

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WOLCOTT, CONNECTICUT**

A special meeting of the Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, at Frisbie Elementary 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 Sr., and Cynthia Mancini, all Board members. Also in attendance: Dr. Anthony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools; Todd Bendtsen, Business Manager; Kevin Hollis, 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 Osvald, Assistant Principal of Wolcott High School; Arline Tansley, Principal of Tyrrell Middle 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; 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 observed in memory of Larry Shapiro, who was Principal of Wolcott High School.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 11, 2016. So voted.

Motion: by Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of January 27, 2016. So voted.

Communications:

E-Mail on the Public Relations Contract– Mr. & Mrs. Guerrero, Mr. Mallett, and Ms. Shea

Thank-you note – Wolcott Food Pantry

Rotella Monthly Montage – February 2016

Waterbury Arts Magnet Newsletter – February 2016

Business Manager's Report:

Expenditures:

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

To approve the March 2016 payroll expenditure in the amount of **\$1,640,000.**

To approve expenditures in the amount of **\$879,728.20** paid on February 10, 2016 for fiscal year 2015-2016.

So voted.

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Norcross introduced Frisbie students from Grades 1 to 5, who talked about their classes' community service projects.

The School Principals gave two minute reports on the activities at their schools. Mr. Purcaro reported on his department of Student Learning and Teaching.

The Board of Education will be rotating their meeting schedule to visit all five schools. The next meeting is February 22nd at Wakelee Elementary School.

If you have a child who will be five year old on or before January 1, 2017, please contact the Superintendent's office at 203 879-8183 to pre-register your child for kindergarten.

The Department of Student Services is accepting applications for the Alcott Preschool Program for 2016-2017. The deadline to apply is March 7th. A lottery will determine the enrollment for the 3 and 4 year old programs. Contact Student Services at 203 879-8178.

Just a reminder that our School Late Opening Schedule is as follows:

- Wolcott High School – 9:30 AM
- Tyrrell Middle School – 10:00 AM
- Elementary Schools – 10:55 AM

Ms. Glendon, the Project Director of the District's Drug Free Community Grant, gave the Board a presentation on the Citizens Against Substance Abuse (CASA) Coalition.

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

Public Comment:

No one came forward.

Committee Reports:

Ms. Leonard reported that the Operations and Programs Committee met at 6:30 p.m. and Mr. Purcaro answered questions on Wolcott High School's Course of Studies Guide. Dr. Gasper updated the Committee on an international trip.

Mrs. Mancini said that the Finance Committee met earlier and received a presentation from the Superintendent on his 2016-2017 proposed budget. Mr. Bendtsen reported on ECS funding, the Olga Krasnovsky Scholarship, pending invoices, the Internal Service Report, and budget reports.

Mrs. Lumia said the Negotiations Committee is in ongoing negotiations with the Para and School Secretaries unions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approve the WHS 2016-2017 Course of Studies Guide:

Motion: by Ms. Leonard, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to approve on final vote the Wolcott High School's Course of Studies Guide 2016-2017. So voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve – Resignation(s):

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

1. **Joseph Cornelio** in the position of Varsity Football Assistant Coach at Wolcott High School for the 2016 fall season;
2. **Paula Meier** in the position of A.M. Latchkey Instructor at Wakelee Elementary School effective immediately;
3. **Carleen Van Blarcom** in the position of Purchasing Coordinator for the Wolcott Public Schools for the purpose of retirement effective on September 6, 2016.

So voted.

Approve – Nomination(s):

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to appoint the following person as indicated:

1. **Briana Daniele** to position of Varsity Volleyball Coach at Wolcott High School effective for the 2016 Fall Season;
2. **Linda Erami** to the position of Special Education Paraprofessional at Frisbie Elementary School effective February 9, 2016;
3. **Vincent Pugliese** to the position of Custodian 2nd shift at Wolcott High School effective on February 10, 2016;
4. **Sara Pysher** to the position of Music Long-Term Substitute Teacher at Tyrrell Middle School effective approximately late February 2016.

So voted.

Approve – Out of State Field Trips:

- Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Lumia, to approve the following out-of- state field trips:
1. Wakelee Elementary School's Grade 4 Students (42) request permission to go to Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA on April 29, 2016 to experience/view topics discussed in Social Studies and Language Arts classes.
 2. Wolcott High School's Senior Class (120) request permission to go to Six Flags New England, Agawam, MA on May 31, 2016 to promote the development of social skills and provide a final bonding experience for the Senior Class.
 3. Wolcott High School's French Students (20) request renewal of permission to go to Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. This trip was originally approved by the Board of Education on October 27, 2014 for February 2015 and postponed to February 12-15, 2016.
- So voted.

Approve – Out of State Conferences:

- Motion: Mrs. Gubitosi, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to approve the following out-of-state conferences:
1. **Kathryn Glendon**, Project Director of the DFC Grant, requests permission to attend the National Coalition Academy workshops entitled, "Community Anti-drug Coalitions of America," being held in Tucson, AZ on March 14-17, May 16-19, and August 8-11, 2016.
- So voted.

Accept a Grant:

- Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to approve and accept the Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Program \$500 Grant to be used for maintenance and support of Wolcott High School's Math and/or Science areas. So voted.

Adopt the 2016-2017 School Calendar – Initial Vote:

- Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mr. Lerz, to approve on initial vote the 2016-2017 school calendar as presented. So voted.

Permission to Conduct Student Surveys:

- Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Lumia, to conduct student surveys in connection with the Drug Free Community Grant. So voted.

Permission to Participate in Doctoral Research:

- Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mrs. Clair, to allow the District's

elementary schools to participate in a Doctoral Research study as presented. So voted.

Time for the Public:

Kathleen Cordone, 80 Old Boundline Road, asked that the Board conduct their business according to the Freedom of Information laws, and be more transparent in their actions.

David Borzellino, 88 South Colman Road, objected to the way the Board conducted themselves in the Triflection and the Public Relations contract matters.

Dennis Cleary, 108 Mad River Road, reminded the taxpayers that by accepting the technology bid from Triflection over the ACES bid the school system had saved \$529,000 over a two year period.

Items for the Next Agenda:

Final vote on the 2016-2017 school calendar.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: by Mrs. Lumia, seconded by Mrs. Gubitosi, to go into Executive Session for the discussion of a personnel matter (certified employee). So voted.

Motion: by Mrs. Clair, seconded by Mr. Lerz, to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the special meeting at 9:35 p.m. So voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mr. Lerz, to adjourn the special meeting at 9:35 p.m. So voted.