

WILLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 8, 2022

Virtual Meeting: Zoom

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

[Zoom Recorded](#)

Members Present (all present remotely through Zoom)

Michelle Doucette Cunningham - Chair

Ann Grosjean- Vice-Chair

Tracey Anderson

Donna Cook

Briana Ross

Laura Rodriguez

Members Absent

Herb Arico - Secretary

Also Present

Phil Stevens, Superintendent of Schools, members of the public.

1. **Call to order**

Chair Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Cunningham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Present to speak**

Arthur Christensen, 14 Birch Meadow Lane, thanked everyone who voted for him for the Region 19 Board of Education.

4. **Chairman's report**

Chair Cunningham wanted to remind everyone about the special presentation from the School Building Community on Wednesday, November 9th at 7:00 pm. She also shared that the presentation will be recorded for the community to watch at any time. There will be many meetings to follow. This was just the first one.

5. **Communications**

None.

6. **Superintendent Report**

a. General update

Superintendent Stevens shared the non-lapsing fund was accepted by the Board of Finance so the money is in the Board of Education's non lapsing fund account. He discussed the clubs at HMS and that there are 100 students participating. He also explained that they would be doing a special data presentation on December 5th at 7:00 pm. Superintendent Stevens shared that the ARPA commission approved all three of their requests and they will go to town meeting in about six weeks. He explained that the schools are opened for Veterans Day and they do have a special program running on that day. He discussed the shortage of bus drivers.

b. Staffing

Superintendent Stevens discussed the hiring of Arianna McCarthy as a new paraprofessional.

c. Legislative update

Superintendent Stevens shared the legislative update with the Board of Education.

D. Cook had some questions regarding the exercises they suggested children would be completing as part of the Children's Mental Health Day.

Superintendent Stevens reassured D. Cook once he knew more information it would be shared with everyone.

d. Food services account

Attachment #1

Superintendent Stevens explained the amount of students they service, the cost and the funds needed to continue serving students.

A. Grosjean moved to continue to provide free lunch and breakfast for the students at Center and Hall School through the end of February 2023, using the money from the food service account.

D. Cook seconded the motion.

The Board discussed the qualifications to receive reimbursement from the state and how to communicate this information to families.

6 yes, motion passes unanimously.

7. Financial Report

a. November 2022 financial report

Attachment #2

Superintendent Stevens shared the November financial report. He shared the current positive fiscal standing. He highlighted the programs that have helped the budget.

The Board discussed situations that could alter the budget, heating oil being an example. They also discussed some ideas for what they could do with the extra funds.

b. Student Activity Account 2021-2022

Attachment #3

Superintendent Stevens shared they will be moving this information to a different system and will update the items in the account. He is looking for consistency between both schools.

The Board briefly discussed different items in the chart that was shared.

8. New Business

a. BOE Capital Improvement Plan

Attachment #4

Superintendent Stevens shared a list of items that are needed to be completed but this might not be the year to add them. He explained how everything changes year to year. Some of the costs for these items continue to change as well. He thought waiting to see what happens with the building

committee would be a good choice.

The Board discussed items that should be added or changed and the importance.

L. Rodriguez moved to accept the CIP plan as is with the exception of adding \$20,000 for plumbing at Center School and \$20,000 for plumbing at Hall School in year 1 and removing the \$36,000 from year 2.

D. Cook seconded the motion.

6 yes, motion passes unanimously.

b. 2022-2023 Budget Process Calendar

Attachment #5

Superintendent Stevens shared a worksheet with a proposed schedule for the budget workshops that begin in January.

T. Anderson moved to approve the 2023-2024 budget workshop calendar.

L. Rodriguez seconded the motion.

6 yes, motion passes unanimously.

c. Approve minutes of October 11, 2022

Attachment #6

D. Cook moved to approve the regular meeting minutes from October 11, 2022.

A. Grosjean seconded the motion.

6 yes, motion passes unanimously.

9. Old Business

a. Educational specifications

Superintendent Stevens discussed the ed specs draft and the feedback he had received from staff and outside professionals.

The Board discussed questions and concerns regarding the draft. They edited items as needed.

A. Grosjean moved to approve the educational specifications as they are at this current time with the adjustments they made today.

L. Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstain
M. Cunningham	x		
D.Cook		x	
T. Anderson	x		
A.Grosjean	x		

B. Ross	x		
L. Rodriguez	x		

5 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain, motion passes.

10. Present to Speak

Ralph Tulis, 47 Village Hill Rd. expressed his concerns towards some of the ed specs that were discussed, such as lighting, windows and an auditorium.

11. Old Business

a. Request for emergency leave extension (potential executive session)

Superintendent Stevens discussed the same staff member that they approved for an emergency leave and was asking to extend her leave until January.

D. Cook moved to extend Christine Colenbaugh's leave through January 10, 2023.

L. Rodriguez seconded the motion.

6 yes, motion passes unanimously.

12. Board Comment

Superintendent Steven thanked the people that provided feedback on the ed specs. He stated he appreciated their time and effort.

A. Grosjean wanted to thank the Board for spending many hours on the ed specs. As a member of the school building committee she really appreciated their effort.

L. Rodriguez also thanked the people that helped with the ed specs. She also wanted to celebrate the start up of the clubs and the transportation that is provided. She was excited for the ARPA commissions approval of their projects. She also wanted to mention the Veterans Day program as she is so happy they recognize the people that sacrifice for our country. She also welcomed the new staff hired. Lastly, she wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

T. Anderson agreed with everything that everyone already said. She also wanted to state how grateful she was that the Willington Board of Education decided to implement the school based mental health center in their schools. She felt it was so important that they put the significant mental health needs of the students above politics to do what was best for the school community.

B. Ross wanted to wish Herb Arico well and hoped he was feeling better soon. She also hoped Christine Colenbaugh was doing ok as well.

D. Cook stated she wanted to be provided with the vocabulary lists. She still would prefer hybrid meetings. She also stated that the sex education program needs to be available for parents and the parents should be able to opt-out if they choose to. She also stated she would like to receive test results, such as SBAC and iReady. She stated it was important for them to see these results

before the next meeting so they may be ready with any questions. She also echoed what Briana stated and hoped Herb continued to improve. She also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Chair Cunningham reminded everyone that tomorrow evening, Wednesday November 9th at 7pm would be the school building committees meeting. It would be on zoom and at Hall School. She also shared that their meeting on December 5th would be in a workshop format to talk about test scores. Thi allows more interaction.

13. **Adjournment**

D. Cook made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 pm.

L. Rodriguez seconded the motion.

6 Yes Motion passes, unanimously

Nicole Fusco
Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting December 13, 2022