

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
45 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492  
Monday, August 22, 2016  
7:00 P.M.**

**Mission**

**To inspire through innovative and engaging experiences that lead all learners to pursue and discover their personal best.**

**Vision**

**Wallingford Public Schools, in partnership with our families and community, will provide a safe, healthy, and supportive environment that ignites an enduring passion for excellence in every learner, so that each becomes a life-long contributor to the local, national and global communities.**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

A roll call was made by Linda Lavelle

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**CASTELLI, CEI, DOERR, GLIDDEN, HLAVAC, MCKAY, REYNOLDS, VOTTO**

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

**BROODER**

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

**MENZO, LAVALETTE, PARKHURST, ARUM , DEPTULA, MANCUSI, VEILLEUX, CORSO,  
ANDRESON, FLEISCHMANN, LAVELLE**

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

Student Board representatives do not present during the summer.

## **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

### **- Recognition of Students who Participated in the Trip to Germany**

Dr. Menzo invited staff members, Mr. Fleischmann and Mr. Andreson to say a few words about the trip to Germany that students and staff went on at the end of June. Mr. Fleischmann stated that they were all well prepared for the trip and the trip was very successful without any mishaps. They had the support from the Board of Education and families. The host families were very gracious and friendships were formed. The school was very hospitable. The Euro Cup happened while they were there, so soccer was a highlight. There was an historic festival in the town they were staying in and the weather was very nice. He felt they were very lucky.

Mr. Andreson thanked Irene Morrison, who was a chaperone and could not be at the meeting. She had two children who also went on the trip and was fabulous. She was a great help. They went to visit the "Mayor" of the town in Germany that they were staying in and brought gifts from Mayor Dickinson of Wallingford and also brought back gifts from the German "Mayor" for Mayor Dickinson. Mr. Andreson then stated that Wallingford Public School's Mission Statement is to inspire students and that is what happened with the trip.

Students were then called up to receive a certificate of achievement. Students who participated are: Alex Boman, Ryan Carey, Rayna Esch, Alexandra Guido, Victoria Kulakowski, Alyssa Lentine, Julia Mansfield, Andrew Saball, Martin Seibt, Julio Serna, Ronald Severson, Zachary Silvestri, Skylar Stowik and Marley Esch.

Dr. Menzo congratulated all the students and thanked the chaperones for giving of their time. He stated we were pleased to get updates on the trip and postcards. Dr. Menzo also hopes that the trip inspires students to travel in the future. Rayna Esch came up and spoke about her experience on the trip. She felt that she made good connections with the host family. Her father traveled to Germany at the end of the trip and she showed him around the town they stayed in. Ryan Carey also spoke of his experience, he felt the weather was great. His family also traveled to Germany and he shared about taking his family to a castle that he enjoyed while visiting with the school trip. Dr. Menzo congratulated everyone again and thanked the Board of Education for supporting such trips abroad. Mrs. McKay spoke on behalf of the Board of Education and thanked Wallingford's educators and parents who share the same vision to inspire students. She also thanked the students who took advantage of this unique opportunity. Mrs. McKay also thanked the administrative staff as well for their support.

## **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

There were no questions asked of the Board.

## **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATE(S) FOR TEACHING POSITION(S) AT 7:24 P.M.**

**MOTION: HLAVAC, SECOND BY REYNOLDS**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATE(S) FOR TEACHING POSITION(S) AT 7:24 P.M.**

## **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**CASTELLI, CEI, DOERR, GLIDDEN, HLAVAC, MCKAY, REYNOLDS, VOTTO**

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### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MENZO, LAVALETTE, PARKHURST, CORSO**

**CORSO** left at approximately 7:35 p.m.

### **OTHERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:37 P.M.**

**MOTION: HLAVAC, SECOND BY REYNOLDS**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:37 P.M.**

*Meeting reconvened at 7:37 p.m.*

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: HLAVAC, SECOND BY REYNOLDS**

**VOTE: Unanimous approval to accept items 7.1 – 7.4 as listed below.**

Approval to Accept Board of Education Minutes dated July 25, 2016

Approval to Accept Special Board of Education Minutes dated August 15, 2016

Approval to Accept GIFT of \$6,000. To Highland Elementary School from the Yaleville – Highland School PTO

Approval to Accept GIFT of \$6,000. To Yalesville Elementary School from the Yaleville – Highland School PTO

### **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Votto recognized the gifts that are listed on the Consent Agenda: A GIFT of \$6,000. To Highland Elementary School from the Yaleville – Highland School PTO and a GIFT of \$6,000. To Yalesville Elementary School from the Yaleville – Highland School PTO. Mr. Votto thanked the PTOs for all of their efforts.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **A.C.E.S. Representative**

Mrs. McKay stated there were no meetings to report on.

#### **Wintergreen Magnet School Steering Committee**

Mrs. McKay stated there were no meetings to report on.

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### **School to Career Representative / Business Think Tank**

Dr. Menzo stated the first meeting will be on September 9<sup>th</sup>. He has invited the students who participated in the China trip to do a presentation on their business partnership with UTC.

### **PTAC Update**

Mrs. McKay stated there were no meetings to report on. Dr. Menzo stated the next PTAC meeting is scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Lyman Hall Athletic Complex Improvement Committee**

Dr. Menzo reported that there was an item on the agenda, 13.2 and that we were recently made aware that the town submitted to the state for reimbursement on the painting of the track to allocate the \$250,000 that was recently allocated and which we believed would be used for Phase 2 of the project. Dr. Menzo contacted the state and stated we were confused because such use of the funds in this manner was completely prohibited. However the town did not agree with the findings and because the project had not been completed the town believed the money could be utilized for the lining and painting of the track. The contact from the state department stated the outcome was in the town's hands as the paperwork had already been filed. Dr. Menzo was under the impression that the funds had to be used for a new project not an existing project. So an item has been placed on the agenda, 13.2, Usage of funds from Contingency for Lyman Hall Athletic Complex Project to cover cost of equipment in the amount of \$87,900. Marc Deptula stated that he met with Jim Bowes to ascertain how to request use of the 250,000. and was told the money was already being used. He then went to see Don Roe and was told the money was on an administrative hold. Mr. Roe will forward more information to Marc Deptula. The first phase of the project has been completed with the exception of a few punch list items. Dr. Menzo reported that the additional money, the \$250,000 that was allocated to the project is now being used by the town to cover expenses that were incurred on the first phase of the project. The first phase of the project was approved by the Town Council. Dr. Menzo stated an oversight may have occurred as he was never notified by the Mayor or other town officials that this request had been made. There are equipment items that are needed for the track season and some of these items need to go out to bid and unfortunately it is a time consuming process. Mrs. Castelli shared her understanding of the project, phase one was approved by the Town Council and was supposed to be bonded and the \$250,000. allocated after phase one, was researched by Mary Mushinsky as well as Dr. Menzo and the money was clearly not supposed to be used for phase one or work that was underway, but for phase two work. She expressed her disappointment as well as other Board members and Dr. Menzo. Mrs. McKay also expressed her disappointment and confusion that the Board of Education was not notified or consulted about a change in what the Board understood of the parameters of the project. Dr. Menzo also stated that he was concerned and he did not want to lose the money. Mr. Votto asked when this all came to light and was wondering if the Town Council knew about this. Dr. Menzo stated that he would like to reach out to Mayor Dickinson and speak to him regarding the matter.

### **Plan of Conservation Development**

Mrs. McKay stated there were no meetings to report on.

### **Food Services Strategic Plan Committee**

Dr. Menzo stated there was nothing to report on.

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## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business brought before the Board.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE**

### **APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF CANDIDATE(S) TO TEACHING POSITION(S)**

**MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY DOERR**

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following candidate to teaching position for the 2016 – 2017 school year, contingent upon proper Connecticut certification, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

**Moses Y. Beach Elementary School**

Grade 1

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Matthew Hills

## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **APPROVAL OF 2016 – 2017 TUITION RATES FOR OUT OF DISTRICT STUDENTS**

Mr. Cei questioned why the tuition rate did not match the total cost per student of \$14,000. Dr. Menzo introduced Ed Arum, Interim Business Manager who explained that the cost of special services was not included in the tuition rate.

**MOTION: GLIDDEN, , SECOND BY HLAVAC**

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval that the Board of Education pursuant to Board of Education policy, accept the following 2016 / 2017 tuition rates: Elementary - \$11,852., Middle – \$12,410., High - \$13, 573.

### **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF USAGE OF FUNDS FROM CONTINGENCY FOR LYMAN HALL ATHLETIC COMPLEX PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$87,900.**

Discussion of Usage of Funds from Contingency for Lyman Hall Athletic Complex Project continued. Mrs. McKay asked if the list of needed equipment was to be paid for out of phase two of the project and Dr. Menzo stated yes. Mr. Votto asked if Lyman Hall is really in need of all of the equipment listed. Mr. Deptula said that Lyman Hall has not hosted a state meet in a number of years and the equipment that is in storage is from the old track and is not in good condition. Dr. Menzo stated that equipment needed for hosting a state meet is different than hosting a standard meet. Mr. Votto stated he was not prepared to vote this evening, that he was uncomfortable with using contingency funds so early in the year. Mr. Votto suggested asking the Town Council for \$87,900. rather than take the funds out of Contingency. Mrs. McKay shared concerns about waiting, discussing the item at a later date and reaching out to the Town Council which would only delay this matter and students would suffer by not getting the equipment in time. Dr. Menzo explained the bid process, stating that any item with a cost of over \$7,500. is required to go out to bid, which is a time consuming process. Mrs. Castelli was concerned about where the Board of Education was going to find the remaining amount of money that was allocated for phase two. Mrs. Hlavac

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asked how much money was in the contingency fund and where was the district with enrollment. Dr. Menzo stated the contingency fund had a balance of over \$321,124 and the district was in a good place with regards to enrollment. Enrollment has increased slightly. Mrs. Glidden asked about voting on the items that had to go out to bid and waiting until next month to address the remainder of the items. It was determined that

the dollar amount was inconsequential to waiting until next month. Dr. Menzo again expressed how important the time-line is regarding the bid process. Mrs. McKay also felt that the group of students and families had endured a lot regarding this project. Conversation continued on as to whether or not to table this item or vote on the item tonight. Mr. Cei suggested voting this evening. Mr. Votto felt that the Board was rushing this process and suggested contacting Mrs. Mushinsky and asking for her input and further research this issue. Mrs. Glidden asked if everything was accounted for in the contingency fund that had previously been discussed. Dr. Menzo stated yes and he believed the fund balance was closer to \$390,000 or \$400,000 and he would supply an accurate number for the Board in their Friday packet. Discussion continued regarding voting or postponing until another meeting. Dr. Menzo stated he would be happy to address this at a later date out of respect to the Board of Education members. Mr. Cei stated he felt the Board was overstepping their duties as a Board in dealing with policy issues and policy making and that Dr. Menzo should be allowed to run the district as the Chief Operating Official. Mr. Reynolds stated he would prefer to wait and vote at a later date.

**APPROVAL OF USAGE OF FUNDS FROM CONTINGENCY FOR LYMAN HALL ATHLETIC COMPLEX PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$87,900.**

**MOTION: CEI , SECOND BY CASTELLI**

**Discussion ensued and a roll call was requested.**

**VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE: CASTELLI, CEI, DOERR, HLAVAC, MCKAY**

**NEGATIVE: GLIDDEN, REYNOLDS, VOTTO**

***Motion passed***

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. McKay stated there was no new business to report.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Menzo asked for a moment of silence in honor of a retired administrator, Patricia Crowley who passed away this week. Mrs. Crowley was the former principal at Parker Farms Elementary School. Mrs. McKay also stated that she attended the funeral and there were so many people and students in a very long line and what an impact Mrs. Crowley had on student's lives. Mr. Votto stated that he worked with Mrs. Crowley for a number of years and she was a true educator, she started Character Counts in Wallingford and she was truly missed when she retired. Dr. Menzo also stated that the new principal at Parker Farms, Mrs. Sagnella was mentored by Mrs. Crowley and worked with her in New Haven. Mrs. McKay stated that Mrs. Sagnella is totally dedicated to honoring the legacy of the incredible work that Mrs. Crowley did at Parker Farms.

Dr. Menzo reported that we are a week away from the start of school. New teacher orientation began today and continues for three days. On Thursday teachers arrive and will have time in their classrooms

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to prepare and they also have professional development on Thursday and Friday. On Monday, we start off with our Meet and Greet, where families come in and meet their new teachers, followed by faculty meetings. The day will be concluded with Convocation and an Ice Cream Social. On Tuesday, all of our students will be back. Dr. Menzo complimented Marc Deptula and his staff for all of their hard work, as well as Karen Veilleux and her staff for all of the technology that has been going into the Pre K – 5 Schools. We will try to schedule times to offer demonstrations of the technology that has been added. It is truly state of the art.

Dr. Menzo also stated, thanks to the hard work of Mr. Parkhurst and his staff, Curriculum is in a good place. Mrs. Lavalette has been working hard with hiring all the new teachers. We have a great class of staff members coming on. Dr. Menzo also thanked Ed Arum for taking on the role as Interim Business Manager and appreciated his wealth of experience and is looking forward to continuing to work with him.

Mrs. McKay also thanked everyone for all of their hard work over the summer.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tuesday, September 6, 2016  
Monday, September 12, 2016

Instructional Committee  
Operations Committee

**Board of Education  
Conference Room  
100 South Turnpike Road  
7:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.**

### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday, September 26, 2016

Board of Education

Robert Parisi  
Town Council Chambers  
7:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. McKay adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

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**Mike Votto**

**Secretary**

