIES unanimously.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes:
 - 1. Regular Meeting of December 14, 2021: MOTION by Z. Hayden and SECOND by C. Kuehlewind to approve the minutes of December 14, 2021. Vote: (ayes) S. Greaves, M. Esposito, A. Miesse, M. Palumbo, D. Perreault, M. Luft, Z. Hayden, C. Kuehlewind, K. Walker. MOTION CARRIES unanimously.

XII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Review of Check Listing(s): The Board reviewed check lists for December 9, 2021 in the amount of \$374,370.81 and for December 22 in the amount of \$167,248.90
- B. Budget Narrative/Review of Expenditure Report: L. Wysocki reported on the status of the budget with no concerns.
- C. Line Item Transfer: none
- D. Insurance Report: The Board was provided a current report on Insurance. L. Wysocki expects cost share figures from Anthem shortly.

XIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Policy– K. Walker reported the next Policy meeting is on January 20 at 4:15 p.m.
- B. Long Range Planning – D. Perreault reported that LRP met with Roger LeFleur and two other consultants on December 16 regarding the AC options. It is suggested to go with the variable control system which will align with the state mandates in the future. L.Wysocki reported on the RFP process and plans to get RFP out by the end of February and how the Capital Plan plays into the decision making. There was also discussion on roof replacement at the schools.
- C. Fiscal & Budget – Z. Hayden reported the committee met on December 16 to discuss the purpose of the committee. That discussion led to the recent “Open House” that the Fiscal & Budget committee participated in.
- D. Teaching & Learning – No report.
- E. Communications & Marketing – M. Luft reported the next Communications meeting is on January 27.
- F. Negotiations – S. Greaves – No report
- G. Town Energy Ad Hoc Committee – L. Wysocki (no report) Next meeting is in February.
- H. LEARN: Z. Hayden reported there is a LEARN meeting on January 13 and if anyone is interested in attending he will share the log in information with them.
- I. PTSO Representatives - M. Luft (Daisy) reported the next meeting is on January 26; Z. Hayden (WMS), K. Walker (WHS): Both WHS and WMS meetings are scheduled for January 18. Hopefully. Superintendent Martineau can arrange to speak about the budget to both groups.
- J. BOE Ad Hoc Calendar Committee – Z. Hayden reported that he met with D. Perreault to focus on creating an “evergreen” calendar for the Board of Education, month by month. Their work is in progress and they will meet with Superintendent Martineau with a draft and are hopeful it can be presented to the full Board at the February BOE meeting.

XIV. BOARD GOALS: The work being done on the board calendar is a step in the direction of applying for the CABA BOE award.

XV. PERSONNEL

A. Non-certified Resignation(s)

1. Heather Kjos (Paraprofessional) resignation was effective January 7, 2022.

XVI. ADJOURN: MOTION by M. Palumbo to adjourn and SECOND by M. Luft to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Vote unanimous.