

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2015
(Unofficial Until Board Approval)

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Michelle Cunningham at the Town Office Building.

PRESENT: Ann Grosjean, Michelle Cunningham, Mark Makuch, Herb Arico,
Superintendent David Harding

ABSENT: Erika Wiecenski, Mark Jones, Barry Wallett

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS:

Superintendent Harding informed the Board of the resignations and new hires this summer. A new special education teacher, Melinda Chaffee, was hired to replace Annette Hamilton and a new band teacher, Joseph Kuhlman, was hired to replace Lauren Quinn. He explained we were fortunate to have a good pool of people for both positions.

Superintendent stated that one of the Spanish teachers, Liz Peczuh, has accepted a position in East Hartford as the head of the ELL program for that district. Interviews will begin next week to fill that position, he stated it is a shortage area and may be difficult to fill.

Board discussed the Spanish program, eliminating or decreasing the position, the grades taught and how often and the effects of a change on the current schedule and future plans for the position.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee met and reviewed the bills.

Herb Arico, Liaison for EastConn stated the next meeting will be on August 25, 2015.

TRANSFERS:

Superintendent presented two transfers, the first for Non-Certified Salary due to the new contract salary increases, shifting one custodian from full time at HMS to part time at HMS and part time at CES, and all custodial salary increases to come from health insurance where it was residing as a placeholder for this. The second, for maintenance items to be taken from the Head District Custodian Salary position as previously planned to cover the cost at each school for the EMCOR contract.

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Ann Grosjean, to accept the two transfers as presented.

VOTE: All in Favor
Motion Passed

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Michelle Cunningham, to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2015 Board meeting with minor grammatical edit.

VOTE: Yes: Herb Arico, Michelle Cunningham, Mark Makuch
Abstain: Ann Grosjean

Motion Passed

Board reviewed the proposed amendments to the iPad Acceptable Use Policy 5131.82 to address the fact that the iPads will be for school use only. Board discussed the nature of the problem, the distractions and the complaints from teachers, administrators and parents. The Board discussed the revision not being punitive and making the consequences appropriate. Reviewed the future plans for the iPads and moving to Chromebooks. This should be the last year for the iPads. Learned a lot from using this technology and can use that information to be better prepared for the next version and moving into the use of the Chromebooks.

MOTION: by Ann Grosjean, seconded by Mark Makuch, to approve the amended iPad Acceptable Use Policy 5131.82 as presented.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion Passed

OLD BUSINESS:

Board reviewed and discussed the breakfast, lunch and milk pricing with Superintendent who informed that the request was sent to the CSDE to waive the price increase. He submitted the waiver stating the \$33,000 surplus in the account, the items suggested were not cost items, don't need more money for those things. He believes it is a decent argument and hopes to hear back soon.

Superintendent reported on facilities stating everything is in great shape, about a day away from completing phase I. He revisited and discussed phase II and got the price reduced down about \$15,000 so now only about \$13,000 for phase II.

The CIP for the HMS roof air handler is almost completed, the wiring is still being finished and they are putting the control panel in the custodial office. The roof at HMS is a couple days from completion as well, they are repairing a portion near the library to prevent the leaks.

The CIP for the continuation of the CES roof was wrapped up last week with a new ceiling that was installed. This work was covered via the insurance from the leak at the beginning of the school year.

Everything is going well, looking at some items that were originally suggested by CREC when they did the audit. Some items have already been implemented such as custodial uniforms and water closet cleaning supplies. We are also looking at carts for more efficient ways of cleaning instead of needing more people trying to do things smarter.

Phase I will be completed before starting on Phase II, all looks good for the opening of schools. Superintendent informed that he is not sure if we will save any money for this year with Phase II and any emergencies that come up.

Superintendent provided update on the Board goal stating after the Board retreat he met with First Selectman, Christina Mailhos. During the retreat Jim Rupert, the building inspector, did a presentation on multiple projects and what needs to be looked at in the whole town to be able to move forward with a new school. Superintendent spoke with the South Willington Preservation and revitalization group who met with the Hall Foundation. Discussed the possibilities, the need for the planning and zoning to change how to do business so that people will want to go into

business there, how to get people on board, share discussions, meet with BOS and BOF. This is a good time to start the conversations. Superintendent will be attending the next meetings with the BOF and BOS and will have more information for the Board at the September meeting.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

BOARD COMMENTS:

Members are glad the schools will be ready to open, that the facilities is settling into a new system with a good job being done by Superintendent Harding and the custodians. The situation could have been a loss of quality and expensive but has gotten to the point where it is a good system and has held or become better with spending the same or less money. Stated the Superintendent was most pivotal, commended the custodians for stepping up, it was a rough year at first but everyone made it work. Members are sad to see such good teachers leaving Willington but are excited to see the new teachers coming in.

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Ann Grosjean to enter into executive session at 7:47 p.m. to discuss the pending litigation and invite the Superintendent to join.

VOTE: All in Favor
Motion Passed

Board exited executive session at 8:10 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Nichole Page
Recording Secretary