

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by chairman Mark Makuch at the Town Office Building.

PRESENT: Mark Makuch, Laurie Semprebon, Leo Mercado, Erika Wiecenski, Barry Wallett, Mark Jones, Herb Arico, Superintendent David Harding

COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Harding shared a letter received from CECA regarding the award for HMS teacher, Rebecca Pilver.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

John Collins, HMS parent, informed the board that he is starting a booster club for HMS music program called "Friends of Hall School Drama and Music". He explained how it will give the opportunity to gather parents and the community to fund and build up the program at Hall School.

Nancy Pettitt, teacher at CES, spoke about the group of children that will be entering Kindergarten this coming year and the large amount of special needs

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Harding reported on the water project status with Laurie Semprebon reporting on the town meeting she attended with the selectman to provide information on the original requests and timelines of communications regarding the project. The selectman decided to move forward with the project and Superintendent Harding contacted the engineer for the designs to go out to bid with hopes that the work can take place before the school year starts again.

Superintendent Harding reported that the facilities committee would delay the walk-thru until August at the request of Ron Strong, he requested possible dates from the Board members for a retreat.

Principal, Colin McNamara spoke about the CES reading program with results of the third grade Blue Ribbon Testing benchmark assessments having a positive outlook with 87% proficient and 70% at goal which is a large increase over last year and from the beginning of the year. He is waiting for results on the second grade to be returned and is hopeful that a there will be a strong correlation with CMT scores.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy Committee plans to complete the 5000 series tonight, the next series came in and should be able to be completed before the new school year.

Health & Safety Committee met, focusing on the wellness policy and how it is implemented, decided to beef up the implementation with memo to staff and parents to reduce the amount of food related events at the schools and replace with healthy alternatives including a campaign to inform parents about nutrition and wellness. Herb Arico, Liaison for Region 19 reported working on transportation policy, facilities committee is still working on track, field, and tennis court figures which will be voted on in September, VOAG department applied for a \$995,000 grant to improve facilities that looks promising.

Herb Arico, Liaison for EastConn Executive Committee met and celebrated the 30th anniversary held at the ACT theatre with Gary Marx a futurist speaker present, hopeful to break ground on new addition in near future.

Negotiations Committee met.

Transportation Committee plans to meet with new vendor of M & J Transportation in July.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Erika Wiecenski, seconded by Herb Arico, to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2010 Board Meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Leo Mercado to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2010 Special Board Meeting.

VOTE: Yes: Mark Jones, Leo Mercado, Barry Wallett, Erika Wiecenski,
Laurie Semprebon, Mark Makuch
Abstain: Herb Arico

Motion Passed

Board discussed the Kindergarten sections with Superintendent Harding giving an overview of the situation of low enrollment and possibilities available concerning teacher positions. Principal Deborah Sullivan discussed the need of remediation staff and help for the new enrichment program for next year at Hall School. Board discussed the options and asked questions of the Kindergarten staff and administrators.

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Barry Wallett to move that pending the reduction in Kindergarten from three sections to two sections that we create a position at Hall Memorial School that is .5 remediation and .5 enrichment.

Board discussed the allocation of the position times.

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Erika Wiecenski, to amend the motion on the table to allow the distribution of enrichment and remediation amounts to be determined at a later date.

VOTE: Yes: Herb Arico, Erika Wiecenski, Laurie Semprebon, Mark Jones
No: Mark Makuch, Leo Mercado, Barry Wallett

Motion Passed

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Laurie Semprebon to approve the transfer request for outplacement tuition from health insurance in the amount of \$9,900.00 as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed the legislative update on the Race to the Top.
Superintendent Harding reviewed and explained the Healthy Food Certification renewal statement.

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Leo Mercado to renew the Healthy Food Certification Statement.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

OLD BUSINESS:

Board held second reading of second section of Series 5000 Students Policies.

Board discussed the electronics policy deciding on the language to be used, discussed the dress code.

MOTION: by Erika Wiecewski, seconded by Laurie Semprebon to Be it Resolved: That upon the recommendation of the Policy Review Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, The Willington Board of Education adopts **Board of Education Policy Manual, Section 5000, Students, policies 5000-5131.6** with the exception of 5132, as amended.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Eric Britschock, CES parent, suggested keeping teachers and having smaller classes for the upcoming Kindergarten.

Kathy Mikel, HMS parent, commented on the correspondence on H5-425 with burden of proof legislation passed finding it to be offensive because it does not consider the expense for those without the financial resources, or those with language barriers, putting parents at a disadvantage. She also commented on regular education versus special education, talented and gifted versus the regular, with the harmful separations, stating that in this economy we have to work together. She has ideas on cooperating with each other and encourages people to attend the new SEPTA meetings to participate and educate themselves. She thanked Deborah Sullivan and Paul Nash for hosting the bullying information session stating it was very informative.

Tracie Bristow, CES teacher, informed the Board that her kindergarten class was selected for pilot program with LeapFrog and was awarded 168 books, 6 electronic reader pens, and headphones. Dianne Walter's class was selected as a control group and will also be awarded the same items once the program has been completed next year. These items will be useful as supplemental intervention tools.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Board members attended the HMS art show and band concert, Memorial Day parade with HMS marching band, the CES grade 2 celebration of learning, and the PTA Fun Run.

Board thanked Laurie Semprebon for her presentation of information at the town water meeting. Board informed of upcoming events of Space Night on June 11, 2010 at HMS, chorus concert at HMS on June 10, 2010 and graduation on June 16, 2010.

Board plans on attending the SEPTA meetings once they start again for the next school year.

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Leo Mercado, to enter Executive Session at 8:43pm for the purpose of the Superintendent's evaluation and invite the Superintendent to join.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board exited Executive Session at 9:43 p.m.

MOTION: by L. Semprebon, seconded by B. Wallett to approve the Superintendent's evaluation and to extend the Superintendent's contract.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Nichole Page
Recording Secretary