

WILLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2008  
**(Unofficial until Board approval)**

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chairman Mark Makuch at the Town Office Building.

PRESENT: Mark Makuch, Laurie Semprebon, Herb Arico, Christine Psathas, Teri Gareau, Christina Mailhos, Superintendent David Harding

ABSENT: David Tharp

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Christina Mailhos, to rearrange agenda items 3 "Communications," 4 "Present to Speak," 6 "Consent Agenda," 7 "Superintendent Reports," and 9 "New Business" to the area of the agenda between item 1 "Call to Order" and item 2 "Executive Session."

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

COMMUNICATIONS:

The Board received a letter from CAFE recognizing Herb Arico and Laurie Semprebon for earning their Certificated Board of Education Member Award, resignation and exit interview letters, a thank you from Jan Boudreau, a memo from Planning and Zoning, minutes from Region #19 and a packet from CAFE's Policy Service.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

No requests

CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Christina Mailhos, to divide the Consent Agenda.

VOTE: Yes: Herb Arico, Teri Gareau, Christina Mailhos, Christine Psathas,  
Laurie Semprebon  
No: Mark Makuch  
Motion Passes

MOTION: by Teri Gareau, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2008 meeting.

VOTE: Yes: Teri Gareau, Christina Mailhos, Mark Makuch, Christine Psathas,  
Laurie Semprebon  
Abstain: Herb Arico  
Motion Passes

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, to approve review of payment of bills and/or transfers.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

#### SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS:

Superintendent Harding commented that it was too early to report on fixed numbers of the budget.

Updates were given on the following projects: kitchen equipment and front pillars at Hall Memorial, mulching in playgrounds, all-purpose room floor at Center Elementary, new website and John Mindek's Eagle Scout project.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Teri Gareau, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, to relocate agenda item 9A "Approve web camera placement at Hall Memorial School" to immediately prior to agenda item 10 "Present to Speak."

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Christine Psathas, seconded by Christina Mailhos, to approve the hiring of Sean Conlin, Brynn Lipstreu and Brendan Tormey for the school year 2008-2009.

VOTE: Yes: Herb Arico, Teri Gareau, Christina Mailhos, Christine Psathas,  
Laurie Semprebon  
Abstain: Mark Makuch  
Motion Passes

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, to pay \$1,500 for field maintenance for Center Elementary and Hall Memorial schools for the remainder of the season.

VOTE: Yes: Herb Arico, Mark Makuch, Christina Mailhos, Christine Psathas,  
Laurie Semprebon  
Abstain: Teri Gareau  
Motion Passes

MOTION: by Christina Mailhos, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, to move agenda item 8 "Old Business" immediately prior to agenda item 2 "Executive Session."

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

#### OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Christina Mailhos, to accept the Administrator's contract from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012 as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Christina Mailhos, to approve Five Year Plan for the period of July 2008 to June 2013.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Herb Arico, to move agenda item 2 “Executive Session” to after agenda item 10 “Present to Speak.”

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

PRESENTATION:

Debra Sullivan and Colin McNamara gave presentations on the Connecticut Mastery Test.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on web camera placement at Hall Memorial School. Superintendent Harding answered questions that Board members had.

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Teri Gareau, to allow Present to Speak as an exception to the agenda.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Jennifer Goodwin said that the biggest issue is going from no security to the other extreme. She suggested using teachers and other children as monitors to behavior.

Amy Twiss commented that the money spent for the security system could have been used for other things in the schools.

Lynn Nichols related an experience she had several years ago when she walked through Center Elementary School and no one stopped to ask who she was.

Kathy Mikel asked about the camera placements.

Bill Konieczny mentioned that a security system is for the childrens’ safety.

Michelle Bidwell thanked the Administrators for their presentation.

MOTION: by Christine Psathas, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, to postpone discussion of placement of web cameras until the next regular meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Christine Psathas, seconded by Herb Arico, to go into executive session at 8:36 p.m. to hear a parent transportation request and to invite Attorney Meuser, Superintendent Harding and witnesses, parents and witness.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board moved out of Executive Session at 10:35 p.m.

MOTION: by Christina Mailhos, seconded by Mark Makuch, that based on the evidence introduced during the transportation hearing conducted on August 28, 2008 by the Board, that the Board affirm the Administration's determination that the student in question is ineligible for the specific transportation modification requested by the student's parents and move further that the Board Chair be authorized to issue a written decision setting forth the basis for the Board's decision, as discussed by the Board during its deliberations on this matter on August 28, 2008.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

BOARD COMMENTS:

The Board congratulated Aaron Lopes and Cassie Svelnys as having been recognized as the state's top Scholar Leaders in Willington by the Connecticut Association of Schools and also congratulated John Mindek on completion of his Eagle Scout project. Board members attended Meet and Greet and the teachers' kick off meeting. The Board wished the staff good luck at the start of the new school year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Christine Psathas  
Board Secretary