

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ROOM 315
45 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WALLINGFORD
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013**

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

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, Roxane McKay, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

CASTELLI, CEI, MANSFIELD, MARRONE, MCKAY, MILLER, REYNOLDS

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

BROODER, VOTTO

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

MENZO, MCNAMARA, PARKHURST, BACKUS, WINTERS, DEPTULA, MANCUSI, NAPOLITANO

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

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

- Since school began there was a terrific freshman orientation among other events such as club recruitment day and the kick off to many sports this fall season.
- The teams have been getting off to a good start and are enthusiastic for this season.
- Seniors as well as I have been applying to their colleges and with the help of our guidance department are doing a spectacular job attending to senior's needs as well as the other students at Sheehan.
- Open house is on Monday, September 30th at 6:30. We encourage all parents to attend.
- Along with the Open House, Sheehan is getting ready for our blood drive where many are expected to give back.
- As the holidays approach so does the Powder Puff girls and guys prepare for our traditional game against Lyman Hall.

Kaitlyn Marunda, Student Board Representative from Lyman Hall High School, was not available to give a report.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Recognition of Ryan Bell who raised \$40,000 to fight world hunger

Dr. Menzo called Ryan before the Board and explained that Ryan is being honored because of his tireless efforts to raise \$40,000 for Heifer International which is an organization that works with communities to end hunger and poverty. He went on to say that Ryan is an incredible role model for so many people. Dr. Menzo presented Ryan with a certificate and a book bag with some Wallingford Public Schools items.

Mrs. McKay also commented on Ryan's inspiration and said how proud everyone is.

Recognition of Christopher Stone for being selected as CEA Teacher of the Year

Mr. Parkhurst, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, came before the Board to call Chris Stone to the floor and read into the minutes.

"Christopher Stone, a fifth grade teacher at the Pond Hill Elementary School in Wallingford, is the recipient of the Connecticut Education Association's (CEA) highest award, the John McCormack Award for Teaching Excellence. The McCormack Award, which is highly competitive, examines teachers on five criteria: professional practice, community engagement, leadership in professional development, attention to diversity, and advocacy for the profession.

Stone is also one of five finalists for the NEA Award and traveled to Washington, D.C. for the final interview process. At this level he is recognized as a Horace Mann Excellence in Teaching Award winner. The winner will not be announced until Friday, February 7, 2014. This is the date of the National Education Gala in Washington, D.C.

Chris Stone has been instrumental in promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) enrichment activities in Wallingford and encouraging more young girls to participate in science-based programs. He also runs multi-week summer science camps through the Meriden YMCA. Chris recently incorporated all of his activities to create the CT STEM Academy, a student and family based STEM enrichment program, in partnership with the Wallingford and Hamden Education Associations, the Spanish Community of Wallingford, and Wallingford Youth and Social Services. Recently, he announced that the Academy was selected by NASA to take part in the Amateur Radio International Space Station program, allowing students in the program to interact with astronauts aboard the International Space Station. This program is scheduled to take place in the fall of 2013."

Dr. Menzo presented Christ with a certificate and announced that an allotment would be made to the fifth grade science classes for supplies at Pond Hill School.

Presentation of Teacher Award of Tenure Certificates

Colin McNamara, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel, came before the Board to present the teachers who reached tenure with Tenured Teacher Certificates. In attendance were Michele Dwyer, V.J. Sarullo, and Melissa Stango-Herald. Also eligible to receive certificates were: Melissa Benevento, Dana Blasczyk, Stephanie Desjardins, Brian Roman, Julie Thomas, and Daniel Wostbrock.

Recognition of Dave Baker, Past President of the Wallingford Education Foundation

Dr. Menzo said Dave Baker, Past President of the Wallingford Education Foundation, who is a member of our community, has donated many hours to working with the Board of Directors to raise funds over the past several years which has allowed us to do many things in our school district. He called Dave up and presented him with a token of appreciation from the Board of Education for all his hard work.

Mrs. McKay also thanked him for all his efforts.

Presentation by Rob Kovi and Kate O'Donnell regarding the new technology

Dr. Menzo reported that Kate O'Donnell with the assistance of Bob Morrison wrote a grant to the State of Connecticut to receive funding for a video conferencing system for Wallingford Public Schools. When the grant was written they requested \$156,000 and that is what was received. Kate shared information about the grant.

Kate explained that the money was used for mobile video conferencing units for all 12 schools, enhanced new recording packages for both high schools, mounted video conferencing unit for Central Office for professional development.

Rob Kovi explained that along with that grant they received another \$26,000 which helped them to accomplish all of the goals they had for the video conferencing. They were able to purchase cameras, microphones, a laptop computer, a professional video camera, tripod, and a program which would help them to do news programming.

He wrote another grant this summer and received \$106,000 for the Discover Video webcasting and streaming equipment. This grant enabled him to purchase the equipment to deliver key events live throughout the schools and on the Internet for students, parents, and friends to view. It also allows teachers to create professional development modules in the same studio used by students for the daily morning announcements.

Mrs. McKay requested that a live demonstration take place at a future Board meeting.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions brought to the Board at this time.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATE(S) FOR TEACHING POSITION, DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATE(S) FOR CAREER CENTER COORDINATOR POSITION, DISCUSSION OF TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT UNION AND DISCUSSION OF SUPERINTENDENTS EVALUATION AND CONTRACT AT 7:35 P.M.

MOTION: MILLER, SECOND BY MARRONE

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATE(S) FOR TEACHING POSITION, DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATE(S) FOR CAREER CENTER COORDINATOR POSITION, DISCUSSION OF TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT UNION AND DISCUSSION OF SUPERINTENDENTS EVALUATION AND CONTRACT AT 7:35 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

CASTELLI, CEI, MANSFIELD, MARRONE, MCKAY, MILLER, REYNOLDS

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MENZO, MCNAMARA, PARKHURST

MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:35 P.M.

MOTION: MARRONE, SECOND BY MILLER

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:35 P.M.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: MARRONE, SECOND BY MILLER

VOTE: Unanimous approval to accept the Consent Agenda items as listed below.

Approval to Accept BOE **Minutes** dated July 15, 2013
Approval to Accept Special Board of Education **Minutes** dated September 3, 2013
Approval to Accept Special Board of Education **Minutes** dated September 3, 2013
Approval to Accept Special Board of Education **Minutes** dated September 9, 2013
Approval to Accept **Cafeteria Financial Report** for August, 2013
Approval to Accept **Board of Education Financial Report** for August, 2013
Approval of Proposed Wallingford District School Counseling Vision Statement, Wallingford District School Counseling Mission Statement and School Counseling Goals
Approval to Accept **GIFT** from Midstate Medical Center, Cindy Russo to Wallingford Public Schools 21st Century Innovation Project \$2,500
Approval to Accept **GIFT** from White Way Cleaners, Tom & George Glasser to Wallingford Public Schools 21st Century Innovation Project \$2,500
Approval to Accept **GIFT** from Dr. Peter Stein, Evonik CyroLLC to Mark T. Sheehan High School's Science Department \$2,500

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Marrone highlighted the gifts that were donated. He reported that a gift was donated by Midstate Medical Center, Cindy Russo to the 21st Innovation Project in the amount of \$2,500. Another donation was from White Way Cleaners, Tom & George Grasser to the 21st Innovation Project for \$2,500 and a gift from Dr. Peter Stein, Evonik Cyro LLC to Mark Stevens High School Science Department in the amount of \$2,500. He thanked all of them for the donations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A.C.E.S Representative

Mrs. Castelli reported that the first meeting of the year was held in Wallingford. Craig Edmondson brought up the topic of the regional calendar which will become a reality in the next three years. She also reported that WIMS and TEMS saw a drop in the CMT/CAPT scores because they don't align with the Common Core which was introduced two years ago. They had to replace their Curriculum Instructor and Superintendent with Erica Forte. ACES insists that all their staff adhere to their belief statements that are in their Annual Report and staff is told that if they can't live with them they can leave. There has been dismissals due to the fact that a staff member couldn't uphold the belief statements. She said she emailed the ACES Annual Report to Board members.

Wintergreen Magnet School Steering Committee

Dr. Menzo announced that the first meeting is on Wednesday and Mr. Parkhurst will be attending.

School to Career Representative/Think Tank

Mr. Miller reported that the first meeting will be on October 11th.

Report from Roof Project Committee Representative

Mr. Marrone reported that all buildings are complete except Highland and Parker Farms. Those two Buildings still have some issues with materials. They are projected to be complete by the second week of October.

PTAC Update

Dr. Menzo reported that the next meeting will take place on October 15th when there will be elections held for the Chairman, Co-Chairman, and Secretary. He said last month's meeting was successful and well attended.

Lyman Hall Athletic Complex Improvement Committee

Marc Deptula stated that the architect contacted him today and he is setting up a meeting for next week to review plans. He said they will be making some decisions on which package they want.

Early Childhood Exploratory Committee

Mr. Miller reported that they had their first meeting last week. Some sub-committees were set up. A charge was made by the superintendent. Some recommendations are supposed to be made in the next six weeks due to budgetary impacts.

Dr. Menzo reported that part of the charge is to have a phase in plan and a systemic plan. There will be a cost for whichever phase is recommended. They want a model that will fit everyone.

Mr. Parkhurst announced that there is a link on the website with the PowerPoint and the meeting dates.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought before the Board.

Presentation of Current Policy JFCG Use of Tobacco to be a Revised Policy – Use of Tobacco/Substitute Forms – 5131.6 – 2nd reading

Mr. Cei explained that this was a second reading and would go on the Consent Agenda at the next Full Board meeting.

Presentation of Current Policy KGCA Use of Tobacco to be a Revised Policy – Use of Tobacco/Substitute Forms – 1316-2nd reading

Mr. Cei reported that this is a second reading of the Policy and would go to Consent Agenda at the next meeting.

Acceptance to Apply for State Technology Grant RFP 801

Mr. Menzo explained that over the summer we were asked to write a grant for technology to help with the implementation of the Common Core state standards and the Smarter Balanced Assessments.

Mr. Backus explained that the State wanted the Board to agree to apply for the grant. One component is for hardware, Chrome books for instructional and common core uses. The second component is for Bandwidth. The total amount to be applied for is a little over \$400,000.

MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY MANSFIELD

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR STATE TECHNOLOGY GRANT RFP 801

Acceptance of PEGPETIA Grant 13-06-32 in the amount of \$106,000 for a digital Media/Video Distribution System

MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY MANSFIELD

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE PEGPETIA GRANT 13-06-32 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$106,000 FOR A DIGITAL MEDIA/VIDEO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF CANDIDATE TO TEACHING POSITION

MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY MANSFIELD

VOTE: Unanimous approval of the appointment of the following candidate to a teaching position for the 2013-2014 school year, as of a mutually agreed upon date, contingent upon proper Connecticut certification, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Moran Middle School

Kristen Wynus - Special Education/Grade 8

APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE, OF DEBORAH CARTIER, WITHOUT PAY AND BENEFITS, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CURRENT TEACHERS' CONTRACT

MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY MANSFIELD

VOTE: Unanimous approval that a *leave of absence for Deborah Cartier from September 24, 2013 to December 20, 2013, be approved, without pay and benefits, and in accordance with the provisions of the current teachers' contract.

*The leave is personal and confidential. (**Deborah Cartier** has been on sick leave and has requested a leave of absence from September 24, 2013 to December 20, 2013.)

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF DOREEN PALMER, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2013

MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY MANSFIELD

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Doreen Palmer**, effective December 31, 2013.

Doreen Palmer has been with the Wallingford Public Schools since August, 1979. From August, 1979 to June, 1986, she was kindergarten and first grade teacher at Cook Hill School and from August, 1986 to the present, she has been a second grade teacher at E.C. Stevens School for a total of **thirty-four and one-half years** of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF CANDIDATE TO CAREER CENTER COORDINATOR POSITION

MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY MANSFIELD

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following candidate to the Career Center Coordinator position for the 2013-2014 school year, as of a mutually agreed upon date, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

High School Level

Kimberly McLaughlin

-

Career Center Coordinator

RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT WITH THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT UNION FROM JULY 1, 2013 TO JUNE 30, 2016

MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY MANSFIELD

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS MADE

AFFIRMATIVE: CASTELLI, CEI, MANSFIELD, MARRONE, MCKAY, MILLER, REYNOLDS

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education ratify the agreement with the Wallingford Public Schools Management Union from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016 and submitted to the Town for their Approval and Ratification.

PRESENTATION OF 2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Dr. Menzo explained that we are required to give an Annual Report to the Town and the Mayor before October 1st. It needs to give an overview of the accomplishments that have been achieved by our staff and students. The report is divided by the Strategic Plan areas – Community Outreach, District Climate, Curriculum and Instruction, Technology and Facilities. He thanked Linda Winters, Randy Backus, Marc Deptula, Rob Mancusi, Shawn Parkhurst and Colin McNamara for their help in putting the report together.

A consensus was taken to send the Annual Report forward.

**APPROVAL OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS EVALUATION AND CONTRACT FOR PERIOD
JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016**

MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY MANSFIELD

ROLL CALL VOTE WAS MADE

AFFIRMATIVE: CASTELLI, CEI, MANSFIELD, MARRONE, MCKAY, MILLER, REYNOLDS

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS EVALUATION
CONTRACT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016**

Mrs. McKay thanked Dr. Menzo for his unwavering support and commitment to the community and degree of professionalism and the role that he plays as an educational leader is truly unmatched. She said it is her honor to work with him.

The other Board members also had positive comments and thanked Dr. Menzo for the job he has done.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Report on Operations Committee Meeting

Mr. Miller said that it was a short meeting. He stated that they reviewed the Financial Report and the Cafeteria Financial Report.

ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Report

- He reported that we have received over \$125,000 in Adult Education Grants this year as listed below. A Comprehensive Program Improvement Project grants that supports Family Literacy for \$50,000, Preparing for 21st Century STEM Careers for \$40,000 and English Language/Civics grant for \$30,000
- He announced that additional donations that were under \$500 and did not need to be approved on the Consent Agenda. They were \$100 to the Cook Hill School Library from John and Michele Klimczak from West Hartford and another \$170 to the Cook Hill School Library from the Klimczak Memorial Fund in memory of a Cook Hill teacher
- We will be participating in the *Celebrate Wallingford* by bringing the new food truck as a coming attraction. This is the first time Wallingford Public Schools will be participating.
- Today he met with over 15 teacher volunteers in the Global Awareness Committee. The goal is in the process of developing formalized plans with districts in Germany, Argentina, Finland, Ghana and in the final stages of firming up a commitment with Northern Australia. We will be Skyping with that school district.
- We were also asked to write a Fulbright Grant through the University of New Haven to travel to Morocco. They received the grant so they will apply to be a part of that grant also. There is a common template that ties into 21st Century skills for students.
- Shawn and Sal have been working on developing a communication plan for the Common Core and Balanced Assessment. Shawn will highlight it at an Instructional Committee meeting.
- Also in the next few days Christy Madancy will be videotaped in a math class and will be shown on Channel 19. It will also be on the webpage so people can see it there also.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Conference Room – Hall Avenue

Monday, 10/07/13
Tuesday, 10/15/13

Instructional Committee
Operations Committee

7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Town Council Chambers

Monday, 10/28/13

Board of Education Meeting

7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. McKay adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Secretary

Michael Votto