

Waterford Board of Education
Regular Meeting
May 17, 2007
15 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT

PRESENT: Mr. Benoit, Mrs. Cairns, Mr. Brunelle, Mr. Egan, Mrs. McCarty, Mrs. Nazarchyk, Mrs. Ogden, and Mr. Taglianetti

ABSENT: Mr. Blevins

STAFF: Dr. Collins, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Seroussi, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Mr. DeRay, Business Manager; Mrs. Cumming, Administrative Assistant; Mrs. Rosenfield, Director of Special Services; Mr. Miner, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Mrs. Masterjoseph, Director of Curriculum; Mr. Powers, Principal, Great Neck Elementary School; Dr. Dexter, Principal, Cohanzie Elementary School; Mrs. Fedor, Principal, Southwest Elementary School; Mrs. Macione, Principal, Oswegatchie Elementary School; Mr. Lovetere, Principal, Clark Lane Middle School; Mr. Macrino, Principal, Waterford High School

LIAISON/TOWN AGENCIES: Mrs. Macione, WASA; Mrs. Larder, Board of Finance Liaison

Mrs. McCarty established a quorum, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Macrino and Mrs. McCarty presented the CAFE student leadership awards to Alyssa Smith and Jesse Lute.

Dr. Collins requested that the agenda item regarding establishment of tuition rates be removed from the agenda until the next meeting. He also mentioned a request received from the WFCT (Waterford Federation of Classroom Teachers) President to be added to the agenda. Mrs. McCarty called for a motion to amend the agenda.

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education amends its Regular Meeting agenda by deleting item 9.E., Discussion and Possible Action re: Tuition Rates for 2007-08 and adding item 9.E., Discussion and Possible Action re: Request from WFCT President to alter the 2006-07 school calendar.
Brunelle, Nazarchyk—Unanimous

Mrs. McCarty called for questions or comments on the consent agenda.

Pending Consent Agenda Approval

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education approves the consent agenda consisting of: Minutes of April 9, 2007 Special Meeting, Minutes of April 12, 2007 Regular Meeting, Financial Report for April 2007, Food Service Report for March 2007, and Food Service Report for April 2007
Nazarchyk, Egan—Unanimous

Dr. Collins announced that the Redistricting Report should be available for review at the June 14, 2007 Regular Board of Education meeting. It will become effective fall, 2008. Dr. Collins also distributed copies of the recent news article on energy consortium suppliers such as Constellation New Energy, which was the subject of an analysis by State Representative Nardello who claims that promises of savings did not materialize. More detailed analysis over time will be required to determine effectiveness of the program.

Mrs. McCarty reported that the Waterford Education Foundation is planning an adult spelling bee for next year in conjunction with the annual student spelling bee contest. Mrs. Nazarchyk reported that Youth Services Bureau activities such as teen night dances continue to be well attended, and a dance is planned as part of Waterford Week activities. YSB is offering counseling services and has several grant applications in the works.

Mrs. McCarty opened discussion on the Biology textbook proposed for adoption. Brief discussion followed.

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education approves the adoption of Holt Biology, by George Johnson & Peter Raven, Published by Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, Copyright Date 2006 for 10th grade standard Biology at Waterford High School.
Nazarchyk, Brunelle—Unanimous

Mr. Macrino reviewed the Academy philosophy behind courses at Waterford High School offered as part of the Hospitality Academy or Humanities Academy. The ProStart program will elevate the level of rigor and value of hospitality courses at Waterford High School. The program offers students work experience, classroom learning and college credit. ProStart I focuses on coursework covering topics such as food production, safety, sanitation, menu development and meal planning. In ProStart II, the emphasis is on advanced food preparation and running the school “Gourmet Café”.

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education approves the ProStart Curriculum for Waterford High School.
Nazarchyk, Taglianetti—Unanimous

Dr. Collins presented two policies for first reading. Policy #6146.2, Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations was revised due to statutory requirements. Students in grades 3 through 8 inclusive and grade 10 are required to take a statewide mastery examination. Previously, only students in grades 4, 6 and 8 sat for the CMT (Connecticut

Pending Consent Agenda Approval

Mastery Test). The CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test) was and is still a requirement for 10th graders. The revised policy also provides that any Limited English Proficient students, including special education students, who are in their first year of enrollment in a U.S. school and have been in attendance for one school year or less, may be exempted from one administration of the reading/language arts portion of the CMT and CAPT. These students would be required to take the Language Assessment Scales (LSS-Links). No exemption is allowed from the math and science assessments of the CMT and CAPT. Accommodations, such as extra time for testing, may be granted.

Policy #6146.21, Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations, Release of Student CMT Writing Sample is a proposed new policy, not mandated by the State, providing for release of a student's writing sample to his/her parents/guardians upon written request. All review requests must be based on an exceptional basis, take place within 30 calendar days of receipt of the writing sample in the District, and have the written approval of the Superintendent. Discussion followed on whether the parents/guardians must question the student's score in order to receive the writing sample, and how the parents will be notified that the writing samples have been received, thereby starting the 30 day timeline. Basing the requests on an exceptional basis requires criteria. Dr. Collins suggested referring the policy back to policy committee rather than returning it for second reading at the next meeting.

Mrs. McCarty opened discussion on Healthy Food Certification for 2007-08. Waterford currently participates in the program and is eligible for an additional \$0.10 per lunch, based on total number of reimbursable lunches served in the district in the prior year. In order to receive the additional funding, the Board of Education must certify that all food items sold to students separately from a reimbursable breakfast or lunch will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. These food items include food offered for sale to students at all times in all schools and from all sources, including, but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias and any fundraising activities on school premises. Brief discussion followed.

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education adopts and endorses all Sections of Public Act 06-63 and certifies that all food and beverages sold to students (separately from a reimbursable school lunch or breakfast) will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, except for food and beverages sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, sold at the location of the event, and no sold from a vending machine or school store. The Superintendent is authorized to sign and submit the ED-099 Addendum, Healthy Food Certification Statement.

Nazarchyk, Cairns—Unanimous

Dr. Collins reviewed the request from Mrs. Shoemaker, President of the Waterford Federation of Classroom Teachers, to alter the schedule for the last two full days of the 2006-07 school calendar to an early closing for all K – 8 students. Dr. Collins expressed

Pending Consent Agenda Approval

support for the request and said it was not unreasonable. The altered schedule would apply to students only. Teachers would be required to work their contractual 7-hour day on Tuesday, June 19 and Wednesday, June 20. The last day, Thursday, June 21 would remain a partial day as already approved in the calendar. Discussion followed on why the issue was not proposed as part of the collective bargaining unit agreement, and why the request was being made at this particular time. The Superintendent explained that the request had come before him in previous years and since the calendar requires Board approval, it was added to the agenda for tonight's meeting in order to allow time to notify parents about the change. Discussion followed on precedent setting if approved, and possible approval as a pilot in 2006-07, as well as the need for assessment to determine if objectives were accomplished. The short notice could pose problems to single parents with child-care needs. Discussion followed on disassembly of the classroom and the message students receive as a result.

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education approves amending the 2006-07 school calendar as a pilot by altering June 19, 2007 and June 20, 2007 to early closing for all K-8 students.
Benoit, Nazarchyk

Discussion followed on the need to review the issue more thoroughly.

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education tables the amendment to the 2006-07 school calendar.
Brunelle, Taglianetti—7-1-0 Opposed: Nazarchyk

Mr. Macrino mentioned that the graduation ceremony for Waterford High School and the ceremony for Clark Lane Middle School will be held outdoors this year at Waterford High School. The Clark Lane ceremony is on June 20th and the High School ceremony is on June 21st, both likely to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education adjourns its regular meeting at 9:05 p.m.
Ogden, Brunelle—Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Jody Nazarchyk
Secretary

JN:jc