

WILLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 14, 2022

Virtual Meeting: Zoom

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

[Zoom Recorded](#)

Members Present (all present remotely through Zoom)

Michelle Doucette Cunningham - Chair

Herb Arico- Secretary

Ann Grosjean- Vice-Chair

Tracey Anderson

Donna Cook

Briana Ross

Laura Rodriguez

Also Present

Superintendent of Schools, Phil Stevens

Members of the public

1. **Call to order**

Chair Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Cunningham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Present to speak**

Jennifer Bowes, 328 River Road, read her letter that she sent to the board of education regarding her concerns about the past few meetings.

Nicole Newcombe, Pinecrest Road, expressed her concerns regarding age-appropriate topics at school.

4. **Chairman's report**

Chair Cunningham shared the difficulty of scheduling meetings. She explained there will be a google schedule emailed to all board members to help with scheduling these meetings. Ed Specs specifically is a meeting they are trying to schedule.

H. Arico made a motion to add curriculum to the agenda, under #11 old business, item B.

D. Cook seconded the motion.

H. Arico wanted to discuss a curriculum that had not been passed yet.

7 Yes Motion passes, unanimously

5. **Presentation: Hall Memorial School 2022-2023 schedule**

The Hall Memorial principal, MaryKay Tshonas, presented a schedule for the next school year for

Hall Memorial School. She explained what changes she wanted to make, why, how it would take place, where the changes came from, and what she hopes for outcomes.

Board members had a chance to express concerns regarding this presentation and ask questions.

Mrs. Tshonas took the time to explain further and answer the questions.

6. **Communications-** Jennifer Bowes

7. **Superintendent Report**

a. 2021-2022 school year update

Superintendent Stevens gave an update on field trips and end-of-the-school-year events, including band and chorus concerts. He also reviewed the number of students who accessed mental health supports at Center and Hall Schools via the School-Based Mental Health Center.

b. Enrollment Update

Superintendent Stevens stated that Center School has 210 students and Hall School has 183. Also as of now, there are 40 children registered for kindergarten for the fall of 2022.

c. Staffing

Superintendent Stevens shared staffing changes.

Hired: Nicholas Silano, 8th grade ELA starting in 22-23
Amanda Holden, CES special education teacher starting in 22-23
Heather Sharpley, payroll and benefits coordinator
Richene Ference, accounts payable coordinator

Resignations: Erica Bushior, 7th grade math teacher
Katie Fleming, 3rd-grade teacher

d. Promotion Ceremony

Superintendent Stevens shared the date and times for the promotion ceremonies: Center School is Friday, June 17, 2022, at 9:00 am and Hall School is Friday, June 17, 2022, at 6:00 pm.

8. **Financial Report**

a. June Financial report

Attachment #1

Superintendent Stevens shared the significant changes to the programs.

Board members inquired about the contract with the fuel price and when they would address the money that will be returned to the town.

9. **Committee Reports**

a. Transportation Committee

Superintendent Stevens explained it was on the agenda for later.

b. Finance Committee

Superintendent Stevens stated that they met and discussed the technology projects. This also is on the agenda for later.

10. **New Business**
- a. **Approve minutes of 5.4.2022 Transportation Committee meeting** Attachment # 2
 - b. **Approve minutes of 5.10.2022 regular meeting** Attachment # 3
 - c. **Approve minutes of 5.11.2022 special meeting** Attachment # 4
 - d. **Approve minutes of 5.26.2022 Finance Committee meeting** Attachment # 5
 - e. **Approve minutes of 6.7.2022 Transportation Committee meeting** Attachment # 6

Chair Cunningham moved to approve the meeting minutes from 5.4.2022 Transportation Committee meeting, 5.10.2022 regular meeting, 5.11.2022 special meeting, 5.26.2022 Finance Committee meeting, and 6.7.2022 Transportation Committee meeting.

A. Grosjean seconded the motion.

D. Cook inquired if they accept or approve certain meetings.

H. Arico suggested using the wording "received."

T. Anderson stated that at the end of the regular meeting minutes it stated the next regular meeting would be on July 12, not June 12.

Chair Cunningham accepted that correction.

7 Yes Motion passes, unanimously

f. Evaluation flexibilities 2022-2023

Superintendent Stevens requested the board keep the extension in place as it was for 2021-2022. He explained the state provided these flexibilities and the Board had adopted them for 2021-2022.

A. Grosjean moved to adopt the evaluation flexibilities from the 2021-2022 school year into the 2022-2023 school year.

T. Anderson seconded the motion.

Herb Arico shared some details from the evaluation flexibilities.

7 Yes Motion passes, unanimously

g. HMS schedule 2022-2023

L. Rodriguez made a motion to accept the revised HMS schedule for 2022-2023 as presented.

B. Ross seconded the motion.

Board members asked clarifying questions about the updated schedule.

7 Yes Motion passes, unanimously

h. 2022-2027 transportation contract extension

Attachment # 7

Superintendent Stevens explained the 5-year contract extension with M&J including the cost per run, midday run, and athletics trips.

Board members inquired about details about the contract.

H. Arico made a motion to approve the 2022-2027 transportation contract extension.

L. Rodriguez seconded the motion.

D. Cook asked to amend the motion to include upon the receipt of the invoice for MJ that they prepay the amount of \$20,522 out of their current year funds for the 2022-2023 contract year.

H. Arico accepted the amendment.

7 Yes Motion passes, unanimously

i. School restrooms

D. Cook wanted the board to think about future bathrooms at Willington Schools and how they are designed and set up for privacy should a remodeling project or new school be built.

Chair Cunningham explained this would be discussed at the Ed Specs meetings.

D. Cook made a motion for there to be a five-minute break and reconvene at 8:55 pm.

L. Rodriguez seconded the motion.

7 Yes Motion passes, unanimously

At 8:55 pm Chair Cunningham called the meeting to order.

11. 11. Old Business

a. Funding for Technology

Attachment # 8

i. Staff laptops

ii. Migration to Google

iii. Cyber security

iv. CES security cameras

Superintendent Stevens discussed items i-iv in detail reviewing the attachment.

Board members asked questions regarding the different funding options that were presented.

Chair Cunningham moved to approve all four proposed technology projects, the first for staff laptops in the amount of \$61,908.84, the second for the migration to Google in the amount of \$21,890, the third for cyber security in the amount of \$31,499.70 and the fourth one for expanded CES security cameras and the extended package in the amount of \$43,523.

A. Grosjean seconded the motion.

7 Yes Motion passes, unanimously

b. Curriculum

H. Arico made a motion to provide the entire new curriculum material on their website for the benefit of parents and other residents of Willington.

D. Cook seconded the motion.

H. Arico explained the options for sharing the new curriculum and expressed his concerns and beliefs about how this should be done.

Board members expressed their questions and concerns about having the curriculum posted on their website. Also what other options there might be.

Chair Cunningham made a motion to table this item pending the answer to the questions about intellectual property rights and costs for maintenance.

B. Ross seconded the motion.

7 Yes Motion passes, unanimously

12. Present to Speak

Sarah Reis, Pinecrest Road, expressed her reasoning and concerns about wanting the curriculum accessible.

Arthur Christensen, 14 Birch Meadow Lane, supported wanting accessibility to the curriculum.

13. Board Comment

A. Grosjean wanted to thank Mrs. Tshonas for the work on the HMS schedule. She wished the teachers leaving, good luck. She also thanked all the staff and wished them a well-deserved vacation this summer.

H. Arico wanted to thank the staff. He also wanted to wish all the HMS graduates the best.

L. Rodriguez wanted to thank Ms. Tshonas for her hard work. She welcomed the new staff and wished well those leaving. She expressed her excitement about the promotion ceremonies this Friday.

D. Cook thanked everyone that showed up for the meeting and shared their thoughts and they are always welcomed.

T. Anderson wanted to congratulate the HMS graduates and she thanked all the teachers and staff. She wished everyone a happy summer.

B. Ross wanted to thank the staff, parents, and community members for persevering and getting them back to where they can have important events in person. She expressed her excitement to attend a few concerts this week. She gave all the teachers and staff a “high five” for being so amazing.

Chair Cunningham wanted to give a little hint that someone on the board's pretty big birthday is coming before the next meeting.

14. **Old Business**

a. Executive Session: Superintendent evaluation

Chair Cunningham moved for the board to go into executive session and invited the Superintendent to join them to address the Superintendent's evaluation at 9:51 pm.

T. Anderson seconded the motion.

7 Yes Motion passes, unanimously

The Board exited the executive session at 11:04 pm.

Chair Cunningham made a motion to extend the Superintendents contract one more year and move ahead with the items in his contract that were discussed during the executive session.

B. Ross seconded the motion.

7 Yes Motion passes, unanimously

15. **Adjournment**

Chair Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 pm.

L. Rodriguez seconded the motion.

7 Yes Motion passes, unanimously

Nicole Fusco
Recording Secretary