

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

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION Tuesday, August 10, 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, Michele Brigham

Absent: Mike Esposito

Also Present: Superintendent Kristina J. Martineau; Dir. of Finance & Operations, Lesley Wysocki, Administrators Tara Winch, Ruth Rose, Matthew Talmadge, Fran Lagace; Technology Director, Ben Russell

MINUTES – August 10, 2021

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Z. Hayden, Chair, called the Board of Education meeting of August 10, 2021 to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. **BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** – No acknowledgements
- IV. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT** – No report
- V. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Leslie Fuchs, parent, commented on the importance of wearing masks as the school reopens and asked that parents be informed of thresholds and remote or hybrid plans.

Jen Bache, parent, questioned what the evidence is on masking children in school. She expressed her concern regarding physical, emotional and mental harm and questioned the reasons for following CDC and CSDE guidelines.

Tovah Vincent commented that as a parent and in her involvement with the district, she is disappointed that “the buck is being passed” and decisions should be made based on our small community regarding masking of our children.

Z. Hayden, Chair, acknowledged and appreciated the speakers sharing their opinions.
- VI. **ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS** - No Comments
- VII. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Annual BOE meeting dates:** *MOTION to approve the BOE meeting dates as required From January 2022 to January 2023 by D. Perreault and SECOND by M. Palumbo. MOTION CARRIED. Vote unanimous*
 - B. **Disposal of Books:** According to Policy 3260 – Sale & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies, the BOE is requested to approve the disposal books. *MOTION by M. Luft to approve the disposal of the books as listed and reviewed by department heads and*

PLC leaders as no longer useful to the curriculums and SECOND by M. Brigham. MOTION CARRIED. Vote unanimous.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A.** ARP ESSER III update – Dr. Martineau provided BOE members with two handouts describing the process and next steps for the American Rescue Plan ESSER III Funds grant. She reported that there are five allowable uses: 1) Learning Acceleration, Academic Renewal, and Student Enrichment; 2) Family and Community Connections; 3) Social, Emotional, and Mental Health of Students and Staff; 4) Strategic Use of Technology, Staff development, and Digital Divide; and 5) Building Safe and Healthy Schools. The district will receive \$699,409 and these funds are to be expended by September, 2024. Feedback has been received from community, staff and families. D. Perreault commented on the positive feedback he has heard regarding the Park and Recreation program. Dr. Martineau expressed appreciation to Rich Annino regarding the program this year. K. Walker talked about the importance of the social and emotional learning and accessing needs and progress in this area.
- B.** Convocation and Professional Development Opening Days – Dr. Martineau reported on plans for Convocation. Plans are to be outside with introductions of new staff members and recognition of years of service. There will be teacher driven professional development and mandated training activities.
- C.** School Opening update – Dr. Martineau will be sending out communication to staff and to the community regarding opening of school. The school administrators will also be sending out communications. She commented that remote is not an option for this year as it will not count toward the 180 required school days. If a student is quarantined, instruction will be done on a case by case basis. Masking is still a mandate. .

IX. OLD BUSINESS - None

X. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes:

- 1. June 8, 2021 – Regular Meeting
- 2. June 8, 2021 - Special Meeting
- 3. June 17, 2021 – Special Meeting

MOTION by Z. Hayden and SECOND by M. Brigham to approve the minutes of the Regular BOE meeting of 6/8/2021, Special BOE meeting of 6/8/2021, and Special meeting of 6/17/2021. MOTION CARRIED - Vote unanimous.

XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Review of Check Listings

- 1. Update of end of year financials 2020-2021 – The Board reviewed check listings for 6/10/2021 in the amount of \$174,025.29; 6/24/2021 in the amount of \$175,739.60; 6/30/2021 in the amount of \$89,386.84, \$110,755.72 and \$114,236.02
- 2. Review of check listings for July 2021 – The BOE reviewed 2021-2022 check listings for 7/8/2021 in the amount of \$62,363.15 and; 7/22/2021 for \$69,670.72. L. Wysocki will provide a year-end report at the September meeting.

B. Insurance Report – An Insurance Report was provided.

XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. LEARN – M. Brigham reported on the LEARN meeting she attended in-person in June. Discussions were on LEARN goals, update on magnet schools, a bond bill ready for signature for Learning Academy and Executive Session to discuss the evaluation of LEARN Director, Kate Erickson.

B. Policy– K. Walker (no meeting to report)

C. Long Range Planning – D. Perreault reported LRP met with Consultant Roger LeFleur for an update on facilities and projects. Regarding HVAC they are awaiting

ARP ESSER funds to finish that; and processing a feasibility study on possible AC for Daisy, Middle and High Schools.

- D. Fiscal & Budget- M. Esposito (no report)
- E. Teaching & Learning – D. Perreault commented on the excitement to take part in Portrait of a Graduate
- F. Communications & Marketing – M. Luft (no report) – but there have been some articles in the Harbor News. Mr. Russell continues to work on the BOE website.
- G. Negotiations – S. Greaves (no report)
- H. Town Energy Ad Hoc Committee – L. Wysocki reported both the town and schools are saving money re virtual net metering. The library lighting is complete. Talks are going on about upgrading the town hall roof for solar and there was discussion on electric car charging stations.
- I. PTO Representatives - M. Luft, Z. Hayden, M. Esposito (no report)

XIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS

A. 2021-2022 BOE Goals – Z. Hayden, Chair, presented on the 2021-2022 BOE Goals – Mr. Hayden attended a Legislative Update on June 15. He also attended the annual ASCD Conference - *Empowered and Connected* and will have slides for the September meeting. He and Dr. Martineau attended the Summer CABE Leadership Conference which focused on building relationships with each other as BOE members and macro and micro management and the Board's work on the « macro » level to support the Superintendent. The CABE/CAPSS convention is on November 12 and if any board members are interested they should contact him or Central Office for registration. He also mentioned that there are several offerings from CABE on becoming a board member. The BOE goals will be shared publicly.

XIV. PERSONNEL

A. **Professional Appointments** – Dr. Martineau requested approval of the following professional appointments:

1. Kayla Pardue – Middle School Band Teacher: Kayla is a graduate of the University CT with a Masters in Curriculum & Instruction; Bachelor of Arts in Music and Bachelor of Science in Science, Music Education. She most recently was a teacher at elementary schools in S. Windsor, CT.
2. Heather Scholfield – TESOL Teacher – Heather holds a MA in Special Education from University of Hartford; MA educational Leadership with a focus on Literacy from Quinnipiac University and BS in elementary Education from Bridgewater State University, Massachusetts. Most recently, Heather was a third grade teacher in the Hartford Public Schools system.
3. Heather Cartier – OT/PT – Heather holds a degree from New York University; Master of Arts Occupational therapy and BA Early Childhood Special Education from Tulane University. She has recently worked with VISTA and SARAH.

MOTION by Z. Hayden and SECOND by S. Greaves to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint the above professional positions for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION CARRIED – Vote unanimous.

B. **Professional Resignation(s)**

1. Maggie Gilhuly – Special Education Teacher (WHS) retired from her position effective June 30, 2021. Mrs. Gilhuly was a teacher with Westbrook Public Schools for 21 years. MOTION by K. Walker and SECOND by Z. Hayden to accept with regret the retirement of Maggie Gilhuly. MOTION CARRIED - Vote unanimous.

C. **Non-certified Appointments(s):** The Board was informed of the appointment of the following non-certified personnel.

- 1 Danielle Soucy – Paraprofessional (Daisy)

D. **Non-certified Resignation(s)** The following Paraprofessionals submitted their resignations/retirements effective June 30, 2021.

1. Maria Cusano, Paraprofessional
2. Laura Esposito, Paraprofessional

3. Ana Armas, Paraprofessional
4. Charles Bailow, Café' Manager/Substitute Custodian effective July 22, 2021.

XV. ADJOURN: MOTION by M. Brigham and SECOND by M. Palumbo to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Kuehlewind, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk

To be approved at 9/14/2021 BOE meeting