

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
ROBERT F. PARISI TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS – TOWN HALL  
45 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WALLINGFORD, CT 06492  
MONDAY, JULY 24, 2017  
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 lifelong 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**

BROODER, DOERR, HLAVAC, MCKAY, VOTTO

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

CASTELLI, CEI, GLIDDEN, REYNOLDS

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

MENZO, LATORRE, BARONE, DEPTULA, MANCUSI, LAVELLE

**STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

Student Board Representatives do not present during the summer.

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## **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

### **Presentation / Update – Wallingford 350<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Committee**

Christine Mansfield and Bob Devaney, members of the Wallingford 350<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Committee came before the Board of Education to share an update / PowerPoint on the planning of the Wallingford 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration which will be held in 2020. They shared information on the Jubilee launch, the committee set-up, the organizational structure of the committee, marketing and events scheduled leading up to the 2020 celebration. They also gave information on the 350<sup>th</sup> Jubilee logo and website. They discussed creating a town-wide project to identify the top 350 events in town history and creating curriculum for Wallingford Public School students. They gave a brief overview on the 2020 Celebration Week events, the community wide ideation and how it's evolved. They gave a financial update, shared information on the budget, as well as how to get involved and next steps for the committee.

### **Presentation / Update of the Hubcap Commercial**

The Hubcap Wallingford Information video was also shown, giving an overview of the Hubcap Wallingford. The Hubcap Wallingford is a collaborative effort of Wallingford Center Inc., the Wallingford Board of Education and the Wallingford Economic Development Commission, which tries to build valuable relationships between business and student populations that will mutually benefit both groups and the community. The Wallingford Hubcap name was chosen because it is the Hub of Wallingford's Educational Capstone initiative. Hubcap has partnered with Lyman Hall High School, Mark T. Sheehan High School and Choate Rosemary Hall to enable students to learn lifelong skills and earn credits for graduation with such programs as the Credit for Life Fair and the 24 Hour Film Festival. Hubcap Wallingford offers incubator space for new businesses to utilize to grow their business and offers a professional space to offer training sessions and hold business meetings.

### **Update of Summer Reading Video**

The Wallingford Summer Reading video was shared. The theme / challenge is to *read in 100 places over the summer*. A number of Wallingford administrators participated in the video, stating where they will be when reading this summer. Dr. Menzo stated this video will be shown at the Holiday Cinemas of Wallingford prior to movies being shown in the theater. Dr. Menzo thanked Mr. Kevin LaFlamme of Holiday Cinemas and their partnership with the Wallingford Public Schools. The Holiday Cinemas has shown Wallingford Public School videos in the past and also donated stadium seating to James H. Moran Middle School.

## **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

Anne Cosentino, 17 South Whittlesey Avenue came before the Board to share a few words about Mr. Mancusi. She thanked him for all he has done for her son and stated Mr. Mancusi has been there for her son for all these years. She has worked with Mr. Mancusi on the Special Education PTAC.

## **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION; DISCUSSION OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATIONS; DISCUSSION OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT AND DISCUSSION OF APPOINTMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR TEACHING POSITIONS AT 7:44 P.M.**

**MOTION: HLAVAC, SECOND BY VOTTO**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION; DISCUSSION OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATIONS; DISCUSSION OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT AND DISCUSSION OF APPOINTMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR TEACHING POSITIONS AT 7:44 P.M.**

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**BROODER, DOERR, HLAVAC, MCKAY, VOTTO**

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MENZO, LATORRE, MANCUSI,  
LATORRE left executive session at 8:01 p.m.**

**OTHERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**NONE**

**MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:30 P.M.**

**MOTION: HLAVAC, SECOND BY VOTTO**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:30 P.M.**

*Meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: HLAVAC, SECOND BY BROODER**

**VOTE: Unanimous approval to accept items 7.1 – 7.6 as listed below:**

Approval to Accept Board of Education Minutes dated June 19, 2017

Approval to Accept Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated July 12, 2017

Approval to Accept Special Board of Education Minutes dated July 13, 2017

Approval to Accept GIFT of three 55" Touch It Smart Boards and two 65" Touch It Smart Boards from Touch It Technologies, 2051 Villa Road, Birmingham, MI - Value - \$17,495.00

Approval to Accept GIFT of Gaylord Hospital's assistance and support of the Wallingford Adult Education CNA Program in the amount of approximately \$37,000.00

Approval to Accept GIFT of Masonicare Health Center's assistance and support of the Wallingford Adult Education CNA Program in the amount of approximately \$25,000.00

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

No Items Removed From The Consent Agenda.

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## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Votto stated we received gifts from the following: Three 55" Touch It Smart Boards and two 65" Touch It Smart Boards from Touch It Technologies, 2051 Villa Road, Birmingham, MI – Value - \$17,495.00; Gaylord Hospital - assistance and support of the Wallingford Adult Education CNA Program - Value - \$37,000.00 and Masonicare Health Center - assistance and support of the Wallingford Adult Education CNA Program - Value - \$25,000.00. Mr. Votto reported that we received a letter from Christopher S. Murphy,

United States Senator thanking Dr. Menzo and the Wallingford Public Schools for making it possible for Mackenzie Torcello to graduate high school and he admires the commitment that Wallingford Public Schools has demonstrated to ensure equal access to education for all students.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Ms. Hlavac reported there was not a meeting this month and meetings will resume in September.

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

Mrs. LaTorre reported there are no meetings during the summer.

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

Mrs. McKay reported the Business Think Tank will start back up again in the fall.

### **PTAC Update**

Tammy Raccio, Chairperson of the System-wide PTAC committee came before the Board of Education to give an update on the PTAC Parent Choice Awards. Mrs. Raccio reported last year there were 30 nominations for Parent Choice Awards. This year, they have received 126 nominations recognizing 94 individuals in the district. Nominations have been sent in for secretaries, paraeducators, teachers, interventionists, and administrators representing all of the schools. Mrs. Raccio stated they have decided to share the parents' comments this year, and they are working on a poster that will enable them to share some of the comments on it.

### **Plan of Conservation Development**

Mrs. McKay reported there was not a meeting this month.

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

Dr. Menzo reported there has not been a meeting and stated the Food Service Strategic Plan Committee will be the responsibility of the Food Services Director, Mr. Mensher who will be starting at the end of July.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business brought before the Board.

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## **INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE**

### **Mastery – Based Learning Update - Watson**

Dr. Menzo stated that the school district has been working in partnership with IBM and Watson for the last year and a half. The district will be launching an aspect of Watson called *Watson Enlight for Educators*, the Darwin version, which is the first release. The launch will occur at the Middle School level for Math and English teachers. This is a teaching facing system. Student data will be for teacher interaction only. The district has met all FERPA and HIPAA requirements. Over time the program will have a parent interface and a student interface. The data is taken from Performance Tasks from our District Level Tests, Scantron, Starr Assessment Data, SAT and ACT data. The initial launch will enable teachers to look at the data from different perspectives. This will be used as an efficiency tool. There is a library where

teachers can upload curriculum units and resources that connect to it. Teachers can then see where their students fall as it relates to standards and indicators in Mastery; they could provide additional resources to help them. This program will continue to evolve over this year and next steps will be determined for the launch of the next version, Einstein, next fall. The district has been working with IBM for over a year. They have provided training for the teachers involved and will continue to collect feedback from staff members and will look for student and parent feedback going forward. Wallingford is one of four innovation districts in the country. The other innovation districts are Sarasota, Florida, Oceanside, California and Lovejoy, Texas. The soft launch will be held on August 17, 2017 and the teachers will see the launch on September 1, 2017.

### **Life Fatigue Update**

Ms. Hlavac stated this is part of a collaboration with Cheshire Public Schools and Ellington Public Schools. The group was looking for common opportunities for growth and found that people were feeling there were increasing demands on students, staff and families. Surveys were conducted for middle and high school parents and students. The data they collected found that people were feeling their work life was a challenge.

Wallingford started a focus group and worked on the following problem statement – *The Wallingford community needs a way to effectively manage demands and expectations while celebrating our diversity and not losing sight of who we are.* Seventy five representatives participated from a number of community groups in Wallingford. It was found that there is a lot of fatigue that comes along with the stressors of everyday life. The group has determined that they will strive to promote a *personal and professional reset button* everyday.

The Mayor is also very supportive as it ties into a *Healthy Wallingford Initiative*. A meeting has been scheduled next week, local clergy have been invited. They are working on the logo - Eat, Play and Unplug.

## **APPROVAL OF BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2018 – JANUARY 2019**

**MOTION: HLAVAC, SECOND BY BROODER**

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval of the Board of Schedule of Meetings for February 2018 – January 2019

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**APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION, WITH REGRET, OF KRISTINA TORRE, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2017**

**MOTION: DOERR, SECOND BY HLAVAC**

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of **Kristina Torre**, effective June 30, 2017.

**Kristina Torre** has been an Elementary Math Coach for the Wallingford Public Schools since August 2016.

**APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION, WITH REGRET, OF ROBERT MANCUSI, EFFECTIVE AT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DATE**

**MOTION: DOERR, SECOND BY HLAVAC**

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of **Robert Mancusi**, effective at a mutually agreeable date.

**Robert Mancusi** was hired as a School Psychologist in August 1995, he became Special Education Coordinator in January 2009 and has been the Director of Pupil Personnel Services since July 2012.

Ms. Doerr, thanked Mr. Mancusi and wished him the best in the future.

Ms. Hlavac also thanked Mr. Mancusi for understanding what it is like to be a parent of a child with special needs and for all he has done for Wallingford.

Mrs. McKay also shared kind words about Mr. Mancusi. She expressed how greatly Mr. Mancusi has touched so many families in the town of Wallingford. She stated she has such great respect for Mr. Mancusi and appreciates his dedication and commitment and wishes him the best as he moves forward. Mr. Votto also expressed his gratitude for all Mr. Mancusi has done for the Wallingford community and wishes him well.

Mr. Brooder also shared well wishes for Mr. Mancusi as he moves on.

Dr. Menzo also expressed his gratitude for all Mr. Mancusi has done for the Wallingford Public School District. Mr. Mancusi has a willingness to go above and beyond; he has accomplished so much for the students of Wallingford and wished him well.

**APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION, WITH REGRET, OF JULIANN IAIENNARO, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2017**

**MOTION: DOERR, SECOND BY HLAVAC**

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of **Juliann Iaiennaro**, effective June 30, 2017.

**Juliann Iaiennaro** has been an a Business Education, Information Technology, Resource Teacher and Math Interventionist since August 2007.

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**APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION, WITH REGRET, OF IAN LYNCH-PASSARELLI, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2017**

**MOTION: DOERR, SECOND BY HLAVAC**

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of **Ian Lynch-Passarelli**, effective June 30, 2017.

**Ian Lynch-Passarelli** has been a Special Education teacher for Mark T. Sheehan High School since August, 2016.

**APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT, WITH REGRET, OF ROBERTA KANIA, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2017**

**MOTION: DOERR, SECOND BY HLAVAC**

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Roberta Kania**, effective June 30, 2017.

**Roberta Kania** has been a Family and Consumer Science teacher at Moran Middle School since August 2000.

**APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF CANDIDATES TO TEACHING POSITIONS**

**MOTION: DOERR, SECOND BY HLAVAC**

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval that the Board of Education appoint the following candidates to teaching positions for the 2017-2018 school year, contingent upon proper Connecticut certification, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

**Lyman Hall High School**

English - Leah LeDrew

**Highland Elementary School/Yalesville Elementary School**

Music - Katherine Robison

**Parker Farms Elementary School**

Grade 5 - Raymond Brumleve

**Rock Hill Elementary School**

Grade 5 - Allison Kennedy

**APPROVAL TO PROVIDE ELEMENTARY FAMILIES WITH INFORMATION ON PARTICIPATING IN INDOOR NITROGEN DIOXIDE EXPOSURE AND CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA AS PART OF A YALE UNIVERSITY STUDY**

**MOTION: DOERR, SECOND BY HLAVAC**

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval that the Board of Education approve to provide elementary families with information on participating in indoor nitrogen dioxide exposure and children with asthma as part of a Yale University study.

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Mrs. LaTorre explained this is an optional study and families have to “opt in” to participate. They will be compensated for participating in the survey. Yale University is requesting permission to send information on the study to families.

## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **Dedication of the Mary G. Fritz Elementary School of Yalesville**

Dr. Menzo shared that the Yalesville Elementary School Renaming Ceremony in honor of State Representative Mary G. Fritz will be held on Monday, August 28, 2017, 2:00 p.m. at the school. This ceremony will honor Mary G. Fritz for her service to the Town of Wallingford as State Representative of the 90<sup>th</sup> District, Deputy Speaker of the House, Chairwoman of the Wallingford Board of Education and Wallingford Public School educator. Dr. Menzo thanked the Fritz family in developing the plan and Mrs. Mary Poisson, Principal of the school for her work on the ceremony and for honoring Mrs. Fritz for all of her accomplishments.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Administrative Report**

*Dr. Menzo gave his report as listed below.*

- Last week the Middle and High School Reimaging Event was held at Central Office. One hundred people participated over the weeklong event including administrators, teachers, community members, students and parents. The groups were asked to reimagine the middle and high schools by reviewing the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities at each level. They worked in small groups and compiled a list of opportunities that were categorized as short, mid and long term. Dr. Menzo and his team will collate the information gathered to look at trends. They will then share the trends at the September Instructional Committee Meeting to decide what to incorporate in our Strategic Plan. Dr. Menzo thanked all of the volunteers.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday, August 28, 2017

Board of Education

**Robert F. Parisi**  
**Town Council Chambers**  
**Town Hall – 45 South Main Street**  
 7:00 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. McKay adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

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**Mike Votto**

**Secretary**



