

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015
(Unofficial Until Board Approval)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Erika Wiecenski at the Town Office Building.

PRESENT: Erika Wiecenski, Ann Grosjean, Mark Jones, Barry Wallett, Herb Arico
Mark Makuch (exited at 7:48, returned at 8:25), Superintendent David Harding

ABSENT: Michelle Cunningham

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS:

Superintendent reported the current enrollment of Willington Public Schools as of Friday, March 6, 2015 is 439 (CES - 233) (HMS -206). He noted this is 26 more than the projected amount for this year.

Superintendent stated he met with the insurance brokers last week and received information on the options available including for the retirees which carry most of the unfunded liability. The broker provided a spreadsheet of information which he had some questions on and it will be further clarified. There will be an open enrollment meeting in May for the employees and the retirees will be invited. He is pleased to know the retirees will have options as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee met and reviewed the bills.

Herb Arico, Liaison for EastConn stated they met on February 24, 2015 reviewing budget, head start program, and audits. Andy DePalma the Director of IT for EastConn presented an overview of the services offered in technology, support, infrastructure, data management, and cloud services. Schools are able to contact him with issues and utilize the services. The next meeting will be held on March 24, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Erika Wiecenski, seconded by Barry Wallett, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2015 Board meeting with clarification on statement made by Barry Wallett on page 4 under Old Business, to read "The remaining topics of curriculum, to know when the curriculum will be available to the public and direction of computer usage, to clarify what is good and what is the end objective and how to achieve and measure that. In addition any other old business items ..."

VOTE: Yes: H. Arico, B. Wallett, M. Jones, A. Grosjean, E. Wiecenski
Abstain: M. Makuch

Motion Passed

Board reviewed committee assignments with Superintendent reminding the Board that committees can be revamped, new categories can be created and out dated ones can be eliminated, and reassignments can be made. Board added a technology committee and reviewed the other assignments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Superintendent Harding handed out copies of a narrative for two proposals, a capacity sheet showing projections for classrooms at HMS, and a copy of the South Windsor Public Schools Proposed Elementary School Facility Plan.

Board reviewed the information and discussed the narratives. The first narrative was to partner with Ashford school district, dividing grades between each town. Superintendent stated he spoke with Ashford and will be meeting with the Superintendent tomorrow. He stated they were interested in having a conversation about ideas and possibilities. The Board developed a list of pros and cons for this narrative.

The second narrative was to tuition out students to Mansfield Middle School. Superintendent Harding stated he spoke with Mansfield and found out the tuition cost would be about \$17,061.00 not including transportation. He stated that Mansfield did not have any room for this to be an option. The cost of this option would exceed the savings.

The Board discussed the process, if any of the ideas presented were to eventually become a plan, on how the plan would be implemented. Superintendent Harding informed that a plan of this type would require a referendum. This would mean the Board would have to have the community's input, plans approved, and then brought to a vote at referendum.

The Board wanted to be clear that these proposals are just ideas that need to be explored and discussed but there is a lot of research and work to be done before any plan could be proposed to the community.

The Board discussed the budget update. Superintendent Harding stated the insurance quotes came in less than the original estimates providing a \$22,838.00 savings. However there is a strong potential for an additional Special Education out of district placement that could be an added cost of approximately \$85,000. The net difference between these two items would be approximately \$62,000 in the negative. This amount was not known when the budget was configured. The original budget was at 0%, this new amount would increase the percentage amount.

Board discussed the budget amount and any possible areas to cut to remain at zero deciding that the work was previously done on the budget, the needs have not changed and if this occurred after the BOF approved the budget the Board would have to go to the BOF to request additional funds.

Board discussed the facilities with Superintendent Harding reporting that Emcor is doing the surveys and should have them done and feedback about their service contract ready by the middle of April. The company is also doing compressor work at HMS and has already done work at CES. This has allowed an evaluation of their services to gauge the quality of the work so far which has been good.

Superintendent reported on the curriculum stating it is on the district website in two folders, one for CES and for HMS. Each folder contains files by grade and subject. Board discussed the

Superintendent getting a list of the textbooks being used and he stated he would provide textbooks to be reviewed at the next curriculum committee meeting.

Superintendent Harding stated he received some preliminary information about the changes in the E.O. Smith budget that would reduce the amount for Willington from \$70,000 to about \$42,177. This change would save the town about \$28,000.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

BOARD COMMENTS:

Board welcomed Mark Makuch and thanked him for joining the Board again. Board thanked Superintendent Harding for all the research he has done and for the good job on calling snow days. Thanked the Board for all the work put in at the workshops. Members attended and read at CES for Dr. Seuss Birthday enjoying the event, and attended the Eastern Regionals where the music and students performing were amazing and stated the basketball season has ended.

Member inquired if there was any interaction with the public library and the schools. Superintendent responded that there are not any current programs.

MOTION: by Erika Wiecenski, seconded by Herb Arico, to enter executive session at 8:36 p.m. to discuss pending litigation and invite the Superintendent to join.

VOTE: All in Favor
Motion Passed

Board exited executive session at 9:10 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Nichole Page
Recording Secretary