

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

A Board of Education meeting was held on Monday, October 26, 2015, at Tyrrell Middle 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, Arthur Lerz Sr., and Kimberly Lumia, all Board members. Also in attendance: Dr. Thomas Smyth, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Todd Bendtsen, Business Manager; Frank Purcaro, Director of Student Learning and Teaching; 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 Osvold, Assistant Principal of Wolcott High 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; Dr. Anthony Gasper, Incoming Superintendent; 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. Lumia, seconded by Ms. DelBuono, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 5, 2015. So voted.

Communications:

Rotella Monthly Montage – October 2015
District Administration – September 2015
E School News – October/November 2015

Business Manager's Report:

Expenditures:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mr. Buzzelli, to approve the following expenditures:
To approve expenditures in the amount of **\$435,095.59** paid on October 27, 2015 for fiscal year 2015-2016. So voted.

Superintendent's Report:

The School Principals gave two minute reports on the activities at their schools.

Dr. Smyth reported that the Board of Education is seeking to identify and notify the parents or legal guardians of children who may be in need of Americans with Disabilities Act section 504 services. He advised, "If you have a child with a handicap that substantially limits one or more major life activity and who is not currently identified, please contact your building Principal or Mr. Walter Drewry, District ADA 504 Coordinator at 203 879-8164."

The Parent Portal is a feature available to Middle and High School parents, which allows access to their child's attendance, grades, assignments, etc.

Flu and cold season is upon us. Dr. Smyth encouraged parents and students to practice good hygiene by regularly washing their hands and avoiding contact as much as possible. Flu shots for children are highly recommended.

Congratulations to the Board of Education for receiving a Leadership Award from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. The WHS Handbook, Tyrrell Middle School's Handbook, the District Website, the Facebook Page, and the Superintendent's Annual Report were all recognized.

The State Board of Education approved the SAT as the mastery examination for grade 11 students. This will be in place of the Smarter Balanced Tests used this year. This begins in the 2016 school year.

The Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection held its crisis drill at our Police Headquarters on October 21st. They used the Tyrrell Middle School's Emergency Plan in this exercise.

Mr. Monroe gave the Board a report on the CAPT, SAT, and AP results.

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

Public Comment:

No one came forward

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Gubitosi reported that the Facilities Committee met at 6:30 p.m. and received a report on the District's Building Projects, the status of School Projects, winter readiness, and the Emergency Services drill.

Mrs. Mancini said that the Finance Committee met earlier and reviewed pending invoices, oil prices, the Affordable Health Care Act, the Drug Free Communities Grant, and the proposed Rubik's Cube Club at Tyrrell.

Ms. Leonard said that the ACES Board met and participated in a focus group on improvements to the State Board of Education.

Mrs. Lumia stated that the Negotiations Committee is working on scheduling negotiations in December with the Paraprofessionals' Union. She also thanked Ms. DelBuono for her service on this committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Adopt a Job Description – Final Vote:

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Mrs. Lumia, to table the resolution to adopt on final vote a job description for the position of Data Management System Specialist. So voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve – Resignation(s):

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to accept the resignation of:

1. **Lee Kelsey** in the position of Spring 2016 Track and Field Coach at Tyrrell Middle School effective immediately;
2. **Emily Vilag** in the position of Mathematics Teacher and Mathematics Team Leader at Wolcott High School effective January 20, 2016.

So voted.

Transfer Between Jobs:

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Ms. DelBuono, to approve the following transfer to the position indicated:

1. **Rebecca Clarke** from the position of 4 Hour Food Service Worker at Tyrrell Middle School to the position of 5 Hour Food Service Worker at Tyrrell Middle School effective October 27, 2015;

So voted.

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Mrs. Lumia, to table the resolution to approve the following transfer to the position indicated:

1. **Patti-Ann Welton** from the position of Central Office Administrative Specialist for the Wolcott Public Schools to the position of Data Management System Specialist for the Wolcott Public Schools effective November 1, 2015.

So voted.

Approve – Nomination(s):

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

1. **Jillian Guerrero** to the position of Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach at Wolcott High School effective with the winter sports season;
2. **Scott Rossignol** to the position of Assistant Varsity Cheerleading Coach at Wolcott High School effective with the winter sports season;
3. **Kathryn Glendon** to the position of Project Director for the Drug Free Communities Grant for the Wolcott Public Schools effective November 15, 2015.

So voted.

Approve – Out of State Conference:

Motion: by Ms. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Lerz, to approve the following out-of-state conference:

1. **Bette DeFosses**, School Psychologist at Tyrrell Middle School, requests permission to attend the workshop entitled “Wired Differently” being held November 16, 2015 in Boston by DR Seminars.
2. **Kelly Gilchrist**, Special Education Teacher at Tyrrell Middle School, requests permission to attend the workshop entitled “Wired Differently” being held November 16, 2015 in Boston by DR Seminars.
3. **Danielle Morek**, Speech Language Pathologist at Wakelee, requests permission to attend the workshop entitled “Introduction to PROMPT Technique” being held November 6-8, 2015 in New York City, NY by the PROMPT Institute.
4. **Jennifer Murphy**, Kindergarten Teacher at Wakelee, requests permission to attend the National Blue Ribbon Schools award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 9-10, 2015.
5. **Kimberly Murtaugh**, Grade 5 Teacher at Wakelee, requests permission to attend the National Blue Ribbon Schools award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 9-10, 2015.
6. **Robert Nagashima**, Principal of Wakelee School, requests permission to attend the National Blue Ribbon Schools award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 9-10, 2015.
7. **Kristin Stec**, Kindergarten Teacher at Wakelee, requests permission to attend the National Blue Ribbon Schools award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 9-10, 2015.

So voted.

Authorize Swim Teams:

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to authorize Francisco Veras, Anthony Cutler, and Odysseus Mastrogiannis to practice and compete for Wolcott High School in cooperation with the Crosby High School's Boys Swim Team as one-man teams for the 2015-2016 school year. So voted.

Approve a Stipend Position:

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

1. Rubik's Cube Club Advisor (Category D – 8 Month Position)

So voted.

Approve a Contract:

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Mrs. Lumia, to table the resolution to approve a contract for Patti-Ann Welton in the position of Data Management System Specialist effective from November 1, 2015 to October 31, 2018. So voted.

Accept a Grant Award:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to approve and accept the Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Grant Award of \$124,898 per year to the Wolcott Board of Education for the period September 30, 2015 to September 29, 2020. So voted.

Approve – Out of State Field Trip:

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

1. Wolcott High School's Model United Nations Students (74) request permission to go to the United Nations in New York City, NY on October 29, 2015 for a briefing on Model United Nations issues.

So voted.

Time for the Public:

Michael Bruce, 424 Boundline Road, thanked the Board members for their service. Lori DelBuono, 233 Long Swamp Road, said she was honored and privileged to have been on the Board of Education for four years.

Items for the Next Agenda:

The next meeting on November 9, 2015 is an organizational meeting with the new Board of Education members being sworn in. Board members can contact the Board of Education Office if you have additional agenda items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to go into Executive Session for 1) discussion of an administrative position (non-certified employee), and 2) discussion of an employee matter which would result in disclosure of confidential information protected by HIPPA. So voted.

Motion: by Ms. DelBuono, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting at 8:50 p.m. So voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Mr. Lerz, seconded by Mrs. Lumia, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:51 p.m. So voted.