

Willington Board of Education
November 13, 2018 7:00 p.m.
Town Office Building, Lower Level Meeting Room

Audio Recording: yes

Notes Taken: yes

Members Present:

Herb Arico

Tracey Anderson

Chiara Bambara

Michelle Doucette Cunningham

Ann Grosjean

Elena Testa (arrived at 7:06pm)

Members Excused:

Stephanie Summers

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Phil Stevens

1. **Call to Order:** at 7:03 pm by M. Doucette Cunningham.

2. **Present to Speak:** None

3. **Communications:** None

4. **Presentation:** None

5. **Board of Education Chairman's Report**

A. Update on Policy 9221 Filling Board Vacancies

The policy committee will be drafting a policy to bring to the full board next month.

6. **Superintendent Reports**

Holly McCarthy, the Pupil Services Director, is retiring after 11 years of service. P. Stevens is in the process of finding a replacement.

P. Stevens only received one response from the electronic survey that was put out regarding magnet schools. He will be mailing out letters with return envelopes and making phone calls to request completion.

P. Stevens recommended setting a special meeting on December 3rd in order to approve the finalists for the pupil services director and Center School principal positions as well as review CIP projects.

Due to the Board of Education’s policy, they cannot hold an open forum. That format would be useful especially for filling Board of Education vacancies. The Superintendent can hold forums or office hours to get feedback. P. Stevens will set a few different times to hold office hours. The BOE will look into the policy.

The BOE site visits will be postponed until January due to the administrative searches. The finance subcommittee will schedule a time to meet before the regular BOE meeting next month.

7. Financial Report

There are no surprises at this point in time. This year is pretty comparable to this time last year. More money has been spent on curriculum and staff development than at this time last year. Last year a budget freeze was in place, which contributes to this difference.

8. Committee Reports

A. Sub committee: student clubs and extracurricular activities

The subcommittee met with representatives from the library board, social services, recreation, and the schools. They discussed offering some joint ventures in order to offer students more activities. Transportation is a limiting factor. It is expensive to provide, but if it is not provided some students will not be able to attend. The group will have further discussions.

9. New Business

A. Approve minutes of October 9, 2018

H. Arico made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2018 meeting. E. Testa seconded the motion.

VOTE:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Herb Arico	--x--	----	----	----
Tracey Anderson	--x--	----	----	----
Chiara Bambara	----	----	--x--	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	--x--	----	----	----
Ann Grosjean	--x--	----	----	----
Elena Testa	--x--	----	----	----
Stephanie Summers	----	----	----	--x--

Motion passes.

B. Approve minutes of October 30, 2018

A. Grosjean made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2018 meeting. T. Anderson seconded the motion.

VOTE:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Herb Arico	--x--	----	----	----
Tracey Anderson	--x--	----	----	----
Chiara Bambara	--x--	----	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	--x--	----	----	----
Ann Grosjean	--x--	----	----	----
Elena Testa	----	----	--x--	----
Stephanie Summers	----	----	----	--x--

Motion passes.

C. Review 2019-2020 Willington Public Schools Draft Calendar

P. Stevens attended a regional superintendents meeting to discuss the school calendar. If schools have similar calendars and professional development on the same days, then they can potentially share professional development resources. The superintendents tentatively agreed on some of the concepts on the draft calendar.

The draft calendar shows three staff development days at the beginning of the school year. The calendar also show students going to school on Veterans Day. Legally, students are only allowed to attend school on Veterans Day if the school holds a program about the day. P. Stevens stated this year students at HMS had a program on Friday to honor Veterans. The program was student led and very moving. Having students in school on Veterans Day would give them the opportunity to learn about the significance of the day.

H. Arico questioned why Veterans Day was targeted. There are other days that students have off such as Labor Day, Columbus Day, and Presidents Day that could have been selected. P. Stevens clarified that legally there are some holidays on which students are not allowed to go to school. He will look into the rules further.

One vacation day in February was proposed. This will give families a long weekend for travel. The day could also be recovered if there was a lot of weather related cancellations in January.

The calendar will visually display potential snow days to show parents that June 12th may not be the last day of school.

D. Confirm Dates for Budget Process

The BOE discussed dates for the budget workshops. The April 9th meeting will be cancelled and replaced by a special meeting on April 11th at 7pm.

10. Present to Speak:

Mike Cioe, teacher at HMS, invited the members of the BOE to come to upcoming events at the school.

Mike Buster, 19 Birch Meadow Rd, shared that as a veteran he supports students going to school on Veterans Day. He would like students to have the opportunity to be educated about the importance of the day.

Ethan Parsell, 10 Depot Rd, asked the BOE why attending school on Veterans Day is necessary in order for students to learn about the holiday. He referenced that this year the students had a program on Friday to teach them about Veterans Day and still had the Monday holiday off.

11. Executive Session:

H. Arico made a motion to move to executive session at 8:12 pm to discuss school security measures and invited the Superintendent to join. C. Bambara seconded the motion.

VOTE:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Herb Arico	--x--	----	----	----
Tracey Anderson	--x--	----	----	----
Chiara Bambara	--x--	----	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	--x--	----	----	----
Ann Grosjean	--x--	----	----	----
Elena Testa	--x--	----	----	----
Stephanie Summers	----	----	----	--x--

Motion passes.

Exited executive session at 9:07 p.m.

12. Board Comments: None

13. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Bekah Rupert
Recording Secretary