

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
AG SCIENCE COMMUNITY ROOM, LYMAN HALL HIGH SCHOOL
70, POND HILL ROAD, WALLINGFORD, CT 06492
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017
5:45 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 5:50 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

**BROODER, CASTELLI, HLAVAC, MCKAY, VOTTO
DOERR entered at 5:57 p.m.
GLIDDEN entered at 6:03 p.m.**

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

**MENZO, LATORRE, ARUM, MANCUSI, LAVELLE
VEILLEUX entered at 6:01 p.m.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. McKay opened the public comments by sharing a few words. Mrs. McKay stated how difficult this entire process has been. She appreciates all of the hard work of the food service staff members and understands how challenging this has been for them. The Board members also struggled with the inability to communicate. This was due to the bid process and State requirements. Mrs. McKay further explained that the reason they are exploring the option of possibly utilizing an outside food service company was to provide increased quality and offer a variety for students, as well as to ensure financial stability to avoid having to subsidize the food service department from educational funds.

Mrs. McKay again stated how she appreciates the hard work of the food service staff. She read a statement from Sodexo, the successful bidder who ensured the following regarding employee wages: "Our commitment to your employees is that 100% of your employees will be retained (including payroll and purchasing clerk), provided they complete the application process and pass their background checks. Hours and wages will also be protected and kept whole." Mrs. McKay continued sharing information from

Sodexo, "Insurance coverage is effective immediately for full-time employees (working 30 or more hours)." "Our transition plan for Wallingford Public Schools employees will: "Honor original hire dates; Honor current wages or improved wages; Work to match previous vacation, sick and holiday policies and Waive the initial waiting period for benefits.

Lyman Hall's, Cook's Table will not be impacted by the agreement with Sodexo and the Food Truck will continue to be active and used by students at Lyman Hall High School. While the Food Service program has shown profits and one is projected for next year, this projection would change to a loss with a three year commitment to remain in house. The loss would be attributed to the need for a full-time director and filling all open positions.

Karen Zakowski, 33 Brookvale Drive, Food Service Department, came before the Board. Mrs. Zakowski expressed her concerns regarding out sourcing the food service department. Mrs. Zakowski stated she took offense to the Board of Education's statement as to why the Board is pursuing possibly out sourcing the department. Mrs. Zakowski stated the food service workers worked very hard and did what was asked of them and Wallingford should be proud of them. Mrs. Zakowski stated she contacted employees who work for Sodexo to gather information regarding the company. Mrs. Zakowski stated employees are given a 90 day probation period and she felt that most of the employees would not make it through the probation period.

Marcie Novicelli, 26 Ridgecrest Road, Food Service Manager at Yalesville. Mrs. Novicelli stated the food service department provides tremendous service and turned the program around without a note of thanks. Mrs. Novicelli questioned how are the students going to adjust? She felt that out sourcing the department was not the solution.

Debra Brauch, 30 Londonderry Drive, Food Service, Dag Hammarskjold and President of the Food Service Department. Mrs. Brauch stated workers will lose their pension, insurance and sick time. She also stated that the workers are very hardworking and reached the goal that was given to them. The workers also know the students and their needs. If a new company is brought in they will not have the personal touch that the current workers have and she feels this is huge priority to the food service workers. Mrs. Brauch also thanked Mr. Belchak for what he has done for the program.

Bob Parisi, 23 East Main Street, came before the Board of Education. He thanked the food service workers for all of their hard work. Mr. Parisi questioned whether the students eat the food or not, has there been a decline in food sales for students and if so how did we know? Mr. Arum explained that there has been a drop in the meal counts. In 2016 meal counts as of May totaled 371,182 and this year meal counts as of May 2017 total 360,358. Mr. Parisi stated if the food service completed what was requested of them they should be given credit. Mr. Parisi suggested contacting all of the communities that utilize Sodexo to ask how they feel about using the company.

Nick Economopoulos, 3 Woodsman Hill Road, also came before the Board of Education. Mr. Economopoulos travels often and visits a lot of school districts for sports events. The food service workers in the Wallingford Public Schools give a personal touch every day that cannot be matched by a large company. Mr. Economopoulos questioned whether the Board did their due diligence by researching the company, if the district goes with the company we will be with them for a number of years. He stated the district has a Food Service Director who is willing to work and has become loyal to the food service workers. Mr. Economopoulos implored that the district keep the food service department in house.

Tim Thurston, Thurston Foods, 30 Thurston Drive. Mr. Thurston stated he felt that Wallingford Public Schools does very well offering quality food and variety. He also stated that participating in the Healthy Foods Certification program was positive for the district. He questioned whether the new company would truly honor the same pay and benefits structure that is currently in place, would they change the structure in the second year of the agreement? He also questioned whether the new company would honor the prices that are currently in place by the Wallingford Public Schools, will the prices increase for the district and will they change the pricing structure such as adding more high end products with increased prices.

Mr. Thurston stated that the food service department, under the leadership of Mr. Belchak turned the department around and is now making profit and asked how far can they go?

Bob Rosner, Roosevelt Lane, West Haven. Mr. Rosner is employed by a food service distributor. Mr. Rosner stated there is only one vendor in the state. When you purchase the product from the new company, you have no idea if their prices are competitive or not.

Juanita Stainton, 68 Apple Tree Lane, Wallingford Public School employee questioned whether Wallingford will conduct quality control checks on the product from Sodexo on a regular basis.

Rose Perez, 900 North Farms Road, asked if anyone has asked parents how they feel and if they liked the food. Mrs. Perez suggested that the Board members attend other districts that have Sodexo as their management company and try the food.

John Sullivan, 62 Dutton Street, Town Council Member asked if Sodexo has bargaining unit employees working for them. He also asked if the food service department had met its goal of a break even and was making a profit. Mr. Sullivan proposed giving Mr. Belchak the chance to prove it again next year. Sodexo will be available a year from now. He asked the Board members to believe in the food service workers and give them another year to try and make this work.

Mrs. McKay stated that she has not made up her mind about this issue and that she does her due diligence. She has a responsibility to the Board of Education and the Town Council, regarding the Wallingford Public School budget.

Mr. Votto stated he has been on the Board for a number of years and an educator as well. He stated he has to do his due diligence, and he continued that you have to find balance, morally and fiscally. He has a responsibility to the people of Wallingford and to make sure that they are making decisions based on what is best for all students in Wallingford.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATES FOR TEACHING POSITIONS; DISCUSSION OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION AND DISCUSSION OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS REGARDING FOOD SERVICE RFP AT 6:51 P.M.

MOTION: HLAVAC, SECOND BY CASTELLI

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATES FOR TEACHING POSITIONS; DISCUSSION OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION AND DISCUSSION OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS REGARDING FOOD SERVICE RFP AT 6:51 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

BROODER, CASTELLI, DOERR, GLIDDEN, HLAVAC, MCKAY, VOTTO

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

**MENZO, LATORRE, ARUM
MANCUSI entered at 7:56 p.m.**

OTHERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:03 P.M.

MOTION: HLAVAC SECOND BY VOTTO

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:03 P.M.

Meeting reconvened at 8:03 P.M.

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF CANDIDATES TO TEACHING POSITIONS

MOTION: HLAVAC, SECOND BY VOTTO

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

Pupil Personnel Department

School Psychologist - Justin Phee

Dag Hammarskjold Middle School

School Counselor - Brian Tracey

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION

MOTION: HLAVAC, SECOND BY VOTTO

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of **Arianne Macy** effective June 20, 2017

Arianne Macy has been Special Education teacher for the Wallingford Public Schools since August 2016

POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL REGARDING FOOD SERVICE RFP

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. McKay adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Mike Votto Secretary

