

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting Minutes

MINUTES

Present: Lee Bridgewater, Sally Greaves, Jackie Lyman, Michelle Palumbo, Don Perreault, Dee Adorno, Kim Walker, Mary Ella Luft, Zachary Hayden

Also Present: Superintendent Patricia A. Ciccone; Administrators Taylor Wrye, Ruth Rose, Tara Winch; Madeline Illinger, Special Services Director; Lesley Wysocki, Business Manager; Dir of Technology, Ben Russell; Faculty, Guests

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The regular Board of Education meeting of September 10th, 2019 was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chair, Lee Bridgewater.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

III. **BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

1. **Patrick Hanssen** – The BOE honored Patrick Hanssen as the 2019-20 Teacher of the Year and presented him with a plaque. Mr. Hanssen is a mathematics teacher at the high school. He was also recognized at Convocation and his name will be added to the Teacher of the Year perpetual plaque which will be on display in the high school, and he will also be honored at a CSDE ceremony. Mr. Hanssen commented that he is appreciative of this honor and the process he has experienced has been rewarding.
2. **Introduction of new faculty and staff:** Superintendent Ciccone introduced the following new faculty and staff to the Board of Education and a reception was held to welcome them to the WPS: Kristin Magnano, WMS Grade 6 Science; Michelle Tomek, Special Ed (PreK); Meta Wallace, WHS Science; Sarah Cunningham, WHS Guidance; Leslie Carson, Career/College Readiness Coordinator; Alexandra Wilson, WHS Math; Stephanie Merriman, Kindergarten Teacher; Lynne Fischer, 3rd Grade Teacher; Vanessa Federico, Reading Resource Teacher, Abigail Rice, Elementary Teacher; Joseph Zebrowski, Physics Teacher; Kathleen Burk, Speech/Language Pathologist; Paraprofessionals: Jennifer Hickey (FT), Ana Armas, Belendy Jean, Secretaries: Julia Luster, Sp. Ed.; Diane Fencil, Daisy; Lori Wallace, WHS Guidance ; Elizabeth Mather – WHS Cafeteria

The Board adjourned for a brief reception to meet and greet the new faculty and staff at 7:16 p.m.

The meeting resumed in regular session at 7:48 p.m.

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Tara Winch, WHS Principal, introduced Ian Whitehouse as the BOE Student Representative. Ian reported on the fall sports opening season, the upcoming UConn Boat Race, this year's musical "Little Mermaid", High School Bowl, Field Day on Sept. 27th, Senior Breakfast, and College/Career Readiness Program.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT : No comments

VI. ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS

A. Summer School Wrap-up – M. Illinger, Special Services Director, informed the Board of the successful summer school program, which served 106 students. The Board was given a handout detailing each of the offerings for students in grades Pre-K through 12, as well as the Work Alliance and DORS work programs. Mrs. Illinger stated that there are nine programs determined by age and educational needs and the goal is to provide ongoing academic/social learning experiences to those students in need.

B. Pre-K Expansion Brief – R. Rose and M. Illinger reported on the pre-school program and provided a handout to the Board detailing question and answer facts given to parents of pre-school children. Currently, the program serves 50 students.

C. Middle School Opening & Open House – T. Wrye, WMS Principal, reported on the opening days at the middle school. He said the first three days focused on relationships and getting to know each other. Open House on September 19th will have 5th and 6th graders presenting in the first hour and 7 and 8th graders in the second hour. Board members are invited to visit the middle school anytime.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Disposal of Textbooks: Superintendent Ciccone requested the Board approve the disposal of outdated history textbooks from the middle school. *Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by J. Lyman to approve disposing of the outdated textbooks as mentioned. Vote unanimous..*

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Enrollment: Superintendent Patricia Ciccone provided September enrollment figures currently of 666 students pre-K– 12 including 4 out-placed students with three pending registrations.

B. Opening Day Update/Professional Development & Trainings: The Superintendent reported on the opening day and professional development. Staff participated in

Safety and Security Training, Mandated Reporting and Health care. The second day of professional development was conducted as an Ed Camp.

- C. Mastery Testing – Achievement Data Release Update: Superintendent Ciccone advised the Board that there will be an in-depth report on the achievement data at the October meeting. Data was just recently released and results are being reviewed.
- D. Career/College Readiness Initiative: T. Winch talked about the work that is being accomplished with businesses, the community and elected officials regarding this initiative and introduced Leslie Carson who gave an in-depth presentation on the Career/College Readiness Initiative. Mrs. Carson talked about the framework of the program and the three buckets of the program exploration, career connections, learning and career development along a continuum for students. Superintendent Ciccone said she hopes to meet with the Commissioner of Education who supports the Career/College Readiness model. She believes Westbrook will have the “signature” program in the State of CT. Mrs. Carson has made many connections toward involving students for internships, job shadowing and teacher externships. Plans are for Human Resource people to conduct mock interviews and help with resumes’. The Board was given several handouts detailing every aspect of the Career/College Readiness Initiative.

IX. OLD BUSINESS: None

X. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes:

- 1. Regular Meeting – August 13, 2019: *Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by K. Walker to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 13, 2019. Ayes: M. Palumbo, L. Bridgewater, S. Greaves, D. Adorno, K. Walker, D. Perreault*
Abstained: Z. Hayden, M. Luft, J. Lyman

XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Review of Check Listing: Board members reviewed check listings for August 8, 2019 in the amount of \$225,615.49 and for August 22, 2019 in the amount of \$95,856.47.
- B. Budget Narrative/Review of Expenditure Report: Mrs. Wysocki provided an overview of the budget as it stands.
- C. Line Item Transfer: None
- D. Insurance Report: Board members received an updated Insurance report.

XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. LEARN – D. Adorno (no report)
- B. Policy– K. Walker (no report)
- C. Long Range Planning - M. Palumbo (no report)
- D. Insurance- L. Bridgewater (no report)
- E. Negotiations - S. Greaves (no report)

- F. Town Energy Ad Hoc Committee – L. Wysocki (no report)
- G. PTSO Representatives - J. Lyman, M. Luft, M. Palumbo (no reports)

XIII. PERSONNEL

A. Professional Appointment(s)

Superintendent Ciccone recommended the BOE approve the appointments of the following new teachers:

1. Abigail Rice – Elementary Teacher
2. Kathleen Burk – Speech Language Pathologist
3. Joseph Zebrowski – WHS Physics

Moved by K. Walker and seconded by M. Palumbo to approve the appointments of Abigail Rice, Kathleen Burk, and Joseph Zebrowski. Vote unanimous.

B. Non-certified Appointment(s): For the Board's information, the following non-certified appointments were made:

1. Paraprofessionals: Ana Armas and Belendy Jean
2. Elizabeth Mather – Cafeteria

XIV. ADJOURN: *Moved by D. Perreault and seconded by J. Lyman to adjourn at 9:09 p.m. Vote unanimous.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Walker, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk