

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

A meeting of the Board of Education was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017, at Tyrrell Middle School. In attendance were: Patricia Najarian, Chairman of the Board; Gloria Gubitosi, Vice Chairman of the Board; Gloria Clair, Anthony Gugliotti, 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; Walter Drewry, Principal of Wolcott High School; Bryan MacKay, Assistant Principal of Wolcott High School; Joseph Norcross, Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Daniel Caetano, Assistant Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Shawn Simpson, Principal of Alcott Elementary School; Kimberly Murtaugh, Principal of Frisbie Elementary School; Deborah Osvald, Principal of Wakelee Elementary School; Rosa Ramalhete, Supervisor of Special Education; 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 held for former secretary, Lorraine Buonocore and the victims of the Vegas shooting.

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion:           by Mrs. Clair, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 25, 2017. So voted.

**Communications:**

NEASC letter dated October 4, 2017  
Rotella Monthly Montage –  
ACES Annual Report 2016-2017

**Business Manager's Report:**

**Expenditures:**

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

To approve the November 2017 payroll expenditure in the amount of **\$2,150,765.**

To approve expenditures in the amount of **\$639,918.58** paid on October 11, 2017 for fiscal year 2017-2018.

So voted.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Tanya Adorno, Athletic Director of Wolcott High School, introduced the State Champion Wolcott High School cheerleaders and coaches.

The School Principals gave two minute school highlights, and Mrs. Ramalhete gave an update on the Student Services Department for Mr. Hollis.

Dr. Gasper updated the community on the bond referendum that will appear on the ballot for the November 7<sup>th</sup> elections. The bond contains proposed expenditures from the Town, the volunteer fire department, and also from the Board of Education. The items from the Board are capital expenditures that would not be appropriate to include in our yearly operating budget. At four of our five schools we have in-ground fuel oil tanks that are coming to the end of their useful life. Before they begin to leak and pose an environmental hazard, we are proposing to replace all of these. At Wakelee, Alcott, and Frisbie we'll need to replace these tanks with new ones. At Tyrrell, we have just received natural gas service from Eversource. So, it makes good financial sense to convert our heating boilers to natural gas which should give us a substantial cost savings over fuel oil. Therefore, rather than replace the in-ground tank at Tyrrell, we are proposing to upgrade that school's boilers. Lastly, the upgrades to the Board Offices at Alcott School were not able to be completed with the funds provided in the bond from May 2014, so we propose to complete that work with funds from this bond.

The Superintendent said there have been a number of reports in the news of school districts issuing layoff notices to their staff. He stated that we are not anticipating a need for such measures during this school year. At this time, the Board's budget for the year has been set and we are implementing it with fidelity. Other towns that are struggling may have municipal funding difficulties or a higher reliance on state grants than we do here in Wolcott. In November and December, we will begin the budgeting process for the 2018-2019 school year. This will certainly be a difficult process based on the poor financial conditions at the state level, however.

He encouraged all staff and community members to come out and support WHS' Unified Sports team and recognize their effort and sportsmanship.

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

**Public Comment:**

No one came forward.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resignations:**

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

1. **Samuel Glaser** in the position of Head Lacrosse Coach at Wolcott High School effective immediately;
2. **Loretta Maintanis** in the position of Special Education Paraprofessional at Tyrrell Middle School for the purpose of retirement effective immediately
3. **Shakira Jacobs-Vazquez** in the position of Family Consumer Science Teacher at Wolcott High School effective October 20, 2017.

So voted.

**Nominations:**

Motion: by Mrs. Clair, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to appoint the individual(s) as indicated:

1. **Heather Pytel** to the position of Music Teacher at Tyrrell Middle School effective as soon as possible;
2. **Chuck Tutalo** to the position of FCCLA Advisor at Wolcott High School effective immediately;
3. **Carley Vesneski** to the position of Long-Term Substitute School Counselor at Wolcott High School effective immediately.

So voted.

**Permission to Discard Outdated Materials - Wakelee:**

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to grant Wakelee Elementary School's Principal permission to discard outdated teacher manuals and test prep that are no longer aligned to our current curriculum.  
So voted.

**Adopt the 2020 Standards for Accreditation from NEASC:**

Motion: by Mrs. Clair, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to adopt the 2020 Standards for Accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) as a district-wide guide for ongoing school reform and to direct

the Superintendent to create a plan to pursue NEASC accreditation for all of the district's schools. So voted.

**Adopt Revised Series 1000 Board Policies – Initial Vote:**

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to revise on initial vote the following Community Relations Series 1000 Board policies/regulations:

- 1110.1 R – Parent Involvement
- 1111 R - Use of Educational/Government Television Channel
- 1120 R – Public Participation at Board Meeting
- 1210 P - School-Community Associations
- 1250 P – Visits to the Schools
- 1250 R – Visits to the Schools – Deleted
- 1313 P – Gifts to Schools – Deleted & Content Moved to Policy 1323
- 1320 P – Student Community Relations
- 1321 R – Video Studio Facility & Broadcast Regulations
- 1322 P – Contests for Students
- 1323 P – Gifts
- 1324 P – Fundraising
- 1330 Form 1 – Insurance Liability
- 1360 P – Awards & Scholarships

P = Policy  
R = Regulation

So voted.

**Committee Reports:**

Mrs. Gubitosi reported that the Facilities Committee met earlier and Mr. Bendtsen gave the Facilities Director's Report on the status of the District's buildings and equipment.

Mrs. Mancini said the Finance Committee met at 6:30 and discussed Magnet school transportation, Regular and Special Education bus bids, oil and diesel bids, expenditures, and health claims.

**Time for the Public:**

No one came forward.

**Items for the Next Agenda:**

The next meeting is October 23 and will be at Tyrrell Middle School.

The final vote on the revised series 1000 Board policies/regulations will be on the agenda.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Mr. Gugliotti, to table the Executive Session that is on the meeting agenda. So voted.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 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).