

***BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WOLCOTT, CONNECTICUT***

A meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, September 25, 2017, at Tyrrell Middle School. In attendance were: Patricia Najarian, Chairman of the Board; Gloria Gubitosi, Vice Chairman of the Board; Kimberly Lumia, Secretary of the Board; Thomas Buzzelli, Gloria Clair, Anthony Gugliotti, Roberta Leonard, Arthur Lerz and Cynthia Mancini, all Board members. Also in attendance: Dr. Anthony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools, Todd Bendtsen, Business Manager; Frank Purcaro, Director of Student Learning & Teaching; Walter Drewry, Principal of Wolcott High School; Bryan MacKay, Assistant Principal of Wolcott High School; Joseph Morgan, Assistant Principal of Wolcott High School; Joseph Norcross, Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Daniel Caetano, Assistant Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Shawn Simpson, Principal of Alcott Elementary School; Kimberly Murtaugh, Principal of Frisbie Elementary School; Deborah Osvald, Principal of Wakelee Elementary School; Kevin Hollis, Director of Student Services; Rosa Ramalhete, Supervisor of Special Education; David Stankus, Facilities Director; and Joan Gray, Board Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Mrs. Najarian, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was held for the victims of the recent hurricanes, and also former teacher, Geraldine Finlay.

Mrs. Najarian read the Wolcott Public Schools' Mission Statement.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion:           by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 11, 2017. So voted.

**Communications:**

Note cards for the Board members from the Athletic Department

**Business Manager's Report:**

**Expenditures:**

Motion:           by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to approve the following expenditures:

To approve expenditures in the amount of **\$1,047,030.19** paid on September 26, 2017 for fiscal year 2017-2018.

So voted.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Jill Hale, Assistant Executive Director of Connecticut Association of Schools, presented her organization's First-Year Principal of the Year Award to Wakelee Elementary School's Principal Mrs. Deborah Osvald. In addition, Wakelee students presented Mrs. Osvald with flowers.

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to recess the meeting to congratulate Mrs. Osvald.

Mrs. Najarian called the meeting back into session at 7:55 p.m.

The School Principals gave two minute school highlights, and Mr. Purcaro reported on the Department of Student Learning & Teaching.

Dr. Gasper stated that beginning this past Friday, he sent out a new type of district-wide newsletter to keep parents and the community informed of the great things happening in our schools. The newsletter will be a mostly monthly publication with brief updates from each of our schools and central office as well. He hopes that our parents enjoy these updates.

He thanked and commends our students and staff for organizing a wide variety of fundraisers for hurricane relief and other noble charitable causes this month. He mentioned that unfortunately, our neighbors in Mexico City and Puerto Rico are in dire need of support now and he encouraged all of us to give in whatever way that we can to support those in need.

On Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, Wolcott High School will host its College Fair along with a presentation on how to pay for college. The financial presentation starts at 5:00PM and the fair starts at 6:00PM. Parents of eleventh and twelfth grade students are especially encouraged to attend but the program is open to the public. Parents and students in grades 8 through 10 should also consider attending to get an early start on their college plans.

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to approve the Superintendent's Report. So voted.

**Public Comment:**

No one came forward.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:****Resignations:**

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to accept the resignation(s) of:

1. **Scott Blacker** in the position of Boys Basketball Coach at Tyrrell Middle School effective immediately;
2. **Laura Stable** in the position of Long-Term Substitute School Counselor at Wolcott High School effective on September 28, 2017.

So voted.

**Leave Requests:**

Motion: by Ms. Leonard, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to approve the following:

1. **Holly Schinkel**, Reading Specialist at Tyrrell Middle School, requests an unpaid leave of absence to begin after the completion of her FMLA leave and to run until April 23, 2018.
2. **Laura Zimmerman**, Music Teacher at Wolcott High School, requests an unpaid leave of absence to begin after the completion of her FMLA leave and to run until the beginning of the second semester of the 2017-2018 school year.

*All Board Members voted "aye", except Mrs. Lumia who abstained.  
The motion carries.*

**Nominations:**

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mr. Lerz, to appoint the individual(s) as indicated:

1. **Alison Artigliere** to the position of Volunteer Coach for the Girls Volleyball Team at Tyrrell Middle School effective for the 2017-2018 season;
2. **Carrie Fiske** to the position of Technology Coordinator at Wolcott High School effective for the 2017-2018 school year;
3. **Kayla Huggler** to the position of Long-Term Substitute Grade 3 Teacher at Frisbie Elementary School effective approximately October 15, 2017;
4. **Patricia Sanzone** to the position of Long-Term Substitute Grade 1 Teacher at Frisbie Elementary School effective September 26, 2017;
5. **Margaret Smith** to the position of Long-Term Substitute Art Teacher at Alcott & Frisbie Elementary Schools effective approximately November 9, 2017;

6. **2017-2018 Unified Sports Coaches:**

Brittany Garguilo                      UNIFIED - Head Coach

Dave Pelletier                      UNIFIED - Assistant Coach  
Alyssa Giedra                      UNIFIED - Faculty Manager  
So voted.

**Approve Out of State Field Trip(s):**

Motion:                      by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to approve the following out-of- state filed trip(s):

1. Tyrrell Middle School's Grade 8 Students (180) request permission to go to Salem, MA on October 27, 2017 to further enhance their studies of the Salem Witch Trials.
2. Wolcott High School's Varsity Cheerleaders (23) request permission to go to the National Cheerleaders Association's High School National Championship being held in Dallas, TX from January 25-29, 2018.
3. Wolcott High School's Diamond Club (35-40) requests permission to compete against highly competitive teams in Johnson City, TN from April 13-19, 2018.

***All Board members voted "aye", except Mrs. Lumia, who voted "nay".  
The motion carries.***

**Accept a Grant Award:**

Motion:                      by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to approve and accept a Wolcott Education Foundation's Grant as follows:

Elizabeth Ciarleglio                      \$900.00

Location: Wakelee Elementary School

Project Title: Frieda B.: Dream Big & Believe in Yourself

So voted.

**Permission to Discard Media Center Materials - Wakelee:**

Motion:                      by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to grant Wakelee Elementary School's Media Center permission to discard outdated/damaged media materials based on the American Library Association Guidelines.

So voted.

**Approve an Out of State Conference:**

Motion:                      by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to approve the following out-of-state conference:

1. **Mary Devaney**, Spanish Teacher at Wolcott High School, requests permission to attend the ACTFL Annual Convention & World Languages Expo being held in Nashville, TN from November 16-19, 2017.

So voted.

**Ratify a Contract – Custodians:**

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mr. Gugliotti, to approve the agreement between the Wolcott Board of Education and the Wolcott Custodians Local #1303-45 of Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO, effective July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2021. So voted.

**Ratify a Contract – School Nurses:**

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mr. Gugliotti, to approve the agreement between the Wolcott Board of Education and the Wolcott Board of Education Nurses, CSEA, Local #2001, SEIU, effective July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2021. So voted.

**Committee Reports:**

Ms. Leonard reported that the Operations & Programs Committee met at 6:00 p.m. and received a presentation from George Edwards on NEASC accreditation standards. The Committee also finished their review of the Series 1000 Board Policies.

Mrs. Mancini said the Finance Committee met earlier and discussed pending vendor invoices, oil and diesel bids, bus transportation bids, a presentation on the Food Service Program, and Mrs. Lumia updated them on the Custodian Union Contract, and the School Nurses Union Contract.

Mrs. Lumia said that the Negotiations Committee has begun their negotiations with the Teachers' Union. Their next meeting is on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Time for the Public:**

No one came forward.

**Items for the Next Agenda:**

The next meeting is October 10 and will be at Tyrrell Middle School. Board members can contact the Board of Education Office if you have additional agenda items.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mrs. Lumia, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of conducting the Superintendent's evaluation. So voted.

Motion: by Ms. Leonard, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. So voted.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m. So voted.

Note: The Board of Education meetings are videotaped, and as result are available to be viewed on the WLCT96 site on the Town of Wolcott's website, [www.wolcottct.org](http://www.wolcottct.org).