

Willington Board Of Education
Special Meeting: Retreat Professional Development Work Session
Minutes

January 3, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting (in-person and online)

Town Office Building: Lower Level

Zoom Recording #1

Zoom Recording #2

Members Present

Briana Ross - Chair

Jennifer Goodale - Vice Chair

Samantha Sperry - Secretary

Ann Grosjean

Tracey Anderson

Arthur Christensen

Jon Mitchell

1. Call to order

Chair Ross called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and introduced Board attorney Christine Chinni.

2. BOE attorney: Chris Chinni

a. Overview of Board of Education Roles and Responsibilities

Attorney Chinni provided an overview of member roles and responsibilities. She reviewed the Freedom of Information Act's (FOI) impact on the Board regarding public meeting access and documents. She provided a "cheat sheet" to Board members. Attorney Chinni provided an overview of executive sessions, the types of meetings, and how a quorum impacts FOI.

3. BOE Professional Development

Attorney Chinni provided guidance on social media related to freedom of speech.

Superintendent Stevens provided an overview of the presentation document, key work for school Boards including the Board's District Framework, essential attributes of a good Board member (CABE), and mistakes Board members make (CABE). A brief overview on Board Officers was provided, and Chair Ross shared the importance of trust, and that she trusts that each Board member has the best intentions regarding our students. Superintendent Stevens encouraged Board members to review the 9000 series policies.

Superintendent Stevens reviewed the process for the construction of agendas, a Board agenda topic calendar, the types of meetings, and Robert's Rules of Order. Attorney Chinni reviewed the public participation in Board Meetings and noted the importance of consistency in how much time each member of the public is allotted. She also recommended not responding to public comments during the meeting, but instead responding at a future meeting, either through the Chair or the Superintendent.

Superintendent Stevens reviewed the work of the Board and the order of policy facilitation. Attorney Chinni suggested keeping policies simple and not writing a policy for everything. Slides on board communications between staff and the community was shared, including potential responses for members. Superintendent Stevens provided an overview of the budget development process along with the various committees and their purpose.

Attorney Chinni shared an overview of Board Member liability and how to remain covered.

4. Adjournment

Jen Goodale made a motion to adjourn.

Jon Mitchell seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

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TOWN CLERK