

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WOLCOTT, CONNECTICUT**

A Board of Education meeting was held on Monday, December 14, 2015, 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 Sr., and Cynthia Mancini, all Board members. Also in attendance: Dr. Anthony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools; Todd Bendtsen, Business Manager; Shaye Sheehan, Interim Director of Student Services; Rosa Ramalhete, Supervisor of Special Education; Joseph Monroe, Principal of Wolcott High School; Walter Drewry, Assistant Principal of Wolcott High School; Deborah Osvald, Assistant Principal of Wolcott High School; Arline Tansley, Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Daniel Caetano, Assistant Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Shawn Simpson, Principal of Alcott School; Joseph Norcross, Principal of Frisbie School; Robert Nagashima, Principal of Wakelee School; David Stankus, Facilities Director; and Joan Gray, Board Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Najarian, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed in memory of the students and adults who lost their lives on December 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 5, 2015. So voted.

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of November 30, 2015. So voted.

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of December 9, 2015. So voted.

Communications:

Thank you note – Ms. Schinkel

Holiday card – Chinni & Meuser

Rotella Monthly Montage – November & December 2015

The CAFE Journal – December 2015

Business Manager's Report:**Budget Transfers:**

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mr. Buzzelli, to authorize the transfer of **\$96,993.06** presented in the Business Manager's report. So voted.

Expenditures:

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

To approve the January 2016 payroll expenditure in the amount of **\$1,450,000.**

To approve expenditures in the amount of **\$637,162.61** paid on 15, 2015 for fiscal year 2015-2016.

So voted.

Superintendent's Report:

Mrs. Nicol explained the criteria and procedures that the Teacher of the Year Committee follows to select the school and district Teachers of the Year. She then introduced the following students who presented their school's Teacher of the Year, who received congratulations and an award from Mrs. Najarian and Dr. Gasper:

Thomas Ligi introduced Frisbie's Ellen Kasek

Peter Lawler introduced Wakelee's Tammy Couture

Jeremy Scanlon, Preston Scanlon, Derek Caouette, and Michael Caouette introduced Alcott's Bethann Sickles

Carrington Connor introduced Wolcott High School's Bruce McIntire

Samantha Lagasse introduced Tyrrell's and the District's Teacher of the Year

Jessica Stevenson, who thanked the Board of Education for the honor of representing the District.

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to take a recess to honor the Teachers of the Year. So voted.

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

The School Principals gave one minute reports on the activities at their schools. Mr. Purcaro reported on his Department of Student Learning and Teaching.

Dr. Gasper thanked staff, teachers, administrators, parents and community members for the warm welcome he has received during his first three weeks. He also thanked everyone who participated in his online survey.

Congratulations to Wolcott High School for being recognized by the College Board for its students' outstanding performance on the Advanced Placement tests.

The Superintendent has been reviewing the Board's five-year goals for the district. He will be convening District Data Teams to further detail the strategies and action steps to flesh out all five goals.

He thanked Wolcott students and staff who served Thanksgiving feast at the Senior Center and schools.

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

Public Comment:

Kathy Cordone, 80 Old Bound Line Road, congratulated all the Teacher of the Year recipients.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Stankus said that the Facilities Committee met at 6:30 p.m. and he gave them a report on the Alcott heating system, the District energy program, and the winter preparation at our buildings.

Mrs. Mancini said that the Finance Committee met earlier and reviewed pending invoices, the Internal Service Report, the budget calendar, budget reports, and discussed a stipend for a club advisor.

Mrs. Lumia spoke about the Negotiations Committees ongoing negotiations with the Paraprofessional and School Secretaries' Unions, and future negotiations with the Nurses' Union.

Ms. Leonard reported on her attendance at an ACES Board of Directors meeting where they received information on Freedom of Information Requests and laws regarding Executive Sessions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve – Resignation(s):

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to accept the resignation(s) of:

1. **Kaitlin Craig** in the position of Varsity Volleyball Coach at Wolcott High School effective immediately;
2. **Albert Della Volpe** in the position of 2nd shift Custodian at Alcott Elementary School effective December 4, 2015;
3. **Christine Muccino** in the position of Paraprofessional at Frisbie Elementary School effective December 4, 2015.

So voted.

Rescind an Appointment:

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to rescind an offer of employment to:

1. **Bruce Neville** from the position of Girls Freshman Basketball Coach at Wolcott High School effective immediately. There will not be a Girls Freshman Basketball Team this season due to the lack of student enrollment in the Program.

So voted.

Approve – Nomination(s):

Mr. Gugliotti requested that each nomination be considered individually

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to appoint the following person as indicated:

1. **Kevin Hollis** to the position of Director of Student Services and Alternative Programs for the Wolcott Public Schools effective approximately January 18, 2016.

So voted.

Motion: by Mr. Gugliotti, seconded by Mr. Buzzelli, to table to Executive Session the nomination of a Mathematics Teacher at Wolcott High School.

So voted.

Permission to Teach a Sixth Class:

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to approve teaching a 6th class at Tyrrell Middle School by the following person(s) as indicated:

Life Skills Program Karen LeBlanc

So voted.

Approve – Out of State Field Trips:

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to approve the following out-of- state field trip:

1. Wolcott High School's Varsity Cheerleaders (16-18) request permission to go to compete at the Cheersport National Championship in Atlanta, GA from February 11-15, 2016.
2. Wolcott High School's AP Psychology Students (30) request permission to go to New York City on March 23, 2016 to see the play *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night*, which will give the students a better understanding of autism.

So voted.

Accept a Grant Award:

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

1. Jennifer Sullivan and Sara Vumbaca
School: Alcott Elementary School
Project Title: One School, One Book
Amount Awarded: \$605.60

So voted.

Dispose of Equipment:

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to approve the World Language Department at Wolcott High School requests permission to dispose of the following equipment:

- VHS tapes
- Cassette tapes
- CD's
- Outdated texts (French and Latin)
- Outdated novels (French, Latin, and Spanish)
- Spanish textbooks and workbooks no longer in use
- Chinese textbooks and materials

So voted.

Approve a Stipend Position:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Lumia, to create the following stipend position at Tyrrell Middle School:

Rubik's Cube Club Advisor (Category D)

So voted.

ADD TO THE AGENDA**Approve Adding a Contractual Agreement Resolution:**

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to add to the agenda a potential resolution to approve a contractual agreement between the Board of Education and certified employees. So voted.

Time for the Public:

Kathy Cordone, 80 Old Bound Line Road, commented on Common Core Standards, the November 30, 2015 Board meeting, and Triflection.

Items for the Next Agenda:

Board members can contact the Board of Education Office if you have additional agenda items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Lumia, to go into Executive Session for 1) discussion of a student matter which would result in disclosure of confidential information protected by FERPA; 2) discussion of a collective bargaining agreement (certified employees); and 3) an appointment of a certified employee. So voted.

Mrs. Najarian requested the following people join the Executive Session:
Mr. Bendtsen, Mr. Monroe, and Mr. Norcross.

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting at 9:25 p.m. So voted.

Approve – Nomination(s):

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mr. Lerz, to appoint the following person as indicated:

1. **Barry Nolan** to the position of Mathematics Teacher at Wolcott High School effective approximately January 20, 2016.

So voted.

Approve a Contractual Agreement:

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to amend the salaries of Wolcott school administrators with three or fewer years of experience to reflect an increase of one-half step effective January 1, 2016 and upon July 1, 2016 all employees will receive salary as described in the collective bargaining agreement.

So voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mr. Lerz, to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:32 p.m. So voted.