

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATE, CHALLENGE, & INSPIRE

<p>WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION Tuesday, January 10, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m. WHS Library Regular Board of Education Meeting</p>
--

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

Absent: Mike Esposito

Also present: Superintendent Kristina J. Martineau; Business Manager, Administrtors: Ruth Rose, Matthew Talmadge, Fran Lagace; Lesley Wysocki, Dir. Of Finance and Operations; Ben Russell, IT; Delaney Belcourt and Elliott Koplas, BOE Student Representatives; Faculty and community members

MINUTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – The regular BOE meeting of January 10, 2023 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Kim Walker, Chair.

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- III. BOARD OF EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGMENTS - None**

- IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT** – Delaney Belcourt and Elliott Koplas reported on school activities including the winter sports activities (Boys’ and Girls’ basketball, Indoor Track, and Girls’ and Boys’ Ice Hockey). Interact Club sponsored a PJ Day for Cancer and a drive for gloves and mittens; SADD promoted kindness and leadership; Law Class heard from CT State Representatives and held a mock trial and Project Graduation is currently sponsoring a raffle through February 10.

- V. PUBLIC COMMENT** Re: Matters of General Concern & Agenda Items
 - 1. Patrick Hanssen, Faculty member and WEA President, asked the Board to gain input from teachers on making major decisions, as teachers are in a position of knowing the student body needs and although the Board has the right to make decisions, that involving teachers prior to making these decisions creates a positive relationship. A list of possible impacts was provided to the Board Chair.

 - 2. Shantel Berg, parent of a 5th grader, shared a chart of her concerns regarding the impact of moving the 5th grade to Daisy and asked that everything be communicated to parents. She suggested bringing back discussion on regionalization.

 - 3. Eric Gerhardt, high school music teacher commented that Westbrook is not as culturally rich as surrounding communities and a price tag should not be put on a child’s artistic education relative to the budget. He asked the Board to consider opinions of the professionals and to not “rush” decisions.

4. Jessie Lemmark, parent of a 6th grader, commented that her child “thrives” in the middle school and is not in support of moving 5th grade back to Daisy. She is concerned with teacher moral in making cuts and tranfers and is also concerned with a disparity of teacher pay compared to other districts. She commented that we should look at areas of weakness at the high school instead.
5. Colleen Bloom, parent, stated that she is against the Grade 5 move and suggested more time is needed; she would like a concrete outline of schedules; bussing is a concern and urged the Board to not rush this decision.
6. Tovah Vincent, parent and former teacher, agreed with comments from Mrs. Bloom and Mrs. Lemmark and also stated that good things happen at Daisy regardless of the decision on moving 5th grade. She asked the Board to look at how this decision affects our district and suggested the staff needs to feel supported. She also commented that parents need to be more involved and the Board should not rush this decision.
7. Cassandra Morrison, parent, said that middle school has been a positive experience for her child and encouraged the Board to not rush this decision. She is concerned with cuts to foreign language and disparity of teacher pay and also commented on the topic of regionalization.

VI. ADMINISTRATOR(S) COMMENTS

- A. Special Education Update – Fran Lagace, Director of Special Services, reported on the Special Education Department, including the following:
 1. CT SEDS – ongoing process that is getting better by the week; Mr. Lagace recognized Jillian Carr for her incredible support for district in this process
 2. Staffing – all positions are currently filled with staff (includes 4 remaining contracted employees); stating we were able to fill three contracted positions with full time hires; FMLA, retirements and resignations have all been filled
 3. Deveraux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) 22-23 pilot – implemented round 1 district wide October 6 (mini) & 7 (full)/January 4 (mini) & January 11 (full); not a mental health screener, looks at social skills (kindness, empathy, cooperation, etc.); aligned with CASEL SEL indicators; schools identifying high need areas and researching activities that can be implemented team/grade/school wide; district SEL team to develop family communication and sharing of data after working through calibration of assessment ratings/raters
 4. Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) –is in full swing at Daisy, process starting at WMS, attendance data shared with WHS; future Board presentation by the MTSS teams
 5. Unified Sports/Clubs updates – Unified Clubs starting this month at WMS; district wide Unified events happening, inclusion of Daisy students developed by Dan Jennings
 6. Community Walks at Daisy – students learning and practicing adaptive skills on community based walks; learning street signs, cross walks, general public safety. Visit local businesses, i.e., Post Office, to generalize and practice skills. Co-treatment/teaching through collaboration of special education teachers, Speech & Language, BCBA, and behavior technicians.

Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions and comment; the consensus being that this was an excellent and informative report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS – No new business

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Enrollment – Superintendent Martineau reported December enrollment is currently 609 students which includes 4 out-placed students,
- B. Budget Process Update: Dr. Martineau reported that work continues on the budget for 2023-24 and the next Budget Workshop is scheduled for January 24 at 6:00 p.m.

IX. OLD BUSINESS: None

X. CONSENT AGENDA.

- A. Approval of Minutes:
 - 1. December 06, 2022 – Special Meeting
 - 2. December 13, 2022 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Z. Hayden and SECOND by M. Palumbo to approve the minutes of December 6 and December 13, 2022. Vote unanimous.

XI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Review of Check Listing: Board members reviewed check listings for December 8, 2022 in the amount of \$298,029.73 and for December 22, 2022 in the amount of \$159,587.40.
- B. Budget Narrative/Review of Expenditure Report: Mrs. Wysocki provided an overview of the current budget as it stands.
- C. Line Item Transfer - None
- D. Insurance Report – L. Wysocki will email the current report to BOE members.

XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Policy - K. Walker reported the next Policy meeting is on January 19 at 5:00 p.m.
- B. Long Range Planning – D. Perreault referred to the new Chair of LRP, Andrew Miesse. A. Miesse reported the consensus was to move forward and have Roger LeFleur prepare the HVAC ED Specs. The Committee will meet in February to review the 2023-2027 Capital Plan and the ED Specs in preparation for the March BOE meeting.
- C. Fiscal & Budget – Z. Hayden reported the Committee met and discussed possible participation in an insurance consortium.
- D. Teaching & Learning – D. Perreault reported the Teaching & Learning meeting is scheduled for February 2.
- E. Communications & Marketing – M. Luft reported this committee will meet prior to the regular BOE meetings; probably every other month.
- F. Negotiations – D. Perreault reported AFT Negotiations will be starting and dates have been approved. Those dates will be communicated.
- G. Town Energy Ad Hoc Committee – A. Miesse – No report
- H. LEARN – Z. Hayden reported LEARN is scheduled to meet on Jan. 12th.
- I. PTSO Representatives – Z. Hayden, M. Luft, K. Walker: (Middle School PTSO will meet on 1/19 and Daisy on 1/18. No meetings are scheduled for WHS at this time.

XIII. BOARD GOALS

- A. BOE Self Evaluation – This item is tabled until the date for the Town Meeting is set.

XIV. PERSONNEL

A. Non-certified personnel new hires are as follows:

1. Caitlin Bialek – School Nurse (Daisy) will be replacing Kayla Johnson, school Nurse at Daisy.
2. Melanie Davis – Paraprofessional rehired - (Daisy) effective January 3, 2023

XV. ADJOURN: MOTION by D. Perreault and SECOND by M. Palumbo to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Kuehlewind, Board Secretary

Cecilia S. Lester, Board Recording Clerk

TBA at next meeting