

Board of Education

October 25, 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, October 25, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway. The following Board members were present: Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Forrest, Mr. Hill, Ms. Moon, Mrs. Paradise, Mrs. Vasel, and Chairperson Granato. Also present were: Superintendent of Schools, Michael Emmett; Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction, Sally Dastoli; Director of Special Education, John Karzar; Wethersfield High School Principal, Thomas Moore; and Wethersfield High School Student Representative, Jack Breton.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Adina and Les Cruz 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. October 11, 2016 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Forrest MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of October 11, 2016, as submitted. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Moon and VOTED unanimously.

b. October 12, 2016 Special Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Granato MOVED to postpone this matter indefinitely. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously.

4. **Public Comment**

Matt DeAngelo, 16 Dennison Ridge, commented on quotes and comments made to the press by the previous business manager (February 2016 *Hartford Courant*, etc.) regarding overpayment matters. He asked for clarification as to why the two (2) overpayment matters were not part of the Marcum audit

5. **Communications**

Mr. Emmett reported that there is a minimum day schedule this week to accommodate parent-teacher conferences and allow for staff development opportunities. He reminded the public that **the Board of Education meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2016 (Election Day) has been cancelled and the Monday November 7, 2016 Town Council meeting has also been cancelled**. School will be closed for students on Election Day (Tuesday, November 8, 2016); however, staff members will be present for Professional Development. The District will also be closed on Friday, November 11, 2016 in observance of Veterans' Day. The WHS Pool has re-opened (one (1) week ahead of schedule). The WHS Girls Swim and Dive Teams had their first home meet of the season at the WHS Pool last Friday, and Senior Night for those teams will occur at that site on Friday, November 4, 2016. Mr. Emmett thanked Mr. Bushey and his staff, the Building Committee, members of the Board, WHS Administration and O&G Industries for their efforts in having the pool back on line. WHS Freshmen curriculum at the pool will begin next week. Heavy construction with regard to the WHS Renovation will be substantially completed on Monday, October 31, 2016. Tech Ed, Recording Studio, Green Roof and the last bank of classroom spaces are in the process of becoming finished. Other details will wrap up in the spring of 2017.

6. **Action Items**

a. Recommended Motion: Approval of WHS Geography Curriculum and Grade 6 Social Studies Curriculum

1. Mrs. Fitzpatrick MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the World Geography Curriculum for Grade 9, Level(s) H, 1 & 2. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Moon and VOTED unanimously. **Board Comments:** Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Granato commented.

2. Mrs. Fitzpatrick MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the Grade 6 Social Studies Curriculum. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Moon and VOTED unanimously.

Board Comments: Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Granato commented.

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

Special Board of Education Meeting: Mrs. Granato reported the meeting pertained to personnel matters. Special Board of Education Meeting – Retreat: Mrs. Granato reported the Board met with Lyle Kirkman, a consultant who is working with Administration and the Board on Leadership and Organizational Development. The Board and Superintendent worked on the roles of the Board, its vision, strategic planning and the Superintendent's evaluation. CREC Council: Mrs. Granato noted she was unable to attend this meeting. Policy and Planning Committee: Ms. Moon reported the meeting was canceled due to a lack of a quorum. Student Programs and Services Committee:

Mrs. Fitzpatrick reported the curriculum approved by the Board this evening was reviewed. There were discussions pertaining to: 1) the District Assessment Calendar [number (now reduced) and length of assessments], 2) AP enrollment and scores (and possible implementation of a student survey regarding their AP course experience), and 3) how class size is driving the scheduling at SDMS. There was an update regarding the Kindergarten Collaborative pertaining to purposeful play.

Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative - WECC: Mr. Forrest reported the Collaborative held its annual meeting at the Pitkin Community Center last evening. There was representation from stakeholders interested in Early Childhood Education. It was expressed that the number of children, from all income levels, who are attending preschool is declining. There was a moving and informative presentation on connecting individuals regardless of their diversity and upbringing. This meeting brought to the forefront Wethersfield's need of having a centrally-based Family Center that will attach needs a family may have to available resources. The Center could be a beacon for programs and volunteerism. Many towns in Connecticut have Family Centers. Ms. Moon commented.

School Projects Building Committee: Mr. Emmett reported there was a discussion regarding screening verses painting of the roof handling units, and the issue will be brought before the Wethersfield Planning and Zoning Commission. Change orders and contractor requisitions were also discussed. Punch list items and closeout will continue.

b. Meetings Scheduled

Chairperson Granato announced the following meetings are scheduled: Policy and Planning Committee; Shared Services Committee; Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative – WECC School Projects Building Committee; Student Programs and Services Committee; CREC Council and Finance and Information Management Committee.

9. Unfinished Business

Ms. Moon inquired and Mrs. Granato indicated she has sat down with the Marcum firm to seek clarification regarding the work they performed and their findings. The Business Department is also involved in this process. All the details reviewed have not yet been completed. As soon as clarification is made, Mrs. Granato will report any changes. Mrs. Granato indicated this work does not change the conclusion that Marcum has not found any information in the audit that identifies “suspicious, fraudulent or inappropriate activity concerning the payroll records of the Board of Education.”

10. Public Comments

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

11. Board Comments

Mrs. Vasel indicated the WHS Marching Band will be competing in the New England State competition this Saturday, October 29, 2016 in New Britain, CT. The Band will also be competing in the National competition on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at MetLife Stadium. WHS Marching Band thanks everyone who has supported their fruit sale (delivery on November 19, 2016). As of last week, WHS Marching Band has received their highest score of the season (90.30). Mrs. Vasel commented favorably of the WHS pool and the excitement its reopening has brought to the community. She inquired and Mr. Emmett indicated he will seek assistance from WHS Principal, Thomas Moore and Advisory to come up with a method in which feedback from students can be obtained about last week’s guest speaker. She also noted that a parent inquired as to how it is decided who speaks at District schools.

Ms. Moon reported that the Hunger Action Team meeting was well attended by students and that the students are very interested in becoming involved. She commented about attendance and the start time of the Community Forum discussing nutrition which was held at Webb School last week.

Mrs. Granato asked if information can be placed on the WPS website pertaining to that forum.

Ms. Moon commented favorably of the participation and presence of WHS Young Democrats at the Democratic Party dinner she attended last Saturday evening.

Mr. Forrest suggested that the Finance and Information Management Committee keep on its agenda the Board's Minimum Budget Requirement, Education Cost Sharing (ECS) allocation of Two Hundred Forty Thousand (\$240,000.00) Dollars. Mr. Emmett noted that by January 1, 2017, Town Council is required to come up with a plan of how that money will be dispersed to the Board.

Mrs. Granato commented favorably of the Professional Development (Discovery Learning/Purposeful Play) for Kindergarten Teachers session that she and Mrs. Paradise attended. She commented favorably of the Discovery Learning Program utilized in elementary schools in the District.

Mr. Breton commented favorably of the recent guest speaker at WHS. He also commented favorably of the WHS pool and the excitement its reopening has brought to the WHS community.

Mrs. Granato reminded the public that **the Board of Education meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2016 (Election Day) has been cancelled** and encouraged everyone to vote on that day.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John Morris, Vice-Chairperson – Secretary

Minutes Recorded by Ellen Goslicki, Recording Secretary