

Board of Education

November 12, 2013

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

The Wethersfield Board of Education met in special session on Tuesday, November 12, 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, Vice Chairperson Malec, Mr. Carey, Mrs. DeAngelo, Ms. McDougall, Ms. Moon, Mr. Stanziale, Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise, and Mr. Walsh. 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; Wethersfield High School Principal, Thomas Moore; and Wethersfield High School Student Representative, Sam Solberg.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Patti Silva and Bella Silva led the Board and public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

a. **October 22, 2013 Regular Board of Education Meeting**

Mr. Stanziale MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of October 22, 2013. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Carey and VOTED unanimously.

3. **Recognition of Outgoing Board Members**

Emmett spoke of the expertise, dedication, and service provided to the District from departing Board Members, Ms. Malec, Mr. Stanziale, and Mr. Walsh. He presented them with a gift as a token of appreciation for their service. **Board Comments:** Mrs. DeAngelo, Ms. Moon, Mr. Stanziale, Mr. Walsh, Vice Chairperson Malec, and Chairman Cascio commented.

4. Recess

There was a brief recess for the process of commencing the induction of Board Members.

5. Swearing - In of Board Members

Wethersfield Town Clerk, Mrs. Sassano, administered the oath of office to the newly-appointed Board members: Mr. Carey, Mr. Cascio, Mr. Forrest, Mrs. Latina, Mr. Morris, and Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise.

6. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson – Secretary

Mr. Morris MOVED to nominate Mr. Forrest as Chairperson of the Wethersfield Board of Education. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Moon.

Mr. Carey MOVED to nominate Mrs. DeAngelo as Chairperson of the Wethersfield Board of Education. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Latina.

The motions were VOTED Mr. Carey, Mrs. DeAngelo, Mrs. Latina, Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise and Mr. Cascio voting for Mrs. DeAngelo; and Ms. McDougall, Ms. Moon,

Mr. Forrest and Mr. Morris voting for Mr. Forrest. The motion was VOTED 5-4 for Mrs. DeAngelo as Chairperson of the Wethersfield Board of Education.

Ms. McDougall MOVED to nominate Ms. Moon as Vice-Chairperson – Secretary of the Wethersfield Board of Education. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest.

Mr. Carey MOVED to nominate Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise as Vice-Chairperson – Secretary of the Wethersfield Board of Education. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Cascio.

The motions were VOTED Mr. Carey, Mr. Cascio, Mrs. DeAngelo, Mrs. Latina and Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise voting for Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise; and Mr. Forrest, Ms. McDougall, Ms. Moon and Mr. Morris voting for Ms. Moon. The motion was VOTED 5-4 for Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise as Vice-Chairperson – Secretary of the Wethersfield Board of Education.

Mrs. DeAngelo then continued the meeting in her new role as Chairperson of the Board with Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise as Vice- Chairperson – Secretary.

7. Public Comment

Patti Silva, 24 Hillcrest Avenue, appeared before the Board and thanked departing Board Members for their service, and the new Board members for their desire to take on the responsibility to serve. She commented on the new leadership of this Board.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, commented on the November 5, 2013 election results and this evening's Board leadership election results. He asked this new Board to listen to the public, wished the new Board well, and spoke of the time limitation imposed on speakers during Public Comment portions of a meeting.

8. Board Comments:

Mr. Forrest congratulated Chairperson DeAngelo and Vice Chairperson Steinmiller-Paradise as leaders of the Board for the next two (2) years. He spoke of the strengths they bring to this Board. He looks forward to serving on the Board and working in a bi-partisan manner with Board Members. He mentioned: 1) stability in Administration, 2) structured curriculum, 3) early childhood education, 4) providing a communication form in a non-political, safe environment for Teachers/parents to voice concerns, 5) shared services and budgeting, 6) arts and athletics, as matters of importance and focus as he asked for support of those matters from this Board. He noted he's inspired by his daughter to serve on the Board and thanked his wife for her support of his decision to serve.

Ms. McDougall congratulated returning and newly-elected Board Members. She noted she is looking forward to completing work with the Board and the District's strong Administrative Team to improve and enhance District schools.

Ms. Moon congratulated Chairperson DeAngelo and Vice Chairperson Steinmiller-Paradise as leaders of the Board. She is looking forward to working in a new dynamic with the same spirit of the Board as in the last two (2) years. She also noted she is looking forward to ideas from the Shared Services Committee. She recognized the Veteran's Day program held November 11, 2013 at Town Hall and the students who participated. She encouraged students to be mindful of information they post on social networking sites, as colleges are beginning to review activity on those sites relative to the school admission process.

Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise thanked voters and noted she will continue to do what is best for the children.

Mr. Cascio thanked Mrs. DeAngelo and Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise for taking on their new roles, as well as returning and newly-elected members to the Board and looks forward to working with them and moving the District forward. He thanked the voters for re-electing him to the Board and his family members allowing him to continue his service on the Board.

Mr. Carey thanked the voters for re-electing him to the Board and his family members allowing him to continue his service on the Board. He also thanked returning and departing Board members for their hard work and noted he looks forward to working with the newly-elected members. He read a quote made from former U.S. President John F. Kennedy.

Mrs. Latina thanked her family and the community for their support. She noted the future of the Town depends on the Board working together respectfully and cooperatively to move education issues forward. She looks forward to working with the Board for the next two (2) years.

Mr. Morris thanked the community for their support. He was on the Board thirteen (13) years ago and noted he looks forward to sharing that perspective with this Board. He spoke of public and student perspectives on pride in District schools and pride in the work of the Board.

Chairperson DeAngelo thanked her family and the community for their support. She thanked Mr. Cascio for his expertise and mentioned she will continue to work hard with the Board. She spoke of Board accomplishments over the last two (2) years.

Mr. Emmett mentioned there is a large amount of work to be completed and that he looks forward to working with the Board. He noted comfort in hearing the common theme of working in the best interests of the children as expressed by Board members this evening.

Mr. Carey MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Steinmiller-Paradise, Vice-Chairperson – Secretary

Minutes Recorded by Ellen Goslicki, Recording Secretary