

**Willington Board of Education**  
**June 12, 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 Wallett

Also present: Interim Superintendent of Schools Jacqueline J. Jacoby, CES Principal Phil Stevens, HMS Principal Ken Craig

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

**2. Present to Speak**- none

**3. Communications** - none

**4. Board of Education Chairman's Report**- The Board is looking to change their July 10, 2018 meeting as they will not have a quorum. Currently, they are looking at moving it to the last week of July.

**5. Superintendent Reports**

Teacher Resignation- Kara Hennessey, HMS 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

Requirements of the WPS Food Service Audit: Paid Lunch Equity for 2018-2019  
a small increase in student and adult breakfast, lunch and milk prices)  
(*vote in July*)

HMS Oil Tank Update: WPS filled out all paperwork necessary for reimbursement program. The refund has changed from original 64.64% to now 62.62%. The Superintendent needs to have the fire marshal sign off on the need to remove the old oil tank and return to the BOF to ask to supplement the now \$7000 difference.

Thanks to Cinnamon Adams for serving as the Recording Secretary. She will be stepping down and welcome to Becca Rupert, who will be the new Recording Secretary.

Dr. Jacoby also thanked the BOE members and the town of Willington. She said it was a wonderful run in Willington and she is excited about the transition as there are great things happening in Willington.

HMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation is on Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you to Diane Walter, CES teacher, who is retiring this year.

Thank you to Brenda LaFemina-Weber, she has provided wonderful administrative support!

Teacher Association chose to hold their four day professional development at the end of the school year.

**6. Financial Reports:**

**Attachment # 1**

There is 1.3% remaining in the budget. The money for teacher retirement will be returned to the BOF and the rest will be used for needs that weren't met during the year.

**7. Committee Reports- none**

**8. New Business**

A. Approve minutes of May 8, 2018

**Attachment # 2**

**MOTION:** by Herb Arico to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2018 BOE meeting

Seconded by Ann Grosjean

<b>VOTE:</b>	Yes	No	Abstain
Tracey Anderson	X	----	----
Herb Arico	X	----	----
Chiara Bambara	X	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X	----	----
Ann Grosjean	X	----	----
Elena Testa	X	----	----
Marybeth Wallett (not present)	----	----	----

**Motion** Passed

**8. New Business**

B. Approve Special Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2018  
Attachment # 2

**MOTION:** by Ann Grosjean to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2018 BOE meeting

Seconded by Tracey Anderson

<b>VOTE:</b>	Yes	No	Abstain
Tracey Anderson	X	----	----
Herb Arico	----	----	X
Chiara Bambara	X	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X	----	----
Ann Grosjean	X	----	----
Elena Testa	X	----	----
Marybeth Wallett (not present)	----	----	----

**Motion**    Passed

8.C.    Pre-school reorganization at Center School based on student numbers and needs.

Holly McCarthy, WPS Pupil Services Director, presented the problem and possible solutions to reorganizing the pre-school opportunity at CES. Currently the program serves students with special education needs, students who may be at risk, and students who serve as models (they have met their developmental milestones). This will continue.

However, due to capacity and the number of applications, currently there is not enough space for students who serve as models.

The proposed reorganization includes:

- a 3 day morning program
- a 2 day morning program
- a 4 day afternoon program
- 1 day for home visits, and “Play with Purpose” for students.

With this new plan, all students that apply will be accommodated.

8C **MOTION:** by Ann Grosjean to approve purposed modifications to the PreK program.

Seconded by Tracey Anderson

<b>VOTE:</b>	Yes	No	Abstain
Tracey Anderson	X	----	----
Herb Arico	X	----	----
Chiara Bambara	X	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X	----	----
Ann Grosjean	X	----	----
Elena Testa	X	----	----
Marybeth Wallett (not present)	----	----	----

**Motion**    Passed

8.D. Request for additional kindergarten class at Center School  
(consideration of options)

All the possible options to respond to a larger Kindergarten class in the fall were presented to the BOE to consider. Currently there are 37 students in 2 classes. Discussion among the BOE included the importance and the priority of the town to keep class sizes smaller. There were three options provided for the BOE to consider including adding one additional Kindergarten teacher, adding one additional Kindergarten teacher to share between the two classes, or adding paraprofessional staff to be shared by Kindergarten classes (either one or two staff members). Two additional options were also provided which included eliminating either one second grade class or one fourth grade class, based on the numbers in those levels and the higher grade level.

Concern was raised about asking the BOF for more money and the possibility of raising taxes and whether we are really at a point of need to add another teacher. Erika Wicenski, current First Select Woman and ex officio member of BOE, shared that the mill rate has already been sent so asking the BOF for money for a kindergarten teacher would not raise taxes. However, she did mention the importance of the BOE examining where they might be able to find money in their budget and providing that information when they speak to the BOF.

Dr. Jacoby suggested to table the vote, to notify the BOF of this predicament and go back to the budget to review and vote in July.

**MOTION:** by Chiara Bambara to table the options for additional kindergarten class at Center School until the next BOE meeting.

Seconded by Ann Grosjean

<b>VOTE:</b>	Yes	No	Abstain
Tracey Anderson	X	----	----
Herb Arico	X	----	----
Chiara Bambara	X	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X	----	----
Ann Grosjean	X	----	----
Elena Testa	X	----	----
Marybeth Wallett (not present)	----	----	----

**Motion**     Passed

8.E. First reading of series 6000, Instruction

The Policy Committee reviewed the current 6000 series and determined that parts of it were obsolete and added or changed any policies to be in compliance with any mandated policies. Attention was brought to 6153 School Sponsored Trips needed to be pre-approved by BOE if over 7 hours; and 6152

Class Size providing maximum desired ranges. The BOE will review and suggest any changes/additions for the second reading at the next meeting in July.

#### **8.F. APPROVAL OF A ONE YEAR CONTRACT BETWEEN THE WILLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE WILLINGTON EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF**

**MOTION:** by Tracey Anderson to approve a one year contract, July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019, between the Willington Board of Education and the Willington Educational Support Staff.

Seconded by Elena Testa

<b>VOTE:</b>	Yes	No	Abstain
Tracey Anderson	X	----	----
Herb Arico	X	----	----
Chiara Bambara	X	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X	----	----
Ann Grosjean	X	----	----
Elena Testa	X	----	----
Marybeth Wallett (not present)	----	----	----

**Motion** Passed

Thank you to the two teams that worked efficiently on this, including Elena Testa, Nichole Page (HMS) and Phil Stevens.

#### **8.G. APPROVAL OF A SIX MONTH CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

**MOTION** by Ann Grosjean to approve a six month contract extension, July 1, 2018-December 31, 2018, with Custom Computer Specialists for the district and town technology support.

Seconded by Chiara Bambara

<b>VOTE:</b>	Yes	No	Abstain
Tracey Anderson	X	----	----
Herb Arico	X	----	----
Chiara Bambara	X	----	----
Michelle Doucette Cunningham	X	----	----
Ann Grosjean	X	----	----
Elena Testa	X	----	----
Marybeth Wallett (not present)	----	----	----

**Motion** Passed

There was a serious discussion with Custom Computer Specialists and they are on a six month trial period. If they meet the standards then WPS will extend the contract. In the meantime we are looking at other companies to compare. There is a sizable increase in payment approx. \$9,000 more than last year.

**9. Present to Speak-**

Mike Cioe, HMS teacher- On the note of class size, it is important to consider because CES is rolling out new curriculum and the consistency of the teacher's placement is important. Additionally, when trying to find monies for new Kindergarten teacher remembering commitments made to maintain current positions.

Erika Wicenski, First Selectwoman- Thank you to Dr. Jacoby for her service and all that she has given to our town and our students. Thanks for backing PreK program as it makes a big difference. Thank you to Holly for what you are doing to help change/grow the PreK program.

**10. Board Comments**

Chiara Bambara- Thank you to Dr. Jacoby for your guidance. Thanks to Wendy Kitchen-Knight who was present about her great work on the Food Audit.

Ann Grosjean- Thank you to Dr. Jacoby. Thank you to the staff who helped with negotiations. Thanks to Holly for creative solutions to help with PreK program.

Tracey Anderson- Thanks to Dr. Jacoby and also thank everyone who came to the meeting.

Elena Testa- To the town members, please come and participate as there are tough decisions to be made.

Herb Arico- Thanks to Holly for an informative presentation. Thanks to the committee who worked on the negotiations. Thanks to the Policy Committee and thanks to Jackie for her service, we wish you the best.

Michelle Doucette Cunningham- Thanks to Jackie and thanks to everyone here at the meeting. We have a lot to be proud of in Willington, it really is a desirable place to move here as the education is good.

**12. Adjournment at 8:49 p.m.**