

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
45 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WALLINGFORD
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2014**

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

Chairman, Roxane McKay, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Elizabeth Napolitano, Clerk of the Board, called the roll

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

CASTELLI, MCKAY, MARRONE, MILLER, SHORTELL, VOTTO

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

BROODER, CEI, HLAVAC

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Michaela Mendygral, Student Board Representative from Mark T. Sheehan High School, came before the Board to give a report as listed below.

- The spirit walls of each class have been set up and continue to spend the schools spirit leading up to Powder Puff and the Carini Bowl.
- All the seniors are excited and ready for the pep rally on Tuesday followed by the Powder Puff game.
- The can drive has made great progress this year. They are close to 4,000 cans and still have two more days left to collect them. A can collection was done at Stop & Shop this year also.
- Student Council has done a good job of promoting the spirit days this year and there has been a great turnout of students participating.

- Leaf raking on November 11th went very well and while student council and many other participating Sheehan students had several houses to cover, the help of everyone made for a successful day. As the season winds down we have more vents to organize and school activities to put together.
- She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving

Ryan Woolley came before the Board to give a report since Kimberly Flynn, Student Board Representative from Lyman Hall High School was not available.

- November has been nicknamed “November Madness” because of all the exciting events happening.
- A veteran came to speak about the meaning and importance of Veteran’s Day.
- Community Day had a great turnout with over 200 student participating
- The Homecoming dance took place last Friday and the theme was “Under the Sea of Orange” with over 575 tickets sold.
- This week is Spirit Week. Today students dressed as celebrities and tomorrow is school colors/spirit day.
- Everyone is very excited for pep rally and the Powder Puff game which was changed to Tuesday because the impending storm on Wednesday.
- As soon as the Thanksgiving break is over, the National Honor Society will begin the annual Holiday for Giving Drive.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Recognition of Staff Members of the Month – Kim Hardy and Keri Biron

Dr. Menzo read into the minutes a little information about each staff member.

“Keri Biron is a veteran teacher in the World Language department. This past summer, she dedicated hundreds of hours of her own time to learning how to create a completely immersive language environment for her students. It is rare that you hear even a word of English from Keri’s students in an 84 minute period. She has totally reinvigorated language learning in her classroom and in her department and her students often refer to her as one of the most effective teachers they have ever had.” Keri was not available to accept her certificate.

“Kim Hardy is one of two teachers that has developed and grown the elementary Spanish program in Wallingford. Kim teaches over 600 students per week in our district and provides each and every one of them with a warm, inviting early experience with the language. She works tirelessly to create the most authentic environment possible for her students and provides them early on in their schooling with a love of and an appreciation for language. Kim’s classes are incredible to see; students in their very early days of learning Spanish are able to interpret and understand written language in completely immersive experiences for large portions of time. We are eternally grateful for the work that Kim has done to foster an early love of language learning among our younger students.” Kim came before the Board and was presented with a certificate.

Recognition of Tammy Raccio – Parental Involvement Recognition Award

Dr. Menzo reported that Tammy was nominated but wasn’t chosen for first place. He said he thought she deserved to be honored and wants to pay tribute to her for all her hard work as System wide PTAC chairperson.

Recognition of Dag Cross Country Team, Coach and School Counselor

Dr. Menzo read the email into the minutes below.

“It is all too often we hear about the negative happenings that surround us, but not today! I am writing to tell you about one of your employees that deserves great praise. Last week on Tuesday, October 14th, at Strong Middle School our town, Cromwell, competed in a cross country meet with a few other schools, DAG included. The boys were running and most all of the kids had finished. Most of the teams had dispersed, including Cromwell, with very few kids waiting at the finish line. More needed to come in. There was one boy still out there. When they finally came into view I could see a man running alongside one of the Cromwell boys. I could see he was talking to him and then he casually slowed down and let the boy continue running. Within seconds of this scene a group of the DAG boys (who had already finished) surrounded, in a half moon, behind the Cromwell runner and supported him the remainder of the way. This sight was unbelievable to me. The support from DAG towards this Cromwell boy was nothing short of spectacular. I wish I had the wherewithal to have taken a video. It was the kindest act I have witnessed myself in sports.

I hunted down the "man" and found out he was Coach Rasheed from DAG Middle School. No wonder the boys from DAG supported someone they didn't even know. They had an example that I believe all children should have. Coach Rasheed clearly teaches life skills, compassion, sportsmanship and kindness as well as the skill of running cross country. These other skills, in my mind, are far more important and will stay with these children forever. I shook his hand and I thanked him.

That same Cromwell child that came in last that day helped a fallen child (a competitor) who other runners passed by in a meet late last week. He saw the child gripping his sides and waited with him until a Coach from Edison came to help him. I know this because this Cromwell child is my son, Tino.

I am hoping that you would please thank him again and the boys that supported my son that day. It clearly made an impact on my son and my family. Thank you.”

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions brought before the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: MARRONE, SECOND BY MILLER

VOTE: Unanimous approval to accept items 7.1 – 7.10 as listed below

Approval to Accept Board of Education Minutes dated October 27, 2014

Approval to Accept Special Board of Education Minutes dated November 3, 2014

Approval to Accept Special Board of Education Minutes dated November 3, 2014

Approval to Accept the Board of Education Financial Report for October 2014

Approval to Accept Transfer from Account #100B – Contingency to Account #330J – Prof/Tech Services – Chemical Hygiene Officer \$4,210

Approval of Proposed Attendance Protocols Procedure

Approval of Proposal for Granting of High School Credit for Middle School Algebra

Approval of Proposed Adoption of Revised Policy: Student Conduct on School

Transportation – 5131.1

Approval of Proposed Adoption of Revised Policy: Suspension and Expulsion – 5114

Approval of Proposed Adoption of Revised Policy: Nondiscrimination - 0521

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Votto reported that correspondence was received from Liz Stokes thanking Dr. Menzo for taking the time and sharing his ideas. There was also a thank you note from Linda Winters.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A.C.E.S. Representative

Mrs. Castelli reported that at the November meeting there were Legislative updates where there have been no major changes. She stated that the fiscal report shows that they are still in the red in two of the programs. The roofing project had been approved and the members were asked to vote on solar panels to be added. The new director of ACES will be reaching out to Dr. Menzo regarding how the solar panels worked out for our district. The solar funding was approved.

Wintergreen Magnet School Steering Committee

Mr. Parkhurst stated that there was no meeting.

School to Career Representative/Business Think Tank

Mr. Miller reported there was no meeting this month. There will be a meeting in early December.

Report from Roof Project Committee Representatives

There was no report made.

PTAC Update

Dr. Menzo reported the meeting was last Tuesday. He explained that Jon Ingram presented the personalized learning initiative. There was discussion among the sub-committees. He announced that tomorrow there will be a meeting with the dress code committee. Parent Ambassador committee will be offering parent training in January. He stated that a flyer developed by PTAC was distributed to parents to become an advocate for students and offer where they can get help. He reported that it was good to see so much support from PTAC and parent support for the budget.

Mr. Votto added that it is very refreshing to see the resurgence of parents attending the System Wide PTAC meetings.

Lyman Hall Athletic Complex Improvement Committee

Dr. Menzo reported that there was no committee meeting. There will be discussion at the Operations Committee meeting for bid specifications for lighting and a six lane track.

Early Childhood Exploratory Committee

Mr. Parkhurst explained that the committee has completed a report and will present that report at the Instructional Committee meeting next Monday.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought before the Board.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE

Presentation of Proposed Adoption of Revised Regulation: Advertising at High School Athletic Facilities – 1325a

Mr. Parkhurst reported that the revision allows banners to be created for outdoor advertising to be on display during athletic events and should be removed at all other times. He said the vendor will agree that the banner created for indoor advertising will remain on display at all times.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF LEIGH MASCIA, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 2, 2015.

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY MARRONE

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accepts, with regret, the Retirement of Leigh Mascia, effective February 2, 2015.

Leigh Mascia has been an elementary teacher and interventionist for the Wallingford Public Schools since September 1976.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE, WITHOUT PAY AND BENEFITS, FOR REGINA KOSIOR FROM DECEMBER 8, 2014 THROUGH JANUARY 30, 2015.

MOTION: SHORTELL, SECOND BY MARRONE

VOTE: Unanimous approval that a *leave of absence for Regina Kosior, be approved, without Pay and benefits, and in accordance with the provision of the current teachers' Contract.

*The leave is personal and confidential. Regina Kosior is requesting a leave of absence after Her maternity leave from December 8, 2014 through January 30, 2015. Regina is a school Psychologist for Cook Hill Elementary School.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Report on Operations Committee meeting

Chet Miller reported that the meeting took place on November 10th. He explained that the Operations Committee minutes for October were approved, the financial report was reviewed, there were a couple of transfers, and there was an update on the meeting with the mayor. He stated there was also discussion about the Lyman Hall Athletic field.

ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Report

Dr. Menzo gave his administrative report as listed below.

- He received a thank you note from Ray Rys for the Veteran's Day programs at the schools
- He announced that students and teachers will be performing at a February concert in the Lyman Hall auditorium for "Concerts with Causes" which will make donations to the Fisher House in West Haven

- He announced that the Powder Puff game will take place at Sheehan High School tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m.
- This evening at 6:00 a Parent Budget forum was held which focused on full day kindergarten
- Today he met with the Capstone students from Sheehan and Lyman Hall at the HUBCAP to give them a chance to share their ideas with each other. He explained that they will make a presentation in April and they are working with the community leaders in town
- He reported that a gift was made toward the purchase of a new flag pole to Stevens Elementary School by Jason Zandri
- A gift of \$260 was made by Mr. & Mrs. William Straub to Yalesville
- A gift of \$50 was made to Stevens Elementary School to add to a future technology purchase from the Zito Family
- He received a thank you note from Coach Farley for the Board of Education honoring the Boys Track Team and the coaches at the October Board meeting
- He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, 12/01/14 Instructional Committee
 Monday, 12/08/14 Operations Committee

VoAg Community Room
 6:00 p.m.
 6:00 p.m.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 12/22/14 Board of Education

Town Council Chambers

7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. McKay adjourned the Board meeting at 8:05 p.m.

_____ **Secretary**
Mike Votto