

Willington Board of Education
February 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Town Office Building, Lower Level Conference Room

Audio Recording yes
Notes Taken yes

Members present at meeting:

Herb Arico
Michelle Doucette Cunningham
Melissa McKinnon
Erika Wiecenski
Peggy Roberts

Members absent at meeting:

Ann Grosjean

Also present: Interim Superintendent of Schools Jacqueline J. Jacoby

1. Call to Order at 7:00 p.m. by Ericka Wiecenski

2. Present to speak: none

3. Communications: none

4. Presentation

Kate Grabowski Clark, School Enrichment Teacher

Ms. Grabowski Clark (aka, Ms. GC) provided an overview of enrichment initiatives at Hall School. She invited Stephanie Blais, a seventh grader, to present her research for the Resident Expert opportunity. Students have the opportunity to pick a topic they are passionate about and learn more about it through research. They then present that information to a self-chosen audience at Hall School. Stephanie did a terrific job presenting, thank you! Other initiatives include: MakerSpace- a space for students to explore, discover, create, new things and ideas; Learning coding through Ozobots; and building robots. Ms. GC takes a project based learning approach which helps to foster perseverance and inquiry. Through the framework of project based learning, she is also engaging in team teaching to bring depth to the students' learning.

5. Superintendent Reports

- a) The Facilities Committee plans to make decisions on which firms to interview for the facilities study.
- b) Dr. Jacoby brought the Governor's proposed budget to the BOE's attention in order to keep an eye on what might be coming up in the future and possibilities for changes to be prepared for. She pointed out the \$231,000 shortfall for each year (17-18 and 18-19) and the possible expectation that towns pay 1/3 of retirement for teachers (\$613,000).
- c) Capital Improvement Projects Committee met and discussed the BOE's CIP proposal (Capital Improvement Requests Handout- Attached). This was a first review and decisions are not yet final.

Superintendent Search Update

There are over 20 applications and each applicant has participated in a phone interview. The committee is setting up timelines for next steps.

6. Financial Report for January, 2017 (Attachment 1)

There is now 6.1% remaining in budget. In regard to the Contracted Services line, there are two reasons it is at the amount: 1. Projected \$60,000 for nurse-not all of this was used; 2. Money for legal matter, based on timing, funds were used from last year's budget. The funds in this line item will be used for the facilities study.

7. Committee Reports: None

8. New Business

- A. Approve minutes of January 10, 2017 Attachment # 2

MOTION: by Michelle Doucette Cunningham

To appoint approve the minutes of the January 10, 2016 BOE meeting

Seconded by Ericka Wiecenski

VOTE:

Yes

Herb Arico

Michelle Doucette Cunningham

Peggy Roberts

Erika Wiecenski

Abstain

Melissa McKinnon

Motion Passed

B. Reschedule April 11, 2017 B.O.E. Meeting

MOTION: by Erika Wiecenski

To reschedule the April 11, 2017 B.O.E. meeting to April 19, 2017

Seconded by Michelle Doucette Cunningham

VOTE:

Yes-unanimous

Herb Arico

Michelle Doucette Cunningham

Melissa McKinnon

Peggy Roberts

Erika Wiecenski

Motion Passed

9. Old Business

A. Second Reading of Policy Series 2000 Series; Administration

A lot of time and energy has been put into this brand new policy. Thanks to the school nurses, administration, and the parent who brought this to the BOE's attention. The Board decided to have a third reading at the next meeting for more time to review.

- 10. Present to Speak** – Sarah Smith, a Willington resident, shared that the Finance Board meeting may have been moved from 2/16 to 2/18.

11. Board Comments

Herb Arico- Thanks to the Policy Committee for their efforts on the new policy. The program that Kate Grabowski Clark shared is very exciting and on the right track.

Michelle Doucette Cunningham- I'm really excited about Kate's work, specifically the MakerSpace. Thanks to Kate.

Melissa McKinnon-none

Peggy Roberts- The presentation was exciting and it is great that it includes many of Kate's students.

Erika Wiecenski- Hall School is sending three students to the state competition for MathCounts, great job! Anne of Green Gables, a play put on at Hall School, will be on 3/17-18. Dr. Jacoby will be presenting the BOE budget at the Board of Finance Meeting, on Thursday, February 16 and encourages all board members to attend.

- 12. Motion by Erika Wiecenski for Adjournment- 8:26pm
Seconded by Melissa McKinnon**