

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010
(Unofficial Until Board Approval)

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

PRESENT: Mark Makuch, Laurie Semprebon, Leo Mercado (arrived 7:04), Erika Wiecenski, Barry Walleth, Mark Jones, Herb Arico, Superintendent David Harding

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Hope Charette, parent of Center School student, informed the Board of her concerns about the quantity of celebrations and the unhealthy food served at these celebrations during the school year asking if the Board would review the wellness policy for updates and implementation. She would like a committee formed to look into alternative celebrations without food or with healthy food and less often to limit lost instructional time.

John Frassinelli, parent of Center and Hall school students, who serves on the State Department of Education Committee for School Nutrition, informed the Board that he would be happy to assist on any committee formed for the wellness policy and that he has ideas and suggestions for healthy alternative celebrations. He also wanted to commend Principal Sullivan and Hall School on the success assemblies being well done with the kids so well behaved, respectful, enthusiastic and supportive of their peers.

Christina Mailhos, Selectman, congratulated the Board on the recent passing of the budget and knows they will start looking at next years' budget soon. She acknowledged the Superintendent's upcoming meeting for parents and wants to also do another meeting later hopefully including the Boards of Selectman and Finance. She informed the Board of the newly adopted resolution for 20% of the town's energy consumption to come from clean energy for 2010.

PRESENTATION:

Paul Nash, HMS Guidance Counselor presented an overview of the School Guidance Counseling Program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Harding reported that HMS grade 4 teacher, Rebecca Pilver, won an award for the unit she presented to the Board two months ago, with \$1000.00 prize and will be presenting at the CECA conference on October 18, 2010.

The water project grant application for phase two has been completed. Phase one is complete and needs a few edits to the bid proposal.

The State History Day competition took place. Vanessa Lusa placed third in the Historical Paper Category and she also won the special award for Outstanding Entry in Early American History (through 1812) from The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Liam McLean placed third in Individual Performance. Matt Tangari and Josh Kozicki won the special award for Outstanding Entry in Connecticut History from the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford. Hannah Dancosse and Deborah Hickson won the special award for Outstanding Entry in Women's History. Also, looking into starting a web page for an HMS alumni group, discussed curriculum and Blue Ribbon.

Superintendent Harding reported that the current enrollment for Kindergarten for the next school

year is at 32 students which is lower than the projected amount.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee met and reviewed the bills.

Policy Committee continuing to work on the section 5000 series of policies.

Facilities Committee planning to attend upcoming water meeting.

Herb Arico, Liaison for Region 19 reported the budget passed, facilities committee is still working on track and field numbers and tennis court was drilled to check foundation, voted for the Race to the Top, had technology presentation.

Herb Arico, Liaison for EastConn Executive Committee still working on building program to add to the Hampton facility, approved Race to the Top, budget set up.

Negotiations Committee set tentative meeting date of May 18, 2010 at 7pm.

Transportation Committee plans to set date to meet new vendor of M & J Transportation.

Laurie Semprebson reported on CAFE Leadership meeting she attended on April 26, 2010 with another meeting on May 12, 2010.

Curriculum Committee met, drafted letter sent to teachers thanking them and giving feedback on minor issues to incorporate in the future.

Board discussed nominees for BOE Citizenship Award.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Erika Wiczenski, seconded by Laurie Semprebson, to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2010 Board Meeting with addition of motion for adjournment.

VOTE: Yes: Erika Wiczenski, Herb Arico, Barry Wallett,
Mark Jones, Leo Mercado
Abstain: Laurie Semprebson

Motion Passes

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Laurie Semprebson to approve the transfers as presented by the Superintendent in the amount of \$98,086.00.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed second section of Series 5000 Students Policies with emphasis on dress code and cell phone usage policies.

Herb Arico left the meeting at approximately 9:25 p.m.

Board discussed the legislative update and the Race To The Top Application.

MOTION: by Barry Wallett, seconded by Mark Makuch to decline joining the Race to the Top Application.

VOTE: Yes: Barry Wallett, Mark Makuch
No: Mark Jones, Leo Mercado, Erika Wiczenski,
Laurie Semprebson

Motion Failed

MOTION: by Mark Jones, seconded by Leo Mercado to apply to the Race to the Top.

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

Motion Failed

OLD BUSINESS:

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

MOTION: by Erika Wiecenski, 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** as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Erika Wiecenski, to remove Agenda Item number 11 of Executive Session for Superintendent end of year evaluation from the Agenda.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

BOARD COMMENTS:

Board thanked Paul Nash for his presentation and congratulated Rebecca Pilver on her award, congratulated Pat Pinney and the students for their success at the History Day Competitions. Board members attended the HMS Science Night, History Day Night, Success Assembly, and Beauty and The Beast Performances noting two sold out dates, the live pit orchestra and the success of enrichment programs in the schools.

Board members noted budget open forum parent meeting being held by Superintendent Harding on Saturday May 15, 2010 from 10-11 a.m. at the Willington Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Nichole Page
Recording Secretary