Board of Education

January 10, 2017

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, January 10, 2017, 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; and Wethersfield High School Student Representative, Jack Breton.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Dalis Irizzary led the Board and public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Student/Staff Recognition/Presentations

WHS Class of 2017 students, Allison Fitzpatrick, Kyle Flynn and Bella Silva, made a presentation regarding their WHS 2016 Capstone Project "Changing the Face of Beauty." [Refer to the following link: https://sites.google.com/a/wethersfield.me/whs-blueeagle-productions/]. Board Comments: Mrs. Granato, Mr. Morris and Mr. Cascio commented. Mr. Emmett also commented.

WHS Class of 2017 student, Dalis Irizzary, (accompanied by WHS Student Representative, Jack Breton) made a vocal performance of singer, songwriter, musician and record producer, Stevie Wonder's, *Superstition*. She was selected as a member of the National Association for Music Educators (NAfME) All-National Honor Ensembles (ANHE). November 10th through November 13th 2016, she performed in Grapevine, Texas, in the mixed-choir group representing the top performing

high school musicians in the United States. Board Comments: Mrs. Granato, Mr. Forrest and Mrs. Paradise commented. Mr. Emmett also commented.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a. December 13, 2016 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Cascio MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of December 13, 2016, as submitted. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously.

4. Public Comment

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

5. Communications

Mr. Emmett welcomed WHS graduates who were in the audience for tonight's meeting. He reported the WHS Open House event will occur on Sunday, January 22, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The snow date for this event 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 portion of the building will occur in the spring of 2017.

Mr. Emmett noted that due to a reduction in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding from the State, the Town is awaiting further response from the State and the Board is awaiting the solution from the Town as to the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) for education. He also commented on the Board's current budget deficit. Due to those factors, the current Board budget has been frozen, and there will be no new positions. Mr. Emmett indicated he will keep the Board up to date with this matter.

Mr. Emmett noted the process for the search for a new Principal for Highcrest Elementary School has begun which includes a timeline and the goal of having the new Principal in place for July 1, 2017. The position has been posted on CT Reap, and focus groups for staff, parents and students regarding that position will be made with the assistance of Human Resource Director, Mr. Donohue.

Mr. Emmett reported that the WHS Winter Sports schedule is in full swing and encouraged everyone to attend the competitions.

6. Action Items

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

Mrs. Vasel MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the International School Field Trip Request for Europe's Mediterranean Coast on April 7, 2018 through April 16, 2018. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mr. Morris, Mrs. Vasel, Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Ms. Moon commented. Mr. Emmett and WHS Teachers, Mr. Nicholas and Mr. Carr, also commented.

b. Recommended Motion: Approval of the Capital Improvement Plan (FY2017-2018 through 2027-2028)

Mr. Morris MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan for FY2017 through 2028. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously.

7. Reports/Discussion Items

a. First Reading: Policy Series 4000

Mrs. Granato asked if Board Members had any questions or comments regarding the mandatory sections of the above policy that was provided in Board Member packets. Board Comments: Mrs. Paradise, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, 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

Policy and Planning Committee: Ms. Moon reported there was a review of the 3000 and 4000 Series. The 3000 Series was returned to CABE for changes/corrections. Any questions or issues to the 4000 Series brought before the Board this evening are to be directed to Mr. Emmett or the Committee.

Mr. Emmett noted the 5000, 6000 and 7000, as well as the returned 3000 Series will be reviewed upon receipt from CABE. Human Resources and Personnel Committee: Mrs. Paradise reported there were

discussions regarding the Employee Manual and a discussion regarding the hiring process for the new Principal of Highcrest School. Mr. Emmett and Mr. Donohue will handle focus groups during the hiring process, and the position has been posted on CT Reap. The posting will close on January 23, 2017. If a viable candidate is not found, the position will again be posted. In the meantime, Mrs. Harvey will remain as Highcrest School Interim Principal for the remainder of the school year. If Board members are interested in participating on the Committee, please inform Mrs. Paradise (she and Ms. Moon will be on the Committee). Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative (WECC): Mr. Forrest reported the Collaborative will be hosting and conducting the grant funded UCONN People Empowering People (PEP) Parent Leadership Training Program. The two (2) hour program will occur for ten (10) weeks. The program is designed to build on the unique strengths and life experiences of participants and emphasize the connection between individual and community action. Finance and Information Management Committee: Ms. Moon reported there was a discussion pertaining to the upcoming workshops the Board will have for creating the 2017-2018 Board budget, and the Board Retreat scheduled for January 17, 2017 may include some time devoted to this matter. The first budget workshop will occur on Saturday, January 28, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Ms. Moon noted that Mr. Emmett will be making his presentation to the Board on February 14, 2017. There is a meeting scheduled with the Town Finance Committee and the Board Finance Committee on January 30, 2017 to review the final report from Blum Shapiro. Ms. Moon also noted the Committee is putting together a presentation to be used by the Board in February. This presentation listening tour is a way for District PTO and parent groups to provide information to Board members regarding the budget and for the Board to learn information from those groups as to what they might be looking for. Mr. Hill, Mr. Cascio, Ms. Moon and Mr. Emmett commented on the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) matter pending with the State and the Town which impacts the current Board Budget.

b. Meetings Scheduled

Chairperson Granato announced the following meetings are scheduled: Shared Services Committee, Facilities and Maintenance Committee, Special Board of Education meeting – Retreat, and CREC Council.

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

Ms. Moon indicated the Hunger Action Committee's 1:30 p.m. meeting at the Pitkin Community Center on Friday, January 13, 2017 will feature a presentation at 2:30 p.m. from two (2) elementary school Art teachers pertaining to the "Empty Bowl Project." She thanked Ms. Dastoli and her staff for allowing this matter to come before the Committee.

Mrs. Granato commented that the financial issues faced will successfully be met with cooperative effort from this Board, Administration, Teachers, Town Council and the Town Manager.

Mr. Breton commented favorably of the Capstone Project presentation made this evening from WHS Class of 2017 students, Allison Fitzpatrick, Kyle Flynn and Bella Silva. He noted WHS students are preparing for their upcoming mid-term exams.

12. Proposed for Executive Session

a. Superintendent of Schools Evaluation

Mr. Morris MOVED to leave public session and enter Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. for purposes of Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Memorandum Regarding Transportation Services. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously.

Mr. Morris MOVED to enter Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. for purposes of Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Memorandum Regarding Transportation Services. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously.

Present for executive session: Mr. Cascio, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Forrest, Mr. Hill, Ms. Moon, Mr. Morris, Mrs. Paradise, Mrs. Vasel, and Chairperson Granato.

Administrators: Mr. Emmett

Others: Mr. Kozaka

Ms. Moon MOVED to leave executive session and re-enter public session at 8:48 p.m. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously.

Mr. Forrest MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education grant to the Superintendent authority to take action on the current transportation contract with Durham School Services, up to an including termination of contract. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Moon and VOTED unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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John Morris, Vice-Chairperson – Secretary

Minutes Recorded by Ellen Goslicki, Recording Secretary