



OUR FUTURE IS IN CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

**MONDAY
7:30 P.M.**

**TYRRELL MIDDLE SCHOOL
LARGE GROUP INSTRUCTIONAL ROOM**

BOARD OF EDUCATION WOLCOTT, CONNECTICUT SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

I. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Reading of the Mission Statement

The mission of the Wolcott Public Schools is to promote the academic, social, and emotional development of all students to become contributing members of the global community.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of September 09, 2019

III. Committee Reports

IV. Communications

V. Business Manager's Report

A. Expenditures

VI. Superintendent's Report

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

- A. Nomination(s)**
- B. Approve Salary Increase-CASA**
- C. Consent Agenda**
 - 1. Resignations**
 - 2. Out of State Conference(s)**
 - 3. Out of State Field Trip(s)**
 - 4. Make a Donation**

X. Time for the Public

XI. Items for Next Agenda

XII. Executive Session

Executive Session for the purposes of discussing:

- A school security matter
- Discussion of Candidates for a School Administrative Position
- To Review Strategy with Respect to Pending Litigation (Consideration of Action to Enforce Legal Relief Concerning a Vendor Services Contract)

XIII. Adjournment

Note:

Committee of the Whole at 7:00 p.m. in the Tyrrell Middle School Library:

1. Business Manager's Report
2. Pension Plan Management Update
3. Expenditures
4. Time for the Public

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WOLCOTT, CONNECTICUT**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, September 09, 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. Also in attendance: Dr. Anthony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools; Todd Bendtsen, Business Manager; Kevin Hollis, Director of Special Education; Rosa Ramalhete, Supervisor of Special Education; Walt Drewry, Principal of Wolcott High School; Bryan MacKay, Assistant Principal of Wolcott High School; Joseph Morgan, Assistant Principal of Wolcott High School; Dan Caetano, Assistant Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Kimberly Murtaugh, Principal of Frisbie School; Deborah Osvald, Principal of Wakelee School, Shawn Simpson, Principal of Alcott School; Wayne Natzel, Facilities Director; and Jessica Kenny, Board Clerk.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:29 by Mrs. DelBuono Bartlett, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mrs. DelBuono Bartlett then read the Wolcott Public School Mission Statement.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mr. Buzzelli, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 26, 2019.
So voted.

Motion: by Ms. Leonard, Seconded by Mrs. Mazza, to approve the minutes of the emergency meeting of September 04, 2019.
So voted.

Committee Reports:

A Committee of the Whole meeting was held at 6:45 p.m. Topics discussed included: Expenditures, Health Claims and Pending Vendor Invoices. Also discussed was changes to the Athletic Handbooks, this will be an amendment not a policy change.

Communications:

Thank you letter;
Rotella Monthly Montage.

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

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

To approve expenditures in the amount of **\$522,851.88** paid on September 10, 2019 for fiscal year 2019 – 2020.

To approve the October 2019 payroll expenditures in the amount of **\$2,016,011** for Fiscal year 2019 – 2020.

Superintendent's Report:

The Principal's and the Director of Student Services gave highlights from the start of school. The Principal's thank the PTO for the wonderful arches they provided for the entrances to each school. They all commented on what a wonderful treat it was for the students and what a great back splash it made for pictures. Mr. Simpson even mimicked the inflatable tube men air dancers that Alcott had.

Everyone including the Superintendent thanked our Transportation company, the Wolcott Police Department, and the construction company for the buses being on time despite the construction on Todd Road.

They also commended the staff on what a wonderful job they are doing while the technology issue is diligently being worked on. The Superintendent stated that there is no evidence of a data breach, that this will not be a quick improvement, and he will continue to keep the staff and parents updated.

Lastly, he thanked the Board of Education, the staff, and the administrators for their ability to keep things running smoothly.

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mrs. Mancini, to approve the Superintendent's Report.

So voted.

Public Comment:

No one came forward.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nomination(s):

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

1. **Ylza Ajro** to the position of Five-Hour Food Service Worker at Wakelee School effective September 11, 2019;
2. **Sabrina Aldridge** to the position of Special Education Teacher at Tyrrell Middle School effective September 11, 2019 or as soon as available;
3. **Emily Nichols** to the position of Four-Hour Food Service Worker for the District effective September 11, 2019;
4. **2019 Fall Season Volunteer Coaches:**

Wolcott High School

Kelly Gunneson Volleyball Volunteer

Ashley Sloan Girls Soccer Volunteer (Pending 1-year
Emergency Certification)

Korey Speller Football Volunteer (Pending 1-year Emergency
Certification)

Change of Donor's Business Name on WHS Scoreboard(s):

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mrs. Mazza, to change the donor's business name on the Wolcott High School's Baseball Scoreboards from "Vaculease" to "The Cleanest Solution"

So voted.

Consent Agenda:

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Ms. Leonard to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

1. Resignation(s):

- a. **Elzbieta Kremens** from the position of Spanish Teacher at Wolcott High School effective the end of the 2019 – 2020 school year.

2. Out of State Field Trips(s):

- a. To approve Tyrrell Middle Schools grade 6 Social Studies Classes (180) travel to New York City to visit the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the 9-11 Memorial on October 09, 2019.

3. Permission to Dispose of Equipment:

- a. To give Tyrrell Middle School permission to dispose of or donate the following equipment:
- 2 old and unusable soccer nets (with metal post);
 - 2 volleyball polls on wheels
 - 1 volleyball spiking pole;
 - 4 metal and plastic hurdles

Time for the Public:

No one came forward.

Items for the Next Agenda:

The next meeting is Monday, September 23, 2019 and will be held at Tyrrell Middle School. Board Members can contact the Board of Education Office if you have additional agenda items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mr. Charette, to go into Executive Session for the purposes of a personnel matter related to a teacher's employment, School Secretaries contract negotiation, and a school security matter.

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Mr. Charette, to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Action on Ratification of a Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Motion: by Mr. Gugliotti, seconded by Mr. Buzzelli to ratify the collective bargaining agreement for the School Secretaries as presented.
So voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Mrs. Mancini, seconded by Mr. D'Angelo, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 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.

Committee Reports

Committee of the Whole - September 09, 2019

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WOLCOTT, CONNECTICUT**

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, September 09, 2019, at Tyrrell Middle School's Library. 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. Also in attendance: Dr. Anthony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools; Todd Bendtsen, Business Manager, and Wayne Natzel, Facilities Director.

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 by Mrs. DelBuono Bartlett, Topics discussed included: Expenditures, Health Claims and Pending Vendor Invoices. Also discussed was changes to the Athletic Handbooks, this will be an amendment not a policy change.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: by Mr. Buzzelli, seconded by Ms. Leonard, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.
So voted.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education – September 23, 2019

RESOLUTION: EXPENDITURES

Resolution from Dr. Anthony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools, to the Honorable Board of Education of the Town of Wolcott, making recommendation

To approve expenditures in the amount of \$ 316,328.23 paid on September 24, 2019 for fiscal year 2019 – 2020.

Superintendent's Report: September 23, 2019

As all of our staff, students, and parents know, the opening of our school year has been dominated by issues with our computer network. I'd like to address this issue tonight with gratitude and with some of our plans for mitigating this risk in the future.

Firstly, I'd like to thank our IT Director, Alex Pagan and our Desktop Technicians Erich Urban and Andrew Bundock. These three gentlemen have truly risen to the challenge of our adverse situation and have been a tremendous asset to our school system. They have worked with each other and with our contractors to present issues, solve problems, and suggest fixes. Very long hours have been worked both on site and from home.

I'd also like to thank all of our school staff members. It has been very comforting and inspiring to visit all of our schools during the past two weeks and see that there has been very little disruption in learning. Teachers, administrators, and support staff have all pitched in to ensure that relevant and engaging instruction has continued for Wolcott's children. A special note of thanks goes to our school secretaries who have had to find a myriad of new and creative work-arounds to ensure that our schools have continued to run smoothly.

It's safe to say that network security is NOT part of a superintendent's academic preparation to assume the job. While I'd consider myself an expert user of computer technology, an expert in network architecture, remote computer access, and cybersecurity I am not...that was until the past two weeks. Thanks to excellent advice and support from our own staff and contractors, I now know more than I'd care to about this topic. I am committed to and am thankful for the Board's expressed support for rebuilding our computer network to a level that would be considered industry best practice. This process has illuminated many ways in which our former contractors could have done things differently and/or better for us. We'll use this opportunity to ensure that no corners are cut – within our budgetary ability – when bringing our IT services back online. We have also learned, unfortunately, that no one from the most high-profile corporations to large federal government bureaus is immune from the threats of malware. We know that once we recover from this attack that the threat remains as present as ever. We can and will, however, do everything that we can to reduce and contain the risk of an attack in the future.

I'd like to thank the Board for their support over the past two weeks and on our future endeavors in this area.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education – September 23, 2019

RESOLUTION: NOMINATIONS

Resolution from Dr. Anthony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools, to the Honorable Board of Education of the Town of Wolcott, making recommendation

TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) AS INDICATED:

1. **Michelle Carichner** to the position of Paraprofessional at Wolcott High School effective September 24, 2019;
2. **Jennifer Finke** to the position of Special Education Paraprofessional at Alcott School effective September 25, 2019;
3. **Deanna Tessier** to the position of Paraprofessional at Wakelee School effective September 25, 2019;
4. **2019-2020 Stipend Position:**
Tyrrell Middle School
Jill Wright Coding Club Advisor
5. **2019-2020 Winter Season Coaches:**
Tyrrell Middle School
Brett Distasio Boys Basketball
Lee Kelsey Girls Basketball
Anna Bartoli Cheerleading
6. **2019-2020 Spring Season Coaches:**
Tyrrell Middle School
Alison Artigliere Track Head Coach
Joseph Murphy Baseball Co-Coach
Robert Moffo Softball

(See Attached)

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education – September 23, 2019

RESOLUTION: APPROVE SALARY INCREASE-CASA

Resolution from Dr. Anthony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools, to the Honorable Board of Education of the Town of Wolcott, making recommendation

To approve a 2.5% wage increase effective October 1, 2019, for the CASA Program Director, Haley Shoop.

(See attached)

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education – September 23, 2019

RESOLUTION: CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution from Dr. Anthony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools, to the Honorable Board of Education of the Town of Wolcott, making recommendation

TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED:

1. Resignation(s):

- a. **Melissa Anastasio** from the position of Lunch Aid at Frisbie School effective September 27, 2019,
- b. **Barbara Semeraro** from the position of Security/Monitor Aid at Wolcott High School effective November 30, 2019.

2. Out of State Conference(s):

- a. **Mark Wursthorn**, Director of School Counseling at Wolcott High School, request permission to attend the Western New England School Counselor Advisor Board, being held at Western New England University, Springfield MA, on December 6, 2019.

3. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip(s):

- a. Wolcott High School's Varsity Cheerleading Team (22) request permission to attend the Cheersport National Cheerleading Championship, Atlanta, GA from February 13, 2020 – February 17, 2020, to be exposed and compete against other competitive cheerleading programs from around the country;
- b. Wolcott High School's Model United Nations (60) requests permission to attend the New York City's United Nations on October 24, 2019, to meet with Diplomats from the countries that they are represented;
- c. Tyrrell Middle School's 7th grade (187) request permission visit the Boston Museum of Science on November 06, 2019, for the purposes of reinforcing topics covered in the 7th grade Science Curriculum as well as provide hands-on experiments.

4. Make a Donation:

- a. To give Frisbie School permission to donate 100 library books and 30 magazines to the Wolcott Public Library. These books have been weeded according to the American Library Association Guidelines.

(See Attached)