

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
45 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WALLINGFORD
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015**

Mission

To inspire, educate and support all students as they discover and pursue their personal best.

Vision

Wallingford Public Schools, with families and community, will distinguish itself with innovative teaching and learning experiences in a safe and supportive environment. Our goal is to ignite passion for learning and excellence in every student so that each becomes a life-long contributor to the local and global communities.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Mrs. McKay called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Elizabeth Napolitano, Clerk of the Board, called the roll

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

BOLAT, BROODER, CASTELL, HLAVAC, MARRONE, MCKAY, SHORTELL, VOTTO

CEI entered at 7:10 p.m.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

MENZO, PARKHURST, LAVALETTE, WINTERS, VEILLEUX, MANCUSI, WONG, DEPTULA, NAPOLITANO

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Michaela Mendygral – Mark T. Sheehan High School was not available to give a report.

Kimberly Flynn Student/Board representative from Lyman Hall High School came before the Board to give her report.

- ADL – *No place for Hate* program during an assembly for sophomores
- Boys Indoor team came in 6th place over all n the SCC
- A blood drive was held but it didn't meet their goals but they will be holding another one in the spring
- There will be a Spring Fling in March.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Recognition of Staff Members of the Month – Michelle Ciszewski, Anita Baldwin, Pat Ostrofsky, Ginette Anziano

Dr. Menzo called Teresa O'Hala before the Board to present them with certificates. She said that the ICE T (Independent Community and Employment Training) program requires that the job coaches go out to businesses to find positions for the students to work at. She said this job is a very challenging one. She called Pat Ostrofsky, Michelle Ciszewski and Anita Baldwin before the Board and presented them with certificates.

Dr. Menzo said the staff member of the month for February is Ginette Anziano. Linda Winters came before the Board to say a few kind words about Ginette and presented Ginette with a certificate.

Presentation of CABA Communication Award – Patrice McCarthy

Patrice McCarthy came before the Board to present the district with a plaque for winning first place in the Communications contest held by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education each year since 1975.

Recognition of Roof Building Project Committee members.

Dr. Menzo called the members of the Building Committee before the Board and presented them with a certificate of appreciation. The members are: Mike Brodinsky, Marc Deptula, Chris Pisani, Robert Prentice, Lawrence Zabrowski, and Rob Croston.

Recognition of members of the People Empowering People (PEP) program

Dr. Menzo reported that the PEP is a program created by the UCONN Extension program. He read "People Empowering People is a statewide personal and family leadership development program with a strong community focus. It is designed to build on the unique strengths and life experiences of participants. It emphasizes the connection between individuals and community action. The Wallingford PEP program began on September 10, 2014 and met weekly through December 17. The two hour sessions each week were built on values, communications, problem-solving, parenting, child development, action planning and hearing from guest speakers from the community. Some of the projects that the participants completed include: Volunteering at Masters Manna food pantry, Collections of toiletries for Masters Manna, book collections for preschool play groups, collection of basic needs for the Wallingford homeless shelter, Walk of Hope with the coalition for a Better Wallingford, and a ceremonial dance for the celebration of the dead. Ongoing project include: The formation of an alumni group for participants from PEP and PSEE, developing "Red Bags" for the Wallingford Public Library and working with Liz Landow to create a cultural center to celebrate the world." He called Julieta Rodriguez, Christina Lago, Robin Min, Alpna Kumar, Soraya Bourgoin, Stacey Hoppes, Felipe Pacheco, Ruchi Pandey, and Rosa Solis to the stage to receive a certificate.

Recognition of Dag Hammarskjold Middle School Basketball Team, Coaches and Managers

Dr. Menzo read a letter from a parent. "I wanted to say thank you to your team and your leadership in last night's game against Wintergreen. I am the proud parent of Nick who is an 8th grade student at Wintergreen. He is an ID student with other various special needs. As a family we have been so happy for him to be simply a part of the basketball team for three years. He has enjoyed his time with the boys and they have always made him feel a part of the team. Last night, what the Dag team did was beyond compare. I am so lucky to also be a teacher in the Wallingford district and to know my colleagues are teaching our kids what the real spirit of teamwork, sportsmanship and empathy is all about. Your team fed my son the ball over and over again until he scored not once, but twice! They truly exemplified what youth sports and camaraderie is all about. From the stands not one member of your team seemed upset or disappointed by letting my son have his moment. In addition, your bench jumped up and cheered (almost as loudly as I did) when he scored and ran down the court. Words cannot express what that meant to my son and my family." Dr. Menzo said this is the second time the district has been commended for their student's sportsmanship and professionalism.

Dr. Menzo called Steve Lipka, the Coach of the Dag Basketball team before the Board to receive a certificate and distribute the certificates to the students. The students are: Brennan Toussaint, Jake Smith, Quinn Crowther, Griffin Formanski, Zach Bates, Jacob Ranney, Cam Regan, Tyler Stowik, Cam Afanador, Mickey Deming, Tyler Guercia, Braedan McCarthy, Arthur Cordes, Zach Ranney, and Jayden Collingham.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions brought before the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: MARRONE, SECOND BY SHORTELL

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO ACCEPT ITEMS 7.1-7.12 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA AS LISTED BELOW.

Approval to Accept Board of Education Minutes dated December 22, 2014
Approval to Accept Special Board of Education Minutes dated February 11, 2015
Approval to Accept the Board of Education Financial Report for December 2014 and January 2015
Approval to Accept the Food Service Financial Reports for December 2014 and January 2015
Approval to Accept **GIFT** of \$2,000 to the WPS – 21st Century Innovation Project from the Walton Family Foundation (Choate Rosemary Hall), Buddy Philpot, Executive Director
Approval to Accept **GIFT** of \$2,500 to the WPS – 21st Century Innovation Project from Mr. Jim Augur, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of CT, Wallingford
Approval to Accept **GIFT** of Lyman Hall Color Guard costumes and color guard equipment Valued at \$5,100 from Norma Savarino, Wallingford
Approval to Accept **GIFT** of 4 Shelving Units to Wallingford Public Schools from Paul Mayer – BYK USA Inc., Wallingford \$500
Approval to Accept **GIFT** of \$4,500 to Lyman Hall High School Vocational Food Service from Ms. Margaret Stalker, Wallingford
Approval to Accept **GIFT** of \$1,000 to Lyman Hall High School from Wallingford Wishing Well
Approval of Hiring of Proposed New Information Technology Services Level 1 Technician
Approval to Accept Transfer from Account 611D-Instructional Software to Account #730A – New Instructional Equipment for \$3,000

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Votto reported that gifts were received as listed below and thanked them for their donations.

- \$2,000 to the WPS – 21st Century Innovation Project from the Walton Family Foundation (Choate Rosemary Hall), Buddy Philpot, Executive Director
- \$2,500 to the WPS – 21st Century Innovation Project from Mr. Jim Augur, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of CT, Wallingford
- Lyman Hall Color Guard costumes and color guard equipment valued at \$5,100 from Norma Savarino, Wallingford
- 4 Shelving Units to Wallingford Public Schools from Paul Mayer – BYK USA Inc., Wallingford \$500
- \$4,500 to Lyman Hall High School Vocational Food Service from Ms. Margaret Stalker, Wallingford
- \$1,000 to Lyman Hall High School from Wallingford Wishing Well

APPROVAL OF THE 2015-2016 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$98,382,554

MOTION: BROODER, SECOND BY VOTTO

The Clerk of the Board called the roll.

AFFIRMATIVE: BOLAT, BROODER, CASTELLI, CEI, HLAVAC, MCKAY, SHORTELL, VOTTO

NEGATIVE: MARRONE

VOTE: Motion passed for the Approval of the 2015-2016 Budget in the amount of \$98,382,554.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A.C.E.S. Representative

Mrs. Castelli reported the fiscal report, which has been in the red since September, is now in the black as expected. All programs are now at capacity except for one. There is a freeze on tuition costs for next year so all will remain the same as this year. Additionally, ACES has restructured the management fee to be a consistent 3.25% of the revenue base for each program. The past practice had the management fee at a variable percentage making it more complex to administer and more confusing for each district to verify billing.

Wintergreen Magnet School Steering Committee

Mr. Votto reported that there is a meeting this Wednesday.

Mr. Parkhurst reported that the 2015-2016 calendar was approved. There was discussion about their recruitment fair, they shared the professional development and the Reed to Feed program.

School to Career Representative/Business ThinkTank

Dr. Menzo reported that a meeting was held two weeks ago. He said they had conversations about trying to reach out to businesses in the community to fill positions. Some of the businesses included Holochrome, Ulbrich and Allnex. He said with the help of Tim Ryan the information is being shared with the community.

Report from Roof Project Committee Representatives

Mr. Marrone reported that there are no new developments. This item can be removed from the next agenda.

PTAC Update

Dr. Menzo reported that there were updates from the sub-committee, discussion about the Budget, and the PTAC webpage. He said it was a very productive meeting. They are working on a workshop for parents "Who Host Will Lose the Most". He said the next meeting is on March 17.

Lyman Hall Athletic Complex Improvement Committee

There was no report.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought before the Board.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED ADOPTION OF NEW H.S. COURSE: ENSEMBLE HONORS COMPONENT

Mr. Parkhurst stated that the proposal is to add honors component to the performance ensembles in the Music classes.

APPROVAL OF CSDE TECHNOLOGY GRANT SUBMISSION

MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY SHORTELL

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE CSDE TECHNOLOGY GRANT SUBMISSION

Mrs. Veilluex explained that this grant is written to get devices such as laptops, Chromebook and to add wireless infrastructure in the four remaining elementary schools.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY SHORTELL

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

There was some discussion about having days off for the community to vote. Dr. Menzo will facilitate a meeting with Mrs. Castelli and Mr. Shortell to discuss the days off for voting.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY SHORTELL

VOTE: Unanimous approval for a *leave of absence for **Eleanor Kirkpatrick**, be approved, without pay and benefits, and in accordance with the provision of the current teachers' contract.

*The leave is personal and confidential. **Eleanor Kirkpatrick** is requesting a leave of absence after her maternity leave from March 4, 2015 through March 18, 2015. Eleanor is a grade 4 teacher at Yalesville Elementary School.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Report on Operations Committee meeting

Mr. Brooder reported that at the Operations Committee meeting there was discussion about the Board financial report, the Food Service Department financial report, and there was a transfer.

ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Report

Dr. Menzo gave his Administrative report as listed below

- He thanked 3M for their donation
- He thanked Joan Troccoli for the \$100 donation and her continued support of the Wallingford Adult Education program.
- He stated that there will be students coming to visit our schools from Argentina in March.
- A group of students will be coming from Germany at the end of May.

- Todd Snyder completed the discussion with Ghana and Kate Seichters and Ed Nielander's classes will correspond with them to talk about what it means to be in high school.
- The Budget that was approved tonight will be emailed out to all staff and parents tomorrow.
- April 21 & 23 Capstone presentations will be made. The Board will be invited. There will be one at each of the high schools.
- The Credit for Life program will be held at the Oakdale Theater tomorrow from 8:30-10:30 for Lyman Hall students and 11:30-1:30 for Sheehan students. There are eighty people from the community who volunteered to help. Some donations from the community members have also been received to offset the costs.
- The Concerts for Causes was held last week at Lyman Hall High School and it was a really great event
- The Unified Theater presentation at Lyman Hall combines special needs students with regular students to put on a play. There is a lot of collaboration and camaraderie involved. This is the fourth year.
- On March 16th the Unified Theater group will host the Colt Poetry Contest.
- The Board received a copy of the Middle School letter drafted to explain the pilot program that will take place for 4-5 weeks with a change to class schedules. A survey will be sent to parents and teachers to get some input. The program will then go back to the committee to tweak.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, 03/02/15	Operations Committee	7:00 p.m. Board Conference Room
Monday, 03/09/15	Instructional Committee	7:00 p.m. Board Conference Room

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 03/23/15

Retirement Reception
Board of Education

Town Council Chambers

6:00 p.m. Room 315 – Town Hall
7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. McKay adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Secretary

Mike Votto