

Board of Education
September 27, 2016

Chairperson Granato requested Board Members to turn off cell phones.

This meeting was videotaped and can be seen on the
Wethersfield Board of Education website.

The Wethersfield Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway. The following Board members were present: Mr. Cascio, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Forrest, Mr. Hill, Ms. Moon, Mrs. Paradise, Mrs. Vassel, Vice Chairperson Morris and Chairperson Granato. Also present were: Superintendent of Schools, Michael Emmett; Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction, Sally Dastoli; Business Manager, Matthew Kozaka; Director of Technology, Keith Rafaniello; Wethersfield Public Schools Supervisor of Mathematics K-12, Dr. Katarzyna Suarez; Director of Special Education, John Karzar; Supervisor of Special Education, Melissa Cook; Wethersfield High School Principal, Thomas Moore and Wethersfield High School Student Representative, Jack Breton.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Sydney Shink led the Board and public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Student/Staff Recognition/Presentations

There were no Student/Staff Recognition/Presentations made during this meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a. September 13, 2016 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Fitzpatrick made a correction to Page 6, Section 12a. Executive Session. The name "Mrs. Fitzpatrick" is to be added, as she was present for Executive Session. However, she exited Executive Session prior to its conclusion and therefore did not participate in the vote.

Mr. Forrest MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of September 13, 2016, as corrected. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Moon and VOTED unanimously.

4. Public Comment

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

5. Communications

Mr. Emmett noted Mr. Bean has been placed on Administrative Leave and that he could not comment further, as it is a pending personnel matter. It is not clear how long Mr. Bean's Administrative Leave will continue, and Mr. Emmett assured the public that a strong administrative leadership will continue at Highcrest School. Our District's Instructional Supervisor of Literacy, Mrs. Darla Miner, will provide administrative coverage. Mr. Emmett noted the most important priority is the continuity of high-quality instruction for District students, and, undoubtedly, the high level of instruction will continue at Highcrest School during Mr. Bean's leave.

Mr. Emmett reported that WHS Renovation continues to move forward with work on the Tech Ed spaces and classrooms on the back side of the building to meet the targeted opening date. Work continues in the WHS pool area, with lighting fixtures on site and ready for installation. Mr. Bushey has completed all of the drainage work, and the pool is on target to open at the end of October.

Mr. Maltese has ordered and received the Record Board. The Record Board will be installed upon opening of the pool. The pool (including the deck and spectator areas) will be cleaned as soon as the contractors have completed their work and prior to the filling, heating and chemical balancing of the pool. The entire WHS Renovation Project will be substantially completed in late October. However, there will continue to be some contractor activity into 2017 with focus on punch list items (epoxy coating of the floor, screening and painting rooftop HVAC units).

Mr. Emmett announced the Wethersfield Public Schools are celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15). There will be activities in the schools, and *Chartwells Dining* will offer some Hispanic cuisine choices in the school lunch menus during the aforesaid timeframe. Emerson-Williams parents, Jessica Rivera and Diana Gill (members of *Madres Latinas*), are collaborating with Emerson-Williams School Principal, Neela Thakur and Music Teacher, Mary Fox, and as a result of this collaboration, Ms. Driscoll from Smooth Rhythm Dance Company will bring in a group of young dancers (ages 8-16) who will dance the salsa on October 12, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Emmett thanked *Madres Latinas* for its involvement in making the event happen.

6. Action Items

a. Recommended Motion: Approval of Shared Services Agreement for Information Technology Services

Mrs. Granato MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the merging of the Town of Wethersfield's Information Technology Department with the Wethersfield Board of Education's Information Technology Department. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Moon and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Paradise, Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Morris commented.

Mr. Emmett also commented.

b. Recommended Motion: Approval of English, Oceanography, and Health Curriculum

1. Mrs. Fitzpatrick MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the curriculum for Senior English in Level 1 and Level 2. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Paradise commented.

2. Mrs. Fitzpatrick MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the Science curriculum for Oceanography Grades 11-12, Level 1 and Level 2. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Fitzpatrick commented.

3. Mrs. Fitzpatrick MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the curriculum for Grade 7 Health Education. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Moon and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Paradise and Mr. Hill commented.

4. Mrs. Fitzpatrick MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the curriculum for Grade 8 Health Education. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Fitzpatrick commented.

c. Amended Motion: Approval of Award of Legal Services Contract

Mr. Forrest MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve a three (3) year contract for General School and Special Education Law to Shipman & Goodwin, commencing on October 1, 2016 and to direct the Superintendent to request proposals for general school and special education law at the end of this fiscal year; and **FUTHER MOVED** that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve a three (3) year contract for Collective Bargaining and Labor Relations Law to Kainen, Escalera & McHale, commencing on October 1, 2016.

The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Morris and **VOTED 8-1 AGAINST**, as follows:

Aye: Mr. Forrest; **Nay:** Mr. Cascio, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Hill, Ms. Moon, Mrs. Paradise, Mrs. Vassel, Mr. Morris and Mrs. Granato. **Discussion:** Mr. Forrest, Ms. Moon, Mrs. Granato, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Hill and Mrs. Paradise commented.

Recommended Motion: Approval of Award of Legal Services Contract

Ms. Moon MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve a three (3) year contract for General School and Special Education Law to Shipman & Goodwin, commencing on October 1, 2016 and **FUTHER MOVED** that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve a three (3) year contract for Collective Bargaining and Labor Relations Law to Kainen, Escalera & McHale, commencing on October 1, 2016. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Paradise and VOTED unanimously.

7. Reports/Discussion Items

a. Announcements/Information

Chairperson Granato reviewed the items in Board Members' packets and reminded Committee Chairpersons/Board members to review scheduled meeting dates and times with their calendars. She advised Board members to verify their attendance at Committee Meetings with the Committee's Chairpersons, the Administrative Chairperson, and Mr. Emmett.

8. Board of Education

a. Meetings Held

Finance and Information Management Committee: Ms. Moon reported on this meeting at the September 13, 2016 Regular Board of Education meeting. **Student Programs and Services Committee:** Mrs. Fitzpatrick reported there was an update on the Teacher Educating Mentoring Program for new Teachers in the District. This program is replacing the BEST mentoring program, and sessions are coming up in October. Feedback from parents and Teachers regarding the Kindergarten program and a focus on "Discovery Play" were matters also discussed. Mrs. Dastoli and Mrs. Miner provided an overview of upcoming collaborative planning and noted they would report to the Committee thereafter. AP classes at WHS were discussed and information to the Board will be forthcoming. **CREC Council:** Mrs. Granato reported discussions during this first meeting of the school included funding for magnet schools, the state's promise to do so, a judge's recent ruling regarding how public schools are funded, and the impact to schools (with few answers) due to the judge's recent ruling. **Policy and Planning Committee:** Mr. Hill reported the review of the 3000 Series is completed with input from Mr. Even (security) and Mr. Rafaniello (IT), and the Committee will continue with a review of the 5000 Series at

the next meeting. School Projects Building Committee: Mr. Emmett reported there was a review of change orders, a lengthy discussion of screening (painting) the HVAC units on the roof of WHS (painting would occur in the spring of 2017 -- the Building Committee is working on a solution to the matter). Details regarding a Dedication/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for WHS continue to be discussed, and the Board will be updated.

b. Meetings Scheduled

Chairperson Granato announced the following meetings are scheduled: Policy and Planning Committee, Finance and Information Management Committee and School Projects Building Committee.

9. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

10. Public Comments

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

11. Board Comments

Mrs. Paradise thanked *Wethersfield Life* for publishing a recent article featuring Webb School's utilization of the Mindful Schools curriculum used in the District to help encourage positive states of mind such as gratitude and compassion/empathy.

Mr. Cascio noted he will be representing Wethersfield to nominate CABA Officers at the CABA Nominating Committee meeting he will attend on Monday. He inquired and Mr. Emmett indicated 1) the expense of the diving board and starting blocks will be presented to the Capital Improvement Committee in January 2017; 2) the Record Board for the WHS pool has been purchased and will be installed; and 3) the flag banner which hangs over the pool has been purchased through Wethersfield Parks & Recreation Department.

Mrs. Vasel thanked Mr. Emmett and the Board for their support of *Madres Latinas* and Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 through October 15). Chairperson Granato thanked Mrs. Vasel for providing the Board information in this regard.

Mr. Morris thanked Mr. Forrest for his work in reducing the legal contracts expense.

Mr. Forrest commented favorably of the Emerson-Williams PTO meeting and the Charles Wright PTO Tag Sale events he recently attended and the discussions he had with parents at both events. He echoed discussions he had regarding Pre-Kindergarten expansion which encouraged a continuation of that dialogue in order that students from all walks of life and all income levels begin on the same playing field.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick requested that Mr. Emmett provide her with AP data from 2015-2016 regarding:

1) the number of students who enrolled in AP courses, 2) and of that number, the number of students enrolled who took exams, and 3) from those who took the exams, the numbers each scoring 3, 4 and 5 on said exams.

Mr. Breton noted there was a pep rally at WHS last Friday, notices regarding clubs at WHS are circulating, and WHS Seniors are in the process of completing their college essays.

Mr. Cascio MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Morris and VOTED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John Morris, Vice-Chairperson – Secretary

Minutes Recorded by Ellen Goslicki, Recording Secretary