

**Willington Board of Education
Special Meeting
May 16, 5:30 p.m.
Town Office Building, Lower Level Meeting Room**

Audio Recording yes
Notes Taken yes

Members present at meeting:

Tracey Anderson
Chiara Bambara
Michelle Doucette Cunningham
Ann Grosjean

Members absent:

Herb Arico
Elena Testa
Marybeth Wallett

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

1. **Call to Order** at 5:30 p.m. by M. Doucette Cunningham.
2. **Present to Speak** (Speakers must sign Present to Speak form)

Erika Wiczenski of 19 Adamec Rd. reported that prior to this meeting there was a Special Town Meeting with 4 items on the agenda pertaining to replacing the oil tank at Hall School and that all 4 items passed. Now the B.O.E. can proceed with accepting schematics and/or drawings to apply for the State grant to be reimbursed for the oil tank removal/replacement.

3. **New Business**

3A. APPOINTMENT OF WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT

M. Cunningham reported on the background regarding the appointment. She stated that the Willington Board of Education has identified a candidate for the position of Superintendent of Schools. Connecticut General Statute Section 10-157 authorizes the Board of Education to elect a Superintendent of Schools by a majority vote of all members, subject to confirmation of appropriate certification from the Department of Education and a background check. The statute also directs that the Board enter into an employment contract with the Superintendent of Schools for a term of no more than three years.

MOTION by T. Anderson that the Willington Board of Education hereby elects Mr. Philip Stevens to the office of Willington Superintendent of Schools pursuant to the provisions of Connecticut General Statute Section 10-157 and that the Board further authorizes Chairman Cunningham to finalize and execute an employment agreement with the new Superintendent of Schools on behalf of the Board, to include a beginning date and term of employment, conditional upon a background check.

Seconded by C. Bambara

T. Anderson delivered a statement on behalf of the Board: We have selected Phil Stevens, from a group of competitive candidates, based on his energy and infectious optimism, his experience in the district, his knowledge of the district, his open collaborative experience with curriculum and his creativity.

A. Grosjean stated that she has seen Mr. Stevens at work for many years and that she has experienced 2 generations (of her family) at Center School. He maintains relationships with the students and community and that she is excited to have him as our new Superintendent.

C. Bambara agreed with the above comments and she said appreciates his hands-on approach in the school with the students. She values all the work he has done with curriculum and she looks forward to him continuing on that road as Superintendent.

M. Cunningham stated on behave of the Search Committee that the Board is excited about his vision and looks forward to Mr. Stevens' collaborative nature of building that vision with the community. She is excited about the leadership Mr. Stevens will bring both to the schools and the Town. She stated that we are grateful for all he has done and we are looking forward to all he will do with us in the future.

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

Motion Passed, unanimously

P. Stevens stated that it is an honor and a privilege to be selected, he is excited to serve as Superintendent, he appreciates the Board selecting him and he is humbled to be given the chance to serve the Town of Willington. He stated that this is his hometown and it is a great community. He thanked Dr. Jacoby for the work she has done and that he plans to continue her work. He said he is passionate about his work and is excited to move forward in Town. He thanked the Board for believing in him and for trusting him to lead this district. He also thanked the Center School staff, the Administrative team, all

district staff, parents and community members. He stated that he has been in this district for 15 years and thanks all who supported him especially his family and his wife.

He thanked Dr. Jacoby and Mr. Harding for the mentorship they provided and that he is here because of them. He said positive change requires a leader that is open-minded and exhibits a level of creativity to push the boundaries of an institution, and you can expect those traits from him. He plans to establish, collaboratively with the Board and community, a renewed strategic plan that identifies student achievement and facility planning as priorities. He said that Willington is a special place and that he has every intention of leading the district with passion and integrity.

A short recess was called by M. Cunningham at 5:39 p.m. (for refreshments).

Meeting reconvened at 5:47 p.m.

3B. LAPTOP LEASE APPROVAL

M. Cunningham reported that the BOE finance committee met Friday to review and go over all the quotes for teacher laptops and reconfirmed that best lease option was from CDW-G Company.

MOTION by A. Grosjean to approve a 3 year lease and \$1.00 buyout option at the end of the term from CDW-G Company for teacher laptops in the total amount of \$49,009.23 with an annual amount of \$16,336.41.

Seconded by C. Bambara

Dr. Jacoby reported that the BOE followed purchasing procedures by receiving 3 quotes because the amount was over \$10,000 and that we did look at buying current laptops but it was cost prohibitive. The new laptops are high-end and we believe it is valuable to add the \$1 buy out at the end. If we don't want to keep them for teacher use, we might be able to repurpose them for student use. We are not able to do that with the current lease because the of the \$9,000 cost of buyout.

CDW-G arranged for us to have 2 demos for teachers to try. We think we have done our due diligence and thank you for the vote.

M. Cunningham reports that the new laptop lease gives us more options 3 years from now compared to the current lease which does not give us the option of a buyout. Since we don't have the budget to purchase 55 laptops all at once, we can reuse the best of the laptops for 3-5 years and possible phase in the purchase of laptops so we could save on financing costs down the road. This sets us up to make better financial decisions in the future.

C. Bambara questioned is this laptop lease in the budget. Dr. Jacoby reported that it is not in the budget and we will use funds from the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) grant which you must apply for each year.

VOTE:

Yes

No

Abstain

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

Motion Passed, unanimously

3.C APPROVAL OF ED SPECS

MOTION by C. Bambara move to approve the Education Specifications as presented for replacement of the underground oil tank at Hall Memorial School.

Seconded by Tracey

Dr. Jacoby reported that she contacted the state regarding procedures to follow. Since we are not building a structure, but replacing an oil tank, the presented Ed Specs are sufficient. On Monday we will complete the on-line application for the grant and must get approval from the State before we can contract with Service Station Equipment. We will follow up with the state regarding the timeline in order to complete this project over the summer.

M. Cunningham said that since we are purchasing a double walled fiberglass tank (which we currently do not have) the decision will give us at least 10 more years of tank use.

Dr. Jacoby reported that we are going with a 10,000 gallon tank and that we also looked at 8,000 gallon tank. With a State reimbursement of 64.64%, we looked at the difference between 8,000 and 10,000 gallon tanks and decided to go with the 10,000 gallon tank.

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

Motion Passed, unanimously

3D. BUDGET REDUCTIONS

MOTION by A. Grosjean to adopt the following budget reductions:

1500-200-30	Dental Insurance District	3,000
-------------	---------------------------	-------

(Market price savings)

1501-200-30	Health Insurance District (Market price savings)	33,000
-------------	---	--------

1501-200-30	Health Insurance District (Superintendent medical savings)	18,000
-------------	---	--------

2320-111-34	Superintendent Salary (Superintendent Salary savings)	16,000
-------------	--	--------

for a total of \$70,000

Seconded by T. Anderson

Dr. Jacoby commented that the dental and health insurance is a Market Price Savings where our broker went back out, at our request, to try to get lower rates. She also stated that some of our unions, both Town and Board, helped us to reach those savings which are considerable. The other savings are the result in the changes with the appointment of the new Superintendent.

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

Motion Passed, unanimously

3E. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding for scheduling professional development days during the 2018-2019 school year.

Dr. Jacoby thanked the association for the thoughtful way they approached this problem with the Board. We all felt that to add 4 professional days to the end of this school year, after this difficult winter and long school year, it was not in the best interest of our staff and students long-term. We have chosen, for this school year, to add 2 professional development days after the students are out, which the teachers will attend. We shifted 2 additional days to August at the beginning of the next school year. The 2 days in August will be paid from this year's budget. If special circumstances develop (for example if a teacher is ill and cannot attend), we will deal with this as they come up and provide an alternative plan. This creative plan could not have been done without the cooperation of our teaching staff. The staff will be meeting Thursday to vote on it. We are asking the Board to approve the MOU first and thinks all parties should be very proud of the whole process.

MOTION by C. Bambara move to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, as presented, for scheduling professional development days during the 2018-2019 school year.

Second by A. Grosjean

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

Motion Passed, unanimously

4. Present to Speak

Mike Cioe, HMS Teacher. Mr. Cioe thanked the Board for going through the Superintendent search process and coming up with an excellent Superintendent. He also thanked Dr. Jacoby and Administrators for the time they put in to the MOU if it passes it will be great for all of us. He thanked the Board for finalizing the budget and maintaining as much of it as they could and giving our students everything they need to us to be successful.

Judy Threat of 19 Birch Meadow Lane. Ms. Threat thanked Dr. Jacoby for the time she has given us in Willington and the many months of hard work and dedication to put our Board in a really good place to turn it over to Mr. Stevens. She thanked the Board for getting through a long budget process and for efforts looking at a solution where no positions were cut. She said it shows the creativity here in the plan with the teachers and offered kudos to them and that in the color in the box world, they colored out of the box and congratulations to Mr. Stevens. We were hoping for this outcome.

Erika Wicewski, as First selectwoman thanked Board for the consideration in the new Superintendent search. She said it going to take quite a person to fill the shoes of our past and Interim Superintendents, and Mr. Stevens is just that person. His dedication to our students and our entire town should be evident to anyone who has worked with him and she looks forward to having him in this building and working with him to see the great things we can do.

Ken Craig, Principal of HMS. He stated that he can't say anything that can add to what has already been said and that this is such exciting night for our district; a new Superintendent, a new oil tank (and Dr. Jacoby interjected "new trees"). He said this district is moving in the right direction and that this is a watershed moment with the appointment of Mr. Stevens who has already led the district in the right direction and will now do so 10 fold as Superintendent. He said that the Administrative team is so very excited. He thanked Mr. Stevens for all he has done and looks forward to working with him in the future. He stated that it has been his career's honor to work with Dr. Jacoby

and that he feels so blessed to have the caliber of the Superintendent and administrators that we have had.

M. Cunningham thanked all for attending and invited people to please join us in future meetings. She stated that this is the most exciting night in her 6 years on the Board and is the result of the hard work the Board has done over the years and that we look forward to what happens next.

5. Adjournment at 6:07 p.m.

Submitted by:

Brenda LaFemina-Weber

Recording Secretary