

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

A Board of Education meeting was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at Frisbie Elementary School. In attendance were: Patricia Najarian, Chairman of the Board; Gloria Gubitosi, Vice Chairman of the Board; Cynthia Mancini, Secretary of the Board; Thomas Buzzelli, Gloria Clair, Lori DelBuono, Roberta Leonard, and Arthur Lerz Sr., all Board members. Also in attendance: Joseph Macary, Superintendent of Schools; Todd Bendtsen, Business Manager; Joseph Monroe, Principal of Wolcott High School; Walter Drewry, Assistant Principal of Wolcott High School; Arline Tansley, Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Shawn Simpson, Assistant Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Holly Wrenn, Principal of Alcott School; Joseph Norcross, Principal of Frisbie School; Robert Nagashima, Principal of Wakelee School; Melissa Iles, Director of Student Services; Wendie Rodriguez, Supervisor of Special Education; David Stankus, Facilities Director; Kathy Colavecchio, Frisbie Grade 4 Teacher; Rosa Ramalhete, Frisbie School Psychologist; and Shena Hagen, Frisbie Intern; Leah Ciccone, President of WHS Student Government; and Joan Gray, Board Clerk.

The regular Board meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 13, 2015. So voted.

Communications:

Thank you note – The Craig Family

Thank you letter – Junior Women's Club of Wolcott, Inc.

Rotella Montage – January 2015

Business Manager's Report:

Expenditures:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to approve expenditures as

follows:

To approve the March 2015 payroll expenditure in the amount of **\$1,500,000.00.**

To approve expenditures in the amount of **\$1,460,243.62** paid on February 11, 2015 for fiscal year 2014-2015.

So voted.

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Norcross introduced Mrs. Colavecchio, who then introduced three Frisbie students who participated in the Grade 4 Invention Convention held at Frisbie School. Each student gave a demonstration of his/her project. They were:

Ethan Cratty – Extreme Hanger

Reese Yost – Flame Guard

Marco Ruggia – Handy Helper Bone

Ms. Ramalhete and Ms. Hagen reported on the Social Emotional Learning Program at Frisbie School. Frisbie students, Lauren Zicca, Kyle Zicca, and Elizabeth D'Ettore, explained how each grade level participated in the SEL Program.

The School Principals gave two minute highlights of activities at their schools.

Starting in January, the Board will be rotating their meetings to visit all five schools. The next meeting will be at Tyrrell Middle School on February 23, 2015.

We are conducting pre-registration for 2015-2016 kindergarten students. If your child will be five years old on or before January 1, 2016, please call the Superintendent's Office at 203 879-8183. An information packet will be emailed to you in March.

Student Services is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 Alcott Preschool Program. A lottery will be held in March to determine the preschool enrollment for the 3 year and 4 year old programs. To obtain an application call 203 879-8178.

Late Opening Schedules for the District's Schools are

Wolcott High School 9:00 a.m.

Tyrrell Middle School 9:30 a.m.

Elementary Schools 10:25 a.m.

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

Public Comment:

No one came forward

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Mancini reported the Finance Committee met earlier. The Superintendent presented his 2015-2016 proposed budget to the Committee. Mr. Bendtsen gave his Business Manager's report.

Leah Ciccone, President of WHS' Student Government, reported the Policy Committee would be sending a proposed policy to the administration changing the requirement for highest honors; the Student Government's website is almost completed; and Mr. Larson, the Wolcott reporter for the Waterbury paper, interviewed students at WHS for an article that will appear in the paper in two weeks.

OLD BUSINESS:**Adopt CT Core State Standards Curriculum – Final Vote:**

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to adopt on final vote the following CT Core State Standards Curriculum:

English Language Arts (Grades K-8)

Mathematics (Grades K-8)

So voted.

Approve – Revised Board Policies – Final Vote:

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Ms. DelBuono, to adopt on final vote the following revised Board policies:

1. Policy 1331 – Community Relations – Smoke Free Environment

2. Policy 5113 – Students – Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal

3. Policy 5141.4 – Students – Reporting of Child Abuse & Neglect

So voted.

NEW BUSINESS:**Approve – Resignation(s):**

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to accept the following resignations:

1. **Amy Devine** in the position of Grade 8 Special Education Teacher at Tyrrell Middle School, effective February 13, 2015;

2. **Lori Egan** in the position of Paraprofessional at Wakelee Elementary School, effective February 4, 2015;

3. **Charlene Mitchell** in the position of 4 hour Food Service Worker at Alcott Elementary School, effective January 30, 2015.

So voted.

Approve – Nominations:

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Mr. Lerz, to appoint the following person(s) as indicated:

1. **Bjanka Avxhiu** in the position of Long Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher at Wakelee School effective mid February 2015;
2. **Thomas Mc Nerney** in the position of 2nd Shift Custodian at Wolcott High School effective on February 11, 2015;
3. **Renee Merchant** in the position of Special Education Paraprofessional at Wakelee School effective February 11, 2015;
4. **Danielle Noyes-Tortora** in the position of Long Term Substitute Art Teacher at Alcott and Frisbie Schools effective April 1, 2015;
5. **Rachid Sofiane** in the position of Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at Tyrrell Middle School effective February 11, 2015;
6. **2015 Spring Coaches** at Wolcott High School:
 Brianna Danielle Assistant Girls Track
 Steven Jasulavic Varsity Girls Tennis
7. **2015 Fall Coaches** at Wolcott High School:
 Kaity Craig Varsity Volleyball
8. **2015 Spring Volunteer Coaches** at Wolcott High School
 Domenic Angiolillo Varsity Baseball
 Ron Gambino Varsity Baseball
 Frank Melillo Varsity Baseball
 John Kiely Freshman Baseball
 Jim Maisto Freshman Baseball
 Shelby Slie Varsity Softball
 Brendan Cepelak Varsity Boys/Girls Tennis

So voted.

Approve – Leave Request:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mr. Lerz, to approve the request of Sara Vumbaca, Art Teacher at Alcott/Frisbie Schools, for an unpaid leave of absence to the end of the 2014-2015 school year to commence after her six-week period of FMLA ends. So voted.

Out of State Field Trip(s):

Motion: by Ms. DelBuono, seconded by Mr. Lerz, to approve the following out of state field trips:

1. Wolcott High School's Golf Team (8) requests permission to play in the Queenstown Harbor Maryland Golf Tournament from May 25 to 27, 2015;

2. Tyrrell Middle School's Grade 7 Science Florida Trip (20) requests permission to go to the Florida Keys and Everglades to study the relationships between organisms and their environment from June 25 to 29, 2016.

So voted.

Approve the 2015-2016 WHS Course of Studies Guide – Initial Vote:

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to approve on initial vote the Wolcott High School's Course of Studies Guide 2015-2016. So voted.

Accept a Donation:

Motion: by Ms. DelBuono, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to accept the following:
A donation of \$3000 to Jen Whipple and Kate McCasland at Wakelee Elementary School to purchase mini iPads for their classrooms from the Ben Was Here Foundation, a charity established in memory of Benjamin John Buckley.

So voted.

Approve a Contract:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mr. Lerz, to approve a contract as follows:
Carolyn Dei Dolori in the position of Software Training Consultant from January 5, 2015 to June 30, 2015. So voted.

Bid Waiver:

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to waive the bid and award a contract to NSI to provide IT support for the Wolcott Public Schools for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year. So voted.

Time for the Public:

Ms. Leonard and Mr. Lerz, both congratulated WHS on the basketball game.

Items for the Next Agenda:

Final vote on WHS' Course of Studies Guide.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Ms. DelBuono, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of strategy with respect to pending litigation to which the Board of Education is a party.

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting at 10:15 p.m. So voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Ms. DelBuono, to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:16 p.m. So voted.