

Waterford Board of Education
March 27, 2008
Regular Meeting
15 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT

PRESENT: Mr. Blevins, Mr. Brunelle, Ms. Cairns, Ms. Cote, Mr. Egan, Mrs. McCarty, Ms. McLaughlin, and Mrs. Nazarchyk

ABSENT: Ms. Ogden

STAFF: Dr. Collins, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Seroussi, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Powers, Director of Curriculum & Special Projects, Mr. Miner, Director of Buildings and Grounds, Mrs. Cumming, Admin. Asst., Mrs. Fedor, Principal, Southwest and Great Neck Elementary Schools, Mr. Lovetere, Principal, Mrs. Lynch, Asst. Principal, Clark Lane Middle School, Mr. Macrino, Principal, Waterford High School

LIAISON/TOWN AGENCIES: Mrs. Shoemaker, WFCT President, Mrs. Brailey, WFCT Member, Mrs. Larder, Board of Finance Liaison, Mr. Taglianetti, School Building Committee Member, Mr. Clark, reporter for The Day, Mr. Pisacich, Treasurer

Mr. Blevins established a quorum, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. Dr. Collins introduced visitors and guests.

Dr. Collins reported that, with the consent of the Board of Education, the Waterford High School project application would be delayed for one year in light of the current fiscal climate and to allow sufficient time for community input and review by various town boards. Mr. Jim Hoagland of JCJ Architecture presented a proposed programming concept for the high school project, showing current usage and opportunities to correct existing problems. Some of the areas reviewed included a new main entry and a large student commons, as well as classrooms built into the grade adjacent to the tennis courts, and reconfiguration of the football field for better orientation. Bus traffic would be separated from parent drop-off and existing student parking would become staff parking with direct entrance into the school. Mr. Hoagland also reported that the pool had been inspected by a structural engineer and is sound. Renovation of the pool will be added to the project. Brief discussion followed on the timeline for the project, renovation of bleachers and press box to code compliance, and access to Miner Lane.

Mrs. Eileen Baker, a member of the Old Saybrook Board of Education, was present to discuss the concept of student participation on Boards of Education. Mrs. Baker has conducted workshops on the topic at the CABA convention. The Old Saybrook Board of Education adopted a By-law governing student participation on the Board of Education, which allows for 2 students, either 11th or 12th graders, to participate for annual terms as non-voting members. The only requirement is a CIAC requirement of a C or better grade

Pending Consent Agenda Approval

average. Students submit a letter of interest and must attend a Board of Education meeting. Students are elected to the Board of Education by the student body annually. Mrs. Baker spoke about the positive experience she has had with student representatives on the Old Saybrook Board of Education and how it has gotten students involved and given them a voice in their education.

Dr. Collins presented a token of appreciation to the Board Members in recognition of Board Member Appreciation Month and thanked them for their dedication and service.

Mr. Blevins called for questions or comments on the consent agenda.

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education approves the consent agenda consisting of: Minutes of February 28, 2008 Regular Meeting, Financial Report for February 2008, and Food Service Report for January 2008.
Nazarchyk, Brunelle—Unanimous

Mrs. Nazarchyk offered a committee report for Youth Service Bureau, which is holding the 3rd annual Community Celebration for Youth on March 28th at Clark Lane Middle School. Danceworks for Youth is also planned for April 5th.

Mrs. McCarty reported on the success of the first annual Adult Spelling Bee sponsored by the Waterford Education Foundation held on March 12. Also, Metrocast Communications will present a \$500 grant to the district for equipment to boost the signal strength at the high school television studio.

Mr. Blevins reported on CAFE Day on the Hill held on March 12. A total of 25 students from Waterford also attended the event. Mr. Blevins commented that he would like to have students attend again next year and hopefully get copies of the legislation to the students in advance to make the experience more meaningful. Mr. Blevins also reported briefly on a CAFE workshop focusing on a state initiative on distance learning. Mr. Blevins will be attending the NSBA Convention this weekend at CAFE's expense. Lastly, Mr. Blevins reported on recent budget review and action by the Board of Finance which reduced the education budget by \$200,000 on March 19th, and by an additional \$125,000 on March 26th. The latter amount is an estimate of the unexpended balance at year end (6/30) which the Board of Finance agreed to allow to be transferred to the self-insured fund to reduce the fiscal year 2008-09 budgeted expense. These unexpended funds would ordinarily be returned to the Town's general fund. The only caveat to the anticipated unexpended balance amount would be special education tuition and transportation costs. A spending freeze has been implemented by the Superintendent as a precautionary measure. Brief discussion followed regarding a surplus of less than \$125,000 and possible supplemental appropriation request.

Policy #5114, Removal/Suspension/Expulsion, was presented for first reading. An addendum recommended for incorporation in the policy was distributed. Recent legislation postpones the implementation of the in-school suspension bill until January 1,

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2009. Under Section V, paragraph A.13 seems to contradict paragraph A.2. In Section I, paragraph O, devise should be device, and in Section II, paragraph B. “section” should follow Conn. Gen. Stat. Brief discussion followed on distinction between alcohol use and drug use, and distinction between dangerous weapon and dangerous instrument. In Section I, paragraph I, the list of martial arts weapons is not all inclusive and should be revised by adding the phrase “including but not limited to.” In Section V, references to notification need distinction between immediately and promptly, and notice and written notice. Dr. Collins suggested that the attorney involved in drafting the policy be invited to attend the April meeting for clarification and answers to questions.

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education moves to Executive Session at 9:08 p.m. and invites Dr. Collins, Mr. Lovetere, and Mrs. Lynch to attend for the purpose of a pupil-personnel matter, and Dr. Collins for the purpose of a personnel matter.
Nazarchyk, Cairns—Unanimous

The regular meeting resumed at 9:24 p.m.

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education accepts the joint stipulation and recommendation and moves to expel Student A in accordance with the terms of the stipulated agreement.
McCarty, Egan—Unanimous

Motion: That, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the contract of employment of Dr. Michael Seroussi is not renewed for the school year commencing July 1, 2008, and that Dr. Seroussi’s contract shall therefore terminate at the end of the current school year, and
Further Moved: that the Superintendent is directed to notify Dr. Seroussi of this action.
Brunelle, Egan—Unanimous

Motion: That the Waterford Board of Education adjourns its regular meeting at 9:26 p.m.
Nazarchyk, McLaughlin—Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Anne Ogden
Secretary

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