

WILLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Town Office Building, Upper Level Meeting Room

7:00 p.m.

Audio Recording: Yes

Notes Taken: Yes

Members Present

Herb Arico

Elena Testa

Michelle Doucette Cunningham

Ann Grosjean

Donna Cook

Tracey Anderson

Members Absent

Liz Perry

Also Present

Superintendent of Schools Phil Stevens

Members of the Public

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a Willington Public Schools student.

Present to Speak

No one present to speak.

Presentations

A. Center School Highlights

Principal Rich Napoli said that Center School has had many successes. In January around the Super Bowl the Kindergarten team did a food drive and collected 381 items for those in need in our community and donated it to the Willington Food Pantry. In addition to learning how to be charitable, students also used sorting and counting skills. He thanked the many families that donated.

R. Napoli reported that third graders have been studying the fires in Australia. They talked about what they'd learned about the impact on animals and humans. They wanted to raise money to plant trees in Australia with a goal of \$300 which was met in one day. Paper hearts were sold for \$1 in the cafeteria in the morning and online donations were accepted to raise a total of \$1,417 allowing the planting of 30 acres of trees. He thanked the community for helping them reach their goal. CES students presented on their project.

R. Napoli stated that CES received a grant in February for the *Look for the Good Project*. *Look for the Good* promoted kindness and gratitude within the school community for 2 weeks. CES student leaders presented about their project including posting 1,473 gratitude notes. Students spoke to how the campaign positively impacted their school community. Students were recognized on Fox 61 and in The Chronicle for their work.

CES music teacher, Jan Castle spoke about the CAS outstanding arts award. Elementary schools are invited to nominate students who are in the highest grade at your school for elementary arts award for excellence in visual or performing arts. Alison Spector and Jan Castle were able to nominate students - Marin Farar & Lucas Anderson. In February there was an award ceremony at AquaTurf for students across the state to be honored for their participation. Lucas will be going to the elementary honors choir in April.

B. School-Based Health Services, Jane Hylan, Community Health Center, Inc.

Jane Hylan and Shannon Hanson gave an overview of how their services began. She stated that students learn better when they're ready to learn. Hundreds of students are receiving counseling services to make sure students are available to learn and can access curriculum. Parents would like to continue those services into the community. The mission is to provide services to uninsured and underinsured.

They have always been invited into a school by the community and by word of mouth. They do not cold call districts. Every child needs parental consent to be seen without a parent present, although they do family work as well. The service is accountable to the BOE, and will follow guidelines, and ask what the appropriate services will be for the town. The licensed providers provide services dependent on a community's request. Most schools can't accommodate comprehensive service and base it on the needs of the student population, specifically providing behavioral health services.

Enrollment forms are available for parents to access online and can be submitted through a secure portal. Paper forms are also available. They can help families navigate insurance and see any child regardless of insurance status. They accept all insurances and there are no

out-of-pocket fees. They spoke about research-based positive outcomes for students. School staff are the primary referral source through counseling staff, though a procedure would be put in place by the district. CHC will market and let families know the services are available, but school staff identify the children who would most benefit. Families can also self-refer. CHC would need a dedicated space in the schools while they're there, but can be shared, and they bring their own furniture, computers and equipment.

Herb asked if students are seen by appointment. Children are seen by appointment and the Willington Public Schools would receive one clinician between CES and HMS.

Elena asked if this was community based at all, or just schools?

CHC stated they have public locations, also working in domestic shelters, and students are eligible at the public locations. The community location has a month's waiting list and less continuity. CHC would provide a minimum of 3 days of service over the summer if Willington entered into a contract.

Pupil services director Marcia McGinley noted that Willington would be providing students and families with access. Families do struggle with getting community support, so this allows families and students to have better access to community-based services.

Donna asked how long are appointments?

CHC responded that they are typically 30 min once/week. Often tapers down to every other. High need children may be seen twice a week, once alone and once in a group.

Elena asked if the services would be shared between school districts.

CHC responded that one person would be assigned to Willington throughout the week, half at Center, half at Hall. CHC will grow to meet demand as the word gets out and become integrated into the patterns of school as family members and children become comfortable. There is a lot of need. CHC is sustained by reimbursement from insurance and families are not charged.

Donna asked what happens when a child graduates?

Specific processes are set up to transition students to continue services and work with families to continue to find care.

Pupil services director Marcia McGinley noted that this program cannot replace required school-based counseling IEP or 504 hours. This is an enhancement and not the same services. We would identify specific guidelines for referral and if a student was referred to service, the

parent is involved before that referral. Willington staff would reach out to the family and recommend services to the family and then the form goes to CHC who would do an intake and treatment plan which would be signed by parents.

Communications

Superintendent Stevens reported that the BOE received a letter from Doug Roberts sharing his thoughts on the school building process and to consider the crumbling foundations and the possibility of offering agricultural programs in school.

H. Arico motioned to move item C. right after communications.

E. Testa second

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
H. Arico	X			
M. Cunningham	X			
D. Cook	X			
T. Anderson	X			
A. Grosjean	X			
E. Testa	X			
L. Perry				X

Motion passes.

C. CES Septic Tank and Leach Field

David Lytwyn of Admiral Septic reported on the status. He stated that he performed an emergency pumping on February 22 and is researching what’s going on. He has used a fiber optic camera, and performed some minor excavation. There are 14 leaching trenches with 7 pipes leading out to those. 3 pipes were blocked with debris and they were unable to inspect with the camera. He reported that there are broken distribution boxes and the main distribution box is deteriorating and collapsing. He’s hopeful we’ll be able to rejuvenate the system. If major work occurs, he is aiming for April vacation to minimize disruption. He reported that they had to pump the tank 2 times now for a total 12,000 gallons in a short period of time. He is working with Eastern Highlands Health Department. Around \$12,000 in repairs have been identified so far, and that price doesn’t include the work that has been completed to date. Baffles are

rotten/gone/missing and need to be addressed. The main distribution box is under the blacktop, and needs to be removed and replaced. The leaching field pipes need to be jetted, forcing water through the pipes at high rates. When a breakout happens, all the fluid is going into one leach field in particular along with rain water. When inspected it was noted that the breakout didn't come back with septic materials. Unknown how expensive jetting will be - \$150/hour. The Fire Department could bring in a tanker. D.Lytwyn said it is possible to be able to extend the life of the system. Some problems came from driving heavy equipment over. Typical life on a system is 50 years +/- but it's all about maintenance. This system was installed in the 1970s.

Elena asked if there was any chance the playground may be contaminated.

Admiral Septic owner Dave Lytwyn responded that the breakout didn't come back with septic materials. They have been going and checking tank levels. Superintendent noted that we may need to bring in topsoil at the end of the work, and also said they will be inspecting the HMS tank when they are done at CES.

Donna asked if it was possible not to replace some blacktop so the system can function the way it's supposed to function?

Dave responded that the trenches may extend under the sidewalk and parking lots. We may have an opportunity to extend air down to balance the amount of pavement over the system. He also proposed installing a manhole on the blacktop for future inspection.

Chairman's Report

H. Arico reported that a Town Meeting is coming up tomorrow to address the roofing projects and committees to work on those.

P. Stevens stated that the items are separated out. We need a building committee for the schools to ask the questions. He is reviewing architect proposals that have come in, but doesn't make sense to do that until the building committee is formed.

Herb attended a meeting of CABA Board chairs. Representatives from all over CT. Issues they're having in other areas are similar to what Willington is seeing. Declining enrollment, student achievement. Regarding sharing services - it seems we have more shared services with the town than many other towns in CT. We have good cooperation with Selectmen so are fortunate in that way. Discussed changing demographic influences.

Superintendent Reports

A. Roof Patching

The patching is almost complete, and we already see a tremendous difference. CES is done and one small section left at HMS. We need to keep an eye to see if any other patches are necessary, hopefully it'll work until roof replacements are ready.

B. Roof Replacement

The BOF voted on January 16 to move forward with full roof replacements. They understand that if the school building project goes through, the town may have to pay some of that back. Bids are for architectural not construction services. If it doesn't pass at the town meeting, then that's the end of this. The BOF can make different recommendations. If the project is done in the fall, may be done for less money -as it's a slower season for companies. You can do roofing in the fall. Summer is a busy season. Application process through the state is painfully slow. Payment reimbursement on the other hand is faster. If it passes, the BOE finance committee would come together to go through bids.

A. Grosjean asked about reimbursement.

P. Stevens reported that if you build a school or leave one of the schools within a certain period of time, you'd have to pay it back. After 5 years, the state has already paid a large portion of the roof bond. If you're in for 5 years, you may have to pay the balance. Not written anywhere, DAS doesn't put it in writing, they have their own formula.

D. Portrait of a Graduate Work

P. Stevens reported on the district steering committee. The committee is creating an education vision. They are researching, identifying, discussing attributes that graduates need to be successful going into high school and beyond. The committee has identified 4 attributes. The committee will be involving school staff in the near future for feedback. After staff, they will open conversation to additional stakeholders. The group wants to be able to talk about how they got to those 4 attributes: Good communicators, effective collaborators, critical thinkers, and compassionate individuals. Many things fall under those items. This has not been an easy task and the committee has done a good job moving it forward.

H. Arico stated that we need to consider that every student is an individual and consider E.O. Smith too.

P. Stevens reported expectations were identified by grade level for what each attribute looks like at each level. P. Stevens said that EOS has 7 attributes. Their feedback is that 7 is a lot. They recommended to make a shorter list and hone in on specifics. The attributes the Willington

committee identified would work very well to feed into what EOS has.

E. Edutrack donation option

There is a new option to the school community to make donations of any amount through the food services program and to donate to people in need. District staff will distribute the funds based on need. The donations are for families we know are struggling.

F. HMS Coffee House

Last Wednesday band students hosted their first coffee house. Students chose their own music to perform and modified the music for their instrument. The evening was entirely student driven as they emceed and performed. It was a great example of student-centered learning.

Congratulations to the students and band teacher for an outstanding evening.

G. CES Read Across America

On March 2 CES participated in a variety of reading activities and had guest readers in classrooms. Mrs. Redding chaired the program but teachers made it happen in their classrooms.

H. Special Education Audit: Executive Summary

Pupil Services Director Marcia McGinnley and Superintendent Stevens are writing the summary. Lots of data/recommendations. The summary will have an action plan for staff and the Board. The key findings included the need to identify strategies to improve collaboration and communication and provide more ongoing professional development. The audit supports the number of paras we have based on specific student needs, even though higher than state average.

I. Coronavirus

A letter will go out to staff and families tomorrow regarding the additional cleaning efforts that are taking place. Custodians working overtime to clean desks at night using chemicals you can't spray when kids are present. The Governor's office recommended canceling events, travel. Notifying the community tomorrow that the musical Matilda will be postponed until June. The Broadway trip to NYC will be moved to June. M&J is proactively cleaning busses. Will be diligent to keep members of the community safe.

Meeting with the teachers' union representation on Thursday. If schools are closed we have to make up those days and go to school 180 days (April vacation and June). Distance learning has to meet a lot of requirements to be approved and special education hours have to be covered. No distance learning in lieu of onsite learning is recommended by the state at this time. The board discussed why distance learning would or would not work.

Ann asked if we have guidelines for closing if a child tests positive.

Superintendent said he would talk to Eastern Highlands and probably close. No decisions would be made in a vacuum and they would be made with medical professionals.

Donna asked if the district was making recommendations to parents.

Superintendents are all collaborating on this. Our letter says to keep kids home if at all sick. If we go out for 2 weeks, we still need to provide lunch and breakfast for kids who need it. We have a plan. Bagged distribution out of HMS that meet nutrition guidelines.

J. CT Judicial Branch, Court Support Services, PTA grant to support afterschool programs to support childhood development

We were notified that the state grant was approved. Funding is slow to come, funneled through the PTA as non-profit. Once it comes in, it will help provide additional opportunities for students. It is a new grant that came out last year offering opportunities for clubs and additional supplies. It will roll into next year as well. We are making sure we receive the funds before doing something big with it. It is a \$25,000 reimbursement, not provided up front.

K. Resignation: Angela Ruiz

We had a long term sub at HMS for Spanish and she has resigned. It is a shortage area and hopefully we can fill it. We may have to come up with a creative solution.

L. Retirement: Willa Berghuis

An expert teacher for 34 years in Willington. We are very grateful for what she's given to CES and wish her well in retirement.

M. New staff:

Marla Porkory was a long-term sub who has been hired to replace a special education teacher who resigned. We are now looking for a long term sub for special ed for the remainder of the year. Erica Bushior has been hired for the 7th grade math position. We are now interviewing for a math interventionist position.

N. February Professional development Day

Successful de-escalation training for the crisis team and implementation of readers/writers workshop.

O. Schedule School Visits for BOE members (groups of 2-3)

The Board can get a sense of what's going on at schools and see how dollars are being applied. Brenda will reach out to board members to schedule possibly 30 minutes at each school.

P. BOE retreat update and new BOE member training

The Retreat is tentatively scheduled for April 29, 4-7:00 p.m.

New BOE training scheduled for May 1, 2-4:00 p.m.

Q. Transportation Update

The Board was reminded about possible savings by combining bus routes and sharing services with EOS. The initial review shows both districts would save money, but not as much as we hoped, and it may be worthwhile to go out to bid. In the new proposal, bus cost per day goes up \$100/day. We would go from 6.5 busses to 9 and would be saving approximately 40k, region 19 60k. Would like to be saving Willington 60k+. More to come on this topic. Discussion was held on logistics.

R. Capital Improvement Plan Options

We are looking for creative ways to plan future projects, as Year 5 projects rarely get done. It is a struggle to find funds to pay for projects.

Committee Reports

Curriculum committee - did not meet.

Finance committee - did not meet.

Policy committee did meet. Addressed student bullying and board vacancy policies. Another meeting is scheduled for March 19.

Financial Report

A. 2019 - 2020 Budget Update

Program 1, after the salary line is adjusted it will balance from program 2 because of open positions. Program 2 has money because of open positions. Money could be used to fund NOVUS and CES septic cost. Program 3 has a hole of about 179k which is going to be covered by excess fringe benefits. Program 4 we are waiting on check from EOS for fuel.

Michelle commented that she would rather see salary/non salary when viewing the budget.

B. 2020-2021 Budget Update

No update. No questions from BOF. Reasonable Region 19 budget 0.5% increase to sending towns.

C. School Student Activity Fund Overview

Both schools have one and policies are in place on what schools can use it for. It is used to pay for field trips and is audited on a monthly basis. There is a full report at the end of summer on what money was spent on.

D.Cook asked if fundraiser money goes into it?

Yes. Edutrack goes to the same account.

New Business

A. Approve minutes of February 11, 2020 meeting

M. Cunningham moved to approve

E.Testa second

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
H. Arico	X			
M. Cunningham	X			
D. Cook	X			
T. Anderson	X			
A. Grosjean	X			
E. Testa	X			
L. Perry				X

Motion passes

B. Approve Annual Healthy Food Certification

M. Cunningham moved to approve the Willington Healthy Food certification pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Willington Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under our jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

The Willington Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met:

- 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend;
- 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and
- 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

E. Testa second

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
H. Arico	X			
M. Cunningham	X			
D. Cook	X			
T. Anderson	X			
A. Grosjean	X			
E. Testa	X			
L. Perry				X

C. Transfer funds for IT Services: NOVUS

When we did the budget for this year, we did not have a contract with NOVUS. They said they’d work with us to fit services to our budget. Selectman Wiczenski has it in her budget to cover the

balance to get 5 days/week of service. They provide a great service and I would like you to transfer \$20,845 out of program 2 HMS to Program 9. Transfer would cover our portion to maintain NOVUS services through the end of June. Already approved in the BOE budget 5 days/service next year. The town pays 52%, WPS pays 48%. Superintendent may come back with additional requests from salary funding for additional tech projects that need to happen that NOVUS is recommending.

M. Cunningham moved to transfer \$20,845 from Program 2, Hall Memorial School to Program 9, System Wide Support to continue the Novus Service Contract through the end of the school year.

An. Grosjean second

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
H. Arico	X			
M. Cunningham	X			
D. Cook	X			
T. Anderson	X			
A. Grosjean	X			
E. Testa	X			
L. Perry				X

Motion passes

D. Approval of Policy #5131.911, Student Bullying

H. Arico stated that this is not a new policy but brought in front of the board to comply with new state regulations and promotes a secure and happy environment. It prohibits any form of bullying on and off school property and covers physical and emotional components and defines a safe school environment. Involves parental intervention and prohibits discrimination. Policy to be distributed to staff and professional development will be provided. The process is confidential and if violation occurs, it must be investigated by administration. Incidents that occur have to go through procedure as outlined in the policy. Interventions are confidential.

Donna shared she didn't believe our staff is trained to do in-depth cyberbullying investigations and asked at what point they are turned over to an expert.

Superintendent noted that investigations are done by administrators, maybe working with a

counselor. Investigation is long, lots of documentation. Generic data available. When cases are brought sometimes there's mean behavior and there's follow-through, but it doesn't meet the definition of bullying. Administrators can't share what's happening with the other student.

The Policy Committee (A. Grosjean, E. Testa, H. Arico) is bringing it to the Board for approval.

A. Grosjean states that they are bringing it now instead of waiting a month because we feel it's important to have in place in case it's needed. If anyone needs more time we can honor that too.

M. Cunningham moved to approve Policy # 5131.91, Student Bullying

T. Anderson second

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
H. Arico	X			
M. Cunningham	X			
D. Cook	X			
T. Anderson	X			
A. Grosjean	X			
E. Testa	X			
L. Perry				X

Motion passes

E. Approve School-Based Health Services

CHC provides additional behavioral resources for no fee to Willington or its families. The Board would have to put a policy surrounding it, but we heard positive feedback from other towns that had the group in place. Often students who need support are kids whose parents are unable to get them to services elsewhere. Number of students who need some sort of counseling is high, and it's not just a Willington problem. If adopting the program, state exactly what you're adopting meaning not medical and dental, but allowing the superintendent to sign a contract for behavioral services.

Michelle asked why not start dental now?

Superintendent stated the administrative team has sent a clear message that students need the additional behavioral support. Not discounting dental, just very focused on behavioral support.

Ann asked if it was a one year contract.

Pupil services director said it would be ongoing as long as it was sustainable. If for some reason families aren't accessing it we could cancel, but they have no concern that it wouldn't be sustainable.

Michelle shared that the state has a lack of adequate slots for young people to receive services.

Number of parents say it's difficult to get a slot for a child. This is a tremendous idea.

Superintendent noted that many providers aren't taking new patients and if they are, the location may not be convenient and it may be months for intake.

Tracey commented that many providers aren't taking young children. As they get to middle school, it is very difficult to find services in close proximity, and not many options to find the right fit. This is a great offer.

Superintendent commented that parents have the option to say no in this situation too. If parents say no to the offer, it's the end of the conversation.

Donna said she was incredibly concerned about this on multiple levels. Looked at their website and looked at what they do. They are already servicing people from Willington. The amount of time the kids will lose in class. Normal therapy session is 50 minutes - she said 30, or group sessions. Friend of mine teaches in Manchester. Counseling is from employees of school. She said a frustration for teachers is when students are being pulled from class, you have to do extra work to keep them in the loop, play catch up, accommodate. Board mission goals and objectives, nowhere does it say we are responsible to provide quality mental health care. Not qualified to tell if someone is good at what they do when it comes to this. Each kid that needs help should be getting it, but not a cookie cutter fit. Person in our school may not be the right fit. In the process, we are setting up kids to be bullied if they're going for help. Families will have a hard time coming in to be involved or talk to the counselor. When will kids process and decompress before they go back into the classroom environment. Feel better if this same group would open an office at Phelps Plaza and have space in town year-round. Good idea, bad location. In the public, not in the school. Evening hours, Saturday hours, families can do what they need to do. Not take away from instruction time.

Tracey said that her perspective of working in elementary school with daily/hourly interruptions from dysregulated students, the services could be of assistance to those students so they could be more present for the time they're in the classroom, and less disruption for students who are

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learning. So many things going on at the same time in the classroom, it doesn't matter if the kid is in the classroom all day because they're not learning. Number of situations has increased over 20 years ago.

Ann stated this is a huge issue with the state right now. Big bill with emotional safety. Taking away from other children's opportunity to learn. Support as a way to reach some kids who may not have IEP or 504 to get services.

Donna said she looked at regulations, found them to be potentially conflicting with each other regarding use of school facilities. Not sure we're allowed to authorize them to use our building. They're not a nonprofit. It's a business paid through insurance, not doing it for free. They could easily open up an office someplace else like they've done in other locations. Use of school premises for non-school activities is not permitted during school hours. Not a service for an IEP. In addition to thinking it should be outside of school, they'd have more hours, families could have a better sense of whether their student was matched to the right health care provider.

Michelle said she also went on their website. The program started at McDonough school in Middletown. She called an acquaintance and heard nothing but glowing things to say on the impact it had on the school. Children that would not have otherwise received services and now more successful in school. They are a nonprofit, otherwise couldn't receive grants. No additional overhead costs of paying rent. Opening an office means you have to be booked full time to cover the overhead.

Stevens reiterated that they have noticed as a district that we don't have enough support. That's why we went searching for it.

Donna shared that mental health is important, not giving the impression that services aren't needed, but a piece of it is looking at the big picture. If a need or something comes up, students need to be able to access services over the summer. Continuity of care is important. If, after 8th grade, there is not continuity of care that is an issue. If mental health care is important to your family, you will jump through the hoops. Parents are more involved and more aware and students would get better care and not miss out on class time and teachers won't have to be juggling.

Tracey stated that in light of the problems that are happening with school violence, this is a service we can provide against those happening.

Michelle said many of the kids we'd be servicing won't be getting any services at any time, continuity of care etc. isn't the biggest deal. If a child is in a place where they have private insurance and can find a better fit, they don't have to use these services. Obviously we have big -15-

needs and doing nothing would be a terrible disservice for children who get nothing.

Pupil services direction stated that we had the same concern about summer services. She didn't touch on it as much, but if they have specific students they work with, they can extend those services over break which is very tailored to students needs. School based health centers are going to be coming into surrounding districts. Other pupil services directors are also looking for it. Kids are missing half/full days to access services because they have to leave school to get it. School-based services developed to eliminate the amount of time students miss.

M. Cunningham moved to have the Willington Public Schools enter into a contract with Community Health Centers to establish school based health services

A.Grosjean amended the motion to from health services to behavioral health services both schools

A.Grosjean second

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
H. Arico		X		
M. Cunningham	X			
D. Cook		X		
T. Anderson	X			
A. Grosjean	X			
E. Testa		X		
L. Perry				X

Motion fails

Old Business

A. Review Committee Assignments

A.Grosjean moved to approve BOE committee members

E. Testa second

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
H. Arico	X			
M. Cunningham	X			
D. Cook	X			
T. Anderson	X			
A. Grosjean	X			
E. Testa	X			
L. Perry				X

Motion passes.

Present to Speak

M. Shine, resident and teacher, expressed disappointment that the School Based Health Services Program did not pass. So many kids don't have access. Not just for the special education population, other students who could greatly benefit from this. Disservice to so many kids because you're worried about a possible child who doesn't make a connection to a counselor. Not all students have the opportunity to go elsewhere.

Brynn Lipstreu, teacher and union president, expressed agreement with M. Shine. She has spent many years in the classroom and has had many children that would have benefited from such services who are not emotionally ready to learn the curriculum. If they aren't ready to access that learning, they're not going to access it. Providing services. ½ hour out of the classroom is a half hour well spent learning to be emotionally regulated to learn the curriculum.

Board Comments

H. Arico said presentations were excellent. Students did a nice job and he is proud of them. Reminded board there is a Town Meeting tomorrow.

T. Anderson expressed her disappointment. First, we didn't hear from teachers before the vote so we would have listened to their advice. Professionals are telling us we need this and we

couldn't give it a chance. Working in buildings with these kids is heartbreaking. The opportunity is gone and could cause issues in the future.

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M. Cunningham said she is more disappointed in this vote than anything that has happened in 8 years of service on the board. More upset than she can describe. Begs those who voted against it to talk to teachers and learn more about it. A disservice to students was done here today.

E. Testa said the children from CES were really sweet, and appreciate the parents who brought them here for us to show their program. The Principal was involved in a beautiful way. Thanked parents who are constantly helping.

A. Grosjean said that the programs that you just saw were an attempt to build a school climate where children could feel successful. Some kids in the school don't have opportunities for compassion in their lives. We had that option to give School Based Health Services to them for free and she expressed disappointment that it was voted down. On a more positive note, she wishes Mrs. Berghuis good luck. Both of her daughters and 2 granddaughters had her as a teacher. She also said she enjoyed going to Ms. Lipstreu class to Read Across America.

D. Cook thanked the students for doing an amazing job.

Adjournment

H. Arico adjourned the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

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