

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014  
(Unofficial Until Board Approval)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Vice Chairman Michelle Cunningham at the Town Office Building.

**PRESENT:** Michelle Cunningham, Ann Grosjean, Mark Jones, Barry Wallett  
Herb Arico, Leo Mercado, Erika Wiecenski (arrived at 7:17 p.m.)  
Superintendent David Harding

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION:** by Herb Arico, seconded by Ann Grosjean, to move Presentation Item 5 before Superintendent Reports Item 4 on the Agenda.

**VOTE:** All in Favor  
Motion Passed

**COMMUNICATIONS:**  
None

**PRESENT TO SPEAK:**  
Superintendent Harding explained that he invited the Board of Finance, and the Board of Selectman to attend the presentation and be able to participate in the discussion of such.

**PRESENTATION:**  
Superintendent Harding introduced Steve Lemanski, a consulting actuary from Milliman, who handed out copies of the actuarial report for the Willington Board of Education Other Post-Employment Benefits Program (OPEB) June 30, 2014 Valuation Results.

Mr. Lemanski presented the report explaining the accrued liability and Annual Required Contribution (ARC) are lower than in the June 2011 actuarial valuation due to the combined impact of the High Deductible Health Plan and using assumptions customized to the Board's plan. He reviewed the assumptions, terminology, benefits, eligibility, summary data, assets and liabilities, the implicit rate subsidy, and the OPEB Trust details.

Members asked questions and discussed details throughout the presentation. Board thanked Mr. Lemanski for the great information and presentation.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS:**  
Superintendent Harding reported that the Information Technology Specialist, Rob Levesque, has left the district. An ad was placed and he interviewed last week and received a verbal commitment from the applicant. The applicant is someone who has worked with the district already and people are excited for him to begin on January 5, 2015.

Superintendent reviewed the annual school calendar stating it is aligned with the region. He asked members to review the calendar, members decided to table the calendar decision until the next meeting in January.  
Members questioned when the State was going to start the calendar compliance requirement and

if we are in compliance. Superintendent responded in one more year the requirement will begin and we are aligned with EastConn, Region 19, Mansfield and Ashford. The specific requirements have not yet been released and he suspects there will be a lot of push back from many districts.

Superintendent stated he is still working on the presentation for the January workshop on declining enrollment and should have a draft for the Board to review before the holiday break.

Superintendent reviewed that a UConn representative is coming to speak at the next meeting about the new tech park and the implications of that. He has invited the Economic Development Committee, the Board of Finance, the Board of Selectman and Planning & Zoning to attend.

Members questioned if a meeting location change would create a special meeting with the consensus being that it would not.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee met and reviewed the bills.

Facilities Committee met last week and discussed the management of facilities and are still looking at the options if CREC assists with some recommendations. Superintendent contacted Siemens about getting quotes for some of the work.

Transportation Committee has not met but the delayed opening went well and there have not been any issues with the recent bus changes.

Member stated she received a parent comment about a robo call not being made for the delayed opening. Board discussed that robo calls are only made for emergency closings or unless there is a very unusual emergency that takes place. The information for the delays, snow or weather closings are put on TV and the internet which parents can subscribe to notifications through WFSB and this information is in the digital backpack and on the website. Superintendent stated he will have the schools send another reminder about finding this information to keep everyone informed.

Herb Arico stated he attended the CAFE Delegate Assembly on November 13, 2014 where they deliberated on important issues affecting education where resolutions done by assembly become the official position of CAFE. A brochure eventually gets sent out to all members.

Herb Arico stated he also attended the CAFE/CAPPS annual convention on November 14 and 15 which includes superintendents and BOE members. The convention was good with an aim to inspire members to be active with information and innovative ideas. The guest speaker was an astronaut originally from Waterbury, CT who has been on four missions spending a total of 220 days in space who inspired with a story of his tough times in school and how it took him over 10 years to get into NASA.

Herb Arico, Liaison for Charter, met with reps from Charter and discussed the digital changeover of cable boxes. Mike Nelson of the Access community on TV discussed overview of their activities and popularity of the station. He mentioned that Willington schools have participated as well. There are funds available to be distributed but they are having difficulty finding recipients and may provide more money to Mike Nelson indirectly to help them develop programs.

Herb Arico, Liaison for EastConn stated they did not meet in November and December but will meet on January 28, 2015.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** by Michelle Cunningham, seconded by Herb Arico, to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2014 Board meeting.

**VOTE:** Yes: H. Arico, M. Cunningham, L. Mercado, A. Grosjean,  
M. Jones, B. Wallett

Abstain: E. Wiecenski

Motion Passed

Superintendent stated there were not any transfers at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Superintendent Harding stated the update on the Board goal would be part of the January meeting.

**PRESENT TO SPEAK:**

Superintendent Harding asked First Selectman, Christina Mailhos how the decision gets made for the OPEB Fund and her opinion on it. She replied that she feels the Board of Finance would have input and be the ones who oversee it but the BOE would be involved.

Superintendent questioned the concept and stated it needs to be decided whether or not to fund it before decide who oversees it. Members and Christina Mailhos discussed the amounts, percentages, MBR, overfunding and underfunding, discount rate, management of the fund and the costs.

Christina Mailhos thanked Superintendent Harding for his leadership and help with all the IT issues they have been through and stated it is great how it is all working out and she is happy.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Board thanked Superintendent for having the Milliman presentation stating it was interesting and informative. Members attended the Shakespeare Play at HMS which was very good, looking forward to the HMS chorus coming to the senior center on December 17, and the HMS concerts this Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Member noted the current Commissioner of Education is retiring and expect changes with a new hire.

First Selectman, Christina Mailhos, informed of the Boards holiday party tomorrow night at Hilltop and wanted to say the select chorus was invited to the town tree lighting ceremony and thanked Jason Phillips for doing such a great job, it was a pleasure to work with him.

Board wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Nichole Page  
Recording Secretary