

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014  
(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, Michelle Cunningham, Ann Grosjean, Mark Jones,  
Barry Walleth, Herb Arico, Leo Mercado, Superintendent David Harding,

ABSENT: None

COMMUNICATIONS:  
None

PRESENT TO SPEAK:  
None

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

VOTE: All in Favor  
Motion Passed

PRESENTATION:

Greg Moore from Edgenuity presented on what the company offers. He explained his background in education stated he was a teacher and administrator before working for Edgenuity. He explained that Edgenuity is an online and blended learning solution that delivers video-led instruction and real-world assignments to engage students, help teachers personalize instruction with real-time data, and empower administrators with flexible solutions to address academic challenges.

He reviewed the instructional services, courses offered, professional development and start up training, technical support, and the MyPath program. He showed sample lessons and the websites for students and teachers. He gave information about the videos, courses, curriculum, supplementing staff, reducing costs and funding, concept coaches, layers of support, success coaches, and sample models.

He explained the pricing structure for different models of either instructional services, per semester course enrollment or full time semester enrollment.

He gave an example of 5 licenses concurrent for 25 courses would cost \$500 per license per year or one student for instructional services would be \$325 per student per semester course.

The licenses allow the school to use the curriculum for that course as needed for the year. The curriculum can be adjusted and edited to meet the needs of each student as necessary. The curriculum is aligned with Common Core State Standards and offers many assessments throughout each course to show the data of each student's progress. The program allows schools the ability to offer courses that they would not normally be able to offer to students such as alternate languages. It allows the schools the ability to individualize the curriculum as needed and for students to learn at their own pace. Students have the ability to go ahead in the programs without waiting for the rest of the class to complete certain tasks while other students can go at a slower pace to meet their needs. The programs are very helpful for both remediation and enrichment.

The Board asked questions of Mr. Moore regarding start up costs and hardware which he replied with pricing of \$950 for the media appliance hardware and on-site training of \$2500 or on-line training for \$500 along with the annual costs of the course licenses stated previously.

Mr. Moore will set up the Board members with trial accounts so that they can view the courses and the site and ask any other questions.

The Board thanked Mr. Moore for his presentation.

#### SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS:

Superintendent Harding stated he will be attending the BOF meeting on Thursday to answer questions about the MBR. The BOF noted in the minutes that money was saved with the buses and wanted to reduce the budget to make the MBR lower but it is at MBR so that is not possible without being penalized from the State. There is nothing new in that area and he expects the maximum budget cut this year will be between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

Superintendent reported that Deborah Sullivan brought an inquiry from St. Joseph's college about using Hall Memorial School as a satellite site to teach a graduate program in education. This could generate revenue of \$75.00 per room per night for multiple rooms for several nights per week. The enrollment for the program is for two years then would renew after that. Hall School has the required infrastructure, internet and wireless along with Smartboards that are needed by such a program.

The Board instructed the Superintendent to arrange for the potential funds to be properly accounted for.

Board members asked Superintendent about the number for the teacher's retirement and if that is in yet. Superintendent replied they are working on it and should be concluding with information soon.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee met and reviewed the bills.

Facilities Committee reported that the changes made to the morning bus routes for Hall School have benefited most students and that there has not been any complaints. The bus company will be more diligent about this moving forward.

Herb Arico, Liaison for EastConn stated they met on September 23, 2014 discussed implementation of a new three year technology plan for digital learning. They are in the process of developing the plan.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

**MOTION:** by Erika Wiecenski, seconded by Herb Arico, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2014 Board meeting with a minor typographical edit on the bottom of page 1.

**VOTE:** All in Favor  
Motion Passed

Superintendent informed the Board that he received the letter of retirement from Ron Strong on October 3, 2014 to be effective as of October 6, 2014. Mr. Strong was previously on a sabbatical and was to either return or to retire by October 6, 2014.

During this time CREC has been assessing the facilities, products, vendors, and schedules. CREC is almost done with a report of their findings. Once the report is received a facilities meeting will be needed. At this time the Superintendent recommends that nothing be changed. He would like to look at the report, leave the budget alone except for transferring some funds from the salary account to the maintenance account. Everything has been running smoothly so far and he would like to continue until the end of the year then decide the best approach for the situation. Ron was unique in his position and what he brought to it. Superintendent noted that Ron had over 30 years in Willington schools and he is sorry to see him go and wishes him well. Members requested a note to be sent from the Board to Mr. Strong.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Superintendent Harding stated there is not any new information on the enrollment.

Superintendent stated that the CES roof project is complete and the State requires approval from the board due to the reimbursements to be received.

**MOTION:** by Herb Arico, seconded by Erika Wicewski, moves that the Board accepts as complete the Center School Partial Roof Replacement.

**VOTE:** All in Favor  
Motion Passed

Board determined the first workshop will be at Hall Memorial School on October 22, 2014 at 7 p.m.

**PRESENT TO SPEAK:**  
None

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Board thanked Superintendent for having the Edgenuity presentation stating it opens a lot of options and it is exciting. Thanked Ron Strong for his many years of service indicating there were a lot of things he did that others would not do, stating he will be missed and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Members thanked Barry Wallett for bringing Education 2020 which turned into Edgenuity to their attention a while back.

Superintendent requested the Board members give him feedback on the Edgenuity presentation and what they liked to see so he has more information before bringing in other vendors and presenters.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Nichole Page  
Recording Secretary