

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

A meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, March 27, 2017, at Frisbie Elementary 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, 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; Kevin Hollis, Director of Student Services, Rosa Ramalhete, Supervisor of Special Education; Walter Drewry, Interim Principal of Wolcott High School; Joseph Morgan, Interim Assistant Principal of Wolcott High School; Arline Tansley, Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Daniel Caetano, Assistant Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Joseph Norcross, Principal of Frisbie Elementary School; Deborah Osvald, Principal of Wakelee Elementary School; Shawn Simpson, Principal of Alcott Elementary School; David Stankus, Facilities Director; Frisbie Teachers: Paige Cipriano, Janet Discepolo, Shannon Gomez, Helene Leder, and Tara Taylor; and Board Clerk, Joan Gray.

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 for Shirley Dancer.

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 13, 2017. So voted.

Motion: by Mrs. Clair, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 20, 2017. So voted.

**Communications:**

Letter from Skye Cable  
Invitation from Frisbie  
Invitation from WHS' National Honor Society

**Business Manager's Report:**

**Budget Transfers:**

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Lumia, to authorize the

transfer of **\$58,513.62** from fiscal year 2016-2017 as presented in the Business Manager's report. So voted

**Expenditures:**

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to approve expenditures in the amount of **\$334,569.51** paid on March 28, 2017 for fiscal year 2016-2017. So voted.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Mr. Norcross introduced Ms. Taylor, who introduced Frisbie Grade 3 Students. They reported how they had participated in a Look for the Good project of sending over 1800 books to a flood ravaged school district in Louisiana.

Mrs. Gomez and Students spoke about participating at the very successful Family STEM Night held at Frisbie School.

Two minute school highlights were presented by each principal. Mr. Purcaro spoke about what his area of Student Learning and Teaching was working on i.e., staff professional development, District Data Team, and student testing.

Dr. Gasper announced that the Board of Education adopted its 2017-2018 Budget. Through the hard work of the Board, teachers, department heads, principals, directors, and the Superintendent going line item by line item, it was reduced from the mandatory contractual costs of 2.4% to an increase of 1.78%. He thanked everyone involved in the budget process. The Board will do a formal presentation to the Town Council on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. He encouraged interested residents to speak to the Council about their priorities and concerns at their public hearing on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Both these meetings will take place at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

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

**Public Comment:**

No one came forward.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resignations:**

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

1. **Jacques Auger** in the position of Custodian at Wakelee School for the purpose of retirement effective on July 5, 2017;

2. **Steve Dreifach** in the position of Special Education Teacher (18-21 year old population) at Wolcott High School effective at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

So voted.

**Nominations:**

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to table Item #4 and appoint Items #1, 2, 3 and 5 as indicated:

1. **Kristen Janulawicz** to the position of Food Service General Worker at Wolcott High School effective on March 30, 2017;
2. **Robert Moffo** to the position of Assistant Track & Field Coach at Tyrrell Middle School effective for the 2017 year;
3. **Charles O'Neil** to the position of Paraprofessional at Wakelee Elementary School effective on March 29, 2017;
4. **2017 WHS Fall Coaches** (all returning coaches) - **TABLED**
5. **2017 Wolcott Summer Studies Staff** (all returning/current employees):

Matthew Angelone  
Dawn Bertrand  
Scott Blacker  
Marian Boisvert  
Cristy Bredice  
Tony Cianchetti  
Robert Cormier  
Andrea Curcio  
Bianca Daniels  
Mary Devaney  
John Fish  
Carrie Fiske  
Sarah Garbus  
Andrew Gargano  
Jane Gargano  
Katie Garrigus  
Lisa Goldberg  
Charles Guerrera  
Brittany Jenkins  
Katarina Kane  
Lisa Klemenz  
Karen Le Blanc  
Helene Leder  
Anthony Mancini  
Dyann Mango  
Tyler Meccariello  
Danielle Morek  
Jeanne Pittman  
Joanne Riback  
Justin Savarese

**2017 Wolcott Summer Studies Staff** – Continued

Kristin Stec  
Michael Terry  
Bobby Thompson  
Andrea Tordanato  
Linda Vaivoda  
Judy Wilson Hintz

**Substitutes:**

Michelle Ciampi  
Pamela Conway  
Jason Downes  
Brian Gage  
Joanne Mumley  
David Niemitz  
Liz Thisdale  
Jarrod Treen  
Kellie Aloisi  
Spencer Marsella  
Sara Lynn  
Sara Kaer

So voted.

**Approve Out of State Field Trip:**

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

1. Wolcott High School's Robotics Team (12) requests permission to compete in FIRST Robotics World Championship in St. Louis, MO from April 23-30, 2017.
2. Tyrrell Middle School's Grade 8 Students (160) request permission to go to Washington, D.C. on May 30-June 2, 2017 to experience/view topics discussed in Social Studies and ELA classes throughout the course of the school year.
3. Tyrrell Middle School's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Students (20) request permission to travel to the Florida Keys/Everglades from June 23-27, 2018 to study the relationships between organisms and their environment.

So voted.

**Accept a Donation:**

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to accept the following:  
A donation of \$100.00 from Mr. Jeffrey Jump to the Wolcott School Lunch Program. He requests that the donation be applied to unpaid student lunch balances wherever it is needed the most. So voted.

**Permission to Participate in a Research Study:**

Motion: by Ms. Leonard, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to allow the District's elementary schools to participate in a Doctoral Research study as presented. So voted.

**ADD TO THE AGENDA:****Approve an International Trip:**

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Mrs. Lumia, to add a resolution to approve an international trip to the agenda. So voted.

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to approve the following international trip:  
Wolcott High School Students (20) request permission to go to Paris and the Riviera from April 14-22, 2018.  
***All Board Members voted "Nay".***  
***The motion is denied.***

**Committee Reports:**

Ms. Leonard said that the Operations and Programs Committee met at 6:15 p.m. and discussed an international trip, and also a research study.

Mrs. Gubitosi stated that the Facilities Committee met at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Stankus gave the Committee a report on summer projects, a feasibility study, the District's energy program, and an April training day for custodians.

Mrs. Mancini reported that the Finance Committee reviewed pending vendor invoices, transfers, March health claims, the Budget Report, and a contract with NSI.

Mrs. Lumia, the Chair of the Negotiations Committee, said the Committee has upcoming meetings on April 25<sup>th</sup> with the union for the Cafeteria Workers and the Custodians, and on April 27<sup>th</sup> the Nurses' union.

**Time for the Public:**

No one came forward.

**Items for the Next Agenda:**

The next meeting is April 24<sup>th</sup> 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 Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters of certified employees. So voted.

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting at 8:48 p.m. So voted.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 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).