

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by chairman Mark Makuch at the Town Office Building.

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

ABSENT: Christine Psathas

COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Harding shared a copy of the Region 19 minutes from the November 19, 2008 Building Committee meeting and the December 2, 2008 BOE meeting.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

PRESENTATION:

Beth Gankofski, Lunch Director, reported on the status of the food service programs at both Center and Hall schools. She has been in observing and reports that the staff is pleasant and accommodating and that there is a decent program in place. The staff have all participated in and completed a four week Serve Safe Certification Course that was provided. She gave information on the DOD commodities program being utilized. Due to the economy the meals served are down but this is consistent across the state and country at this time. She will make recommendations for the future of the program once her observations are completed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Harding reported on the budget update with progress on reducing the 2009-2010 budget, the reading program update and discussing the purchase of a new assessment program, the project update on the completion of the rebuilt sign and new scoreboard at HMS and mention of the CES water project needed with a response due to the state by December 31, 2008.

OLD BUSINESS:

Board discussed the revision of the BOE meeting calendar to include January 2010.

MOTION: by Teri Gareau, seconded by Christina Mailhos, to revise the Board of Education Meeting calendar to include January 12, 2010.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed the option of having different BOE meeting locations.

MOTION: by Teri Gareau, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, to have some of the Board of Education Meetings, at the discretion of the Board, held at the schools in 2009-2010.

VOTE: Yes: Herb Arico, Teri Gareau, Laurie Semprebon, Christina Mailhos, David Tharp
No: Mark Makuch

Motion Passes

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Christina Mailhos, seconded by Dave Tharp, to approve the minutes of November 12, 2008.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed the review of payment of bills and transfers.

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Mark Makuch, to approve the review of payment of bills and transfers.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Dave Tharp, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, to add an agenda item to approve the transfers.

VOTE: Yes: Laurie Semprebon, Herb Arico, David Tharp
No: Mark Makuch, Teri Gareau, Christina Mailhos

Motion Defeated

Board discussed the CIP Proposal presented, followed by a discussion of the water project at CES and a letter written by the State Dept. of Health to the State Dept. of Education regarding the violation/consent order that the facilities committee met about and the Superintendent has to respond to by December 31, 2008.

MOTION: by Teri Gareau, seconded by Herb Arico, to accept the CIP Proposal for the coming 2009-2010 year for \$15,000 for technology and \$70,000 for CES water project with reimbursement of \$44,800 from the State.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed the Statement of Integrity presented and the current status of being in the bylaws of the policy book along with the intended purpose of it. Board decided to send any recommended changes to the policy committee to review and revise the statement for further discussion at a later date.

Superintendent Harding presented the enrollment projections for October 1, 2009 followed by a discussion of the numbers of projected homerooms per grade and class sizes and the reasoning behind each as it relates to the budget and the projected staff numbers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Facilities Committee met and discussed CES water project, CES cafeteria tables, and the HMS back sidewalk repairs made by R. Strong enabling a cost savings.

Superintendent Evaluation Committee stated the Superintendent mid year review by the Board is tonight.

Mark Makuch reported on the area Superintendent's meeting to discuss the High School Transportation information.

Curriculum committee, Mark Makuch is impressed with the job they are doing and it is going

well.

Health and Safety Committee meets in January.

Policy Committee meets every week, has sent a packet to CABA and awaits for the corrections which will go to the Board once received and is continuing review of additional CABA packets.

Transportation Committee has not met.

EastConn Executive committee met on November 25, 2008 and had a guest speaker John Bouregard, of Eastern Connecticut Investment Board and discussed HeadStart program update.

Herb Arico, liaison for Charter Advisory Board reported they met in November and reviewed items with possible small increases in prices with restructuring of tiers in January.

Finance Committee meets to review payment of bills but has not formally met.

Herb Arico, member of Region#19 BOE, reported board met with selectman and officials of other towns, budgets gloomy with cut backs and issues of regionalization being discussed with possibility of forming a committee to investigate it further.

Board discussion of track and field project at E.O. Smith took place.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Tammy Dolce asked about the projected enrollment figures presented earlier in regards to the current grade 3 moving to grade 4. She suggested that one of the four, third grade teachers be moved to a fourth grade teacher position to retain four classes with a smaller savings in the budget.

Superintendent Harding responded with clarification on the enrollment figures and class sizes along with the potential savings in the budget to be gained reiterating that he still needs confirmation on upcoming status of certain positions.

Tammy Dolce asked if para's at HMS are for special needs students only or if they go from class to class to help all students and suggested having more para positions if there are less classes for grade four.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Board commented on how good the food was at Center School, how this year is going to be a tough year budget wise and everyone should be aware of the potential for cutbacks, being impressed with the curriculum committee, and Region #19 meeting seemed gloomy and stated people need to think outside the box and get creative such as regionalization and forming a committee on it.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, to enter into executive session at 9:16 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and to invite Superintendent Harding to join.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board moved out of executive session at 9:55 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Nichole Page

Recording Secretary