

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2013

Vice-chairman Leo Mercado called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

PRESENT: Herb Arico, Michelle Doucette Cunningham, Barry Wallett, Leo Mercado,  
Superintendent David Harding

ABSENT: Erika Wiecenski, Mark Jones, Heather Estey

Superintendent Harding informed the Board of the need to add items to tonight's agenda: the addition of a paraprofessional position at Center School, and, the security camera placement at Center School.

MOTION: by Michelle Doucette Cunningham, seconded by Herb Arico to add to tonight's agenda, under new business, Item E -The Addition of a Paraprofessional Position at Center School, and, Item F – Security Camera Placement at Center School.

VOTE: All in favor

MOTION PASSED.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Harding read a letter from 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents regarding withdrawing the field trip request to Philadelphia. As an alternative, a group of parents will investigate the possibility of a parent-run trip during April vacation.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Ann Grosjean introduced herself as a democrat candidate for election to the Board of Education in November.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS:

Superintendent Harding made the following reports:

Connecticut Mastery Test scores became available to the public today at 3:00 p.m. There is nothing out of the ordinary in our scores. The same patterns over the past few years continue. There will be a full presentation in September.

He has applied for 2 grants; a security grant and a technology grant. Although we meet the requirements for each grant, he is not optimistic we will receive funds since we are not a priority school district.

The Energy Performance Contracting Initiative and bus lot repair and trailer replacement will be voted on at a Town Meeting on 8.14.2013. He encourages residents to attend the meeting.

The Board will review policies on iPads, Internet Safety and Transfer of funds.

Enrollment projections will be discussed at every Board meeting into the near future.

iPad rollout for students began last night.

Representative Sam Belsito will visit the schools in September.

Superintendent Harding reported on the Connecticut 2013 Legislative Update and handed out copies of Legal Issues for Connecticut Boards of Education.

The Finance Committee met and reviewed and paid bills.

Herb Arico reported that he attended the CABA Summer Conference in Saybrook where Tom Mooney spoke and that he received good information on teacher evaluations.

#### NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Michelle Doucette Cunningham, to approve the minutes of July 9, 2013.

VOTE: All in favor

MOTION PASSED.

The Board discussed Policy 3160, Transfer of Funds.

MOTION: by Michelle Doucette Cunningham, seconded by Barry Wallett to approve Policy 3160, Transfer of Funds.

VOTE: Yes: Michelle Doucette Cunningham, Barry Wallett, Leo Mercado

No: Herb Arico

MOTION PASSED.

The Board reviewed Policy 6141.321 Internet Safety which includes language change to reflect state requirements.

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Michelle Doucette Cunningham, to approve Policy 6141.321

VOTE: All in favor

MOTION PASSED.

Superintendent Harding reported on the current lunch and milk prices (\$2.20 for lunch including milk at Center School, and \$2.35 for lunch including milk at Hall School, just milk is \$0.45 at each school). Discussion followed regarding current price. Superintendent Harding recommends leaving prices as is. Lunch Operations Manager, Wendy Knight and her staff are doing a fantastic job.

MOTION: by Michelle Doucette Cunningham, seconded by Herb Arico, to maintain current lunch and milk prices.

VOTE: All in favor

MOTION PASSED.

The Board discussed adding a paraprofessional position for kindergarten.

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Michelle Doucette Cunningham, to add a paraprofessional position for kindergarten.

VOTE: All in favor

MOTION PASSED.

The Board discussed the security camera placement at Center School.

MOTION: by Michelle Doucette Cunningham, seconded by Herb Arico, to approve the security camera placement at Center School

VOTE: All in favor

MOTION PASSED.

#### OLD BUSINESS

The Board reviewed policy 5131.82 iPad Acceptable Use Policy with modifications made since the last review.

MOTION: by Michelle Doucette Cunningham, seconded by Herb Arico, to approve Policy 5131.82 as presented.

VOTE: All in favor

MOTION PASSED.

Superintendent Harding presented enrollment projections. He stated we will need to change what we do, because of decreasing enrollment, in order to save money and increase the quality of our programs. He suggests next school year to move the fourth grade from Hall School to Center School. If fourth grade is moved to Center School, it would make space available at Hall School and allow for possible reductions in staff and also create an opportunity to be innovative and start a program that might attract some revenue. Barry Wallett stated that the decreasing enrollment is making us vulnerable to regionalization and we need to be proactive. Board discussed how to proceed. Superintendent Harding would like to involve the Principals and parents in the discussions. Michelle Doucette Cunningham said she appreciates the fact that because of the size of the schools principals are able to easily communicate with parents, but because of the enrollment projections, we must look at the bigger picture. Board will continue to discuss fourth grade move to Center School at next Board meeting. Herb Arico suggested adding an Eastconn program at Hall School.

Superintendent Harding presented information on a Teacher Early Retirement Incentive. Board discussed the plan and agreed to implement the plan.

MOTION: by Barry Wallett, seconded by Michelle, to implement the Teacher Early Retirement Incentive Plan and to include language that this is a onetime offer.

VOTE: All in favor

MOTION PASSED.

PRESENT TO SPEAK

No one.

BOARD COMMENTS

Michelle Doucette Cunningham stated that she appreciates Superintendent Harding applying for grants for the district. She is pleased with the iPad distribution and glad we are close to the start of school.

Herb Arico stated that Teacher negotiations are proceeding. He said that staffing is all set and we are ready for the new school year. He stated that he likes the idea of offering an early retirement incentive and that it is a positive step forward.

Leo Mercado thanked Superintendent Harding for his innovative ideas and wished the staff a good new school year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Recorded by  
Robin Campbell