

**WILLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Minutes

**Town Office Building, Lower Level Meeting Room**

**7:00 p.m.**

Audio Recording: yes

Notes Taken: yes

**Members Present:**

Michelle Doucette Cunningham

Herb Arico

Tracey Anderson

Ann Grosjean

Elena Testa

Chiara Bambara

Also Present: Superintendent of Schools Phil Stevens

**Members Absent**

Stephanie Summers

**Presentations**

**Virtual Reality Goggles**

Katie Rychling presented on Class VR, virtual reality for the classroom, which includes access to lesson plans and resources within a website. Lesson plans align to common core state standards. She gave examples of two different types of lesson plans, virtual and augmented reality. Requests were made by the board to look into how these could help develop social skills and investigate any negative effects.

**WTNH news report on HMS STEAM classes**

News report will be airing this Thursday 10/10 at 5:50 PM

**SBAC scores**

Hall Memorial School Principal Ken Craig presented the language arts scores from SBAC for the town and other towns in the region/reference group. Grades 3-8 were tested in Language Arts and Mathematics.

Center School Principal Rich Napoli presented SBAC exam scores for math. He explained curriculum shifted to be more aligned with common core and how the district promotes small group teaching. The math portion of the exam becomes increasingly difficult as the grade levels increase.

K. Craig presented the Growth Model from the State of Connecticut, which is a way of monitoring student progress. This model evaluates the percentage of target growth achieved by each individual student then factors it into the overall grade growth. Increasing data team meetings across all grades was discussed along with the priorities of both schools to align curriculum with instruction, targeted instruction for all students, and high quality professional development.

### **Communications**

#### **Eastconn Letter**

EastConn sent a letter offering a position on their board. Tabled discussion until after elections take place and committees are updated.

#### **Board of Education Chairman's Report**

M. Cunningham informed board that the Board of Selectman unanimously voted to create an 11 member building committee with 6 seats reserved for specific members and 5 from the community. If interested, notify Robin Campbell with a letter of interest and qualifications. This is a significant time commitment and meetings will be open to the public.

### **Superintendent Reports**

#### **Oil tank reimbursement request update**

The reimbursement paperwork for the oil tank was submitted to the state last week. Anticipating the town will be getting approximately 64% back on the project which came in under budget.

#### **Financial transfers**

Waiting to complete any transfers related to staffing until hiring is complete. There are still an open positions for science and math with applications continuing to trickle in for both.

Asked to consider requesting the board of finance to transfer funds from the approved roof projects at CES and HMS to a patching project at both

schools. The state will not provide reimbursement on the roof projects if a new facility is going to be built.

A. Grosjean made a motion to request up to \$100,000 from the Board of Finance to patch the roofs at both schools. H. Arico seconded. The board discussed replacing CES roof and patching HMS.

<b>Vote:</b>	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Herb Arico	X			
Tracey Anderson	X			
Chiara Bambara	X			
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X			
Ann Grosjean	X			
Stephanie Summers				X
Elena Testa		X		

Motion passes

**School security meeting**

The next school security meeting is scheduled for October 28th and they will be reviewing the plan. One of the topics is cyber security and recommendations will be reviewed from a meeting the First Selectwoman and P. Stevens had with NOVUS. A full security assessment would include 4 phases- discovery, gap analysis, vulnerability scanning and an action plan. We are a smaller municipality but costs estimates are at the minimum of \$14,000, but could be up to \$50,000.

**Donations accepted**

The Ashford Business Association and the Monty family made a financial donation to support parents struggling to pay their lunch balance. This money was directly deposited into student accounts.

FedEx employees took a collection of school supplies for our students that were distributed to both schools.

Rowley family made financial donation after the golf tournament to benefit the student activity fund.

P. Stevens thanked all the donors.

**EEE virus information**

The town is in contact with Eastern Highlands Health District regarding decision-making, but our sports teams are off the fields by 5:15 PM so no adjustments were made. The situation is going to continue to be monitored and we expect additional recommendations from DPH and EHHD as needed.

**Financial Report**

**19-20 Budget Report**

Grant money has been applied to the budget as designated during the budget process last year. Title 1 money went to the salary for the reading intervention position at Center School. HMS looks high because there are two full positions open and the cost of our hiring at HMS was lower than the person replaced. When transfers are complete it is expected to balance out.

**18-19 Student Activity Accounts**

The town treasurer completed a reconciliation of student activity accounts. The auditors will complete an audit of the accounts during the town audit.

**2020-2021 Budget Timeline Data**

A draft budget timeline was presented including the dates for the budget workshops with specific programs. Having an overview of the entire budget highlighting large changes and limiting two rounds of board questions was discussed as improvements to the process.

**New Business**

**Approve minutes of September 2019 meeting**

E. Testa requested “due to illness” be added after “E. Testa exited the meeting at 8:22 pm”.

<b>Vote:</b>	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Herb Arico	X			
Tracey Anderson	X			
Chiara Bambara	X			
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X			
Ann Grosjean	X			
Stephanie Summers				X
Elena Testa	X			

**BOE Goals 19-20 Approval**

Wording was adjusted on the school culture and climate goal. E. Testa made a motion to approve the education goals for 19-20. C. Bambara second.

<b>Vote:</b>	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Herb Arico	X			
Tracey Anderson	X			
Chiara Bambara	X			
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X			
Ann Grosjean	X			
Stephanie Summers				X
Elena Testa	X			

Passes unanimously

**Admin contract approval**

Minor adjustments were made to the wording of the contract. Salary increase was negotiated to 2.5% for the next three years. Insurance savings were negotiated as well.

H. Arico motioned to approve contract as presented. E. Testa second.

<b>Vote:</b>	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Herb Arico	X			
Tracey Anderson	X			
Chiara Bambara	X			
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X			
Ann Grosjean	X			
Stephanie Summers				X
Elena Testa	X			

Passes unanimously

**Present to Speak**

Donna Cook- Asked about sanitation procedures regarding virtual reality goggles. Then stated data disaster recovery and keeping digital personal data private is very important regarding cyber security.

Sarah Parsell- Congratulated H. Arico on 45<sup>th</sup> years on the board and agrees with D. Cook and P. Stevens on concerns with cyber security and is impressed with algebra program.

### **Board Comments**

E. Testa spoke to a comment that was made last meeting, stating the tax increase presented was inaccurate for a \$200,000 home. Her position regarding building a new school is to spend more money on education and have the town be known for best possible curriculum and teachers. Prefer to see money spent for education versus new school. Encourages everyone to get out and vote.

C. Bambara thanked both principals for presentations earlier for the hard work they are doing to targeted instruction, and congratulated H. Arico.

A. Grosjean thanked Kate for virtual reality presentation and congratulated H. Arico

T. Anderson thanked the presenters and Phil for his efforts at HMS with the ongoing traffic issue, and congratulated H. Arico

M. Cunningham thanked presenters and Phil for his leadership.

H. Arico thought presentations were excellent and recognized P. Stevens for his leadership. Thanked everyone for the recognition before the meeting.

### **Adjournment**

M. Cunningham adjourned meeting at 9:13 PM