

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
45 SOUTH MAIN STREET
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492
Monday, September 26, 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 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

A roll call was made by Linda Lavelle

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

BROODER, GLIDDEN

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

MENZO, LAVALETTE, PARKHURST, ARUM , DEPTULA, MANCUSI, VEILLEUX, BELCHAK, LAVELLE

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Grace Mandy, Student Representative for Lyman Hall High School came before the Board and introduced herself. Grace reported the following:

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- All sports teams at Lyman Hall were doing very well
- Girls' Varsity Soccer won against East Haven
- Boys' Soccer Team won SCC Game
- Volleyball, Swimming and Diving won their season openers
- LHHS Student Section "Loud Mob" showed their support at Field Hockey and Football Games
- Senior Girls had first Powder Puff Practice working on drills and trying to work out positions
- Senior Boys had the first Cheerleading Practice for Powder Puff and everyone is very excited
- Wednesday – first office hours of the year
- School pictures were taken last week
- October 15th – Marching Band home competition will be held
- October 8th – Class of 1966 – 50th Anniversary – Celebration and Tour of the School by Mr. Corso
- 7 Week Scavenger Hunt – Involving Historical History about Lyman Hall in celebration of LHHS 100 Anniversary
- 100 Anniversary Celebration – October 14th Class of 1972 Cemetery Tour and Lite Dinner
- All Students will learn the school song
- October 19th - Senior Class will be going to Town Hall (original site of Lyman Hall) – Rededication and a Birthday Party / Pep Rally

Rajan Doering, Student Representative for Mark T. Sheehan High School came before the Board and introduced himself. Rajan reported the following:

- September 15th – Club Recruitment Day
- Peer Advocate Group participated in a Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease
- First Office 45 of the Year this month and will continue into October
- Total of 42 Home Sporting Events this month – Football Opener vs. Foran on September 16th, September 13th Field Hockey vs. LHHS – ended in a tie and Volleyball vs. LHHS- won
- Next Month Student Council will be administering a survey to the student body to determine their needs
- Athletics – Each sports team will be having a "Pink Night" in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October
- Student Council will be arranging "Dress Up Days" at sports games against LHHS
- October 1st – SATs at LHHS
- October 5th – FAFSA Workshop
- October 6th - PTAC Meeting
- October 13th – Open House
- October 14th – Blood Drive
- October 25th – College and Career Fair
- End of October – Red Ribbon Week

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Recognition of Students for Participation in the Junior Achievement China and United States Global Partnership Program

Dr. Menzo invited all of the students who participated in the Junior Achievement China and United States Global Partnership Program to come before the Board. Each student introduced themselves. The students presented a Power Point on the program. They started a business with their China counter parts who came to Connecticut last year and they learned business skills. They also picked products that would be imported from China and exporting to China. They created marketing for their products, sold stocks for their company and liquidated their companies. This summer they traveled to China to work with their

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Chinese counterparts. The students thanked the Board of Education, Dr. Menzo, Junior Achievement and the Chaperones for the opportunity to participate in this program. Dr. Menzo invited Mr. Jeremy Race, President of Junior Achievement to speak. Mr. Race thanked Dr. Menzo and the Board of Education for supporting this program. Mr. Race also thanked the students who participated in the program, he also thanked Lou Golden, who was the founder of the program. He thanked Michael Benson of Benson Photography. He thanked Mary Goetter, who kept the students safe and for her organizational skills. He also thanked Christine Olt and Michelle Nahas who played significant roles in making this program happen. Dr. Menzo presented the students with a pin from China and asked Mrs. McKay to say a few words. Mrs. McKay stated the students did a wonderful job and she was very impressed. She also thanked Lou Golden for starting the program and Dr. Menzo as well. The students who participated in the program are: Nora Akila, Maggie Brien, Meaghan Burns, Craig Cassella, Stephanie Garcia, Mason Ginter, Kahlia Gonzales, Linus Koepfer, Kairav Maniar, Nina Merz, Braydon Mingo, Thomas Neal, Julia Pannone, Meghan Partesano and Andrea Williams.

Recognition of Students for Successful Completion of the Capstone Program

Dr. Menzo invited Amy Rogers and Jenn Castelli to come up. Dr. Menzo stated that the Capstone Program is in its third year in Wallingford. Junior students volunteer to be a part of this program, which is extremely admirable. Dr. Menzo stated that as time goes on with this program he is more and more amazed and optimistic about the future of Wallingford, Connecticut and this country. Dr. Menzo thanked Melanie Montagnon and Ken Daly who started this program. Ms. Rogers and Ms. Castelli said a few words about the program and stated how much the students had grown throughout the program. They then presented students with certificates. Each student then shared the project they worked on. Dr. Menzo and Mrs. McKay thanked all of the students again. The following students successfully completed the Wallingford Public Schools' Capstone Program: Lyman Hall - Haley Acabbo, Nicholas Blair, Kyle Bonet, Aubrie Dirienzo, Alfredo Dominguez, Jose Dominguez, Zachary Dow, Gabrielle Duran, Shane Evans, Alexa Eves, Alexander Feingold, Tabitha Gable; Kayla Gonzalez; Emily Hatch, Maria Miller, Brenda Miller, Maddie Murphy-Shanahan, Kylee Papapietro, Christian Perez-Cameron, Jordan Ripley, Kyle Robbins and Mark Russell. Sheehan: Amanda Addona, Cameron Allard, Shannon Bradley, Margaret Brien, Johanna Croston, Richard Dominguez, Brianna Eroh, Nicholas Ferrauolo, Zachary Ficorilli, Elizabeth Fisher, Haley Franke, Alyssa Galicia, Sapphire Gontarz-Durfee, Kaitlin Lagase, Jonathan Leonard, Justine McInerney, Nina Musco, Khushbu Patel, Emma Rapuano, Chris Ryan, John Ryan, Leah Sause, Andrew Viola and Derek Wood.

Recognition of Staff Members of the Month – Bill Baxter, Marie Szeligowski

Dr. Menzo invited Karen Veilleux to come up and recognize Bill Baxter and Marie Szeligowski. Mrs. Veilleux stated both Bill and Marie have worked tirelessly this past year on a very large data project for Wallingford Public Schools. She thanked them for their hard work and diligence. She thanked Bill for his knowledge of programming in Sequel and his willingness to share that with them. Marie's organizational skills and knowledge of PowerSchool makes them a great team. Dr. Menzo also thanked them for their hard work.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no questions asked of the Board.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION(S) AT 7:52 P.M.

MOTION: HLAVAC, SECOND BY REYNOLDS

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF

ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION(S) AT 7:52 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MENZO, LAVALETTE, PARKHURST, MANCUSI

OTHERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:58 P.M.

MOTION: HLAVAC, SECOND BY REYNOLDS

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:58 P.M.

Meeting reconvened at 7:59 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: HLAVAC, SECOND BY REYNOLDS

VOTE: Unanimous approval to accept items 7.1 – 7.12 as listed below.

- Approval to Accept Board of Education Minutes dated August 22, 2016
- Approval to Accept Special Board of Education Minutes dated August 25, 2016
- Approval to Accept Special Board of Education Minutes dated September 12, 2016
- Approval to Accept Special Board of Education Minutes dated September 12, 2016
- Approval to Accept Financial Report for June, July and August 2016
- Approval to Accept Cafeteria Financial Report for June, July and August 2016
- Approval of UCONN Research Study: Interventions and Neuroimaging for Polysyllabic Word Reading at Pond Hill and Yalesville Elementary Schools
- Approval of Proposed Adoption of Wallingford 3D Learning – Grade K-8 Curriculum
- Approval of Proposed Adoption of Revised Science Standards & Indicators – Grades K-12
- Approval of Proposed Adoption of Next Generation Science Standards Transition Plan 2016-2020
- Approval of Proposed Adoption of New Science Units – Pre – K to Grade 5
- Approval to Accept a Monetary GIFT Donated to E. C. Stevens Elementary School from Mr. & Mrs. David Sullivan, \$1,000

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Votto recognized the gift listed on the Consent Agenda: A GIFT of \$1,000. from Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan given to E. C. Stevens Elementary School, to be used at the discretion of the principal and two thank you cards from the Glidden family and the Wilson family.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A.C.E.S. Representative

Ms. Hlavac reported that she did not attend the meeting nor could Mrs. Castelli. Ms. Hlavac did report that she served as a judge at the Grange Fair and she wanted to compliment the Sheehan Girls' Soccer team for the excellent job they did volunteering and serving at the fair.

Wintergreen Magnet School Steering Committee

Mr. Votto reported that a meeting will be held on Wednesday.

School to Career Representative / Business Think Tank

Dr. Menzo stated the first meeting was held in September. The students who participated in the China trip did a presentation on their business partnership with UTC which was shown at the Board meeting this evening. There was an update on course work in Advanced Manufacturing Pre Engineering, there was a discussion on Robotics and how that might factor into our curriculum, as we've added a teacher for Robotics and looking at additional programming in the future.

PTAC Update

Dr. Menzo stated that the PTAC meeting was held last week and was well attended. There was a discussion about the information that concluded at the end of last year. They also discussed the Parent Choice Awards. These are awards that parents wrote in about people in our district that have gone above and beyond duty when it comes to our district. These awards will be brought before the Board at the November Board Meeting although the plan has not been finalized. Dr. Menzo reported they gave an update on various committees, Dress Code, Bus Safety, and Food Services. Mr. Belchak attended the meeting and shared the many changes going on in the Food Services Department. Dr. Menzo stated the PTAC meetings are very informative meetings and he encouraged everyone to attend. Officers were not elected this time, but will be elected in October. Dr. Menzo also stated that the PTAC group does a tremendous amount of work, they have very focused goals and outcomes that they want to accomplish. Dr. Menzo stated that he was very fortunate to have such a supportive / active group of parents. He thanked Mr. Votto for attending and Ms. Hlavac who usually attends and the present Chairperson Tammy Raccio who pulls everything together.

Lyman Hall Athletic Complex Improvement Committee

Mr. Deptula reported that the project is being closed out and they have not met. Mr. Deptula has one punch list item that won't be resolved until after Thanksgiving, but it is very minor. Mr. Deptula stated that other than the punch list item, the project is complete.

Plan of Conservation Development

Mr. Reynolds reported there was a Swearing In that he could not attend.

Food Services Strategic Plan Committee

Dr. Menzo stated that he will be scheduling a meeting to establish a schedule for the year and Mr. Belchak will be facilitating this committee. Dr. Menzo stated an option for the meeting schedule would be to hold the meetings on the same night as PTAC, prior to the meeting. They are hoping to increase attendance at the meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought before the Board.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE

Presentation of Annual Report for 2015 – 2016

Dr. Menzo stated that the Annual Report is a celebration of the hard work of the staff of the Wallingford Public Schools. The report will be added to the website and will be submitted to the Town of Wallingford. Mr. Votto suggested making note of the graduation rate. Dr. Menzo stated the district went from 88.3% graduation rate in 2010 to 93.2% graduation rate. Increased attendance and discipline rates have gone down, which have contributed to the increased graduation rate. This is a tribute to the hard work of staff members. Mrs. McKay made note of the first six pages of the Annual Report and how it relates to the awards that were given out this evening and she feels the district has made tremendous strides in all areas addressed. Mr. Cei suggested sending the first six pages of the document to all parents. Dr. Menzo stated the information has been shared with staff and community members through the Central Office Newsletters and Community Newsletters. Dr. Menzo thanked all of the community partners who have contributed to the Wallingford Public Schools. He stated over the last seven years \$795,895. has been donated to the district. Dr. Menzo was grateful for all of the hard work that went into raising the donations as well as the grants that have been awarded. He stated that we have changed the mindset of the people of Wallingford and our goal is to continue to increase the amount of the donations as we move forward. Mrs. McKay stated that the Board of Education is barely maintaining our sustainable budget with taxpayer dollars and that any Strategic Plan items that we have done have been funded through our community partners, which we are very grateful for. Mrs. Castelli also stated that this is a “win win” situation regarding donations and community members realize by helping the school district it also benefits community members as well. It allows our students to stay in Wallingford and eventually contribute to the Town of Wallingford.

Mastery Based Learning Update

Mr. Parkhurst reported Mastery Based Learning Update will be a monthly agenda item going forward. A brief presentation was held. The 21st Team had been asked a few questions back in 2012. How do we increase the success for all students? How do we increase the value of the Wallingford Diploma? How do you increase Parent / Student / Teacher understanding of what we want students to know and be able to do? How do we best prepare our students for after high school whether it be college or career? After researching it was found that raising the level of student engagement was crucial, engaged students learn and have better outcomes. We needed to be clear about what the expectations are and looking at work habits, such as persistence, communication, can they collaborate and timeliness. In order to report what students know and are able to do, we needed to separate extra credit and homework from that. That's what the research showed and that's where Mastery Based Learning came to be in Wallingford. With a Mastery Based Learning system all students are held to the same rigorous standard and effort is separated out. This system makes sure that students deeply understand concepts and reach a high level of competency. Mr. Parkhurst spoke of what our expectations for 2016-2017, focusing in three areas, habits of work are separated out from academic skills and knowledge, preparation for learning, engagement with learning and interaction with peers and teachers. Other expectations are looking at district performance tasks and scoring criteria and looking at two types of homework, homework that's graded and focused on

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learning and elimination of extra credit. The focus is on separating out habits of work. So there can be a true measure of student understanding.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION, WITH REGRET, OF NICOLE HERGET, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 10, 2016.

MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY DOERR

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of **Nicole Herget** effective September 10, 2016.

Nicole Herget has been a science Teacher at Dag Hammarskjold Middle School since August 1998.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION, WITH REGRET, OF ZOE DOLAN, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 8, 2016.

MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY DOERR

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of **Zoe Dolan** effective October 8, 2016.

Zoe Dolan has been a Special Education Department Head since August 2012.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION, WITH REGRET, OF STACEY DELGIORNA, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 8, 2016.

MOTION: CEI, SECOND BY DOERR

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of **Stacey DelGiorna** effective October 8, 2016.

Stacey DelGiorna has been a Speech and Language Pathologist at Wallingford Integrated Preschool since August 2001.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Ed Arum, Interim Business Manager reported Mr. Cei requested information. Mr. Arum will report at the next meeting the following: 15 – 16 Financial – Unencumbered, 1% Fund 14 – 15 and 15 - 16 CRR Projects, Capital Projects, Transportation, Tuition, Benefits and Salaries.

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NEW BUSINESS

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

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Menzo stated this Thursday, at the Hubcap, we will have "Coffee with the Superintendents", one of the first of monthly events that will occur for parents and community members to stop by and speak to them. This is an opportunity for parents and community members to stop in and share any ideas or concerns they may have. A Parent Budget Forum has been scheduled in November as well. The fall dates were sent to parents via email blast. Celebrate Wallingford is this Saturday, the Food Truck will be there as well. Dr. Menzo invited everyone to stop by. The Wallingford Public Schools recently received a very generous donation of a 2017 Hyundai Elantra Car, donated by Meriden Hyundai which will be raffled off to raise funds for various school organizations. The request for the raffle was recently sent to the Gaming Commission with the State of Connecticut. Raffle tickets will be sold at \$10.00 a ticket through Memorial Day, 80% of the ticket price will go to the Wallingford Public Schools group selling the ticket. Dr. Menzo thanked all of the volunteers and students who participated with the 24 Hour Film Festival. Shawn Parkhurst, Jane Greaves, Kim McLaughlin, Rob Kovi and Liz Landow all participated. The students had to come up with a three minute film. They were given the word "Community" and used their cell phones. They presented the films to their parents with the help of the gentleman who owns Wallingford Computer. Dr. Menzo stated it was so much fun, and the students were great ambassadors of the school district. There were Lyman Hall, Sheehan and Choate students who were so well behaved. The films were very impressive. Dr. Menzo stated he was so proud of them and everyone involved was also very impressed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, October 3, 2016
Tuesday, October 11, 2016

Instructional Committee
Operations Committee

**Board of Education
Conference Room
100 South Turnpike Road
6:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.**

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 24, 2016

Board of Education

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. McKay adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Secretary

Mike Votto

