Board of Education

March 28, 2017

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 Wednesday, March 28, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway. The following Board members were present: Mr. Cascio, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Forrest, Mr. Hill, Ms. Moon, Mrs. Paradise, Mrs. Vasel, Vice Chairperson Morris and Chairperson Granato. Also present were: Superintendent of Schools, Michael Emmett; Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction, Sally Dastoli; Business Manager, Matthew Kozaka; Wethersfield Public Schools Supervisor of Mathematics K-12, Dr. Katarzyna Suarez; Director of Special Education, John Karzar; Wethersfield High School Principal, Thomas Moore; Silas Deane Middle School Principal, Susan Czapla; Silas Deane Middle School Assistant Principal, Cynthia Fries; Hanmer School Principal, Margaret Zacchei; and Wethersfield High School Student Representative, Jack Breton.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Lilliana, Ashea and Rose Spence led the Board and public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Student/Staff Recognition/Presentations

Hanmer School Grade 6 students and their Teacher, Mrs. Martin made a presentation regarding their upcoming performance of the musical, *Joust*, which will take place in the Hanmer School Gymnasium at 9:15 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday March 29, 2017. Their presentation can be viewed by accessing the following links: http://www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us/cf_media/index.cfm?g=370 and http://www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us/cf_media/index.cfm?g=371. Hanmer School Principal, Margaret Zacchei commented. Board Comments: Mrs. Granato commented. Mr. Emmett also commented.

SDMS Students, Molly, Oscar, Emily, Tommy, Lorien, Olivia, Alexa and Jack, made a presentation regarding after-school activities programs offered at SDMS. Their presentation can be viewed by

accessing the following link: https://prezi.com/x24vyewxw5_6/boe-afterschool-activities-presentation/ SDMS students will perform *The Lion King Jr.* in the SDMS Auditorium Friday, March 31 through Sunday, April 2, 2017. Silas Deane Middle School Principal, Susan Czapla; and Silas Deane Middle School Assistant Principal, Cynthia Fries commented. Board Comments: Mrs. Granato commented. Mr. Emmett also commented.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a. March 15, 2017 Special Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Forrest MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting of March 15, 2017, as submitted. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Fitzpatrick and VOTED unanimously.

4. Public Comment

Diana and Kirk Pettigrew, 105 Albert Avenue, commented favorably of, and thanked those involved with, the education their son received in the District (Grade 1 through WHS Class of 2017).

Ms. Donna Messenger, 87 Clovercrest Road, spoke of the District's ELL Program.

5. Communications

Mr. Emmett provided an update pertaining to the searches for new Principals of both Highcrest and Hanmer elementary schools. A candidate for Principal of Highcrest School was vetted through the Full Committee and Administrative Committee levels. Performance tasks were also completed in that process. The candidate was to be brought before the Board at a meeting in March that was canceled, and, unfortunately, that candidate was selected as a school Principal in another district. The position has now been re-posted and will remain active through April 24, 2017, and the Committees hereinbefore mentioned will again be involved in the process. Mrs. Harvey remains Highcrest School's Interim Principal for the remainder of the school year. The Hanmer School Principal position vacancy is posted and will close tomorrow (March 29, 2017). Mr. Donohue conducted a focus group with Staff, will be coordinating a focus group meeting with parents, and Mr. Emmett will meet with Hanmer School students in this regard. Interviews are expected to be conducted during the week of April 17, 2017. The goal is to have Principals for both schools in place by July 1, 2017.

Mr. Emmett reported he will attend a meeting for stakeholders and coaches on Thursday, March 30 to discuss replacement of the turf at WHS Cottone Field over the summer. He noted the need for the field to be ready for August 13, 2017 WHS football practice. Specifications for that project were included in Board members' packets for their review.

Mr. Emmett noted the WHS Class of 2017 Graduation date motion will be brought to the Board this evening, as it was vetted through WHS Principal, Thomas Moore as well as two (2) WHS Senior Class Officers.

Mr. Emmett reported his attendance last Saturday at the CMEA Festival held at WHS on Friday and Saturday, March 24-25, 2017. Hundreds of students from the Greater Hartford area participated, and there was a sell-out crowd for the chorale performance. Band and Orchestra performances were also well attended with one hundred, forty-one (141) students from Wethersfield participating. The WHS Auditorium received revenue in accordance with terms of the WPS Board Policy (Building Use). Mr. Emmett thanked WPS Music Staff for their hard work in preparing for the event and WPS Custodians for their assistance in making the facility ready for this use.

Mr. Emmett noted that select musicians will participate in the honors chorus and honors orchestra at the CMEA Connecticut Convention Center on Thursday and Friday of this week.

Mr. Emmett reported that efforts from WHS Teacher, Julie Freel and the Rotary Club of Wethersfield/Rocky Hill resulted in the holding of a fundraiser for *Wethersfield Transition Academy* (*WTA*). As a result of that endeavor, *WTA* received seventeen (17) laptop computers for job skills, resume creation and educational use by each student currently enrolled.

Mr. Emmett reported the Building Committee continues to work on punch-list items for concluding the WHS Renovation Project. Wethersfield Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) decided a full roof screening is to be installed on the east side of the WHS rooftop HVAC system. The PZC also required that landscaping be completed for that matter, and pricing for those entire screening details is anticipated. One more batch of technology is due to be purchased, and the expense for *Chromebook* has dropped from $154,300 to $125,000. Furniture is also needed in extra classrooms. The Locker Room drainage issue may require removal of the tile floor, as other methods have not resolved the drainage issue. The balancing of the heating and the air conditioning systems has been an ongoing problem and roof leaks are being addressed. It was noted the pizza oven has been installed in the WHS Kitchen and is functioning well.

6. <u>Action Items</u>

a. Recommended Motion: Approval of 2017 Graduation Date of June 16, 2017

Mrs. Vasel MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education set the 2017 Wethersfield High School Graduation date for June 16, 2017. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Fitzpatrick and VOTED unanimously. <u>Board Comments</u>: Mr. Forrest and Mrs. Paradise commented. Mr. Emmett and Mr. Breton also commented.

b. Recommended Motion: Approval of Policy Series 4000

Ms. Moon MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the Policy Series 4000. The motion was SECONDED by Mrs. Paradise and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Ms. Moon 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

Policy and Planning Committee: Ms. Moon reported the mandated 6000 Series was reviewed with changes, and the Series was sent back to CABE. The Committee will review the mandated 7000 Series during next week's meeting. Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative - WECC: Mr. Forrest noted the beta test of the Virtual Family Resource Center (an online resource for families to obtain information regarding health, childcare, educational, recreational information, events calendar that will be made available to families in Wethersfield) remains in process at this time. Mayor Montinieri and Ken Lesser spoke of a non-partisan event, the second annual Mayor's Charity Ball, which will be held on Friday, June 2, 2017 to benefit Early Childhood Education Scholarships. There is a trend in our District elementary schools of children not attending preschool, and the event is an attempt to help reverse that trend. School Projects Building Committee: Refer to Section 5. Communications. CREC Council: Mrs. Granato reported the meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. Finance and Information Management Committee: Ms. Moon reported the Minutes from the meeting were included in Board Member packets last week. The Board's financial status has no changes from those reported at the Board of Education's regular meeting of February 28, 2017. There is a Board budget deficit of $132,000. As such, a budget freeze has been in place since January 2017 and maintenance has been deferred. Also, technology department hold backs, postponement of textbook purchases and a reduction of instructional supplies has occurred. Five (5) additional outplacements have occurred since January 2017 and have contributed to the deficit. The Custodial contract has just been settled with salary expenditures retroactive. There was an increase in legal services. The Town has agreed to the

transfer of the MBR allocation and has been factored into the deficit. RFPs for Transportation Services close on April 21, 2017. Mr. Kozaka will review the proposals, bring them to the Committee, and interviews will follow in order to have a contract in place by July 1, 2017. Special Board of Education Meeting: Mr. Morris reported the Board voted to: 1) cancel the April 11, 2017 Board of Education Regular meeting due to School Vacation Week in our District and 2) approve the Town's Resolution of the MBR issue. Mr. Morris thanked Administration for their work with the Town regarding the MBR issue. Student Programs and Services Committee: Mrs. Fitzpatrick reported the District Special Education Staff (Pre-K through WTA) spoke of the various programs and the opportunities those programs provide to students. Some out-of-the-box thinking resulted from the meeting for matters such as outplacement. Mrs. Granato, Mr. Morris, Mrs. Paradise, and Mrs. Vasel commented. Memorial Day Parade Committee: Mr. Cascio reported the parade will take place 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 27, 2017 (with the parade course as in the past and with the parade course beginning at CT DMV). In the event of rain, an announcement will be made by 8:00 a.m., and the Ceremony would then be held at WHS. The Parade Marshal, Parade Speaker and reminders to dignitaries of their letter notification of the event were discussed. Bands, organizations and groups have been contacted. Lee Seekus has been keeping an accurate account (currently 125 in the Roll of Honor) of the deceased veterans from Wethersfield. The essay contest for Grade 8 SDMS students is underway regarding the topic, "What Does Memorial Day Mean to Me"? The winner of the essay contest will: 1) receive a $100.00 savings bond, 2) have the opportunity to march in the parade and 3) have the opportunity to read their essay during the Ceremony after the parade. Clergy is to be announced. Fidelco Guide Service Dogs to Veterans (formerly and/or currently serving in the military) and the dog's service member will also be honored. Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Forrest commented.

b. Meetings Scheduled

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

9. Unfinished Business

Mr. Cascio added the following meeting to **Meetings Scheduled**: Facilities & Maintenance Committee (April 3 at 7:00 p.m.) in the Stillman Building. Mrs. Paradise noted that Mr. Emmett will be scheduling a Human Resources & Personnel Committee meeting. Mr. Emmett noted a Community & Public Relations Committee meeting will also be scheduled.

10. Public Comments

Ms. Donna Messenger, 87 Clovercrest Road, offered her telephone number to the Board members to discuss the District's ELL Program. She commented favorably of Highcrest Interim Principal, Maresa Harvey.

11. Board Comments

Mr. Forrest noted there is a tuition-based Pre-K program in the Town of Newington. He asked that the Board of Education's Education subcommittee begin a process toward implementing a Pre-K program in Wethersfield.

Mrs. Granato commented favorably of the WHS presentation, *Sister Act*, which was held Friday, March 10th and Saturday, March 11th. She noted members audience members commented favorably to her of their frequent attendance at WHS events.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick commented favorably of the WHS presentation, *Sister Act*, which was held Friday, March 10th and Saturday, March 11th.

Mr. Breton mentioned that WHS Class of 2017 students are completing their Dollars for Scholars applications. He recognized Wethersfield's DECA group for their success at the State competition recently held.

Mr. Morris MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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John Morris, Vice-Chairperson – Secretary

Minutes Recorded by Ellen Goslicki, Recording Secretary