

WILLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 11, 2019
Town Office Building, Lower Level Meeting Room
7:00 p.m.

Audio Recording: yes

Notes Taken: yes

Members Present:

Herb Arico

Tracey Anderson

Michelle Doucette Cunningham

Ann Grosjean

Chiara Bambara

Stephanie Summers

Members Absent:

Elena Testa

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Phil Stevens

1. Call to Order: M. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm

2. Present to Speak

Bill Surette of 38 St. Moritz Circle shared that with 2 students in the school district, he will be attending more meetings in the near future.

3. Communications

A. Scarlett Pierce resignation

Scarlett is a paraprofessional at Center School and works in the preschool room. She has had a tremendous impact on the learning process in the preschool room and will be sorely missed. Scarlett is leaving to finish coursework at Eastern.

4. Board of Education Chairman's Report

Nothing to report as of right now. Michelle Cunningham asks that the Board members look very closely at the facilities options because the hope is to take one or more options off the table at the July Meeting.

5. Superintendent Reports

A. Community Engagement Events

The third community engagement event was held on Saturday, May 18th with another small crowd. There were also booths set up at Willington Day, STEAM night at Hall School and at the Kindness Fair. Many parents stopped in at STEAM night and the Kindness fair to ask questions and provide feedback. Mr.

Stevens is still waiting on a response from the Senior Center regarding a facilities study presentation at their facility.

B. Facilities Study Options Survey Update

To date there have been 111 surveys completed online. Boxes in various locations around town have not yet been checked for completed surveys. The survey went out on the town email system and printed copies are in many locations around town. Town members can mail surveys, turn them in to either school, town office, and many other locations around town.

C. Willington Public Schools Events

There was a slideshow in the background showing pictures of end of the year events going on in both schools.

There have been many events going on at both schools in the last few weeks. Many of these events build community and market our school district. The Promotion Ceremony is tomorrow at HMS at 7 pm.

D. BOE summer retreat, August 22 (4:00-6:00 p.m. tentative)

Mr. Stevens will look into booking a room at the public library for this event.

6. Financial Report

Budget Report

Attachment # 1

The current report shows \$29,000 left in our account, but as of today it is down to about \$800. Mr. Stevens has encumbered money to start summer cleaning services on Monday (instead of waiting until July 1), ordered cleaning supplies and paper for both schools, a replacement for our broken school flashing light sign, and readers and writers workshop manuals that were needed this year. The budget balance went up because we received our excess cost reimbursement for special education, and returned some unused encumbrances (that were frozen). Mr. Stevens reported that he believes we will be able to get through without needing to access the 1% account or Medicaid money to cover special education costs. Also, Mr. Stevens requests that we don't do any transfers to zero out accounts as we have done in the past. This will allow us to have "real numbers" that show us exactly where we ended. As long as the total number is at or above zero, he suggests no transfers be completed.

7. Committee Reports

The policy committee did not meet today because of Patti Locke's retirement celebration.

8. New Business

A. Approve minutes from the May 14, 2019 meeting

Attachment # 2

Ann Grosjean made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2019 meeting. Motion seconded by Chiara Bambara.

VOTE:

Herb Arico

Yes

--X--

No

Abstain

Absent

Tracey Anderson	--X--	----	----	----
Chiara Bambara	--X--	----	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	--X--	----	----	----
Ann Grosjean	--X--	----	----	----
Stephanie Summers	----	----	--X--	----
Elena Testa	----	----	----	--X--

Passes unanimously.

B. Approval of WESS Contract

Thanks to Elena and Ann for being part of the negotiations team. The union has already voted and approved the contract. The settlement is in line with what other groups have received and with area contracts. One major item negotiated was sunseting the sick day payout starting with new employees (those currently in district are grandfathered in). The increase is 2.75% including step movement and general wage increase; years one and three have step movement plus GWI. Year two has no step movement and a GWI of 2.75%. Insurance changes include increasing employee share to 16% and reducing the board contribution to the employees HSA from 65% to 62.5% in year 1 and 2 and to 60% in year 3.

Ann Grosjean made a motion to approve the WESS Contract. Motion seconded by Tracey Anderson.

VOTE:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Herb Arico	----	----	--X--	----
Tracey Anderson	--X--	----	----	----
Chiara Bambara	--X--	----	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	--X--	----	----	----
Ann Grosjean	--X--	----	----	----
Stephanie Summers	--X--	----	----	----
Elena Testa	----	----	----	--X--

Motion carries.

C. Approval of phone system contract for town and schools

We applied for a new phone system with the Town (town office building) to replace the antiquated system we currently have as we are no longer able to get parts. This was approved at referendum and now we are moving forward to replace the system this summer. This will replace all the phones with new digital phones and we anticipate a lower monthly cost as the system will all run through Hall School (because of the generator). We can move the system if needed in the future. This system provides many updates including voicemail with caller ID, voicemail sent to email, and various security items. Between this and the new security cameras, security will be greatly improved at both schools. This is just one step in the process, as the selectman must approve this as well, and then it must be approved at a town meeting which is anticipated to be July 9th.

Stephanie Summers made a motion to approve the phone system with Connecticut Communications for the school and town with a limit of a total cost at \$69,000. Motion seconded by Herb Arico.

VOTE:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Herb Arico	--X--	----	----	----
Tracey Anderson	--X--	----	----	----
Chiara Bambara	--X--	----	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	--X--	----	----	----
Ann Grosjean	--X--	----	----	----
Stephanie Summers	--X--	----	----	----
Elena Testa	----	----	----	--X--

Passes unanimously.

9. Old Business

A. Final reading of policies:

Attachment # 3

Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting, Policy 4250

Sexual Discrimination and Sexual Abuse, Policy 5145.5

Physical Restraint(s)/Seclusion Of Students

and Use of Exclusionary Time Out, Policy 5144.1

Herb Arico made a motion to approve the Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting, Policy 4250. Motion seconded by Chiara Bambara.

VOTE:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Herb Arico	--X--	----	----	----
Tracey Anderson	--X--	----	----	----
Chiara Bambara	--X--	----	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	--X--	----	----	----
Ann Grosjean	--X--	----	----	----
Stephanie Summers	--X--	----	----	----
Elena Testa	----	----	----	--X--

Passes unanimously.

Tracy Anderson made a motion to approve the Sexual Discrimination and Sexual Harassment, Policy 5145.5. Motion seconded by Stephanie Summers.

VOTE:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Herb Arico	--X--	----	----	----
Tracey Anderson	--X--	----	----	----
Chiara Bambara	--X--	----	----	----

Michelle Doucette Cunningham	--X--	----	----	----
Ann Grosjean	--X--	----	----	----
Stephanie Summers	--X--	----	----	----
Elena Testa	----	----	----	--X--

Passes unanimously.

Herb Arico made a motion to approve the content with the typos corrected for the Physical Restraint(s)/Seclusion Of Students and Use of Exclusionary Time Out, Policy 5144.1.
Motion seconded by Ann Grosjean.

VOTE:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Herb Arico	--X--	----	----	----
Tracey Anderson	--X--	----	----	----
Chiara Bambara	--X--	----	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	--X--	----	----	----
Ann Grosjean	--X--	----	----	----
Stephanie Summers	--X--	----	----	----
Elena Testa	----	----	----	--X--

Passes unanimously.

10. Present to Speak

Mike Cioe, teacher from HMS, reports that it has been a really great end of the year. He thanks everyone that has been able to attend these events.

11. Board Comments

Chiara Bambara really enjoyed the ice cream social and suggested this event to teachers in her school as well. The children took the event so seriously. She unfortunately missed the concert, but will be going to graduation. She congratulates Patti on her retirement.

Tracey Anderson thanks everyone involved with the schools. There is so much positivity and celebration of things in this community.

Ann Grosjean thanks everyone for a great school year. She congratulates Patti on her retirement and wishes everyone a safe and happy summer.

Stephanie Summers likes that people from the community came forward to make suggestions to the changes to the promotion ceremony. She appreciated the principal's response and changes made based on comments from the community.

Herb Arico thanks the Superintendent for his hard work. He also thanks the staff and his fellow board members for all the efforts contributing to a successful school year.

Michelle D. Cunningham sends thanks all around. She specifically thanked board members for all their efforts. Thanks to everyone for filling out the survey and reminds people to fill it out if they haven't done so yet.

12. Executive Session: Superintendent's Evaluation

Herb Arico made a motion to move into executive session at 8:19 p.m. for the Superintendent's evaluation.

VOTE:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Herb Arico	--X--	----	----	----
Tracey Anderson	--X--	----	----	----
Chiara Bambara	--X--	----	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	--X--	----	----	----
Ann Grosjean	--X--	----	----	----
Stephanie Summers	--X--	----	----	----
Elena Testa	----	----	----	--X--

Passes unanimously.

Exited executive session at 8:59 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

13. Adjournment

***Next regular meeting July 9, 2019**