

**Willington Board of Education**  
**Special Meeting: Retreat**  
**Minutes**  
**June 15, 2021**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Members Present**

Herb Arico - Chairman  
Elena Testa - Vice Chairman  
Michelle Doucette Cunningham - Secretary  
Ann Grosjean  
Tracey Anderson  
Donna Cook  
Laura Rodriguez

**Members Absent**

None

**Also Present**

Phil Stevens, Superintendent of Schools  
Mary Kay Tshonas, Principal of Hall Memorial School  
Members of the public

**1. Call to order**

Chairman Arico called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**2. Online article discussion: *No More Easy Button: A Suggested Approach to Post-Pandemic Teaching***

Superintendent Stevens reviewed the mission statement, attributes of a good board member, and CAFE'S common mistakes board members make. Superintendent Stevens started the article discussion asking the Board what they thought the top education issues were in Willington. Board members shared their viewpoints and priorities connected to the article. Topics included the need for curriculum work, assessment practices, lesson design, various avenues for students to demonstrate their learning, standards, Portrait of a Graduate, and the importance of positive and safe relationships.

**3. 2021-2022 Board of Education goals**

Superintendent Stevens reviewed the Board goals from 20-21 and shared the alignment to the administrator and teacher goals. He also shared the connection to the Portrait of the Graduate. Superintendent Stevens then shared goal samples from other school districts and presented an alternative method of writing Board goals. He shared the Region 19 Board goals and Mansfield's layout. Superintendent Stevens proposed having Board goals that span several years with belief statements along with the goals. Board members shared their thoughts on the samples presented and agreed to have Superintendent Stevens draft a sample of what this would look like for review at their July meeting.

**4. Board of Education committees**

Superintendent Stevens reviewed the committees and asked the Board to ponder adding a second curriculum committee due to the amount of work that will be needed. Board members shared their thoughts on the committees and how the curriculum committee could be adjusted. Elena Testa asked if more than three Board members could be listed as committee members and shared that a lawyer from the Freedom of Information Act suggested that all members could participate in those meetings if listed as committee members. Superintendent Stevens stated he would research the concept and get back to the Board with the information.

#### 5. Board of Education agenda calendar

Superintendent Stevens shared a draft of the Board agenda topics calendar and asked the Board for feedback. Board members felt it was a good draft. The Board discussed adding end of year spending to the calendar and Superintendent Stevens shared information on one of the end of year spending projects being considered. The Board agreed to have a special meeting for this topic.

#### 6. Adjournment

**Chairman Arico made a motion to adjourn.**

**Elena Testa seconded the motion.**

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
H. Arico	✓			
M. Cunningham	✓			
D. Cook	✓			
T. Anderson	✓			
A. Grosjean	✓			
E. Testa	✓			
L. Rodriguez	✓			

Motion passes.

The Board adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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TOWN CLERK