

Board of Education  
February 14, 2023

The regular session meeting was live streamed on COX channel 16 or Frontier channel 6101 and may also be viewed on: YouTube® Channel, “Wethersfield Government Access TV” at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfuf-C0gYVVxmD5ilfFTnsQ>

The Wethersfield Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and was streamed from the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway. The following Board members were present: Mrs. Di Roberts, Mrs. Drew, Mrs. Granato, Mr. Healy, Mr. Laccavole, Dr. Regan-Lefebvre, and Mr. Reilly. Also present were: Superintendent of Schools, Michael Emmett; Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction, Sally Dastoli; Business Manager, Matthew Kozaka; WPS Director of Security & Residency (WPS Liaison--COVID-19 Response Team), Michael Baribault; WPS Director of Special Education, John Karzar; and WHS Student Representative, Ryan Fazzina. Members of the public were also present.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

WHS Student Representative, Ryan Fazzina led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Student/Staff Recognitions/Presentations**

There were no Student/Staff Recognitions/Presentations.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**a. January 24, 2023 Board of Education Regular Session Meeting**

Mrs. Drew MOVED to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Regular Session Meeting of January 24, 2023, as submitted. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Laccavole and VOTED unanimously, with Dr. Regan-Lefebvre abstaining.

**4. Public Comment**

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

## **5. Communications**

Mr. Emmett noted the grant filing for safety and security enhancements (i.e. network video recorders, door upgrades, PA system upgrades, building security cameras) for school buildings is currently being completed. The State would match funds at fifty-seven (57%) percent.

Mr. Emmett indicated RLE, the company that completed the audit of the lighting and HVAC systems in the school buildings, will be presenting its findings to the Town Council during the February 17<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting in Town Council Chambers.

Mr. Emmett noted the BOE budget for 2023-2024 is being developed with the incorporation of needs across the district as expressed by school principals, staff, and parents. Budget development also includes results from the recent survey that went out to community stakeholders. The four (4) budget workshops are open to the public and will be held in the Lower-Level Conference Room at Stillman.

Mr. Emmett indicated that the State will pick up the cost of free school meals in the district schools through the end of this year. Due to this replenishment of funds, money currently being used from the current budget can now be used for improvements at SDMS (floor replacement).

Mr. Emmett noted The Legislative Breakfast at the State Capitol Legislative Office is Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m., and that he, Mrs. Di Roberts, and Mrs. Granato will be attending. He also noted that Representative Jeff Currey, Chair of the Education Committee; and State Representative Amy Morrin Bello will attend a meeting at Hanmer School on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Emmett indicated there are action items for board member consideration this evening which include new curriculum and new course adoptions, as well as a course modification. There is also a motion for an RFP for school construction consultation services. Mr. Emmett noted that a motion will be brought to the Board at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting pertaining to setting the graduation date for the Class of 2023.

Mr. Emmett mentioned that the WHS Brother and Sisters United Club will present at the Social Justice Coalition meeting held in a hybrid format on Thursday, February 16, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at WHS or via *zoom*.

Mr. Emmett reminded everyone that there is no school for students from Friday February 17<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. However, WPS staff will have Professional Development on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. Action Items**

### **a. Recommended Motion: New Course Proposal: Algebra I curriculum**

Mrs. Drew MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the WHS Algebra I curriculum. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Di Roberts and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mr. Healy, Mrs. Di Roberts, and Dr. Regan-Lefebvre commented.

### **b. Recommended Motion: New Course Proposal: Algebraic Foundations curriculum**

Mrs. Drew MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the WHS Algebraic Foundations curriculum. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Di Roberts and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mr. Healy, Mrs. Di Roberts, and Dr. Regan-Lefebvre commented.

### **c. Recommended Motion: New Course Proposal: Chemistry I curriculum**

Mrs. Drew MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the WHS Chemistry I curriculum. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Di Roberts and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mr. Healy, Mrs. Di Roberts, and Dr. Regan-Lefebvre commented.

### **d. Recommended Motion: New Course Proposal: AP Environmental Science**

Mrs. Drew MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve adoption of the new course proposal, AP Environmental Science. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Di Roberts and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mr. Healy, Mrs. Di Roberts, and Dr. Regan-Lefebvre commented.

### **e. Recommended Motion: New Course Proposal: Astronomy**

Mrs. Drew MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve adoption of the new course proposal: Astronomy. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Di Roberts and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mr. Healy, Mrs. Di Roberts, and Dr. Regan-Lefebvre commented.

**f. Recommended Motion: New Course Proposal: Percussion Ensemble**

Mrs. Drew MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve adoption of the new course proposal: Percussion Ensemble. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Di Roberts and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mr. Healy, Mrs. Di Roberts, and Dr. Regan-Lefebvre commented.

**g. Recommended Motion: Course Modification: Name Change from Manufacturing & Production to Manufacturing Engineering**

Mrs. Drew MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the proposed course name change from Manufacturing & Production to Manufacturing and Engineering. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Di Roberts and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mr. Healy, Mrs. Di Roberts and Mrs. Granato commented.

**h. Recommended Motion: Motion to authorize Superintendent to post an RFP for School Construction Consultation Services**

Mrs. Granato MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to post a Request for Proposals, (RFP), for construction consultation services. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Reilly and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Dr. Regan-Lefebvre commented. Mr. Emmett also commented.

**7. Reports/Discussion Items**

**a. Announcements/Information**

Mr. Healy reviewed the items in Board Members' packets and reminded Committee Chairpersons/Board members to review their calendars with scheduled dates and times pertaining to upcoming meetings and note changes to committee meetings. He advised Board members to verify their attendance at Committee Meetings with the Committee's Chairpersons, the Administrative Chairperson, and Mr. Emmett. He encouraged email use by Board members for communicating meeting attendance and ensuring a quorum for committee meetings.

**8. Board of Education**

**a. Meetings Held**

Facilities & Maintenance Committee: Mr. Cascio will provide a report at the next meeting of the Board of Education.

Student Programs & Services Committee: Mr. Healy reported the committee discussed the course modification, new curriculum, and new course adoptions that the board voted on this evening. There were updates regarding the School Improvement Plan for WHS and the current/ongoing work being done on the mastery-based credit assessments.

Memorial Day Parade Committee: Mr. Cascio provide a report at the next meeting of the Board of Education.

Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative, WECC: Mrs. Di Roberts reported the meeting was held at First Church Preschool in order to meet Preschool Director, Lisa Roncalli and staff for a tour and a discussion of the collaboration with WECC, the Preschool, and WPS. The collaboration would work as supportive partners for early diagnosis and intervention, kindergarten: readiness, guidance, and instruction. Parent resources including computer Apps were also discussed. Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction, Sally Dastoli provided information about WPS expectations, as supports in place. She suggested that preschool can play a critical role in helping WPS establish strong attendance in a student's academic career. Town of Wethersfield/WPS Family and Early Childhood Coordinator, Kim Bobin shared information about resources and new ideas about how WECC can be involved with First Church Preschool.

Mrs. Di Roberts mentioned a goal for early childhood education is for WECC, WPS and the preschools in Wethersfield to share among each other resources, information, concerns, and issues in order to provide complete and the best coverage possible through a very determined mindset of cooperation.

Finance & Operations Committee: Mrs. Drew reported there was a discussion about the RFP motion that was brought before the Board earlier this evening. The free lunch legislation was discussed, and the savings from the State providing funds for free breakfast and lunch program might be a wash when considering the costs associated with three tuition (3) outplacements.

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

CREC Council (02.15.23 @ 11:30am), Finance & Operations Committee (02.28.23 @ 6:00pm), Budget Workshop – Day 1 (02.25.23 @ 9:00am), Budget Workshop – Day 2 (03.01.23 @ 6:00pm), Budget Workshop – Day 3 (03.04.23 @ 9:00am), and Budget Workshop – Day 4 (03.08.23 @ 6:00pm)

## **9. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

## **10. Public Comment**

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

## **11. Board Comments**

Mrs. Granato wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. She commented favorably of the new curriculum and new course proposals, and course modification the Board will be considering as tonight's action items. She asked Mr. Emmett, administrators, and teachers to provide a report on the Restorative Practices curriculum and Professional Development and the implementation of same in the post covid environment.

Mrs. Drew commented favorably of WHS Open House event for Grade 8 students and the upcoming WHS Safe Grad Committee fundraiser (bring your own drink) dance on March 25<sup>th</sup> (raffle prizes are still needed). She also commented favorably of the CAFE (board roles and communication) webinar she recently participated in. She also commented favorably of the Charles W School's PTO meeting that hosted a presentation of the Science of Reading, and that PTO is collecting clothing and household goods that can be dropped off at the school on February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. She also attended the Highcrest School PTO meeting, and results from the WPS administration survey were discussed. She congratulated WHS student Ryan Gagne who broke the recent record at WHS in the 1600-meter event this past weekend. He, Jayson Burchell, and Delaney Speed will represent WHS as they compete in the State Open this weekend.

Dr. Regan-Lefebvre inquired and Mrs. Drew indicated that the WHS Safe Grad fundraiser on March 25<sup>th</sup> is a dance for parents. She reminded the public to be active in speaking with BOE and Town Council members regarding the budget. She stressed the importance of attending Town Council meetings regarding issues of concern in the Board of Education budget.

Mr. Reilly commented favorably of the Emerson-Williams PTO meeting he attended yesterday evening. He also commented favorably of the Career Advisory Board meeting he recently attended. Discussions at that meeting included: 1) establishing roles for the CAB, 2) the Career

Fair at WHS on April 15th, 3) mock interviews, and 4) the Career and Technical Fair scheduled the week of May 15<sup>th</sup>.

WHS Student Representative, Ryan Fazzina noted that course selections for the 2023-2024 school year have begun with students hearing presentations through their *WeConnect* classes about new and existing course offerings. He commented favorably of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Family Night WHS recently hosted. The WHS InterAct Club and Wethersfield Social Services is having a Health and Hygiene drive with health and hygiene products accepted through February 14<sup>th</sup>. He also noted the first, in-person PTSA meeting (with a hybrid option) was recently held since the start of the pandemic.

Mrs. Drew MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Di Roberts and VOTED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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John F. Cascio, Vice-Chairperson – Secretary

Minutes Recorded by Ellen Goslicki, Recording Secretary