

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WOLCOTT, CONNECTICUT**

A meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, March 13, 2017, at Wolcott High 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; Kevin Hollis, Director of Student Services, Rosa Ramalhete, Supervisor of Special Education; Walter Drewry, Interim Principal of Wolcott High School; Bryan MacKay, Assistant 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; Robert Cormier, WHS Teacher and Robotics' Team Advisor; Cynthia Dias, WHS Student Government President; 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.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 27, 2017. So voted.

Communications:

Thank you card – the Welton Family
Rotella Monthly Montage – March 2017

Business Manager's Report:

Expenditures:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Lumia, to approve the following expenditures:
To approve the April 2017 payroll expenditure in the amount of
\$1,420,000.

To approve expenditures in the amount of **\$829,542.77** paid on March 14, 2017 for fiscal year 2016-2017.

So voted.

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Drewry introduced Mr. Cormier, the advisor to WHS' Robotics Team. Mr. Cormier reported on the success of the Robotics Team in winning top honors, the Chairman's Award, at the recent Waterbury competition. He then introduced the Team members who gave the Board their presentation that won them the award. Afterwards, the Team demonstrated their robot, which they designed and built.

Two minute school highlights were presented by each principal.

Ms. Dias reported on what the two student government committees were working on. Mr. Hollis gave a brief report on the activities being sponsored by Student Services. In honor of Board of Education Appreciation Month, all the presenters thanked the Board of Education for their support and hard work on behalf of Wolcott students.

Dr. Gasper thanked everyone involved in the budget process for all their dedication and hard work. The Board will take a final vote on the budget at its special meeting on March 20th. They will do a formal presentation to the Town Council on May 2nd. He encouraged interested residents to speak to the Council about their priorities and concerns at their public hearing on May 16th.

The Superintendent congratulated the Cheer Teams of Tyrrell and WHS for both winning the NVL championships, and added that WHS went on to win the state championship. In addition as reported earlier, the WHS' Robotics Team won the Chairman's Award, which is the highest award possible.

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

Public Comment:

No one came forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominations:

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mr. Gugliotti, to appoint the following person(s) as indicated:
1. James Crandall to the position of Girls Tennis Coach at Wolcott High School effective on March 15, 2017.
So voted.

Approve Out of State Field Trip:

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

1. Tyrrell Middle School's CAPT-ivating Kids (13) request permission to go to the Boston Science Museum on March 22, 2017.

So voted.

Approve Out of State Conferences:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to approve the following out of state conferences:

1. **Deborah Osvald**, who is the Principal of Wakelee School, and **Rosa Ramalhete**, who is the Supervisor of Special Education, request permission to attend the 2nd Annual Women's Leadership Conference being offered by the American Association of School Administrators from March 30-31, 2017 in Monroe Township, NJ.
2. **Kimberly Murtaugh**, who is a Grade 5 Teacher at Wakelee School, requests permission to attend the 2017 National Core Advocates conference, *Impact Through Instructional Advocacy*, in Denver, CO from May 6-7, 2017.

So voted.

Permission to Dispose of Equipment:

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to grant permission to the Wolcott High School's Tech Ed Department to dispose of an outdated Baumfolder folder machine Model 714, which is no longer in use for Visual Communications classes. So voted.

Approve a Contract for a Videographer:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to award a contract to **Michael Bruce Video** to furnish equipment and services necessary to video/audio record the meetings of the Wolcott Board of Education for the amount of **\$250.00 per meeting**. So voted.

Adopt the 2017-2018 Wolcott Public Schools' Budget – Initial Vote:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to adopt on initial vote the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Wolcott Public Schools' Budget in the amount of **\$34,229,851**. So voted.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Mancini reported that the Finance Committee met earlier and voted to submit the revised budget to the Board for an initial vote. They also reviewed pending vendor invoices, the Internal Services Report, a Videographer contract, and a scholarship fund.

Ms. Leonard stated that the Operations & Programs Committee discussed current Board policies on out of state and country trips. She also reported on the ACES Board of Directors meeting where they received information on the Governor's budget and also an insurance collaborative.

Mrs. Lumia, the Chair of the Negotiations Committee, said the Committee met twice to review the contracts of the Cafeteria Workers, Custodians, and Nurses. They are currently working with the unions to set up negotiation meeting dates.

Time for the Public:

No one came forward.

Items for the Next Agenda:

There will be a special Board meeting on Monday, March 20th for a final vote on the budget. Board members can contact the Board of Education Office if you have additional agenda items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to go into Executive Session to discuss confidential personnel issues: 1) potential non-renewal of certified staff, and 2) the termination of a non-certified employee.
So voted.

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting at 8:49 p.m. So voted.

Board Discussion.

Approve Terminating Employment:

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to terminate the employment of C. D. from the position of Food Service General Worker at Wolcott High School effective immediately. So voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Mr. Lerz, to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 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.