

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by chairman Mark Makuch at the Town Office Building.

PRESENT: Mark Makuch, Herb Arico, Christine Psathas, Christina Mailhos,
David Tharp, Superintendent David Harding

ABSENT: Laurie Semprebon and Teri Gareau

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mark Makuch began with an apology to Herb Arico about the Veteran's Day error for the Board meeting and read an excerpt from Shakespeare. He shared an advertisement received regarding an upcoming lecture.

Superintendent Harding shared a copy of the Region 19 minutes from the October 7 meeting, an article from the Hartford Courant regarding spending cuts in school systems around the state, and two letters to the Superintendent award recipients, HMS eighth graders, Sam Governale and Aimee Blauvelt. He shared details of the awards to be presented at RHAM High School at 7pm on November 18, 2008.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

PRESENTATION:

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Harding reported on the budget update with a discussion regarding possible plans for potential spending cuts, the reading program update, project update discussing the completion of the basketball court at CES and the sidewalk repair at HMS by Ron Strong, which now eliminates the expensive cost of that item on the CIP list. The parent meeting on October 29 was not well attended but a good discussion took place on cost cutting while maintaining current programs. The Parent Expo on November 1 was very well planned and organized but not well attended due to some conflicts in town and they are looking at ways to improve attendance if held again. The Superintendent informed the Board that CABE's Leadership Award will be presented to this Board at the CABE/CAPSS convention on Friday. He informed the board of the play at HMS of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* at 7pm.

Mark Makuch asked about No Child Left Behind requirements and discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Board discussed the second reading of the Automatic External Defibrillators policy.

MOTION: by Christine Psathas, seconded by Herb Arico, to adopt policy #5141.27
Use of Automatic External Defibrillators.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

NEW BUSINESS:

Board discussed board comment section of minutes recorded.

MOTION: by Christine Psathas, seconded by Mark Makuch, to accept the minutes of October 14, 2008.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

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

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed the BOE meeting calendar.

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Christine Psathas, to approve the 2009 BOE Meeting Calendar.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed the process of making up snow days as whole days versus half days and decided to gain additional feedback from administrators and teachers and to continue discussion at another meeting.

Superintendent Harding presented copies of current policy # 6141.3 District Internet and E-mail policy stating our compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Discussion followed regarding the state provided filtering system having a high level of protection and continually updated and monitored by Brian Andle, who does an excellent job of being cautious and conservative.

Superintendent Harding presented a copy of the 2007-2008 Strategic School Profile with the discussion of the report and how it is used.

Board held first reading of the Bullying policy #5131.9 with discussion of policy changes due to state statutory changes.

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by David Tharp, to adopt the revisions to policy #5131.9 Bullying.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Transportation Committee has not met.

Policy Committee meets every week and is continuing review of CABA's packets.

Facilities Committee is continually working on list of expected upcoming projects and working with CIP planning and feel it is going well and are impressed with Superintendent's and Ron Strong's ability to work to do things less expensively and make things last.

Finance Committee meets to review payment of bills but has not officially met yet for budget. They are tracking budget figures for this year but next year's budget is still in the hands of the administrators and finance committee will review soon.

EastConn executive committee met on October 28, 2008, and discussed the Quinnipiac High School project placing 35 students on the Quinnipiac Campus to take high school and college courses together.

Superintendent Evaluation Committee have been meeting and a possible mid year review to be held in December.

Superintendent Harding provided a copy of the class counts for both schools and requested a confirmation count for the retreat.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Mrs. Bidwell asked that the 2007-2008 Strategic School Profile be placed on the district's website.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Board thanked the policy committee for all the hard work they are doing. Board commented on the Parent Expo being an excellent program that offered a variety of presentations and were eager to provide information to the public and thinks it is a good idea to continue next year with a change in schedule or venue possibly combining it with another town event to gain more attendance. Board stated upcoming retreat on November 25, 2008, monthly meeting on December 9, 2008, committee meetings next week or after Thanksgiving and E.O. Smith Foundation's 1st Induction Ceremony for ten hall of fame members to be held on the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Mark Makuch met with the district's curriculum committee which is still in conceptual stages but is excited, the people are enthusiastic and technology is changing how it all works.

Board commented on the how nice the new basketball hoops at Center School look and are excited for the students, the PTA did an amazing job on the election day bake sale and thanked the administrators that handled the bus incident with efficiency and speed. Superintendent Harding commented on contacting the state police regarding the bus incident for more monitoring of the major roads in Willington during bus times and feels a larger plea may need to be made.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Nichole Page
Recording Secretary