

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WOLCOTT, CONNECTICUT**

A meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, September 21, 2020, on Google Meet. In attendance were: Cynthia Mancini, Chairman of the Board; Paul D'Angelo, Vice Chairman of the Board; Roberta Leonard, Secretary of the Board; Christopher Charette, Kathleen Cordone, Tony Gugliotti, Sean Hughes, Kelly Mazza, and Timothy McMurray, all board members. Also in attendance: Anthony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools; Shawn Simpson, Assistant Superintendent; Todd Bendtsen, Business Manager; Kevin Hollis, Director of Student Services; Rosa Ramallete, Supervisor of Student Services; Walter Drewry, Principal of Wolcott High School; Joseph Norcross, Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Dan Ceatano, Assistant Principal of Tyrrell Middle School; Deb Osvald, Principal of Wakelee School; Wayne Natzel, Facilities Director; Alex Pagan, Director of Technology; and Jessica Kenny, Board Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Cynthia Mancini, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mrs. Mancini then read the Wolcott Public Schools' Mission Statement.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: by Ms. Leonard, seconded by Mr. D'Angelo, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 08, 2020.
So voted

APPROVED:



Cynthia Mancini, BOE Chairman
Wolcott Public Schools

Committee Reports:

A Committee of the Whole meeting was held this evening and topics discussed included Virtual Snow Days, the 2020-2021 Teacher Evaluation Plan, Substitute Teacher's Pay, and the Business Manager's Report.

Ms. Leonard spoke on the one-time flex teacher evaluation plan, snow days and if they would be possible with distance learning and any challenges there may be. Lastly, she spoke of the increase in pay for substitute teachers.

Mr. Gugliotti spoke on the Business Manager's report, the Variable Accounts, Pending Vendor Invoices, Budget Reports, and the COVID-19 Relief Funds.

Communications:

Letter from parents

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

Motion: by Mr. D'Angelo, seconded by Mr. Gugliotti, to approve the following expenditures:
To approve expenditures in the amount of **\$185,634.58** paid on September 22, 2020 for fiscal year 2020-2021.
So voted.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Gasper had asked to please move his report to Item #A, Discussion and Possible Action on the Format for Student Attendance Under COVID-19.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:**Discussion and Possible Action on the Format for Student Attendance Under COVID-19:**

Dr. Gasper gave a presentation on *Considering Hybrid vs. Full Attendance*. He presented many slides in regard to what schools look like now under Hybrid Learning and what they could look like under Full Attendance with following COVID-19 guidelines. The Superintendent went over what Bussing, Cohorting, Sanitizing, Corridors, Drop-off and Pick-up, Lavatory Breaks, and a Class-size Analysis could look like if we went back full time and what it looks like now under Hybrid Learning. He also explains what full attendance meant and showed that every district is at the same point we are.

Mrs. Mancini asked for a motion to table voting on the format for student attendance under COVID-19 until after Public Comment.

Motion: by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. D’Angelo to table voting on the format for student attendance under COVID-19 until after Public Comment.
So voted.

Approve Temporary Changes to the 2020-2021 Teacher Evaluation Plan:

Motion: by Mrs. Cordone, seconded by Mrs. Mazza to approve temporary changes to the 2020-2021 Teacher Evaluation Plan as presented during Committee of the Whole.
So voted

Approve Substitute Teacher Pay Change:

Motion: by Mrs. Mazza, seconded by Mr. Charette to approve an increase in the Substitute Teacher’s Pay to \$110.00 per day for the 2020-2021 School Year as discussed during Committee of the Whole.
So voted.

Nomination(s):

Motion: by Mr. Gugliotti, seconded by Mrs. Cordone to add Items 3, 4, and 5 to the Nominations Resolution.
So voted.

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

1. **Richard Stanley** to the position of Lunch Aide at Wakelee School effective September 23, 2020;
2. **Emily Page** to the position of Special Education Paraprofessional at Wakelee School effective September 23, 2020.
3. **Kelly Gunneson** to the position of JV Volleyball Coach at Wolcott High School effective September 22, 2020;
4. **Robert Moffo** to the Position of Freshman Volleyball Coach at Wolcott High School effective September 22, 2020;
5. **Stipend Positions 2020 – 2021**

Wolcott High School:

Linda Brown Co-Team Leader Interim PE/Wellness
Matthew Craig Co-Team Leader Interim PE/Wellness

Tyrrell Middle School:

Kristen Weber Team Leader Unified Arts Team
So voted.

Consent Agenda

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

1. **Resignation(s):**

- a. Avery Doyle from the position of Speech-Language Pathologist at Tyrrell Middle School, effective October 13, 2020;
- b. Daniel Solla from the position of Special Education Paraprofessional at Wolcott High School, effective September 18, 2020.

2. Rescind a Nomination:

- a. To Rescind the Long-Term Substitute School Counselor/Social Worker position at Wolcott High School from Jenna Michna, who accepted another position elsewhere.

Public Comment:

Louise DeLeo, 31 Bergen Lane, Thanked the Board of Education and asked for them to consider having students go back full-time especially in Elementary School. She has a son in Elementary School who is struggling all week with virtual Learning. She understands Safety First, but also feels if surrounding towns are doing it why can't Wolcott. She also feels that parents should have the right to choose in-person learning.

Amanda Kosky, 32 Winterbrook Road, asked the Board to choose full-time for Elementary School Students, that virtual learning is a struggle for these students.

Brian Andrews, 187 Catering Road, appreciates everything the Board and Wolcott Public Schools have been doing, but would like for the Board to take into consideration that parents have work obligations and that parents that work may have their children being exposed to more people due to work schedules. He would like to see grades K-8 return back to school full-time.

Michelle Rader, 46 Cambridge Drive, asked if full attendance was a 4- or 5-day model, but either way would like for her children to return back full-time, more than 2 days. She asked if the Board was to continue distance learning, could there be a separate teacher for online and face-to-face?

Shannon Ziomek, 162 Garrigus Court, stated she could see having Elementary students return full-time but to consider having Middle Schools students stay on the Hybrid Schedule. Masks are difficult for students to wear all day. There are a lot more students in the Middle School than there are in the Elementary Schools. She thanked everyone for the fantastic job they are doing and stated that everyone is nervous about this.

Tiffany Hart, 32 Lindsley Drive, had a couple of questions, she wanted to know what are the teacher's opinions on going back full time? Also, she wanted to know if the Middle School could stay in Hybrid and K-5 return full-time?

Lisa Lawson, 20 Margaret Terrace, thank the Board of Education and Dr. Gasper. She stated that the Elementary School level should get back to full time. Her son feels better at school. Her younger child has been struggling with virtual learning. But she did say that the teachers have been doing great.

Melissa Hughes, 103 Hickory Lane, stated that she is concerned of the safety of Full-time for Elementary School because of the class size. She believes this should be more manageable.

Motion: by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. D’Angelo to have Elementary Schools and Middle School students return to school full-time and in-person learning 5-days a week and to review the High School at a later date.

Mr. Hughes and Mr. D’Angelo rescinded their motion.

Motion: by Mr. Hughes to have Elementary School and Middle School students attend school full-time and in-person Learning with a 4-day schedule to allow one day for cleaning of the buildings.

Mr. Hughes rescinded his motion.

Motion: by Mr. D’Angelo, seconded by Mr. Hughes to have full day Kindergarten through 8th grade on October 8, 2020 with Wednesday’s being a half day for teacher planning:

A roll call was taken:

Name	Yes	No
Mr. Charette	1	
Mrs. Cordone	2	
Mr. D’Angelo	3	
Mr. Gugliotti		1
Mr. Hughes	4	
Ms. Leonard	5	
Mrs. Mazza	6	
Mr. McMurray	7	
Mrs. Mancini	8	

Motion Carries.

Items for the Next Agenda:

The next meeting is October 05, 2020. Board members can contact the Board of Education Office if you have additional agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mrs. Cordone, seconded by Mrs. Charette, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. So voted.

Recordings of all Board of Education Meetings that have been on Google Meet could be found on the Wolcott Public Schools Website: www.wolcottps.org