

**Willington Board of Education
Minutes
March 12, 2018 7:00 p.m.
Town Office Building, Lower Level Meeting Room**

Audio Recording: yes

Notes Taken: yes

Members Present:

Herb Arico

Tracey Anderson

Michelle Doucette Cunningham

Ann Grosjean

Elena Testa

Members Absent:

Chiara Bambara

Stephanie Summers

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Phil Stevens

1. Call to Order: M. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

2. Present to Speak: None

3. Communications:

Phil Stevens presented the Mystic Air Quality report completed for HMS. All 9 locations tested throughout the school were within “applicable standards”. There was also additional testing completed on one classroom which was also within “applicable standards”. All reports fall within acceptable requirements from OSHA.

Herb Arico requested that the February 26th meeting title be changed to a “Special Meeting”. He also requested that on the agenda for tonight under executive session, “possible approval of emergency leave of staff member” be changed to “discussion of potential emergency leave of staff member”.

4. Board of Education Chairman’s Report: None

5. Superintendent Reports

A. BOE Recognition

Phil Stevens presented the BOE members with chocolates on behalf of Board of Education recognition month which read, "THANK YOU- Board Member Appreciation Month".

B. Facilities Study

Phil Stevens presented a draft for the first community engagement event hosted by the BOE to discuss a review of the Facilities Study completed by Friar Associates. He expects the initial presentation to run about 2 hours.

Elena Testa and Michelle D. Cunningham suggested scheduling this further in advance to get better public turnout. The initial suggested date of March 28th seems to be too soon. Michelle also thinks that this is a lot of material to cover in a short amount of time. She suggests that maybe Phil presents the information in an initial presentation and have other sessions for questions and conversation.

Ann Grosjean suggests that the title be changed to include the term "facilities" to let the public know that the discussion is focused on the future of the school buildings. Michelle agrees with Ann's suggestion.

Herb Arico thinks the presentation should be comprehensive to best inform the public of the entire process that led up to this study. He thinks that a series of meetings is best. Phil questions whether the public will show up to multiple presentations and follow up conversations. Michelle suggests that it be made clear that the first meeting is strictly a presentation and the second possibly a review of options and then a time for discussions and questions. Overall, the present members of the BOE are fond of this idea.

Phil Stevens discussed the various ways that he intends to get feedback from the town. He suggests a post-it wall at all of these meetings, which will allow community members to leave questions and comments, as well as sending out a community survey.

The present board members discussed that it would be most efficient for Phil to present these ideas during the initial presentation meetings, rather than BOE members being a part of this presentation. It was decided that there will be two dates for the initial presentation in hopes to get more public turn out. The date for the initial presentation will be March 28th at 7:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room. The other date for second initial presentation meeting is to be determined.

C. HMS Play, Alice in Wonderland, March 22 and 23

The HMS play, Alice in Wonderland, will be at 7:00 pm both Friday, March 22 and Saturday, March 23. Tickets are being sold at the Willington Public Library, Hall School Library or at the door.

D. Negotiations for classified staff

There has been one informal meeting so far. The first official meeting will be held on April 1st.

6. Financial Report

A. Budget Report

Attachment # 1

Phil reported that the buffer of \$20,000 is now at about \$10,000. The Systemwide Support Program was at 5.8% and is currently at -0.4% due to numerous subscriptions and program renewals that, in previous years, were paid through grants or prepaid. It is expected that two more subscriptions will still need to be paid. In the future, these costs need to be budgeted for and not prepaid. Phil believes that it has been taken care of in the new proposed budget, but some prices may change between now and when they need to be paid next. There is an expected total of \$12,000 overspent.

7. Committee Reports

A. Curriculum Committee

The curriculum committee met to review development of the new ELA and Math curriculums. Kristen Stevens and Erica Bushior presented background information, a general philosophy, progress, and a timeline of events. The goal is that the first few grade levels will be presented to the BOE starting in the fall, to give them idea of the changes that will be implemented with the new curriculums. It is going to take some time to get through the approval process.

B. Policy Committee

The policy committee recently met to review 1. Physical Restraint(s)/Seclusion of Students and Use of Exclusionary Time out Policy 5144.1; 2. Sexual Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policy 5145.5; and, 3. Child Abuse and Neglect Policy 5141.4 The date of next meeting is March 27th at 6:00 pm.

C. Wellness Committee: Ad Hoc

There needs to be modifications made to the wellness policy. A draft policy was already sent out with the new updates. The district group will go through the new wellness policy and share with the board of education's members at the April 11th meeting.

8. New Business

A. Approve minutes of February 26, 2019 meeting

Attachment # 2

Changes to be made-

1. Change to "special meeting"
2. Parsell, with two Ls.

3. Add descriptors of the two people retiring:

Robin Preston was a special education teacher at Hall Memorial School.

Linda Nichols was the head chef at Center School.

Herb Arico made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2019 meeting as modified.
Motion seconded by Elena Testa.

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 passes unanimously.

B. Presentation of 21st Century Learning Spaces and Portrait of a Graduate,
Superintendent Phil Stevens

Phil presented on what it means to be a 21st century learner. His presentation highlighted the importance of a 21st century space that fosters learning 21st century skills. These skills include leadership, adaptability, problem solving and collaboration, all of which prepare students for a world of non-routine work.

Phil presented the idea of a "Portrait of a Graduate". The goal is that a variety of community members who have a stake in this town will contribute to sharing ideas of skills necessary for young adults to navigate the world in front of them. This is something that other towns, such as Mansfield, have been doing for a few years.

9. Old Business

A. Board goals

Phil did some research on BOE goals from surrounding towns, such as Somers, Tolland and Killingly, and found that their goals were similar to Willington's. The board reviewed and discussed progress on current goals. Michelle mentioned that the summer retreat is typically used to discuss what the year ahead should look like. She suggested that maybe this conversation needs to take place at the start of a two year term, rather than in the summer. Phil will share his research with the board members so that they can review and consider any additional initiatives.

Herb suggested that a possible goal could be to improve community relations. Ann suggested continuing to update the webpage as a way to inform community members.

10. Present to Speak

Randy Belair of Village Hill Rd agreed with the suggestion of improving community relations. He suggested that the BOE set up a tent on Willington Day as a meet and greet with the Superintendent and Board of Education Members. He thinks that people would like to have a chance to talk and share questions and comments.

Judie Threatt of 19 Birch Meadow Lane thanks the Board of Education for all the work they have been doing. Judie appreciates the conversation over 21st century learning. She does not want the lack of resources to discourage our town from allowing these changes to happen, it will just require more creative thinking. She encourages the BOE to keep the momentum going. She does not want to see facilities study to take a back seat again with elections happening in the fall.

Mike Cioe, teacher at HMS, thanks for the BOE for all the work that they have done this budget season.

11. Board Comments

Ann Grojean- pass

Elena Testa- pass

Herb Arico thanks Phil for all the work on the budget, but reminds the members that the process is not entirely over yet. He thought the presentation on 21st century learning was very informative, and students would benefit from these changes.

Tracey Anderson thanks Phil for the presentation on 21st century learning. She believes that the process we are entering with the facilities is an exciting time that could potentially bring the community together.

Michelle D. Cunningham congratulates the HMS staff and students as they prepare for the play. She would like BOE members to continue to consider more ways that they can be available to the community. She is also excited for the facilities process.

12. Executive Session

1. Possible approval of emergency leave for staff member
2. Superintendent evaluation

Michelle D. Cunningham made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:45 pm 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--	-----	-----	----

Motion passes.

Exited Executive Session at 9:25 pm

Adjournment at 9:25 p.m.