

Board of Education

December 13, 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, December 13, 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. Vasel, 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 Special Education, John Karzar; Director of Maintenance and Operations, Fred Bushey; Wethersfield High School Principal, Thomas Moore; Wethersfield High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Michael Maltese; SDMS Principal, Susan Czapla; and Wethersfield High School Student Representative, Jack Breton.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Ariana Cretella, Sam Marchio and Dan Marchio led the Board and public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Granato requested a moment of silence in memory of Vanessa Carbone, a WHS Class of 2017 student who recently passed away.

2. Student/Staff Recognition/Presentations

SDMS Principal, Susan Czapla and Teachers Kelli Russo, Kyleen Cascio and Kristen Fortuna spoke of WOW Day as a day of listening, solving problems, and having fun – a day for student inspiration and empowerment at SDMS. Board Members were invited to attend the next “WOW Day” scheduled on Friday, December 23, 2016. Board Comments: Mrs. Granato, Mr. Forrest and Ms. Moon commented. Mr. Emmett also commented.

Wethersfield High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Michael Maltese made a report regarding student achievement in the Fall Sports Programs at WHS. Board Comments: Mr. Hill, Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Granato commented.

Caroline Fazzina, Director of the Keane on Kids After School Program; Judy Keane, President of the Richard M. Keane Foundation; and Mary Thibeault, Wethersfield Parks & Recreation, spoke of the Keane on Kids After School Enrichment Program that began in the District elementary schools in September 2016 as well as the expanded offerings for that program's next session beginning in January 2017 in the District elementary schools. Board Comments: Mrs. Paradise, Ms. Moon, Mrs. Vassel, Mrs. Granato, Mr. Morris and Mr. Hill commented.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a. October 12, 2016 Special Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Emmett made a correction to Page 5, Line 2. The name "SDMS Principal, Susan Czapla" is to be deleted, as she was not in attendance during the non-meeting.

Mr. Hill MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting of October 12, 2016, as corrected. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Fitzpatrick and VOTED unanimously, with Mr. Cascio, Mr. Forrest and Mrs. Paradise abstaining.

b. November 22, 2016 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Forrest MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of November 22, 2016, as submitted. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Moon and VOTED unanimously, with Mrs. Fitzpatrick abstaining.

c. November 29, 2016 Special Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Cascio made a correction to Page 1, Paragraph 4, Present for executive session. Change "Mr. Casio" to "Mr. Cascio."

Mr. Forrest MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting of November 29, 2016, as corrected. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Cascio and VOTED unanimously, with Mr. Hill and Ms. Moon abstaining.

4. Public Comment

Sanda O'Neil, 55 Spruce Street, spoke regarding the recent outbreak of gastroenteritis at Emerson-Williams School and requested a thorough professional cleaning of that school.

5. Communications

Mr. Emmett reported an Open House at WHS is planned for Sunday, January 22, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The snow date is Sunday, January 29, 2017 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Information regarding the event will be publicized through media outlets. Due to the unavailability of the plaque for the newly renovated space, the Ribbon Cutting & Dedication Ceremony for that venue will occur in the spring of 2017.

Mr. Emmett reminded everyone to make sure their *School Messenger* parameters are set, as delayed openings and/or cancellations are communicated to the public through that method. Announcements of that kind are also made through local media outlets, Town of Wethersfield and Wethersfield Board of Education websites. Mr. Emmett asked members of the public and District school students and staff to exercise caution when utilizing walkways.

Mr. Emmett noted that the Human Resources Committee will be meeting after the holidays to begin the process for the search for a new Principal for Highcrest Elementary School, as Mr. Bean is no longer an employee of Wethersfield Public Schools. He thanked parents for the positive responses regarding the hiring committee, and a parent focus group (extending to staff and students) for this matter will be held in the near future. Mrs. Maresa Harvey will remain as interim Principal for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year.

Mr. Emmett noted he has enjoyed holiday performances at the District schools, anticipates his attendance at holiday performances that are scheduled but have not yet occurred, and wished students, staff and parents of the Wethersfield District Schools a happy and safe holiday season.

6. Action Items

a. Recommended Motion: Approval of International School Field Trip Request

Mr. Cascio MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the International School Field Trip Request for Quebec, Canada on April 28, 2017 through April 30, 2017. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. Granato, Mr. Cascio, Mr. Forrest and Mr. Morris commented. WHS French Teacher, Ms. Trinkaus also commented.

7. Reports/Discussion Items

a. Capital Improvement Plan Presentation (FY 2017-2018 through 2027-2028)

Mr. Bushey provided a report. Board Comments: Mrs. Granato, Mrs. Vasel, Ms. Moon and Mr. Forrest commented. Mr. Emmett also commented.

b. 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

School Projects Building Committee: (11.28.16): Mr. Emmett reported that he was unable to attend this meeting but that expenditures, change orders and contractor requisitions, as well as the project, were likely discussed. Special Board of Education Meeting: Mrs. Granato reported the addressing and resolution of a personnel matter occurred. School Projects Building Committee: (12.12.16):

Mr. Emmett reported change orders were discussed. The Building Committee Chairperson and the Architect went before the Wethersfield Planning & Zoning Committee regarding the issue of roof screens, and the matter has not yet been decided. However, the HVAC units have been painted to a color that matches the façade, and the Building Committee continues to work on that matter due to concerns of drilling into the newly renovated roof if roof screens are required. Outreach with the neighbors may occur. Another group of technology is on hold due to the settling of ancillary costs in the renovation project. Finance and Information Management Committee: Ms. Moon reported the Board budget status through December 9, 2016 is running approximately Two Hundred, Seventy-Two Thousand, One Hundred Ninety-Four (\$272,194.00) Dollars over plan (due to special education, ECS grant issues, energy costs and transportation costs). The Committee is putting together a presentation to be used by the Board for a listening tour for District PTO and parent groups to provide information regarding the budget and to learn information from those groups as to what they might be looking for.

b. Meetings Scheduled

Chairperson Granato announced the following meetings are scheduled: Policy and Planning Committee, Human Resources and Personnel Committee, Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative

(WECC), and Finance and Information Management Committee. [Mr. Cascio added the following meeting: Facilities and Maintenance Committee (January 12, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.).]

9. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

10. Public Comments

Nathalie Trevitazzo, 21 Fairway Drive, spoke regarding the recent outbreak of gastroenteritis at Emerson-Williams School and requested a thorough professional cleaning of that school. She is concerned with this matter and its impact on the Student Attendance Policy.

11. Board Comments

Mr. Hill inquired and Ms. Moon indicated that the Town has until January 1, 2017 to respond to the letter from the State of Connecticut pertaining to the minimum budget requirement. The Town is working to resolve this matter and will keep us posted.

Mrs. Vassel spoke of the gastroenteritis outbreak in the past and asked if the outbreak is occurring in other schools and if so, what the impact to staff is.

Mr. Emmett noted several outbreaks occur in the District schools annually, and there is a sibling impact as well. Impacts are monitored in these instances. Increased cleaning, especially in common areas (restrooms, nurses offices, etc.), occurs when there are outbreaks. Also, students are coming into school already sick. The State limits what type of cleaners (“green clean” products) can be used for cleaning in school buildings. He asked the parents who spoke this evening to meet with him to further discuss this matter.

Mrs. Paradise suggested the implementation of a color coding system in budget documents for one to know where grants are coming from. She inquired and Mr. Emmett noted that the bus contract will be an Executive Session Agenda item for a Board meeting in January 2017.

Mr. Forrest asked Mr. Emmett if a follow up for the Superintendent’s Pre-K Committee can occur soon and if there could be a discussion for an Efficiency Officer. He wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Mrs. Granato commented favorably of the compassionate response from our Town and the WHS community regarding the loss of WHS student, Vanessa Carbone. She further commented on the renewed spirit within our school system and the collaboration among teachers. She noted this Board is willing and excited to take on the challenges associated with education and looks forward to the New Year.

Mr. Breton commented favorably of how the WHS community came together in their recent loss of his classmate and friend, Vanessa Carbone, and that her kind spirit will live on.

Mr. Cascio MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 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