

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

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<b>WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION Tuesday, March 8, 2022 Regular Board of Education Meeting</b>
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**MINUTES**

BOE Members Present: Kim Walker, Christine Kuehlewind, Zachary Hayden, Mary Ella Luft, Michelle Palumbo  
Via telephone: Sally Greaves, Andrew Livingstone, Mike Esposito

Members absent: Don Perreault

Also Present: Superintendent Kristina Martineau, Business Manager, Lesley Wysocki, Administrators Tara Winch, Ruth Rose, Matthew Talmadge, Fran Lagace; Technology Director, Ben Russell

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Kim Walker, Chair, called the regular BOE meeting of March 8, 2022 to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. **BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** – In conjunction with March as Board Member Appreciation Month, Superintendent Martineau extended appreciation to the Board members for their time and commitment to the Westbrook Board of Education.
- IV. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT** – Andrew Livingstone reported on school activities including both boys’ and girls’ basketball teams in the Class S state tournament; Indoor Track in the Shoreline Tournament, Cheerleaders receiving all state and all conference recognition, Alpine Ski – HFCH Hockey Academic Squad, and the start of spring sports on March 19. Other activities include World Language and Culture events; smooth transition of the end of mask mandates; upcoming production of “Theory of Relativity (ticket sales online only); music and jazz band performances; March 16 8<sup>th</sup> grade and high school combined band and choir concert, and Teen Leadership activities. Principal Winch recognized Andrew for having placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the American Legion Oratorical Competition
- V. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No comments
- VI. **ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS**
  - A. Pre-School and General Update - Fran Lagace, Special Services Director, provided an in-depth review of the Special Education Department. Topics he covered were School Wellness Audit, Federal Rights Survey (with no suspensions or expulsions); Unified Sports program, IEP training for staff; use of ESSER funds to finance EConn work and Pre-school and kindergarten Screening.
  - B. Principal Updates: Ruth Rose, Principal, talked about the reading activities at Daisy, including Read Across America, Reading Parade and a Pajama for Paisley Day; Book Fair; STAR Data, etc. Mrs. Rose is grateful for the support of the Superintendent and BOE for work with EConn. Mrs. Rose also talked about the transformation of the pit area for Robotics and the Lego Wall at Daisy. The Daisy 5K Dash is planned for the spring. The registration process for preschool and kindergarten students has been moved up. Mask transitioning went smoothly.

Principal Talmadge, WMS, also reported a smooth mask transition. Mr. Talmadge recognized Dan Jennings for helping with Pledge of Inclusion” – about belonging, everyone having a voice, acceptance and kindness. Mr. Talmadge invited board members to view the Symbol of Inclusion Board at the middle school. He also talked about the success of Unified Sports. Students will soon

be taking STAR tests and SBAC's. Work is still going on with EL families with each family receiving a welcome packet. He mentioned the need for a tutor for EL students. Middle School will be hosting a speaker, Steven Hill, on substance use prevention on May 18<sup>th</sup> for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Ms. Winch, WHS Principal, talked about the School Climate Team Leadership students participation at the State Capital in January and discussion on the topic of social and emotional issues. This presentation will be posted on the website. Ms. Winch reported the NEASC 5 year report has been submitted. SAT preparation workshops have been in progress. Superintendent Martineau recognized Ms. Winch and her team for the intervention work with students throughout the pandemic and the fact that all seniors graduated.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Policy- First Reading – 1000 – Non-Discrimination – Community/Board Operation
- B. Policy- First Reading of Policy 4000 – Non-Discrimination – Personnel
- C. Policy -First Reading of 5000 – Non-Discrimination – Students

**The BOE was asked to review the non-discrimination policies above which will be brought to the April BOE meeting for a vote to adopt.**

- D. Recommendation to rescind Policy 0521 – Non-Discrimination and replace with Policy 1000, Policy 4000, and Policy 5000 – First Reading. (per WPS Policy 9311) **Policy 0521 will be brought to the April meeting with a recommendation to vote to rescind.**
- E. COVID Related Policies: 4118.237, 4218.237, 5141.8 – Face mask coverings – Recommendation to Rescind (per WPS Policy 9311) - First Reading. **These policies will also be brought to the April BOE meeting with the recommendation to vote to rescind.**
- F. Policy 9030 – Democratic Principles – (Revised) First Reading
- G. Policy 9160 – Student Representatives on the Board of Education – (Revised) First Reading
- H. Policy 9321 – Time, Place and Notification of Meetings –(Revised) First Reading –

**Policies listed in F.G. and H. above have had slight revisions as suggested by the Policy Subcommittee and will also be brought to the April BOE meeting for a vote to approve the revisions.**

## VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Enrollment – Superintendent Martineau reported March enrollment totals equal 641 students Pre K through 12, which includes 8 out-placed students.
- B. Draft Equity and Access Statement – Co-Chairs Tara Winch and Nancy Malafrente complimented the work of the committee including S. Cost, M. Cusano, M. Tomek, C. Rickaby, T. Overchuck and L. Fitzgerald and to the staff for their feedback on the process of the Equity and Access Statement.
- C. Budget Update: Superintendent updated the Board on the budget process. She and L. Wysocki have met with the Board of Finance to present the Capital Plan and will meet once more on March 30. There is a Town Hearing on the Budget on April 11 and the vote will be in May.
- D. Portrait of a Graduate Update: A handout was given to the Board on the current outcome of the survey for Portrait of a Graduate listing the priorities that should be included in the Portrait of a Graduate. Superintendent Martineau said the image piece will come after the language is determined.

## IX. OLD BUSINESS: None

## X. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes:
  - 1. Regular Meeting – February 08, 2022 – MOTION by Z. Hayden and SECOND by M. Luft to approve the minutes of February 8, 2022. Vote unanimous.

## **XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- A.** Review of Check Listing: Board members reviewed check listings for February 3, 2022 in the amount of \$57,014.80 and February 17, 2022 in the amount of \$109,093.96.
- B.** Budget Narrative/Review of Expenditure Report: Mrs. Wysocki provided an overview of the budget.
- C.** Line Item Transfer - None
- D.** Insurance Report – An updated insurance report was distributed.

## **XII. BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS**

### **XIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A.** Policy – K. Walker reported on the above-mentioned policy actions (Item VII.) by the subcommittee.
- B.** Long Range Planning –L. Wysocki reported the RFP for mechanical job was released. A walk through has been done and a vendor should be announced soon.
- C.** Fiscal & Budget – Z. Hayden – no report
- D.** Teaching & Learning – Angelo Saba presented to the subcommittee and talked about navigating through the online curriculum and updating of curriculum cycles.
- E.** Communications & Marketing - M. Luft (no report) Next meeting on 3/24/2022
- F.** Negotiations – S. Greaves (no report)
- G.** Town Energy Ad Hoc Committee – L. Wysocki reported C. Ehlert is the Chair. Discussion was on solar program and use of infrastructure money. Andrew Miesse will be officially appointed as a Committee member.
- H.** LEARN: Z. Hayden reported on hearing from Superintendent from Groton, LEARN’s involvement with Region 17 on a Student Support Site, Office of Teaching & Learning Network and a discussion on mask mandate.
- I.** PTSO Representatives - M. Luft (Daisy), Z. Hayden (WMS), K. Walker (WHS) (no reports)
- J.** BOE Ad Hoc Calendar Committee - Z. Hayden reported the committee met on 2/24 at Daisy and the Committee continues work on a calendar draft. They also discussed the CABE BOE Leadership recognition and will proceed with gathering artifacts, etc.

## **XIV. PERSONNEL**

**Superintendent Martineau announced the retirement(s) of the following teachers effective June 30, 2022.**

- A.** Professional Retirement(s)
  - 1. Eve Barakos – 21 years in Westbrook – Mathematics Teacher
  - 2. Joseph Biegaj – 41 years in Westbrook – Art Teacher
  - 3. MaryJo Noonan – 13 years in Westbrook – Bilingual Teacher
  - 4. Robert Synott – 48 years in Westbrook – World Language/Spanish
  - 5. Catherine Taylor – 24 years in Westbrook – Math Resource Teacher
- B.** Non-Certified Resignation(s)
  - 1. Jordan Suraci – Paraprofessional –submitted her resignation effective 2/25/2022.

## **XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Z. Hayden and SECOND by M. Palumbo to move to Executive Session at 8:50 pm with an invitation to Superintendent Kristina Martineau. Vote unanimous.

- 1. Superintendent Goals – Mid-Year Update

Discussion of matters that would result in the disclosure of exempt matters.

MOTION to move back to regular session at 9:24 pm.

## **XVI. ADJOURN: MOTION by Z. Hayden and SECOND by M. Palumbo to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.**

Vote unanimous.