

Approved 10.25.2022
by B.O.E.

Board of Education
October 11, 2022

The regular session meeting was live streamed on COX channel 16 or Frontier channel 6101 and may also be viewed on: YouTube® Channel, “Wethersfield Government Access TV” at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfuf-C0gYVVxmD5ilfFTnsQ>

The Wethersfield Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. and was streamed from the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway. The following Board members were present: Mrs. Di Roberts, Mrs. Drew, Mrs. Granato, Mr. Laccavole, Dr. Regan-Lefebvre, Mr. Reilly, and Chairperson Carey. Also present were: Superintendent of Schools, Michael Emmett; Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction, Sally Dastoli; Business Manager, Matthew Kozaka; Wethersfield Public Schools Director of Special Education, John Karzar; Wethersfield Public Schools Director of Human Resources, Trent Donohue; WPS 7-12 Instructional Supervisor, Dr. Christina Zlatin; WPS K-6 Instructional Supervisor, Dawn Campbell; and WHS Student Representative, Ryan Fazzina. Members of the public were also present.

Motion To Add Item to Meeting Agenda

Mrs. Drew MOVED to add to the meeting Agenda: **Proposed for Executive Session - Discussion of pending litigation, Christina Zarotney vs. Wethersfield Board of Education.** The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Granato and VOTED unanimously.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Wethersfield Public Schools Director of Human Resources, Trent Donohue led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Student/Staff Recognition/Presentations

There were no student/staff recognitions or presentations.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a. September 27, 2022 Board of Education Regular Session Meeting

Mrs. Drew MOVED to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Regular Session Meeting of September 27, 2022, as submitted. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Di Roberts and VOTED unanimously, Mr. Laccavole abstaining.

4. Public Comment

There were no comments made by the Public during this portion of the meeting.

5. Communications

Mr. Emmett thanked Wethersfield Police Department for its work in apprehending and charging two juvenile suspects on Sunday, October 9th and Monday, October 10th for an assault on a juvenile Wethersfield student that occurred on September 8th.

Mr. Emmett noted that the Wethersfield Police Department will conduct some training exercises at SDMS **after the school day** during the weeks of October 17th and 24th. Mr. Emmett explained that this training is akin to WPD training that occurred in August at WHS with the CREST team. CREST is a regional response force that includes officers from WPD, and the training involves using real- world environments. He thanked the team for their efforts.

Mr. Emmett indicated a total of nine (9) covid cases have been reported to the district as of today with said cases spread among the schools. The district continues to monitor and reports to DPH as required, and he thanked parents for their diligence in monitoring students for symptoms and requesting test kits.

Mr. Emmett mentioned that the district continues to work on transportation efficiencies. There has been improvement with on-time performance; however, gaps in some of the routes still remain. A few bus runs are still inefficient with late arrival times. Mr. Kozaka sent correspondence to Autumn Transportation last week regarding these issues, and there is contact with the company on a daily basis to make sure changes are done to get students to school as quickly and safely as possible.

Mr. Emmett noted that Mrs. Dastoli, Dr. Zlatin, and Ms. Campbell will be making a presentation this evening regarding Wethersfield Public Schools student data. Upcoming Board meetings will include: 1) a report on class size; 2) a presentation from Wethersfield Instructional Supervisor SPED PK-6, Elizabeth Freitas on the SITES program; 3) meetings being scheduled for: a) Facilities and Maintenance Committee; and b) Calendar Committee (developing the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025

School Year Calendars).

6. Action Items

There were no action items.

7. Reports/Discussion Items

a. Student Achievement Presentation

Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction, Sally Dastoli presented the 2021-2022 Student Achievement results for Wethersfield Public Schools. She mentioned how covid related grant funding was used in the district and thanked educators who dug deep to educate students this past school year. WPS 7-12 Instructional Supervisor, Dr, Christina Zlatin spoke about NGSS, LAS Links Assessment, SAT School Day (Gr. 11), AP, and UConn ECE courses.

WPS K-6 Instructional Supervisor, Dawn Campbell spoke about SBAC district and state results.

Following the presentation, Board members had the opportunity to ask questions to the presenters.

Board Comments: Mrs. Granato, Dr. Regan-Lefebvre, Chairperson Carey, Mrs. Drew, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Laccavole, and Mrs. Di Roberts commented. Mr. Emmett also commented.

b. Announcements/Information

Chairperson Carey reviewed the items in Board Members' packets and reminded Committee Chairpersons/Board members to review their calendars with scheduled dates and times pertaining to upcoming meetings, including the Board Retreat. He advised Board members to verify their attendance at Committee Meetings with the Committee's Chairpersons, the Administrative Chairperson, and Mr. Emmett. He encouraged email use by Board members for communicating meeting attendance and ensuring a quorum for committee meetings.

8. Board of Education

a. Meetings Held

There were no meetings.

b. Meetings Scheduled

Facilities & Maintenance Committee, CREC Council, Student Programs & Services Committee

9. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

10. Public Comment

There were no comments made by the Public during this portion of the meeting.

11. Board Comments

Mrs. Granato commented favorably of the *Wethersfield Education Foundation* (WEF) fall fundraising event held Thursday, October 6th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Wethersfield Country Club wherein WHS Graduate Dana Luby Neves, Vice President & General Manager of WFSB Channel 3 discussed the topic, “Fact or Fiction: Where does NEWS come from?” WEF funded a designated table for WHS student attendance, and funds raised from this event will support WPS.

Mrs. Drew commented favorably of the WHS Varsity Boys/Girls Cross Country Team’s Senior Night celebration and congratulated all who were honored.

Dr. Regan-Lefebvre wished WPS elementary school students’ good luck in the Mikey’s Place 5K (a fundraising event benefiting Mikey’s Place Park, Dollars for Scholars, and Spinal Muscular Atrophy research) that will be held on Sunday, October 16th and noted her participation in the event as well. She thanked the elementary school volunteer parent coaches for their support and assistance in the Running Club programs in the schools.

Mr. Reilly indicated students enjoyed the well attended 2022 WHS Homecoming Dance and noted his children enjoyed participating in Homecoming festivities.

Chairman Carey thanked WHS staff and security members who keep things under control at the WHS Varsity Football games.

WHS Student Representative, Ryan Fazzina commented favorably of the Wellness Center created by the School Counseling Office at WHS. He noted WHS students enjoyed the pep rally and Homecoming festivities. He mentioned the school administration and staff is looking forward to the upcoming NEASC accreditation visit. He commented about WHS Drama Club’s upcoming production, “*Our Town*” with performances scheduled November 10th, 11th, and 12th at 7:30 p.m. and a 3:00 p.m. performance on November 13th.

12. Proposed for Executive Session

Mrs. Granato MOVED to leave public session and enter into an Executive Session at approximately 8:17 p.m. for: **Discussion of pending litigation, Christina Zarotney vs. Wethersfield Board of Education**. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Reilly and VOTED unanimously.

Present for executive session:

C. Carey, J. Di Roberts, A. Drew, B. Granato,
M. Laccavole, J. Regan-Lefebvre, J. Reilly;

Administrators: M. Emmett;

Others: T. Donohue; Atty. Zelman

Dr. Regan-Lefebvre MOVED to leave executive session and re-enter public session at 8:49 p.m. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Reilly and VOTED unanimously.

Mrs. Drew MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the settlement in **Zarotney vs. Wethersfield Board of Education** in the amount negotiated by the Superintendent and to authorize the Superintendent to sign the written agreement on those terms. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Laccavole and VOTED unanimously.

Mrs. Drew MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Reilly and VOTED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Cascio, Vice-Chairperson – Secretary

Minutes Recorded by Ellen Goslicki, Recording Secretary