

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brookfield Public Schools
REGULAR MEETING - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014
BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER, BROOKFIELD, CT
7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Chairman Scott McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Present: Scott McCarthy Paul Checco, Susan Queenan, Harry Shaker, Steve Harding, Victor Katz, and Tara Lerner

Also Present: Acting Superintendent Ralph Iassogna, Assistant Superintendent Genie Slone, Director of Special Services Charlie Manos, Interim Director of Finance and Operations Gregg Miller, Interim BHS Principal Mark Jewett, WMS Principal Deane Renda, HHES Principal Mary Rose Dymond, CES Principal Krys Salon and several members of the staff, Town Boards and public.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

The Board received written correspondence from Catherine Malek regarding the budget and the Board of Selectmen.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maureen Fitzpatrick spoke about the potential budget cuts

Liz Spencer spoke on behalf of the BAA and gave a detailed description of the role of an Assistant Superintendent and the serious impact that would be realized if one was cut from the budget.

Ron Jaffe spoke about the potential budget cuts.

Rich Saluga asked if the 2013/2014 budget year is complete and asked for a definition of a roundtable.

Kim Tolle spoke about budget cuts.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

S. Queenan moved, P. Checco seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the minutes listed below as recommended:

Regular Meeting- 11/5/14

S. McCarthy, P. Checco, S. Queenan, H. Shaker, V. Katz, S. Harding and T. Lerner voted aye.

CONSENT AGENDA

S. Queenan moved, S. Harding seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the items on the consent agenda as recommended.

S. McCarthy, P. Checco, S. Queenan, H. Shaker, V. Katz, S. Harding and T. Lerner voted aye.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Mr. Iassogna gave special recognition to Whisconier Middle School for its inclusion in the DOW Corporation's communications praising the school and its 6th grade classes for participating in what DOW Science leader Tim Cawley describes as the "fun-side of science".

Mr. Iassogna said that the Brookfield Education Association, has waived the remaining \$10,000 in their contracted agreement with the Board to help meet our projected shortfall. Thanks to President Brian Kwas and the BEA.

The Superintendent recognized the following teachers for their being awarded Connecticut State Department of Education mini grants. This Professional Learning Achievement incorporates their respective proposal and links the new Ct Common Core standards to our English and Math curriculum.

- Center/Huckleberry Hill's Margaret Fitzgerald, along with teachers Traci Greenberg, and Lynn Orzolek for creatively connecting the new music standards with our K-4 music programs and regular learning experiences.
- Whisconier's Aggie Burns and Joanne Thompson for addressing inappropriate bullying behaviors and developing student strategies to foil a bully's plan.
- Whisconier's Caitlin Cincotti, one of our new teachers, for initiating a unique Carnival Nite that will provide students and the community an opportunity to interact and see how learned math skills can be applied to real life situations.

The Superintendent clarified inclement weather notification protocol with the Board.

- The Superintendents reviews the conditions with the Police and Town Departments, as well as the region's meteorologist.
- Once the final decision is made, the following takes place:
 - I contact several individuals, including Lisa Gramling, All-Star Transportation and Whitsons Food Service
 - Mrs. Gramling communicates this decision to staff via Schoolreach, CT Weather (this is the communication to the radio stations), Channel 3, Channel 6 and Channel 8, the website and the district voicemail.

Additionally, Lisa will notify parents and the Board via Schoolreach.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

B & FC- 11/3/14- Mr. Checco said the subcommittee approved the financials for the month of October. The subcommittee also discussed having a meeting with All-Star Transportation, the 2014-2015 budget and the 2015-2016 budget. Discussion also included the IRS payroll audit on 12/8 and capital items.

Policy- 11/5/14- Mr. Harding said the subcommittee discussed Bylaw #9313, Policy #1325 and Policy #4111.

NEW BUSINESS

ANTICIPATED GRANT FUNDING REPORT

Interim Director of Finance and Operations Gregg Miller provided the Board with a summary on Anticipated Grant Funding.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF EDUCATION AND CUSTODIAL CONTRACT

S. Queenan moved, T. Lerner seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the BOE/Custodial 4-year Agreement covering the period of July 1, 2013- June 30, 2017.

S. McCarthy, P. Checco, S. Queenan, H. Shaker V. Katz, S. Harding and T. Lerner voted aye.

APPROVAL OF BYLAW #9313, FORMULATION, ADOPTION, AMENDMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS-FIRST READING

S. Queenan moved, P. Checco seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve Bylaw #9313, Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Administrative Regulations for a first reading as recommended by the Policy subcommittee.

S. McCarthy, P. Checco, S. Queenan, H. Shaker V. Katz, S. Harding and T. Lerner voted aye.

APPROVAL OF POLICY #1325, ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION-FIRST READING

S. Queenan moved, P. Checco seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve Policy #1325, Advertising and Promotion, for a first reading as recommended by the Policy subcommittee.

S. McCarthy, P. Checco, S. Queenan, H. Shaker V. Katz, S. Harding and T. Lerner voted aye.

APPROVAL OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNT GRANT

S. Queenan moved, P. Checco seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to authorize approval for Town Controller Bill Leverence to apply for this State of Connecticut Uniform Chart of Accounts grant.

S. McCarthy, P. Checco, S. Queenan, H. Shaker V. Katz, S. Harding and T. Lerner voted aye.

APPLICATION APPROVAL/IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM GRANT

S. Queenan moved, P. Checco seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve Dr. Slone to apply for the Immigrant Children and Youth Program Grant.

S. McCarthy, P. Checco, S. Queenan, H. Shaker V. Katz, S. Harding and T. Lerner voted aye.

P. Checco moved, T. Lerner seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to amend the agenda to switch the order of budget discussions (Items 8A and 8B).

S. McCarthy, P. Checco, S. Queenan, H. Shaker V. Katz, S. Harding and T. Lerner voted aye.

OLD BUSINESS

2015-2016 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Iassogna said we are moving forward with the budget timeline and will provide the Board a reasonable yet realistic budget recommendation. Mr. Checco gave an overview of the Capital list and specifically spoke about the conditions of the roofs at the schools. Tom Tibolla provided a power point presentation of Capital Improvements.

2014-2015 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Iassogna provided the Board with an overview on where we stand regarding the 2014-2015 \$400,000 budget deficit. The Superintendent said this is a very time sensitive issue and we are running out of time to recoup the \$400,000. The Board had detailed discussion after Mr. Miller and Mr. McCarthy making opening remarks. The Board was provided with a list of potential budget shortfalls and the spoke individually regarding how to realize the \$400,000.

After their discussion was over:

S. Queenan moved, P. Checco seconded, and the Board voted 6-1-0 to authorize its Chairman to request a Supplemental Appropriation from the Town in the amount of \$400,000 to cover a projected shortfall in its 2014-2015 budget.

S. McCarthy, P. Checco, S. Queenan, H. Shaker V. Katz and S. Harding voted aye.

T. Lerner voted no (Mrs. Lerner requested an appropriation in the amount of \$500,000)

ADJOURNMENT

V. Katz moved, T. Lerner seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to adjourn its regular meeting at 10:34 PM.

S. McCarthy, P. Checco, S. Queenan, H. Shaker V. Katz, S. Harding and T. Lerner voted aye.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Susan Queenan, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education