

WILLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 13, 2022
Virtual Meeting: Zoom

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Zoom Recorded

Members Present (all present remotely through Zoom)

Michelle Doucette Cunningham - Chair

Ann Grosjean- Vice-Chair

Herb Arico - Secretary

Tracey Anderson

Briana Ross

Laura Rodriguez

Members Absent

Donna Cook

Also Present

Phil Stevens, Superintendent of Schools, members of the public.

1. Call to order

Chair Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Cunningham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Present to speak

None.

4. Chairman's report

Chair Cunningham briefly discussed the CABA conference that some board members attended.

5. Communications

None.

6. Presentation: Proposal for 8th Grade field trip to Washington DC

Superintendent Stevens discussed how this topic was brought up and that there was no policy when planning a class trip like this. The HMS principal presented information about the trip.

Mary Kay Tshonas, the principal at HMS, explained that the first thing she did regarding this field trip was discuss it with the parents. She sent out a survey twice to see how they would feel about letting their child attend and the financial obligations. She discussed the results of the survey. She then used slides to discuss the details of this field trip; the date, purpose, itinerary, cost, transportation, chaperones, hotel information, meal arrangements, and fundraising.

The board asked questions, discussed their thoughts and concerns regarding the field trip such as; the cost, chaperones, transportation, cancellation policy, meals arrangements and security deposit.

Chair Cunningham suggested having a contingency plan for any health emergencies that may occur on field trips. She also suggested Principal Tshonas collect more concrete information and revisit it with the board at an upcoming meeting.

7. Superintendent Report

a. General update

Superintendent Stevens discussed the school-based health mental health center and how many students are accessing it. He also discussed the CIP that the board approved last meeting and how they began to fix the problem. He shared information about the tree lighting; from handing out flyers for the school building committee to enjoying the children singing. He also reminded everyone about the winter concerts; Wednesday, December 14th at 6:30 pm for grades 5-6 and Thursday, December 15th at 6:30 pm for grades 7-8. Superintendent Stevens then discussed an email from the state rep that allows the board to meet with her and share their concerns. He shared the answers to two questions that came out of their data presentation.

b. Staffing

Superintendent Stevens discussed the hiring of Stacy Hinckley as the payroll coordinator. Also, Zac Thomas, the 6th-grade math teacher resigned and Michelle Shine, a 4th-grade teacher from Center School will be taking his position. They are working on hiring a new 4th-grade teacher now.

8. Financial Report

a. December 2022 financial report

Attachment #1

Superintendent Stevens shared the December financial report. He highlighted a few programs with various expenditures.

9. New Business

a. Presentation: School Building Committee

Superintendent Stevens shared an abbreviated presentation regarding the school building project. He explained he and the school building committee are trying their best to get out into the public and share all of the facts and give the public a chance to ask questions. They do want the public's opinion.

The Board discussed the presentation and asked Superintendent Stevens questions.

b. Approve minutes of 11.8.22 meeting and approve minutes of 12.5.22 meeting

H. Arico moved to approve the regular meeting minutes from November 8, 2022, and the special meeting minutes from December 5, 2022.

A. Grosjean seconded the motion.

6 yes, the motion passes unanimously.

10. Old Business

a. CES and HMS plumbing status

Superintendent Stevens shared a few pictures of the plumbing. One was from Center School and one was from Hall School. He then shared a chart regarding the plumbing needs throughout the school. He also explained they had a professional just walk through to give an idea of what needed to be fixed. He discussed the cost it could be to fix some of these items and what funds they could use.

The Board discussed the amount of money they would be willing to use from different funds. Also, they discussed the timeline.

Chair Cunningham moved to assign \$10,000 out of the non-lapsing fund divided evenly between the two schools, to begin to address the plumbing issues related to the sinks.

H. Arico seconded the motion.

The board agreed to start with a small amount of money and go from there.

6 yes, the motion passes unanimously.

11. Present to Speak

None.

12. Board Comment

A. Grosjean wanted to thank Zachary Thomas the 6th-grade math teacher for his time in Willington and wished him luck in his new adventures. She also wanted to welcome Stacy Hinkley.

H. Arico wanted to thank Mrs. Tshonas for her presentation regarding the field trip to Washington, DC. He thought the trip was a great idea. He inquired for an updated list of staff at both schools periodically. He also was wondering about the board having an opportunity to visit the science curriculum and if so when.

T. Anderson thanked Mrs. Tshonas for her presentation and remembered her field trip to Washington when she was younger. She thinks it is a great opportunity and hopes the Board would be approving it in the future. She also wanted to thank Public Works and Steve Folino for the help with the ramp at Hall School. She wished everyone a good rest of the year and holiday season.

L. Rodriguez agreed with the other board members and wanted to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season.

B. Ross suggested the plumbing issue be opened to students as a club. She explained more students probably know how to fix these items better than some adults and they would enjoy it. She also wanted to wish good luck to Mr. Thomas and thanked him for all the razzle-dazzle he brought to 6th-grade math. Lastly, she wanted to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday.

Chair Cunningham agreed with the comments made by the other board members. She also wanted to mention the chorus and the wonderful music they are sharing. She stated she was happy to have Herb back and wished everyone to stay healthy. Lastly, she thanked Superintendent Stevens.

13. Adjournment

Chair Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.

Nicole Fusco
Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting January 10, 2023

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