

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

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| <p>WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION Tuesday, February 8, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m. WHS Library Regular Board of Education Meeting</p> |
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MINUTES

Members present: Kim Walker, Don Perreault, Christine Kuehlewind, MaryElla Luft, Michelle Palumbo, Zachary Hayden, Andrew Miesse, Via telephone, Sally Greaves

Absent: Mike Esposito

Also present: Superintendent Kristina J. Martineau; Business Manager, Lesley Wysocki.
Administrators: R. Rose, T. Winch, F. Lagace; Technology Director, B. Russell

I. CALL TO ORDER – K. Walker, Chair, called the regular meeting of February 8, 2022 to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – Andrew Livingstone reported on school activities which included high school students visit to the Connecticut State Capital, Spirit Days sponsored by REACT Club, participation in CAS/CIAC Leadership Conference, Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball standings with Jami Sacco reaching her 1000 points. Andrew commented that the student body is interested in seeing the direction the District will take with Governor Lamont’s recent announcement on school masking.

V. SUPERINTENDENT’S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 PRESENTATION – Superintendent Martineau presented her recommended budget to the BOE at \$18,761,280 with a 1.34% increase over last year’s budget. Dr. Martineau provided a visual presentation showing the various categories of the budget and stating that salaries and health care are the major budget drivers. She said a retirement incentive program helped to reduce the budget and although no programs were cut, restructuring was done. Dr. Martineau explained the budget process beginning in September with the teachers and administrators and commented that this budget reflects and supports the needs of our students. Superintendent Martineau will ask the Board to vote later in this meeting to make this budget their own and move it on to the Board of Finance.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Richard Spash, parent, provided a handout to the Board members on Nonpharmaceutical Measures for Pandemic Influenza in Nonhealthcare Settings – Personal Protective and Environmental Measures. He commented that when he spoke in June 2021, his full comments were not in the meeting minutes regarding masks not being effective. He also pointed out his belief that the dangers of mask wearing outweighs the effects of COVID and is causing fear in children. He mentioned lower oxygen levels in blood, colonization of bacteria, and asthma and for the sake of our children wants masks mandate removed. Mr. Spash also presented the Board with a letter his wife had written to the Board and Superintendent on August 5, 2021
2. Elizabeth Fernandez, parent, works in the mental health field and supports mask wearing as optional. She is concerned with the mental health toll it has taken, causing suicidal thoughts, chronic depression, feelings of isolation and hopelessness and also not being able to read the facial expressions of children.

3. Leslie Fuchs, parent, recommends that the Board follow CDC recommendations and to have students wear masks, stating that not all children have been vaccinated and there is still a “sea of red” relating to COVID. She prefers to keep students in school with masks.

VII. ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS: No comments

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Disposal of Books:** K. Walker, Chair, referred to Policy 3260 – Sale & Disposal of Books Equipment & Supplies and the Board’s duty to approve the disposal books. A list of books to be removed from the library was provided to the Board of Education from the WHS librarian. **MOTION by M. Palumbo and SECOND by Z. Hayden to approve the disposal of the books as listed that are no longer useful to the curriculum. Vote unanimous.**
- B. 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan –** Long Range Plan Subcommittee met prior to this Board meeting and submitted a recommendation to the full Board to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for 2023-2027 as presented. D. Perreault reported that Roger LeFleur attended the meeting. Tennis court repairs and a scoreboard were added to the plan for 2022-23. There was discussion regarding air handler units and coil replacement. There will be further discussion with the BOF on additional funding for the plan. Since estimates went out, there have been increases in costs. **MOTION by Z. Hayden and SECOND by M. Palumbo to approve the 2023-2027 Capital Plan as presented. Vote unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

IX. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A. Enrollment –** Dr. Martineau reported February enrollment totals equal 636 students Pre K through 12, which includes 8 out-placed students. She reported that three students recently enrolled at Daisy, which will be reflected in the March totals.
- B. Superintendent’s Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 -** **MOTION by M. Luft and SECOND by A. Miesse to approve Superintendent Martineau’s Budget Proposal for 2022-2023 as the BOE’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Vote: (ayes) A. Miesse, M. Palumbo, D. Perreault, C. Kuehlewind, S. Greaves, M. Luft, Z Hayden, K. Walker.**
Superintendent Martineau expressed appreciation to the Board for their support of the budget.
- C. Westbrook Portrait of a Graduate Update:** Superintendent Martineau provided a presentation on the progress of Portrait of a Graduate. There were 522 responses to Survey #1 resulting in the top five categories thus far: Academic Readiness, Social-Emotional Readiness, College Career, and Workplace Readiness, Civic-Minded and Financial Readiness. Survey #2 has gone out and so far there have been 110 responses. To date, top 5 Portrait of a Graduate results from survey #2:
- Responsible decision making
 - Perseverance
 - Critical thinking
 - Problem solving
 - Self management
- D. Superintendent Martineau talked about the next steps in sharing the survey results, PoG Steering Committee to meet and design PD for March; faculty work in March and April and to develop a presentation to the BOE.**

X. OLD BUSINESS

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes:** **MOTION by C. Kuehlewind and SECOND by M. Luft to approve the following BOE minutes:**
1. Special Meeting of January 10, 2022
 2. Regular Meeting of January 11, 2022
 3. Special Meeting of February 3, 2022
- Vote unanimous.

XII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Review of Check Listing: Board members reviewed check listings for January 6, 2022 in the amount of \$65,472.65 and for January 27, 2022 in the amount of \$284,007.39.
- B. Budget Narrative/Review of Expenditure Report to include Legal Expenditures. Mrs. Wysocki provided an overview of the budget as it stands.
- C. Line Item Transfer - None
- D. Insurance Report – An up to date insurance report was provided.

XIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Policy - K. Walker asked committee members to read the materials for the next policy meeting on February 17.
- B. Long Range Planning – D. Perreault – see comments under VIII.B.
- C. Fiscal & Budget – Z. Hayden reported that the Fiscal & Budget Subcommittee met on January 27. He was appreciative to L. Wysocki and Superintendent Martineau for information provided to the Committee to give them a good sense of the budget. The Committee also discussed future meetings and its purpose. The next meeting is May 19.
- D. Teaching & Learning – D. Perreault reported Teaching and Learning Subcommittee will meet on February 10, 2022.
- E. Communications & Marketing – M. Luft reported the Communications & Marketing Subcommittee heard from the Music Boosters representatives, Lisa Anderson and Steve Anderson and were informed of the fundraising activities that the Music Boosters provide to the schools.
- F. Negotiations – S. Greaves (no meeting)
- G. Town Energy Ad Hoc Committee – L. Wysocki reported the next meeting is on February 16.
- H. LEARN – Z. Hayden attended a Zoom meeting and reported that most of the meeting was dedicated to the fiscal state of Learn and a portion to how districts are using ESSER funds. This will be the last meeting he is able to attend and suggested to anyone who can attend, the meetings are available by Zoom.
- I. PTSO Representatives – Z. Hayden reported WMS PTO’s fundraisers including Valentine’s Day carnations, WMS Book Fair, Spaghetti dinner and 8th grade graduation plans; M. Luft reported on Daisy PTSO activities – Superintendent Martineau presented the budget, plans for the Daisy 5K Run in March, Christmas Fair success and transformation of the pit area into a STEAM area. The Board viewed a presentation on the details and phases of the project. R. Rose was appreciative to the Board and to Superintendent Martineau for their support. K. Walker talked about the WHS PTSO and the budget presentation. Other topics were the cookie swap, a hot cocoa bar, teacher appreciation plans, custodian recognition, Valentine’s Day, a coffee and tea fundraiser, plans for grade breakfasts in May and the current raffle for Project Graduation. There was also a discussion to resume the 8th grade joining the high school band and chorus for a performance.
- J. BOE Ad Hoc Calendar Committee – Z. Hayden has met with D. Perreault to create a calendar for the Board to follow. They will meet with the full Ad Hoc committee and the Superintendent and hopefully bring it to the full Board in March.

- XIV. BOARD GOALS** – Z. Hayden reported on the CABE Legislative Breakfast he attended with other board members. He said 90% was on the discussion about masks. K. Walker commented that there is a free webinar coming up - *Board Meeting Fundamentals to include Roberts Rules*, for anyone who is interested. She also attended the January 27 webinar on the Art of Listening which was informative.

XV. PERSONNEL

- A. Non-Certified Resignations: Dr. Martineau reported the following non-certified resignations and new hires:
 - 1. Emily Cody – Paraprofessional
- B. Non-Certified New Hires
 - 1. Katherine Richard –Paraprofessional (Daisy)

2. Julie Monroe – Paraprofessional (Daisy)

XVI. ADJOURN: MOTION by M. Luft and SECOND by C. Kuehlewind to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.
Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Kuehlewind, Board Secretary Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk

TBA at next meeting