Board of Education

September 10, 2013

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. The tapes are available in the Town Manager's Office.

The Wethersfield Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway. The following Board members were present: Chairman Cascio, Ms. Malec, Mr. Carey, Mrs. DeAngelo, Ms. McDougall, Ms. Moon, Mr. Stanziale, Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise, and Mr. Walsh. Also present was Superintendent of Schools, Michael Emmett.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

WHS students 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. August 27, 2013 Regular Board of Education Meeting

The following corrections were made to the Minutes the Regular Board of Education Meeting of August 27, 2013:

Page 1, Item 1., Pledge of Allegiance, the last name "Kutina" is to read "Latina".

Page 3, Item 5., Communications, Line 19, the words "From and" are to read "From a".

Mr. Carey MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of August 27, 2013, as corrected. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Stanziale and VOTED unanimously with Ms. McDougall abstaining.

4. **Public Comment**

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, discussed CMT data found on www.ctreports.com, and responded to comments pertaining to cohort data made by Mr. Carey at the last meeting.

Kristen Healy, 96 Yale Street, commented unfavorably of the increase in class sizes for Grade 3 at Emerson-Williams School for 2013-2014, and spoke unfavorably of large class sizes [up to twenty-six (26) students] in District elementary schools.

5. Communications

Mr. Emmett indicated the WHS Renovation project will begin on September 18, 2013, with initial work done by O&G Industries on the periphery of the site (erosion control silt fencing, hay bales, re-routing utilities, and installing new underground utilities around the gym addition). Site demolition will begin, including fencing in the tennis courts. The striping of new lines on the tennis courts will be completed to create adequate parking. Temporary chain link fencing and gates will be installed around the site, and temporary asphalt drives will also be installed. Topsoil in the existing softball field will be removed, and the process of excavation for building foundation of the new gym addition. On or about October 15, 2013, the existing pool entrance and driveway will be closed and fenced off. The parking area adjacent to the pool will be closed, and Eagle Drive will be closed to traffic. There will be no entrance to WHS campus from Folly Brook Boulevard (as it will be used for construction vehicle/worker access). Student drop off will be re-routed. The student drop off area will be accessible by Jay Street, where vehicle (not bus) traffic will travel into Jay Street and follow the designated loop directing said traffic back to Wells Road. Buses will utilize a designated area that is marked to drop off students from the Wolcott Hill Road entrance. The Town has created left turn lanes on Wolcott Hill Road in response to the above traffic flow changes. Traffic enforcement resources will be invoked during the school year, if necessary, to enforce no student drop off by parents/students at the WHS entrance on Wolcott Hill Road. Access to the site will be limited, and students eligible for bus transportation are strongly encouraged to utilize bus transportation to and from school. Parents dropping off students are strongly urged to utilize carpools for minimizing traffic to and from school. Mr. Emmett requested that patience and extreme caution be exercised by parents and students during this project. WHS Principal, Thomas Moore, has met with each class to discuss parking restrictions. He informed the Grade 11 students that they do not have parking privileges this academic year. He mentioned information is anticipated from O & G Industries to ascertain whether there are sufficient parking spaces available for Grade 12 student parking, or a lottery is needed (due to parking space constraints) for Grade 12 student parking privileges. Mr. Emmett noted that the public will experience limitations with parking at the site and longer duration time to arrive at WHS destination points as well, and that Mr. Moore met with WHS athletes and their parents last evening regarding the above changes. The above changes will be discussed during Open House at WHS on Wednesday, September 11, 2013, and were also discussed during Freshman Orientation. Mr. Emmett encouraged the public to obtain information regarding the construction schedule by viewing the District's *Facebook* page, as well as the Wethersfield Public Schools website (www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us). Mr. Emmett requested O & G Industries to complete baseline air quality testing to ensure safety for students and staff, as this testing had not been included in the plan. He noted the CMT, CAPT, ACT, SAT, AP, and ECE Data Report will be provided to the Board on September 24, 2013, and completion of the CABE Policy Audit is anticipated for late September/early October 2013. The Board Retreat, facilitated by Nick Caruso of CABE, is scheduled for Monday, September 30, 2013, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Stillman Building, and will include discussions of Board goals, Superintendent goals, and updating of goals. Mr. Emmett responded to concerns raised of parents at the last meeting as well as tonight's meeting, noting he had met with some parents of Emerson-Williams students. He indicated there has been ongoing review of enrollment numbers at two (2) elementary schools in the District: 1) Emerson Williams has two (2) classes with twenty-five (25) students in each class, and one (1) of those classes has an additional adult resource); 2) Webb has a class of twenty-six (26) students with five (5) of those students (Soundbridge program) each having an adult in the classroom as a support resource, and another class with twenty-five (25) students. He mentioned the District is looking for opportunities to float in additional adult support. He noted his support of small class sizes but realizes there are budget limitations. He stressed the importance of focusing on quality instruction. Mr. Emmett has requested a weekly headcount report from school Principals regarding enrollment to verify what is reflected in the PowerSchool System. He indicated the District is awaiting SPI information (replacement to NCLB) from the State in order to complete School Improvement Plans. SPI data previously received was flawed (per State Education Commissioner Pryor). Mr. Emmett mentioned the new Teacher/Administrator Evaluation instrument is being utilized and its process is ongoing. A report regarding the instrument will be provided in the springtime.

6. <u>Reports/Discussion Items</u>

a. Announcements/Information

Chairman Cascio reviewed the items in Board members' packets and requested Committee Chairpersons to provide meeting dates to Mrs. Hussey.

8. <u>Board of Education</u>

a. Meetings Held

Chairman Cascio announced the following meetings; Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative Committee: Chairman Cascio indicated said meeting Agendas and Meeting Minutes are in Board members' packets. School Project Building Committee: Mr. Emmett mentioned the information he stated earlier in tonight's meeting was discussed. Finance and Information Management Committee: Mrs. DeAngelo indicated the end-of-the-year transfers, the final 2012-2013 Budget, Project Choice (73 students enrolled in District), SEED, State required Life Guard Funding, and the Substitutes line item were discussed. She noted time ran out for this meeting, and an additional meeting is requested for September 24, 2013, in order to continue with matters on the Agenda.

b. Meetings Scheduled

Chairman Cascio announced the following meetings are scheduled: Policy and Planning Committee, CREC Council, School Project Building Committee, and Board of Education Retreat.

9. <u>Unfinished Business</u>:

There was no unfinished business discussed during this meeting.

10. <u>Public Comments</u>:

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, anticipates the District's report pertaining to 2013 CMT and CAPT Test results and would like an outcome in the November 2013 election to entail new Board of Education members.

11. <u>Board Comments</u>:

Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise mentioned her anticipation of the CMT, CAPT, ACT, SAT, AP, and ECE Data Report in order to gain insight into student performance pertaining to the testing. She inquired and Mr. Emmett indicated that an update was provided at a meeting with Emerson-Williams parents regarding class size determination (budget, working papers, and District enrollment data was reviewed). She asked Mr. Emmett to provide a copy of the data gathered and reported to the Board in terms of the SBA piloting that occurred in the Spring of 2013.

Mr. Walsh indicated any concerns pertaining to student inclusion in cohort analysis will be explained in the forthcoming CMT, CAPT, ACT, SAT, AP, and ECE Data Report. He commented that due to the cuts of Town Council, the Board was unable to fund a Director of Security.

Ms. McDougall commented on the results summary pertaining to the survey that went out to District Students and Parents. Mr. Emmett indicated results would be discussed further in the Student Programs and Services Committee and would be reflected in the individual School Improvement Plans, as well as in the evaluation process.

Chairman Cascio mentioned there are Boys Varsity and Girls Varsity Soccer Games this evening and a Varsity Football Game on Thursday, September 12, 2013. He also mentioned the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the WHS Renovation Project will be held at WHS on Monday, September 23, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. He requested Board Members to verify their attendance with the Superintendent's Office soon, as hard hats need to be secured. Chairman Cascio inquired and Mr. Emmett clarified it was decided in a committee of multiple stakeholders (including Board Members Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise and Mr. Stanziale, Mrs. Dastoli, Mr. Howes, Mr. Emmett, Mrs. Zacchei, Mr. Verderame, and WFT representatives) that it is inappropriate at this time to have teachers who are at the same bargaining unit working on evaluations. Mr. James Slattery will be providing assistance with the evaluations. Mr. Slattery, who is 092 certified, has worked with the District for the Administrative Retreat and has completed calibration work with the evaluations. Chairman Cascio clarified the responsibilities of the Board are to set policy and to help with funding in response to requests made by the Administration. He offered sympathy on behalf of the Board to Ms. McDougall and her family for the recent passing of her father.

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

Respectfully submitted,

____

Janis Malec, Vice-Chairperson – Secretary

Minutes Recorded by Ellen Goslicki, Recording Secretary