

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013  
(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, Herb Arico, Michelle Cunningham, Barry Wallett,  
Leo Mercado, Mark Jones, Heather Estey (arrived at 7:04p.m.), Superintendent  
David Harding

ABSENT: None

COMMUNICATIONS:  
None

PRESENT TO SPEAK:  
None

PRESENTATION:

Superintendent David Harding presented on the draft of the Educator Evaluation Plans. He reviewed the legislation leading up to education reform that went into effect last year. He stated that the original document came from EastConn that has been modified to meet our district's needs. He stated he hopes to submit the plan to the state this week, it is due by April 15, 2013 but he would like to get it in early to be able to receive some feedback before implementation has to begin by July 1, 2013. He reviewed the plans rating systems for teachers and administrators and explained the costs that will be involved in implementing the new plan for training and data systems including a new assessment program to replace the Blue Ribbon program currently used. He answered questions from the Board and discussed the possibility of adding a professional development day at the end of the year to train the staff on the new system.

Kate Levesque and Pat Pinney presented on the HMS Morning News Show Grant that was received from the Public Utilities Regulatory Committee in the amount of \$37,609.00 to be used to update the technology for the program. The grant allows for the purchase of new professional equipment including a Mac server and professional cameras. This equipment will make it possible for the morning news program to operate as a real studio with video production and editing capabilities, live web streaming, access to Charter cable to air the videos, and ability to film and broadcast or stream school events. Their consultant Todd Levesque was present and answered Board questions regarding some set up and training that will be involved once the equipment is purchased.

The Board thanked Kate Levesque, Pat Pinney and Todd Levesque for all their work that went into writing and receiving the grant.

MOTION: by Erika Wiecenski, seconded by Leo Mercado, to add item 7 B Assessment of the 2012-2013 Calendar to the agenda.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS:

Superintendent reported he met with the insurance broker and the rate will be approximately 9.8% for next year. This is a decrease that would allow approximately \$20,000.00 to be taken out of the health insurance line item from the budget next year. Superintendent will communicate this information to the Board of Finance before the next meeting.

Superintendent stated that the Siemen's energy efficiency meeting is scheduled for tomorrow and that Mark Jones and Ron Strong will attend. Others are welcome to attend if they are interested.

Superintendent noted that SEPTO has continued to support the schools with generous donations. This month they have donated \$1,200.00 for the purchase of books, apps, and an iPad for special education. He thanked them for their continued support.

Superintendent stated that the books will be closed over April vacation and the achievement grant funds will be able to be used to purchase 20 iPads for Center School use.

Superintendent gave an iPad update discussing the collection of the iPads from the grade 8 students before the end of the school year and the possibility of grade 7 students being able to take the iPads home over the summer. Board discussed the various issues concerning breakage, repairs, and support if students were to take home iPads for the summer and the use of iPads for summer school students.

He notified Board members that a contract negotiation sub-committee needs to be established due to the teacher contract being up next year. Leo Mercado, Herb Arico and Michele Cunningham expressed interest in being on the committee. Board discussed the time frame for the meetings with various deadlines throughout the process.

Superintendent notified the Board that he received a letter from the STEM magnet school in Windham asking if the district is interested in being a member. He recommends at this time not to be a member due to the tuition costs and having to hold seats. Instead wait until next year and then budget for one or two seats based on interest.

Superintendent stated that at this time he does not have any factual information on the impact or any amounts in regards to the effects of the sequester. He will inform the Board as soon as he has any official word.

Board asked if there was an updated number for the kindergarten enrollment, Principal Phil Stevens stated he did not have the official number but thought it was around 42. He will send the actual figure to the Superintendent tomorrow to pass onto the Board.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee met and reviewed the bills.

Herb Arico, Liaison for EastConn met in February and the director presented on the packet for the teacher evaluation which was informative. EastConn also has to submit the plan to the state with everyone else. Next meeting to be March 26, 2013.

Superintendent Harding asked Herb Arico to thank EastConn for their work on the Educator Evaluation document stating it was very helpful.

Herb Arico and Michelle Cunningham attended the CABE Day on the hill, met with the governor, the CABE director and legislators. They paraded to the State House and broke up into

groups and met with legislators. It was informative, an important day for CAFE to exert influence on legislators, gives them support. The governor is pushing all the legislation that he can, including the teacher evaluation plan. Funding for training for the evaluation plan was also discussed.

Erika Wicewski informed of the CAFE results of budget information and stated we are in line with our increase amounts and the DRG with everyone else. The report shows all towns having an increase this year. Members commented on the results and the possibility of future regionalization for the town if increases continue.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Michelle Cunningham, seconded by Herb Arico, to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2013 Board meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed the 2012-2013 calendar, the snow days, the new ending date for students, adding in a professional development day for staff, and the required number of days in the school year.

MOTION: by Erika Wicewski, seconded by Mark Jones, to approve the 2012-2013 calendar with 181 student days, the last student day on 6/21/13, and a professional development day for staff on 6/24/13 as proposed.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

#### PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

#### BOARD COMMENTS:

Board thanked Kate Levesque and Pat Pinney for the grant presentation and the teachers, administrators and Superintendent Harding for all their work on the educator evaluation plans. Thanked Center School for inviting them to the Read Across America Day and SEPTO for their generous donations.

Commented that the Day on the Hill with CAFE was eventful and useful, provided material on security issues which we are on par with, and was nice to converse with other district board members. Board discussed the stone wall in the parking lot at CES stating it was holding up nicely with the snow removal. Commented that the Wealth program ended, it was started with stimulus funds and now is in our budget, it was very successful running from mid-October through the end of February with about 29 students this year, with phenomenal feedback from parents and students, and encouraged anyone interested in the program to speak with Holly DiBella-McCarthy.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION: by Michelle Cunningham, seconded by Heather Dancosse, to enter into executive session and invite Superintendent Harding to join to discuss the mid-year evaluation of the Superintendent.

Vote: Unanimous in Favor

Board exited executive session at 9:37 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Nichole Page  
Recording Secretary