

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

A meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, September 11, 2017, at Tyrrell Middle 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, 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 Morgan, 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; Kevin Hollis, Director of Student Services; 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 all who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

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 August 28, 2017. So voted.

Communications:

None

Business Manager's Report:

Expenditures:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to approve the following expenditures:
To approve the October 2017 payroll expenditure in the amount of
\$1,450,000.

To approve expenditures in the amount of **\$579,433.98** paid on September 12, 2017 for fiscal year 2017-2018.
So voted.

Superintendent's Report:

Sonya Richmond, STEMIE Board Member, and Ron Katz, Executive Director of the CT Invention Convention, presented Frisbie student, Abigail DiCarlo, with STEMIE's Computer Associates Award, which honors a girl who shows exceptional promise as an inventor in an area of her choice. Abigail received this award for her invention which she presented at the National Invention Convention.

The principals gave a brief update on their schools and then introduced their new staff to the Board and the community. They are

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

ALCOTT

Carrie Pawlak will be teaching Kindergarten. She has been working as a substitute teacher for Wolcott.

Lyly Tran is the new Speech Language Pathologist at Alcott. She is currently the Speech-Language Pathologist for Ultimate Therapy in Pomona, NY.

ALCOTT & WAKELEE

Brittany DiTota will be the Math Intervention Tutor for both Alcott and Wakelee. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and has been substitute teacher for Southington Public Schools.

FRISBIE

June Fishbein will teach 4th Grade. She did her student teaching at Frisbie, and just completed a long-term substitute position at Polk Elementary School in Oakville.

TYRRELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Alison Artigliere is the new Special Education Teacher at the middle school. She has been working for Region 10 as a Special Education Teacher.

Eleanor Riker is the new Grade 8 Spanish Teacher. She comes to us from the West Hartford Public Schools where she has been teaching middle school Spanish.

WOLCOTT HIGH SCHOOL:

Allysia Nanfita will be the Special Education Teacher for the Phoenix Program. She is currently employed as a Special Education Teacher by Innovation in Education.

Nicholas Galullo will teach Social Studies. He has been the long-term substitute in this position for the 2016-2017 school year.

Matthew Hove will teach Science. He has been teaching Science for the Kenmore High School in North Dakota.

Shakira Jacobs-Vazquez is our new Family Consumer Science Teacher. She comes to us from the Waterbury Public Schools.

Taylor Notation will be our Tech Ed Teacher at the high school. He did his student teaching at Southington High School.

Isabel Nunes is the Library Media Specialist for the high school. She has been working as an English Teacher at the Waterbury Career Academy High School.

Stephanie Russo is a Special Education Teacher. She comes to us from the Waterbury Public Schools.

Laura Stabile is a Long Term Substitute Guidance Counselor at Wolcott High School. She has been serving as a School Counselor for the Bristol Public Schools.

DISTRICT

Walt Drewry assumes the position of Principal at Wolcott High School.

Joseph Morgan will be Assistant Principal at the high school.

Joseph Norcross replaces Mrs. Tansley, who retired, as Principal of Tyrrell Middle School.

Kimberly Murtaugh replaces Mr. Norcross as Principal of Frisbie Elementary School.

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Mrs. Lumia, to take a 5 minute recess to congratulate Abigail DiCarlo, and welcome the new Wolcott Teachers.

Mrs. Najarian called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Hollis updated the Board on the activities of the Student Services Department.

The Superintendent reported at the September 5th Town Council meeting an important presentation was given regarding our current school facilities, the need to renovate them, and a potential future direction for how we use these buildings. He emphasized that our school buildings and infrastructure are old, ranging from 1947 to 1967, and aging quickly. When you visit our schools, they look clean and well-maintained, but critical problems lie behind the scenes. Our maintenance and custodial staff work hard to keep up with the needs of these old facilities, but only so much can be done. Our roofs are

leaking, boilers are breaking down, plumbing is crumbling, and electrical systems are overtaxed. He said the Board and he believe that Wolcott's children deserve to attend school in buildings that are clean, bright, supportive of modern learning activities, and up to code for safety and handicapped access.

He continued, first and foremost, we want to provide Wolcott's children with great places to learn that are modern, safe, efficient and bright. We want to be good caretakers of the community's buildings and ensure that they are useful well into the future. We want to make critical replacements of aging systems in the most fiscally-responsible way possible. To do this, we must maximize all of the possible reimbursements that might be available from the State of Connecticut. While we are not exactly sure what these reimbursement rates will be in the future, it is very safe to say that these rates will be directly related to how many students attend each school. The fuller a school is the more reimbursement the Town will receive from the State. Currently, our three elementary schools range from 51% to 62% full according to State of Connecticut formulas. It is also reasonable to assume that the state budget crisis will cause legislators to reduce reimbursement rates in the future. Also, as a rule, inflation drives up construction costs 3-4% each year. So, time is of the essence because the longer we delay these upgrades and repairs the more they will cost.

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

Public Comment:

No one came forward.

OLD BUSINESS:

Adopt Board Policy #3542.43 – Final Vote:

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to adopt on final vote a Board Policy #3542.43 – Business & Non-Instructional Operations: Food Service – Charging Policy. So voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resignations:

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

1. **David Fortier** in the position of Cross Country Assistant Coach at Tyrrell Middle School effective immediately;

So voted.

Nominations:

Motion: by Mr. Gubitosi, seconded by Mr. Buzzelli, to table to Executive Session Item #2 of the following Nominations Resolution. So voted.

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to appoint the individual(s) listed in Item # 1, 3, 4, and 5 to the position(s) as indicated:

1. 2017-2018 Tyrrell Stipend Positions:

Sheila DiStasio Technology Co-Coordinator

Jill Wright Technology Co-Coordinator

Michelle LaRochelle Assistant Cross Country Coach

2. Janet Hampton to the position of Music Teacher at Tyrrell Middle School effective on September 13, 2017;

3. John Miklavzina to the position of Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at Tyrrell Middle School effective immediately;

4. Rebecca Riviezzo to the position of Girls JV Soccer Coach at Wolcott High School effective for the 2017-2018 season;

5. Sabra Scaglione to the position of Food Service Cook at Alcott Elementary School effective on September 13, 2017.

So voted.

Approve Out of State Field Trip(s):

Motion: by Ms. Leonard, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to approve the following out-of-state filed trip(s):

1. Tyrrell Middle School's Grade 7 Students (202) request permission to go to the Boston Museum of Science on October 20, 2017.

2. Wolcott High School's Music & History Students (50) request permission to go to New York City to attend a play, *Miss Saigon*, on November 1, 2017.

So voted.

Ratify the Vision of the Graduate:

Motion: by Ms. Leonard, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to ratify the *Vision of the Graduate*, which lists the skills, knowledge, and dispositions which define the Board of Education's aspirations for all Wolcott Public Schools' students. So voted.

Bid Waiver – Plumbing Services:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to waive the bid process and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Barry Associates for emergency plumbing services at Wolcott High School in an amount not to exceed \$14,000. So voted.

Committee Reports:

Ms. Leonard reported that the Operations & Programs Committee met at 6:00 p.m. and reviewed the Series 1000 Board Policies (up to policy 1324), and also agreed to send the *Vision of the Graduate* on for a vote by the whole Board tonight.

Mrs. Mancini said the Finance Committee met earlier and discussed pending vendor invoices, budget reports, August health claims, oil and diesel bids, bus transportation bids, and the ED001 Report.

Mrs. Lumia said that the Negotiations Committee has begun their negotiations with the Teachers' Union with a discussion of Ground Rules. Their next meeting is September 19th.

Time for the Public:

No one came forward.

Items for the Next Agenda:

The next meeting is September 25 and will be at Tyrrell Middle School.

Revised Series 1000 Board policies will come up for an initial vote.

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

ADD TO THE AGENDA

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Mr. Buzzelli, to add an Executive Session to the agenda to discuss a collective bargaining issue. So voted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to go into Executive Session to discuss a collective bargaining issue. So voted.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 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.