

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WOLCOTT, CONNECTICUT**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, October 07, 2019, at Tyrrell Middle School. In attendance were: Lori DelBuono Bartlett, Chairman of the Board; Cynthia Mancini, Vice Chairman of the Board; Roberta Leonard, Secretary of the Board; Thomas Buzzelli, Christopher Charette, Kathleen Cordone, Paul D'Angelo, Anthony Gugliotti, and Kelly Mazza, all board members. Also in attendance: Dr. Anthony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools; Shawn Simpson, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Todd Bendtsen, Business Manager; Kevin Hollis, Director of Student Services; Walter Drewry, Principal of Wolcott High School; Bryan MacKay, Assistant Principal of Wolcott High School; Joseph Morgan, Assistant Principal of Wolcott High School; Joseph Norcross, Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Dan Caetano, Assistant Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Kimberly Murtaugh, Principal of Frisbie Elementary School; and Jessica Kenny, Board Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. DelBuono Bartlett, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was held for Ms. Cora Rice. Mrs. DelBuono Bartlett then read the Wolcott Public Schools' Mission Statement.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion:       by Ms. Leonard, seconded by Mrs. Mazza, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 23, 2019.  
So voted.

                  by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mr. D'Angelo, to approve the Special Meeting of September 24, 2019.  
So voted.

                  by Ms. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Gugliotti, to approve the Expulsion Hearing of September 30, 2019.  
So voted.

APPROVED 

Lori DelBuono Bartlett, Chairman  
Wolcott Board of Education

**Committee Reports:**

A Committee of the Whole meeting was held at 6:30 p.m., during the meeting Finance topics were reviewed. They discussed the business manager's report, expenditures, pending vendor invoices, the accounting system, oil and diesel bids, health claims and an update on the mowing to date. Operations and Programs had a presentation held by Wolcott High School, School Counselors in regards to the RAMP Presentation, which is an ASCA Counseling Program and more details will be reposted as it progresses.

**Communications:**

Thank you cards;  
Invitation to the 2019 Wolcott Teachers of the Year Celebration;  
Rotella Monthly Montage.

**Business Manager's Report:****Expenditures:**

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mr. Gugliotti, to approve the following Expenditures:  
To approve expenditures in the amount of **\$712,127.51** paid on October 08, 2019 for fiscal year 2019-2020.  
To approve the November 2019 payroll expenditures in the amount of **\$1,493,000.00** for fiscal year 2019-2020  
So voted.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Principals gave two-minutes updates on each school. Elementary School Principals reported on their Fall Festivals, I-Ready Testing the Governor Summer Reading Challenge and other events that have been happening in their buildings.

Mr. Norcross reported on the I-Ready testing at Tyrrell, the governor's reading challenge and the kick-off of One School One book, where they had an author visit who will be naming a character "Tyrrell" in her next book.

Mr. Drewry spoke of how they are following through with the Vision of the graduate at Wolcott High School, everyone is adjusting well to the new Block Scheduling and they are preparing for their NEASC visit in November. He also thanked two students for going above and beyond for their community service, they are knitting hats to donate to the homeless. Lastly, he thanked the teachers and IT for everything that they have done through this last malware attack.

Dr. Gasper gave a warm thank you to our IT department for all the hard work they have been and continue to do. He went on to explain what they have done and what they will be working on.

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini seconded by Mr. Charette to approve the superintendent's report as presented.

So voted.

**Public Comment:**

No one came forward.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Nominations:**

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mr. Gugliotti, to approve the following nomination(s) to the position indicated as presented:

**1. 2019 Fall and Winter Volunteer(s):**

**Wolcott High School**

Alison Artigliere Track Head Coach

Joseph Murphy Baseball Co-Coach

Robert Moffo Softball

So Voted.

**Discussion on Kindergarten Testing:**

Mrs. Cordone gave a presentation on changes of the Kindergarten curriculum. She handed out articles and referenced key points from them in regards to Kindergarten students needing more active play and less testing. Mrs. Cordone provided articles of research that have shown that testing at a young age could be harmful, cause stress and anxiety and stated that Kindergarten students are not ready to have such test as I-Ready given to them. She gave examples from research that was done in Finland and statements that reflected why Finland is one of the top rated countries in education. The Board agreed to create a committee of the Board of Education members, administrators, and teachers.

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mr. D'Angelo, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

**1. Out of State Field Trip(s):**

To give Wolcott High School's Varsity Cheerleading (22) permission to attend the New England Regional Cheerleading Championship at Worcester State University in Worcester, MA from March 20 – March 21, 2019 to compete for the regional title amongst other teams from the New England region.

2. **Make a Donation:**  
To give Wakelee School permission to donate multiple copies of upper elementary books from classroom libraries to the Wolcott Public Library.
3. **Permission to Dispose of Equipment:**  
To give Wakelee School permission to dispose of outdated and/or non-functioning video equipment, overhead projector, various VCR/DVD players and remotes.  
So Voted.

**Time for the Public:**

No one came forward.

**Items for the Next Agenda:**

The next meeting is October 21, 2019 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. Mancini, seconded by Mr. Charette, to go into Executive Session for the purposes of reviewing strategy with respect to pending litigation (consideration of action to enforce legal relief concerning a vendor services contract), Dr. Gasper also asked to have Mr. Bendtsen invited into executive session.  
So voted.

Motion: by Mr. Gugliotti, seconded by Mr. Charette, to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting at 8:51 p.m. So voted.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mr. Charette, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.  
So voted.

Note: The Board of Education meetings are videotaped, and as a result are available to be viewed on the WLCT96 site on the Town of Wolcott's website, [www.wolcottct.org](http://www.wolcottct.org).