

Board of Education

February 24, 2015

Chairperson DeAngelo 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, February 24, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway. The following Board members were present: Mr. Carey, Mr. Cascio, Mr. Forrest, Mrs. Latina, Ms. McDougall, Ms. Moon, Mr. Morris and Chairperson DeAngelo. Also present were: Superintendent of Schools, Michael Emmett; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Finance, Timothy Howes; Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Sally Dastoli; Director of Special Services, Emily Daigle; Director of Maintenance and Operations, Fred Bushey; Director of Technology, Keith Rafaniello; and Wethersfield High School Student Representative, David Scales.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. McDougall 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. Mr. Emmett welcomed students present in the audience who are currently taking the *Wethersfield Studies* class offered at WHS.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**a. February 10, 2015 Regular Board of Education Meeting**

Mrs. DeAngelo made the following correction:

Page 6, Section 8.a., Line 27: change “Webb” to “Hanmer.”

Mr. Cascio MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of February 10, 2015, as corrected. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously, with Mr. Carey abstaining.

#### **4. Public Comment**

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

#### **5. Communications**

Mr. Emmett noted the last day of school is now re-scheduled for Friday, June 19, 2015 due to the occurrence of four (4) snow days and that five (5) additional days are allotted on the school calendar for use if necessary. Mr. Emmett thanked parents and community members for alerting Central Office of safety issues such as snow piles and non-shoveled sidewalks in the District, as Town personnel have been able to respond to the concerns. Charles Wright, Hanmer, Highcrest and Webb schools have had ice buildup resulting in leaks. Today, the roofing company began addressing the leaks. The Central Office Team (Mr. Bushey, Mr. Rafaniello, Mr. Howes, Mrs. Dastoli, Mrs. Daigle, and Mr. Emmett) will be visiting Emerson-Williams School on Monday, March 2, 2015, as guest readers. Additional distinguished guest readers will be present as well.

Mr. Emmett provided a report on the WHS Renovation Project. There is now full access to the Media Center with technology in place and with books ready to be signed out. There was additional abatement during the February winter recess. The permanent scoreboards have been installed and are operational. The construction company focused on re-setting and adding additional lighting as to decrease shadows. The WHS Tour (guided by O &G) for BOE, Town Council and Building Committee members originally scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2015, is in the process of being rescheduled. Town Councilman Martino reported to Mr. Emmett that the gym and cafeteria flooring abatement/replacement at Emerson-Williams has been approved. Mr. Bushey has begun the specification and bidding processes. It is expected that the work will take place over the summer with project completion by the first day of school. There will be no summer programs offered in the Emerson-Williams school building. Mr. Emmett thanked the Emerson-Williams parents, staff and community for their support of this project.

#### **6. Action Items**

##### **a. Recommended Motion: Approval of the 2015 – 2016 Operating Budget**

Mr. Emmett made a presentation to the Board regarding the 2015-2016 Operating Budget.

Ms. Moon MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the 2015-2016 Operating Budget as presented by the Administration in the amount of Fifty-Six Million, Six Hundred Thirteen Thousand, Four Hundred Fourteen (\$56,613,414.00) Dollars. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Cascio and VOTED 6-2 in FAVOR, as follows: Aye: Mr. Cascio, Mrs. DeAngelo, Mr. Forrest, Ms. McDougall, Ms. Moon, and Mr. Morris; Nay: Mr. Carey and Mrs. Latina. Board Comments: Mr. Carey, Mrs. Latina, Ms. McDougall, Mr. Cascio, Mr. Morris, Ms. Moon, Mr. Forrest and Mrs. DeAngelo commented.

## **7. Reports/Discussion Items**

### **a. Announcements/Information**

Chairperson DeAngelo 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**

Chairperson DeAngelo announced the following meetings: CREC Council: No report was made. Special Board of Education Meeting: Mr. Carey reported the finishing touches on the Board Budget were completed, and there were discussions on the athletic budget, Pay-To-Play, the 704 compliance, and other initiatives. Joint Town Council/Board of Education Finance Committee Meeting: Mr. Emmett reported the group met with auditors (as required annually) from Blum Shapiro. There was a significant finding in a couple of aspects of the Board Budget, and the group worked on an appropriate response. There was also a discussion regarding changes made resulting in efficiencies at Central Office. For example, the ED001 filing is improved dramatically from the past due to the process becoming more efficient and accurate. The auditors were pleased with the idea that the Board and Town Council are interested in having joint collaborative meetings regarding Town finances each year going forward. School Projects Building Committee Meetings: Mr. Emmett reported the Building Committee discussed/approved multiple expenditures and change orders. Reports from the Architect and the Construction Manager regarding progress were made, and updates were presented and posted to the website. The Guidance and Main Office areas will become on line sometime this summer rather than this spring, as previously planned. There were a few Executive Sessions during the

meetings that Mr. Emmett was not privy to. Mrs. DeAngelo inquired and Mr. Emmett indicated the ceiling in the cafeteria was removed during the February winter recess in an effort to allow the construction company to be able to feed the Guidance and Main Office areas to the new boiler room. Abatement on the cafeteria floor had also been completed mindful of the cafeteria going off line in May. All work done in the cafeteria thus far has been acceptable to the Health Department, and the cafeteria remains functional. There will be a discussion with *Chartwell's* as to what will be done during the last few weeks of school if that space has to go off line.

Ms. McDougall inquired and Mr. Emmett indicated science labs, the green roof, the greenhouse, and all renovations to the pool facilities (meeting ADA specifications, renovating locker rooms) are spaces WHS students can look forward to having available in the fall. The auditorium is expected to be on line in December. Memorial Day Committee Meeting: Mr. Cascio reported the parade will take place on Saturday, May 23, 2015 (with the parade course as in the past and with the parade course beginning at CT DMV). The ceremony will be held at Webb Elementary School if it rains. The essay contest for Grade 8 SDMS students is underway, and this year's Memorial Day Parade theme is the honoring of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Iwo Jima-WWII. The parade Marshall and speaker have not been selected; however, five (5) marching bands have been secured.

#### **b. Meetings Scheduled**

Chairperson DeAngelo announced the following meetings are scheduled: Special Board of Education Meeting, Facilities and Maintenance Committee Meeting, Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative, School Projects Building Committee Meeting, and Finance and Information Management Committee Meeting.

#### **9. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

#### **10. Public Comments**

David Caruk, 149 Broad Street, commented favorably regarding the quality of the on-line broadcast of BOE meetings and noted appreciation for effort involved in the budget process. He encouraged student participation at Town meetings and the re-airing of BOE meetings during primetime instead of 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Rebecca Stefano, 11 Cider Brook Drive, commented on student behaviors resulting in arriving late and/or rushing to class due to the WHS Renovation Project. Mrs. DeAngelo commented.

Matt DeAngelo, 16 Dennison Ridge, wished Mrs. Latina a Happy Birthday. He echoed Mr. Morris' favorable comments pertaining to the Board and Town Council working well together from the start in preparing the 2015-2016 Board Budget.

Jarrett Nelson, 30 Dale Road, indicated bathroom stall doors are needed in the Men's Bathroom on the Fifth floor at WHS. Mr. Emmett indicated he will look further into the matter with Mr. Bushey and will get the matter resolved.

#### **11. Board Comments**

Mr. Carey commented favorably regarding the WHS Varsity basketball game held yesterday evening (Glastonbury vs. Wethersfield) wherein WHS Class of 2015 students participating on the Cheerleading, Dance and Basketball teams were honored. Wethersfield won the game by one (1) point.

Ms. Moon congratulated Ingela Shannahan, who was voted as the Young Democrat of The Year. She encouraged students interested in government to be involved, regardless of political affiliation. She spoke favorably of this year's Memorial Day Parade theme honoring the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Iwo Jima-WWII.

Mrs. Latina reminded the audience and public that BOE meetings are found on the WPS website (<http://www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us>). She inquired and Mr. Emmett indicated time has been extended for students to arrive in their subject classes. Mr. Emmett explained that construction activity has closed off some space and has resulted in a buildup of foot traffic in school hallways. He acknowledged that students are experiencing the hardest period in the WHS Renovation Project. Mrs. Latina encouraged the public to attend the Town Council meeting on April 20, 2015, to show their support of the Board's proposed budget if you believe there are things you like.

David Scales commented favorably regarding the hard work done in completing the proposed budget, as well as learning what is being done going forward with the WHS Renovation Project.

Chairperson DeAngelo, mindful of the Memorial Day Parade theme, shared information she learned from CT news station, WTNH-Channel 8. The Veterans' Memorial in Newington has 100 flags which represent the 100 servicemen from Connecticut who fought in the battle of Iwo Jima.

Mr. Carey MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Moon and VOTED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elaine Steinmiller-Paradise, Vice-Chairperson – Secretary

Minutes Recorded by Ellen Goslicki, Recording Secretary