

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Harding shared a copy of a letter to the selectman's office from Mark Makuch regarding clarification of the Board concerns on the water project and a letter from CABA sent to Mark Makuch.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Community member Ralph Tulis spoke to the Board to explain his recent unemployment situation and to emphasize the preference to decrease the budget. He stated that he also requested the same of the Board of Finance for all town departments in order to decrease the resident's taxes.

PRESENTATION:

Hall School computer teacher Jan Platt presented on the overview of the engineering and design program for the eighth grade.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Harding reported on the budget update, the reading program update regarding Colin McNamara's communications with Yale about finding another school that has been doing data team meetings and using IRP's with students to coordinate a site visit. Colin McNamara and Kristen Stevens will be presenting on the vocabulary module during the half professional development day in March. There are not any projects for an update currently but discussed the transfer for a compressor to be replaced at HMS and additional funds to replace valves that have begun to give way.

Superintendent Harding led a discussion regarding the amount of snow days and the possibility of eliminating the March professional development day.

He handed out a comparison chart of overall average scores by town of the CAPT test of the current juniors at E.O. Smith from last school year with the data showing Willington students meeting or exceeding the standards.

Superintendent Harding explained the process of "Reverse Auctions" and the possible benefits. He stated he is meeting with other town superintendents regarding group orders and is looking into a test order to see the potential savings.

Superintendent Harding discussed the continuing confusion surrounding the stimulus package stating there is a statewide meeting with the Commissioner of Education on March 17, 2009 that should provide more answers.

Superintendent Harding updated the Board about the ad-hoc regionalization committee for Region #19 and is suggests additional Board representation.

Superintendent Harding provided details about the recent accident with a Center School bus.

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Dave Tharp, to add discussion about possible calendar change to letter G as an action item of New Business on the Agenda.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, to approve the transfers as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Dave Tharp, to approve the minutes of February 10, 2009.

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

Motion Passes

Board discussed the 2009/2010 school calendar with additional statements.

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Herb Arico, to approve the calendar as presented for 2009-2010 with the addition of language stating "If school is cancelled six or more days, any make-up days will be taken from the April vacation beginning on April 19, 2010.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed the BOE Citizenship Award.

Board discussed the topic of recess, the benefits and issues surrounding recess for various grade levels. Board requested for Superintendent Harding to acquire various information from the school principals for the next meeting.

Board held and discussed the first reading of the Series 2000 Policies Administration.

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Teri Gareau, to change the March 23, 2009 professional development day to a student school day and add a professional development day for teachers at the end of the school year on June 23, 2009.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

OLD BUSINESS:

Board held second reading of 1000 Policies Community Relations.

MOTION: by Teri Gareau, seconded by Herb Arico, to be it resolved: that upon the recommendation of the Policy Review Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, The Willington Board of Education rescinds all policies contained in its current **Board of Education Policy Manual, Section 1000, Community Relations**, and adopts in its place the attached revised **Series 1000, Community Relations**, as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy Committee still working on packets, the next series is a larger section and will be grouped by topic.

Health and Safety Committee meeting scheduled for April.

Finance Committee met and reviewed bills and transfers.

Facilities Committee will meet on March 24, 2009.

EastConn Executive Committee met and had Karen Kaplan from the Department of Education speak to the group regarding High School reform.

Curriculum Committee is looking into the state posted curriculum model to assess its usability.

Herb Arico, member of the Region 19 BOE, reported the field project is on hold and the facilities committee will meet after the budget has been completed.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

BOARD COMMENTS:

Board thanked Jan Platt for her presentation stating it is nice to see what the students are working on. Board attended the Read Across America celebration at Center School reporting it was a nice experience to read to the students and fun to see Principal McNamara in costume!

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Nichole Page
Recording Secretary