

Willington Board of Education
Tuesday, April 10, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
Town Office Building, Lower Level Meeting Room

Audio Recording yes
Notes Taken yes

Members present at meeting:

Tracey Anderson
Herb Arico
Chiara Bambara
Michelle Doucette Cunningham
Ann Grosjean
Elena Testa

Members absent:

Marybeth Walleth

Also present: Interim Superintendent of Schools Jacqueline J. Jacoby

1. Call to Order at 7:08p.m. by Michelle Doucette Cunningham

2. Present to Speak (Speakers must sign Present to Speak form)

Judie Threatt, 19 Birch Meadow: Commented that it has been a long budget process and wanted to thank the Board of Education (BOE) for their outstanding job. Asked the BOE not to cut any teachers and mentioned the NBR status and hoping to not get hit with a fine.

3. Communications-none

4. Board of Education Chairman's Report

2018-2019 Budget Discussion-

The town is requesting a waiver to the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) as the Teacher's Retirement Bureau (TRB) money should not be part of MBR. The State is receptive but we do not have an answer at this time.

The Board of Finance (BOF) did not adjust the \$70,000 cut from BOE budget. Based on purposed insurance savings for next year, we may be able to save up to \$30,000. The BOE is still waiting on other information to decide on where cuts should be made; like information on technology contracts and whether we will need a third kindergarten teacher based on increased enrollment.

The BOE will plan to have more in-depth conversations around budget cuts during the May meeting. Each Board member has been asked to review the programs and make suggestions on where possible cuts can be made in preparation for the next meeting.

Michelle, Elena and Ann will be the Board members serving on the committee to manage the classified union negotiations.

MOTION: by Herb Arico to remove new business items D and E from the April 10, 2018 Board of Education meeting agenda (currently looking at other contracts and collecting additional information)

Seconded by Chiara Bambara

VOTE:	Yes	No	Abstain
Tracey Anderson	X	----	----
Herb Arico	X	----	----
Chiara Bambara	X	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X	----	----
Ann Grosjean	X	----	----
Elena Testa	X	----	----
Marybeth Wallett (absent)	----	----	----

Motion Passed

5. Superintendent Reports

Budget Related Dates:

- Wednesday, April 18, 2018 Annual Town Budget Meeting
- Wednesday, May 2, 2018 Budget Referendum

Gathering more information about replacing the oil tank at Hall Memorial School and anticipate a motion on the May agenda.

The two items (D &E) taken off the agenda:

- D- looking at other vendors for laptops with possible buyout options, waiting on one firm to give offer
- E- Non-renewal staff of staff- non tenured staff with unsatisfactory performance and choosing to not renew contract. Superintendent will bring motion to BOE to approve these decisions. Waiting to get more information on this.

Superintendent Search- reviewing applications and making decisions on next steps

6. Financial Reports:

Attachment # 1

2.8% of budget left in March: it is unlikely that any reasonable amount of monies will be returned to the town. Since there has been a budget freeze most of the year we are looking at needed purchases such as a Chromebooks.

Excess Cost Grant still to be applied to special education program budget.

7. Committee Reports

Herb Arico reported that Eastconn is in the process of negotiating with instructors as they are unionizing.

8. New Business

A. Approve minutes of March 27, 2018

Attachment # 2

MOTION: by Ann Grosjean to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2018 BOE meeting

Seconded by Elena Testa

VOTE:	Yes	No	Abstain
Tracey Anderson	X	----	----
Herb Arico	----	----	X
Chiara Bambara	X	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X	----	----
Ann Grosjean	X	----	----
Elena Testa	X	----	----
Marybeth Wallett (absent)	----	----	----

Motion Passed

8.B.

Attachment #3

MOTION: by Chiara Bambara (for Healthy Food Options)

I move to approve that the Willington Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-251f of the CT General Statutes, certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in our schools, and not exempted from the CT Nutrition Standards published by the CT State Department of Education, will comply with said standards during the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias and any fundraising activities on school premises, sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

Seconded by Ann Grosjean

VOTE:	Yes	No	Abstain
Tracey Anderson	X	----	----
Herb Arico	X	----	----
Chiara Bambara	X	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X	----	----
Ann Grosjean	X	----	----
Elena Testa	----	----	X
Marybeth Wallett (absent)	----	----	----

Motion Passed

8.B.2

MOTION: by Tracey Anderson (Exemption of Food Items)

Also, the Willington Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the CT Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and, 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

Seconded by Herb Arico

VOTE:	Yes	No	Abstain
Tracey Anderson	X	----	----
Herb Arico	X	----	----
Chiara Bambara	X	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X	----	----
Ann Grosjean	X	----	----
Elena Testa	X	----	----
Marybeth Wallett (absent)	----	----	----

Motion Passed

8C. Modify the 2017-2018 Willington Public Schools calendar to weather related closings. Attachment #4

MOTION: by Ann Grosjean to approve June 21, 2018 as the last day of school for students (an early dismissal) due to 11 weather related closings, thereby reducing the number of student days from 182 to 180 as allowed by Conn. General Statute § 10-15.

Seconded by Elena Testa

VOTE

Tracey Anderson	X	----	----
Herb Arico	X	----	----
Chiara Bambara	X	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X	----	----
Ann Grosjean	X	----	----
Elena Testa	X	----	----
Marybeth Wallett (absent)	----	----	----

Motion Passed

The staff will be monitoring temperatures during that last week of school. Teachers have 188 days and are exploring ways to meet the Professional Development areas that would be meaningful for participants.

9. Old Business

A. Second reading of Series 4000 Policies

MOTION: by Ann Grosjean to approve series 4000 Personnel Policies

Seconded by Elena Testa

VOTE

Tracey Anderson	X	----	----
Herb Arico	----	----	X
Chiara Bambara	X	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X	----	----
Ann Grosjean	X	----	----
Elena Testa	X	----	----
Marybeth Walleth (absent)	----	----	----

Motion Passed

10. Present to Speak

Mike Cioe- HMS teacher: He commented on the food at HMS as he has eaten there for 7 of his 12 years. He provided positive feedback and encouraged the Board members to go in and try the food. Wendy and all the staff do a great job with the lunch service.

11. Board Comments

Tracey Anderson- Thanks to Dr. Jacoby and the policy committee. There was a lot of work that went into revising/reading the policies.

Herb Arico- He wants to endorse Elena Testa's encouragement to participate in the Budget referendum. Thanks to Dr. Jacoby for all her work and effort with the budget. Commented on the PTA in Willington and stated how valuable the work they are doing in our town.

Chiara Bambara- She is happy the Board has options for budget decisions and glad that there is more time to make decisions. She thanked all the community members for coming to the meeting.

Michelle Doucette Cunningham- She echoes comments of others and thanked Herb for keeping the Board in check regarding polices as she values it.

Ann Grosjean- In regard to the lunches in school, her granddaughter loves the lunches at Center School and it is balanced/healthy. The food service team is doing a good job.

Elena Testa- Encouraged town members to watch BOE meetings and to get involved in upcoming Town Meeting on April 18 and the Budget Referendum on May 2.

Marybeth Walleth-absent

MOTION: by Herb Arico to move into executive session

Seconded by Elena Testa

VOTE

Tracey Anderson	X	----	----
Herb Arico	X	----	----
Chiara Bambara	X	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X	----	----
Ann Grosjean	X	----	----
Elena Testa	X	----	----
Marybeth Wallett (absent)	----	----	----

Motion Passed (8:00 pm)

- 12.** Exited Executive session at 8:24 p.m. and the meeting adjourned.