

# WILLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Town Office Building, Lower Level Conference Room

1. Call to Order
2. Communications
3. Present to Speak  
Speakers will be recognized by the Chairman and identify himself/herself by name and address and proceed with his/her comments. All persons will be limited to five (5) minutes. The total time allotted for Present to Speak shall not exceed twenty (20) minutes and is at the discretion of the Board and may not address specific personnel issues. *Board of Education Policy 9325*
4. Presentations  
iPad update - HMS teachers Laura Rodriguez and Mike Cioe  
2014 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip - HMS Principal Deborah Sullivan  
Food Service account update - Superintendent David Harding
5. Superintendent Reports
6. Transfers
7. Committee Reports
8. New Business  
A. Approve minutes of April 10, 2013 (Attachment 1)
9. Old Business  
A. Update on Siemen's energy efficiency plan
10. Present to Speak
11. Board Comments
12. Adjournment

## **Superintendent Notes:**

**May 14, 2013**

I have renewed the contract with M&J Bus as had been discussed at prior BOE meetings. The section dealing with the lease of the bus lot is now a separate document between the bus company and the town. Also the CIP passed the referendum and includes fixes to the lot as well as the trailer.

Here are the results from the state History Day contest. Only one student, Rachel Horowitz-Benoit, is going to nationals. Rachel got 2nd place for her paper on Roe v. Wade. We also got two special awards: Andrew Marco-Outstanding Entry Related to Civics, Government or Citizenship for his performance on Sputnik; Liam Parsell and Macon Jeffreys-Outstanding Entry in Maritime History for their documentary on the Panama Canal.

The budget passed on Tuesday. The numbers were low but the margin was good. It was a difficult budget season and I want to thank all of you for your efforts in supporting the schools.

As you know Linda Blinn is retiring at the end of this year. Phil has been conducting interviews and having candidates teach model lessons. He has sent me the finalist who I will be interviewing on Monday. I hope to present this candidate to the BOE on Tuesday.

Holly is also conducting interviews for a special ed teacher. One of our teachers has taken a position in another district.

The graduation date for HMS is June 21. Let me know if you plan on attending and if you need tickets.

There have been some issues with the leach fields at HMS. We have a company looking at whether it is a clogged pipe, broken pipe, or worse. I hope to have some updated info by the BOE meeting.

I will be presenting a transfer for new laptop carts for HMS at the meeting. Phil Stevens will also be asking for some money for additional work on a door at CES and to have a sidewalk installed near the basketball courts. Phil's requests are not for a lot of money and he has my support in both requests.

I will give an update on the lunch program, Deb will begin a discussion about next year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade taking a field trip to Philadelphia and a few teachers will give an update on how the iPad implementation is going.

There have been significant reductions in the amount of work that will be done under the energy efficiency study. I will give an update on Tuesday.

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013  
(Unofficial Until Board Approval)

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by Vice Chairman Leo Mercado at the Town Office Building.

PRESENT: Barry Wallett, Leo Mercado, Mark Jones, Heather Estey,  
Superintendent David Harding

ABSENT: Erika Wiecenski, Herb Arico, Michelle Cunningham

COMMUNICATIONS:  
None

PRESENT TO SPEAK:  
None

PRESENTATION:  
Superintendent David Harding presented on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Smarter Balance Assessment giving an overview of the CCSS benefits, differences, and changes, reviewing the Smarter Balance Assessment showing examples of questions and scoring. He answered Board questions and gave members the websites to look at further examples of the assessments.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS:  
Superintendent reported the Budget was presented on April 9, 2013 and stated the meeting was brief. The numbers presented were the same as previously discussed.

Superintendent noted there is a date set for a meeting on the Siemen's energy efficiency plan for April 30, 2013. He is hoping some decision is reached soon so planning for the summer schedule to deal with the change in oil demand that will occur as a result can be completed.

Superintendent updated on the extension of the bus contract stating that he met with M & J Bus and they agreed to remove the language regarding the trailer so that it will not interfere with him going forward with a new contract.

He informed the Board that he is scheduled to visit Ashford on April 18, 2013 to see how they are implementing their breakfast program. Logistically there are a lot of items that would need consideration. Looking at another school will help to make the decision to move forward or not.

He notified Board members that there was damage to the bleachers and basketball cranks at HMS as a result of use by the recreation department. The damage was almost \$2,000.00. The recreation department does not have enough money to cover the cost of repairs and have asked to split the cost with the BOE. He agreed to this compromise but would like to budget money in the future for gym maintenance. There have been a number of problems that have cost money and since we do not charge for use the BOE ends up having to pay for those repairs. He will be meeting with the recreation committee later this month to try and minimize damage.

He informed the Board that there is a success assembly at HMS on Friday, April 12, 2013.

**TRANSFERS:**

Superintendent Harding presented and explained the transfer requests to the Board. Board discussed the various transfers to cover additional transportation expenses per IEP recommendations for Special Education, the replacement of the Blue Ribbon assessment program, the new database to track the new teacher evaluation system, the upgrades to camera systems, replacement laptops for teachers, and the replacement of the computer lab at HMS.

**MOTION:** by Barry Wallett, seconded by Mark Jones, to approve the transfers in the amount of \$6,850.00 for Special Education Transportation, \$10,128.00 for new assessments, \$4,254.00 for new database MyLearning Plan, \$6,150.00 for camera system upgrade, \$3,276.00 for replacement laptops, and \$19,200 for computer lab replacement as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed the health insurance decrease from the negotiations at the end of last year and possible amount of funds left which will be better determined in May after all spending has been concluded.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Finance Committee met and reviewed the bills.

Negotiations Committee met and reviewed the starting points of the process.

The Siemens Energy Efficiency Committee met and determined it is not cost effective to do the work at Center School that was proposed therefore only the Hall School work will be presented. They are to meet again and determine if need to take proposal to town or if Selectman make the decisions.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** by Mark Jones, seconded by Heather Estey, to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2013 Board meeting.

**VOTE:** Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed the annual Healthy Food Certification for the next school year with Vice Chairman signing the certification form.

**MOTION:** by Heather Estey, seconded by Mark Jones, to approve the annual CSDE Healthy Food Certification for July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous in Favor

Board requested that Superintendent Harding present the figures for the Food Service Report at the next board meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Superintendent Harding discussed the Educator Evaluation Plans stating that he submitted the plan but the State sent notice after the last board meeting requiring a signature of the board chair to approve the submission of the plan. The State gave feedback on the first submission and once signed by the board chair it will be officially resubmitted. Board members agreed to have the Board Chairman sign the Educator Evaluation Plan for resubmission to the State.

**PRESENT TO SPEAK:**

None

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Board thanked Superintendent Harding for his presentation on the CCSS and Smarter Balance Assessment, the Night of Champions was a success and good to see so many people supporting the event, looking forward to Earth Day at Center School stating it is a great tradition that gets parents involved.

Board asked Center School Principal, Phil Stevens, to explain the upcoming Earth Day events. Phil Stevens stated it will be a community clean-up event at Center School to spruce up the grounds due to the messy winter. They are looking at donations and help with mulch, top soil, and plantings. He will be sending information again through the digital backpack to parents.

Phil Stevens also mentioned that Josh Wojtyna has been working on his Eagle Scout project to revitalize the nature trail at Center School. Stating Josh is doing a great job and the teachers are excited to be able to use the trail again.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Nichole Page  
Recording Secretary