

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by chairman Mark Makuch at the Town Office Building.

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

ABSENT: Herb Arico

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, to add an item to the agenda under new business as the first item to accept a teacher retirement.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Harding shared a copy of a letter from Catherine Rowe, Director of Choral Activities at E.O. Smith High School, praising HMS teacher Jason Phillips and the chorus during the fly up concert.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Laura Gilbert, HMS Parent, wanted to praise History Day and Mrs. Pinney saying that Willington swept the awards and it was such a nice show. She also commented that because of the history day piece in social studies her daughter cannot wait to go back to class.

PRESENTATION:

Center School Principal, Colin McNamara and Hall Memorial School Principal Deborah Sullivan spoke about the standard practices for recess for grades K-5. Discussion with the Board followed about possible indoor recess ideas for K-5 along with pros and cons of recess for grades 6-8.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Harding reported on the budget update, including a report from Donna Latincsics the Town Business Manager who explained about the current and projected amounts around \$150,000 up to possibly \$190,000 of unspent monies being available. Superintendent Harding and Donna Latincsics also explained about the GASB45 future potential liability for retirement benefits.

Superintendent reported on the reading program update regarding Colin McNamara's visits to various schools to observe, obtain information, and bring back new ideas to implement data team meetings at Center School. Colin McNamara gave a brief explanation about the benefit of data team meetings and the process.

Superintendent Harding reported on the request for transfer of \$29,000 for chip sealing and painting the parking lots at Hall School explaining the facility committee's recommendation to have the work done now versus a greater cost to do it later once deterioration had worsened and the whole lot would need repaving instead.

He reported on the annual History Day phenomena saying this year was even better than ever in all categories with 18 Students going on to the state competition on May 9, 2009. There will be the annual History Day Exhibit Night on May 6, 2009 at Hall School and encourages everyone to attend.

He reported meeting with administrators regarding the application for the stimulus package explaining the fund amounts which should be received of \$127,000 in IDEA and \$28,000 in Title I and the rules regarding the spending of the funds stating that the application is due to the state tomorrow but the state has not issued the applications out yet.

Superintendent Harding complimented Mark Makuch on the excellent job of articulately explaining the Board's position at the town meeting.

He also reported the cooperative reverse auction meeting with the other towns went well.

He made a suggestion of moving forward and being open to any ideas any person may have. He started with one of his own consisting of the possibility of looking into paying tuition for Willington grades 7 and 8 to go to Mansfield Schools and combining Center and Hall schools into the Hall School building. Discussed the pro's of a substantial savings in cost and Willington students would be on the same page academically with Mansfield when they move onto the high school vs. the cons of Hall school not being set up ideally for elementary school age children. He hopes tossing out ideas will help to provoke other ideas for the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Christine Psathas, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, for the Board to accept the retirement of Hall teacher Kathy Klosowski.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, to approve the transfers of \$29,000 to seal and paint the parking lots at Hall School.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Christine Psathas, seconded by Teri Gareau, to approve the minutes of March 10, 2009.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Christine Psathas, seconded by Mark Makuch, to approve the Willington Public Schools Educational Technology Plan for 2009-2012.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed the first reading of new policy 3326.3 Board of Education Credit Card requesting members to send thoughts to the policy committee before the next meeting.

Board discussed the first reading of a section of Series 3000 Policies Business/Non-Instructional Operations requesting comments to be sent to the policy committee.

Board discussed and clarified the Superintendent end of year evaluation packet requesting any questions be sent to Superintendent Harding. Superintendent will present goals at the May meeting.

Board discussed the upcoming Board of Education vacancy from the upcoming departure of board member David Tharp who is moving onto a job opportunity overseas in Iraq.

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebson, seconded by Teri Gareau, to be it resolved: that upon the recommendation of the Policy Review Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, The Wellington Board of Education rescinds all policies contained in its current Board of Education Policy Manual, Section 2000, Administration, and adopts in its place the attached revised Series 2000, Administration, as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed the potential recipients for the Board of Education Citizenship Award.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy Committee is still working on packets.

Health and Safety Committee meeting scheduled for the end of April.

Finance Committee met and reviewed bills and transfers.

Facilities Committee looked at the end of the year improvement list and how it fit with the budget and have another meeting coming up.

Curriculum Committee cancelled the last meeting due to teachers being unavailable and will meet on April 30, 2009 to look at the stimulus monies and possible purchases with the professional development piece and hope to have more clear guidelines once completed.

Transportation Committee has not met.

Food Service committee will meet the first week of May with Superintendent Harding scheduled to meet that week with the Food Service Director for an update and recommendations.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

BOARD COMMENTS:

Board commented on what a wonderful job Mrs. Pinney has done with the students and the great accomplishments at History Day! Board pleased with the Technology plan and commented on how nice it is to see the schools receiving awards on a variety of things and appreciates all the work by administration, superintendent, the Board, and everyone to accomplish so much. There will be a success assembly at Hall School on April 17, 2009 at 8am. The Board thanked Superintendent Harding for coordinating the seminar with surrounding towns on reverse auctions stating many are excited about the prospects.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION: by Christine Psathas, seconded by Mark Makuch to move into executive session to discuss personnel issues at 8:55pm.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

Board moved out of executive session at 9:21pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Nichole Page
Recording Secretary