

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
45 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WALLINGFORD
MONDAY, MARCH 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.

At 6:00 P.M. a Retirees Reception was held in Room 315

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. McKay called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

The Clerk of the Board, Elizabeth Napolitano, called the roll.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

BOLAT, CASTELLI, HLAVAC, MCKAY, SHORTELL, VOTTO

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Michaela Mendygral, Mark T. Sheehan High School Student Board representative came before the Board to give her report.

- Student Council has been working eagerly to put together fundraising activities for the school
- Pennies for Patients collection for the leukemia and lymphoma society will take place on March 23rd until April 10th. Buckets will be in the school parking lots when students arrive and leave as well as during lunch waves to collect any spare change.
- Student Council is also looking for volunteers at a pasta dinner for a former Sheehan student, Tyler Tomer, who graduated with the class of 2005. He is currently battling cancer and the Wallingford Community is looking for any way to help.
- Student Council is putting together a farewell to seniors with a fundraiser selling cards where other students can write to a senior. The cards will be left on the students chairs during graduation.
- Spring sports started today and tryouts for all sports are accommodating the harsh weather.
- Sheehan had a volleyball tournament and will have two teams playing against Lyman Hall.

Kimberly Flynn, Lyman Hall High School Student Board representative also gave her report.

- March has been a very exciting and successful month
- One of the highlights of the month was the volleyball tournament. This was run by Junior, Max Marino, and the Junior Class. It was a good way for the juniors to fundraise but was also a very fun evening that brought together students from every grade.
- The seniors are also having an Outback Steakhouse fundraiser this weekend to raise money for our Senior Prom and Outing. It is on the 28th and 29th from 11:00-2:00. Tickets are \$10 each for a preset meal.
- We are also planning our Spring Fling which is next week. We have not had a Spring Fling in over 4 years so everyone is excited.
- National Honor Society is running a food drive to be donated to Masters Manna and St. Ann's Food Pantry.
- Allied Health Class is hosting a Pennies for Patients drive to donate money to patients in surrounding hospitals.
- I would also like to use this time to congratulate the cheerleaders on winning the Co-ed Cheerleading State Championship.
- With that, spring sports have started today and I wish all of the athletes the best of luck and I hope that the snow will melt soon.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Recognition of Retirees

Dr. Menzo reported that prior to this meeting there was a reception held for all the retirees in the district and they will each be recognized for their accomplishments and will receive a certificate from the Board.

Todd Snyder, Assistant Principal from Lyman Hall, came before the Board to speak on Sue Renkuns behalf. He said that she worked for the school system for 45 years. James Gaffey was called before the Board and Todd Snyder said a few kind words about him and announced that James was a reporter before he became a teacher. Cecelia Schuster came before the Board and Todd said she always made sure students came first and loved the Key Club where she spent countless hours. Todd explained that Susan Gomes chaired the English department for ten years and teaching was her second career.

Deborah Young was not available therefore, Cindy Lavalette reported that she was a dedicated and enthusiastic teacher. She also teaches Earth Science at Gateway Community College.

Rob Mancusi came before the Board to speak on behalf of Pam Krombel who has worked at Sheehan High School for 35 years. He also spoke on behalf of Denise Strom who worked at Stevens, Highland, and Cook Hill over the years.

Carrie LaTorre called Kathy Palermo up to say that she has kept the students and staff fit over the past twenty years.

Rob Ariciero, Principal at Moses Y. Beach, spoke on behalf of Nancy Chapin, Wendy Wheeler and Diane DeLibero. He said he sent email out to staff each time one of them let him know that they were leaving and expressed his disappointment at their leaving.

Sashi Govin, Principal at Dag Hammarskjold, came before the Board to say a few nice words about Lorraine Anderson and Rick Harkawik.

Joe Piacentini, Principal at Moran Middle School, spoke on Kimberly Eslers behalf and Cindy Lavalette spoke about Fern Pucciarello also.

Vicky Reed, Principal at Highland School, said that Patty Pursell has been a Physical Education teacher for twenty years in Wallingford.

Rob Mancusi spoke about Leigh Mascia and reported that she has been a teacher for forty-one years.

Cindy Lavalette announced that Carrie Wall was the first full-time Librarian at Pond Hill School.

Recognition of Michelle DelBuono for creating the Smarter Balanced Digital Library

Dr. Menzo called Michelle DelBuono before the Board to recognize her for hard work to get her doctorate and thanked her for representing Wallingford so well at the State Department. She is also being recognized tonight for creating the Smarter Balanced Digital Library for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Kate Eber, a former Sheehan student, came before the Board and asked Dr. Menzo how his decision was made to remove "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" from the curriculum. She was also concerned that one parent could have the book removed.

Dr. Menzo responded by saying it wasn't about using the book but how it was being used. He suggested that some research be done before the book is used in the curriculum again. He is recommending that this summer the ninth grade curriculum be discussed to talk about how we're teaching literature. He said it was not a required reading book. He said he would like the teachers to be have a chance to voice their opinion to the Board.

Steven Goot, Williams Place, came before the Board to say he was confused by the Superintendent's explanation.

Dr. Menzo explained that the book was being used only by two teachers in three freshman classes and won't be used in the classroom again until September or November once it has been researched in the curriculum. He said there was no interruption of using the book for teaching since those classes were done with it. He said he just hit a pause button for now until the research is done. He also said the curriculum was in a pilot program last year and was put through a process.

Mr. Will Marotti, a parent, said his son is a freshman at Sheehan and he thought Dr. Menzo's explanation about the issue shed some light. He said that there is a difference in the maturity levels from freshman to seniors and that parents who want to be involved in their children's lives want to know what their children are reading.

David Amato, 68 Germania Street, Southington, came before the Board as a former Sheehan student who had been bullied and felt left out. He said he understands what the book is about and thinks that other students should read it.

Holly LaFond, a parent, came before the Board to ask some questions about filing and the process for appealing the complaint by the previous parent.

Susan Gomes, Edgewood Drive, said the English Department support the fact that the curriculum development process needs to be reviewed and they want to start a positive dialogue.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: HLAVAC, SECOND BY SHORTELL

VOTE: Unanimous approval to accept Items 7.1-7.6 as listed below.

Approval to Accept Board of Education Minutes dated February 23, 2015

Approval to Accept Special Board of Education Minutes dated March 2, 2015

Approval to Accept the Board of Education Financial Report for February 2015

Approval to Accept Transfer from Account #611A – Instructional Supplies to Account #730A –
New Non-Instructional Equipment \$3,476

Approval of Wallingford Hosting Exchange Students from Germany – May 16, 2015 to May 26, 2015

Approval to Accept GIFT of \$1500 from Wallingford Education Foundation to Preschool Video
Learning Initiative

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Votto noted that there was a thank you note from Mr. Napoli

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A.C.E.S. Representative

Mrs. Castelli reported that she attended the meeting and that two scholarships were awarded at the SCASA luncheon. She said a \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Lyman Hall student Ashley Lane. She said there was discussion about some of the ACES students who went to China. She also reported that CREC is doing a survey of all the buildings that belong to ACES.

Wintergreen Magnet School Steering Committee

Mr. Votto stated that he attended the last meeting where there was discussion about the budget and it was voted on. He said there was also very few representatives at the meeting and was surprised that they voted on the budget. He said the next meeting is this Wednesday.

School to Career Representative/Business ThinkTank

Dr. Menzo reported that at the last meeting there was discussion about the Credit for Life program and Capstone.

PTAC Update

Mr. Votto said that there was discussion about having a checklist for each school in a welcome packet for new parents. He said there was also discussion from a sub-committee about underage drinking and a draft of the Prom Pledge was included in the Board packet.

Lyman Hall Athletic Complex Improvement Committee

Mr. Deptula reported that he just spent two days reviewing the specifications and sat with the architect to review the changes. He said the final documents will go to the purchasing department to go out to bid.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought before the Board.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE

Presentation of Proposed Adoption of Revised Policy: Graduation Requirements/Standards of Mastery – 6146

Mr. Parkhurst explained that this policy was revised to include the credit required for the graduating classes of 2015-2019 only until the State Department lets the district know about the high school reform. A paragraph was added to explain the level of competency.

Presentation of Proposed Adoption of Revised Regulation: Graduation Requirements/Standards of Mastery – 6146a

Mr. Parkhurst said this regulation was revised around the policy and the chart of alternative measures

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENTS

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF LORRAINE ANDERSON, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Lorraine Anderson**, effective June 30, 2015.

Lorraine Anderson has been an ESL teacher from November 1993 to present for a total of 22 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF NANCY CHAPIN, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Nancy Chapin**, effective June 30, 2015.

Nancy Chapin has been an elementary teacher from August 1995 to present for a total of 20 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF DIANE DELIBERO, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Diane DeLibero**, effective June 30, 2015.

Diane DeLibero has been an elementary teacher from August 1993 to present for a total of 22 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF KIMBERLY ESLER, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Kimberly Esler**, effective June 30, 2015.

Kimberly Esler has been a world language teacher from August 1995 to present for a total of 20 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT. WITH REGRET, OF JAMES GAFFEY, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **James Gaffey**, effective June 30, 2015.

James Gaffey has been an English teacher from August 2003 to present for a total of 12 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, THE RETIREMENT OF SUSAN GOMES, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Susan Gomes**, effective June 30, 2015.

Susan Gomes has been an English teacher from August 1995 to present for a total of 20 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF RICHARD HARKAWIK, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Richard Harkawik**, effective June 30, 2015.

Richard Harkawik has been a language arts and social studies teacher from October 1986 to present for a total of 29 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT. WITH REGRET, OF KATHERINE PALERMO, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Katherine Palermo**, effective June 30, 2015.

Katherine Palermo has been an elementary physical education teacher from September 1994 to present for a total of 21 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF FERN PUCCIARELLO, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Fern Pucciarello**, effective June 30, 2015.

Fern Pucciarello has been a social studies and language arts teacher from August 1988 to present for a total of 27 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF PATRICIA PURSELL, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Patricia Pursell**, effective June 30, 2015.

Patricia Pursell has been an elementary physical education teacher from August 1996 to present for a total of 19 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF SUSAN RENKUN, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Susan Renkun**, effective June 30, 2015.

Susan Renkun has been an art teacher from September 1970 to present for a total of 45 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF CECELIA SCHUSTER, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Cecelia Schuster**, effective June 30, 2015.

Cecelia Schuster has been a family consumer science and health teacher from October 1999 to present for a total of 16 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF DENISE STROM, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Denise Strom**, effective June 30, 2015.

Denise Strom has been a social worker from August 1990 to present for a total of 25 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF CAROLINE WALL, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Caroline Wall**, effective June 30, 2015.

Caroline Wall has been an elementary librarian-media specialist from August 1994 to present for a total of 21 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF WENDY WHEELER, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Wendy Wheeler**, effective June 30, 2015.

Wendy Wheeler has been a home economics and elementary teacher from August 1987 to present for a total of 28 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF DEBORAH YOUNG, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015

MOTION: **SHORTELL, SECOND BY BOLAT**

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Deborah Young**, effective June 30, 2015.

Deborah Young has been a math and science teacher from August 1991 to present for a total of 24 years of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Report on Operations Committee meeting

Since Mr. Brooder was not available, Mr. Bolat gave a report. He said that the Financial Report for February was reviewed. An audit review was provided to the Board. Mrs. Lavalette spoke about the hiring process and recruiting fairs.

ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Report

Dr. Menzo gave his Administrative report as listed below.

- He addressed the worm in the fruit cup issue that took place at Sheehan. He said the manufacturer sent a letter to the Food Service department. Dr. Menzo asked that any parents who have any concerns about anything please address them to the district before they go to outside sources to complain.
- He announced that Ashley Lane received the SCASA Scholarship at a luncheon along with six other students from Wallingford who were honored.
- He congratulated the cheerleaders.
- He invited everyone to join him at the Invention Convention next Monday evening at the Oakdale.
- He said there was a wonderful presentation of AIDA at Sheehan High School
- At Moran Middle School this weekend there will be a presentation of Legally Blonde.
- Next month there will be a presentation of Mary Poppins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, 04/06/15	Instructional Committee	7:00 p.m. Board Conference Room
Monday, 04/20/15	Operations Committee	7:00 p.m. Board Conference Room

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 04/27/15	Board of Education	Sheehan Drama Lecture room 7:00 p.m.
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Mrs. McKay also announced that April 9 – Presentation of budget when public asks questions of the Board

April 21 at 6:30 is when the Town Council asks questions about the budget.

Dr. Menzo pointed out that a phone call from the Mayor regarding his projected budget is usually around April 1

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. McKay adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Secretary

Mike Votto