

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
August 3, 2015

The Webutuck Board of Education held their August 3, 2015 meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Library.

The following Board members were present:

Kristen Panzer, President
Christopher Mayville
Cory Chinn
Nikki Johnson
Richard Keller-Coffey
Judy Moran

Also Present:

Raymond Castellani, Superintendent
Cynthia Hawthorne, Business Official
Therese Trotter, District Clerk
Kenneth Sauer
Jennifer Chason

Absent:

Bill McGhee

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Panzer called the business meeting of August 3, 2015 to order at 6:30 p.m.

President Panzer stated that Mark Lounsbury, Webutuck's Director of Facilities, passed away this weekend. She commented that it was a great loss and the Webutuck School Community sends their condolences to the Lounsbury family.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following were topics commented on by the public:

Parent, Eva Yuranich commented that some parents couldn't make the meeting due to the late notice of the time change. She is requesting the District change the start time of Grades 4-6 students to the elementary start time, allowing the Grades 4-6 to ride the buses with the students of grades K-3. She stated that many parents have great concern allowing their eight to eleven year olds ride the bus with high school students. She has over one hundred signatures in support of changing the time. Ms. Yuranich noted Policy #8410 that states the District will provide separate busing for elementary and secondary students. The District is not following its own policy. She noted in the winter it is dark and freezing for small children as another concern for changing the start time. She is requesting the Board to change the busing schedule of grades 4-6 to be on the same bus schedule as K-3 for the coming school year.

– Parent stated that the Board has thought about this by adopting the policy this past April. Why hasn't it been implemented?

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Ms. Moran commented that procedurally groups of policies were adopted but were not written at that time. It has not been reviewed since then. She explained that there are many policies to review and update within each year. The Board can only get through so many in a year. Mr. Castellani commented that this is a discussion that includes administrative input to see if it is feasible. It would be a difficult change in two months because of scheduling and busing. He needs more time to review it.

-Parent commented that her child was fearful of the older students on the bus which is making problems now getting him to school.

-Parent commented that she and other parents made this change two or three years ago and we have adapted. There have been no huge problems. Why change back?

Parent commented that in many situations she has been involved, it's the middle school students who are mouthier than high school students. The older kids use iPods and don't pay attention. We need to address the behavior instead of change the start time.

-Parent understood the switch to a 4-12 bus run was because it was a money issue.

-Parent has several young children. She has seen both sides and suggested a bus monitor.

President Panzer commented that she has heard concerns of student safety, scheduling, and the best way to structure our school day. She suggested dialoging with the many stake holders involved in this discussion where people can give their input and participate and come to some results. She suggests an ad hoc committee. Mr. Castellani suggested conducting research to finding efficiencies. He stated there are companies that can be hired to look at transportation efficiencies and student scheduling. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Johnson would like the change done this year or look at every possible way to try to achieve the change this year. If there isn't a way then she will look to make the change next year.

Mrs. Chason spoke about the difficulty of changing the master schedule at this late date.

-Parent stated his children are in 5th and 7th grade. His experience has been ok, there hasn't been any trouble.

-Parent questioned how is this going to affect the students who are going to school early and now will have to go in later?

Mr. Castellani stated it will be virtually impossible to change the start time at this point.

-Parent stated it's a priority if the Board feels it's a priority and then it can be looked at.

-Parent commented to just deal with it we had to make the transition.

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Ms. Moran stated that the change of the master schedule is ridiculous. She commented that she has been on the Board five years and the Board says we will look at an issue and it never gets done.

Mr. Keller Coffey commented that he believes when the professionals say it will be difficult for the change he believes them. He sees that it is the behavior that needs to be addressed.

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Foundations in Music

Mrs. Chason stated that this is a brand new course. She called every student registered for the course to make them aware of the requirements of the course. There are less than eight students who are interested in taking the course this year. Discussion ensued.

B. Start Time for 2015-2016 School Year

Addressed in public comment

C. EBIS Playground Equipment

Mrs. Chinn spoke about the playground equipment at MES and questioned if it could be moved over here and cleaned up. The students in grades 4-6 need something. Mr. Castellani would have to look into it but stated that the equipment would need to be recertified. The Quest fund might be a source of support for it. President Panzer questioned the cost of a playground. They are expensive. Mr. Castellani stated moving a playground is an issue. Discussion ensued.

D. Community Service for NHS/JNHS as Graduation Requirement

Mr. Castellani commented that he is finalizing goals for the coming year. The administrators talked about a vision going forward that included a community service requirement for all graduates in grade 12. They will create a committee of staff and students to talk about what the community service would look like. Mr. Keller Coffey stated the a good program is planned out and explained to students why they are doing it.

4. CONSENSUS AGENDA VOTE

A consent agenda is a single vote, which approves all asterisked items. Board policy (#008a) prohibits discussion of consent agenda items. Asterisked* items can be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion by any one Board member. The amendment called for removing #5.02 Acceptance of Financial Reports, #6.01 Creation of Instructional Position, #6.02 Instructional Appointment and #6.08 Extra-curricular Appointments for further discussion. Mr. Castellani noted in the July 27, 2015 minutes Mrs. Panzer did not call to order the meeting, she was not in attendance. The minutes will be revised.

Mrs. Johnson made and Mr. Mayville seconded the motion.

Aye 6 Nay 0 The motion carried.

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5. DISTRICT CLERK'S REPORT

***5.01. Approval of Minutes**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the minutes from July 7 July 13 and July 27, 2015 Board meetings as submitted.

Mrs. Johnson made and Mr. Mayville seconded the motion as amended.

Aye 6 Nay 0 The motion carried.

5.02. Acceptance of Financial Reports

This item was removed from consent agenda.

Acceptance of Financial Reports as submitted:

Extra Classroom Fund Quarterly Report ending June (unaudited).

Treasurers Report for the month ending June (unaudited).

Comprehensive Budget Status Report ending June (unaudited).

Comprehensive Revenue Status Report ending June (unaudited).

Claims Auditor Report Warrants #63-71

Warrants #63-71

Mr. Keller Coffey questioned if these come out every quarter because they looked like annual reports. Ms. Moran stated that one was because it was year-end. He would like more time to review it. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Moran and Mr. Rick Keller Coffey seconded a motion to table the resolution until the next meeting.

Aye 6 Nay 0 The motion carried.

5.03. Delegations – There were no delegations.

6. PERSONNEL

6.01. Creation of Instructional Position

This item was removed from the consent agenda.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board Of Education hereby approves the creation of a one year (2015-2016) 1.0 FTE *Business Teacher*, effective September 1, 2015.

Ms. Moran questioned if this person was teaching out of certification and that was the reason it was a one year position. Mr. Castellani replied that that was correct. He was working with BOCES on the matter. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Moran made and Mr. Mayville seconded the motion.

Aye 6 Nay 0 The motion carried

6.02. Instructional Appointment

This item was removed from the consent agenda.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the following instructional appointment:

Laura Robinson

Effective: Sept. 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

1.0 FTE Business Teacher

Step: 17 per the WTA contract

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***6.07. Substitute Support Staff Appointment**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the following substitute support staff appointment:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE	SALARY
Marion Milton	Substitute Food Service Helper	Sept. 01, 2015	\$10.69/hr.

Mrs. Johnson made and Mr. Mayville seconded the motion as amended.

Aye 6 Nay 0 The motion carried.

6.08. Extra-Curricular Appointments

This item was removed from the consent agenda.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the following Extra-Curricular Appointments for the 2015-2016 school year:

NAME	POSITION 2015 - 2016 School Year	STIPEND
Sue Pomeisl	JV Boys Soccer	\$3,117
Jerome Canzoneri	JV Girls Soccer	\$3,117
Christine Gillette	8th Grade Co-Advisor	\$125
Jessica Quartarano	8th Grade Co-Advisor	\$125
Tammy Nethercott	9th Grade Advisor	\$250
Mari-Ann Hoke	11th Grade Co-Advisor	\$125
Susan Pomeisl	11th Grade Co-Advisor	\$125
Cara Tomasetti	12th Grade Advisor	\$250
Lee Stowe	Play Vocal Director	\$2,498
Lindsey Odell	Volunteer Volleyball	No Stipend
Allen Lazarus	Volunteer Boys Soccer	No Stipend
MENTEE	MENTOR	
Jennifer Johnston	Patrick McKeever	\$999
Anastasia Demetros	Cindy Dietter-Smith	\$999
Jonathan Scarinzi	Tammy Nethercott	\$999

Ms. Moran requested that the Mentor Director be pulled from the resolution because the Board hadn't received a job description for the Director of Student Services. Ms. Moran would like to hold off on appointing a Mentor Director until such time.

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Mrs. Johnson questioned why the volleyball and volunteer boys' soccer are volunteers with no stipend. Mr. Zenz explained that neither volunteer can fully commit as a coach but would be happy to volunteer. He is still looking for paid coaches. Mr. Keller Coffey asked if there were actually positions for volleyball and boys soccer and if so, is there a conflict with filling the positions with volunteers when there is a stipend. Mr. Castellani explained these two individuals are willing to help out but are not the coaches.

Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Johnson made and Mr. Mayville seconded the motion.

Aye 6 Nay 0 The motion carried.

7. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

7.01. Authorization to Establish New Course

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the creation of the following new course to begin September 2015 school year:

- Foundations in Music

Mrs. Johnson made and Ms. Moran seconded the motion.

Ms. Moran was not in favor of creating the course. She pointed out that we have not offered the first or second courses in this three course series. The Board's aim in creating electives is to help as broad of a range of students as possible and provide courses we think they will do well in. Ms. Moran commented that there are less than 10 students signed up for the course. Mrs. Chinn was in agreement. Board members questioned why Music in Our Lives was not chosen. Mrs. Chason commented that she couldn't reach the music department. Mr. Keller Coffey questioned about a department chair that could explain questions that have been asked at the meeting and the impact running this course would have on other classes. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Keller Coffey made and Mr. Mayville seconded a motion to table the resolution.

Aye 3 Nay 3 The motion failed.

Kristen Panzer	Aye	Nikki Johnson	Nay
Christopher Mayville	Aye	Richard Keller-Coffey	Aye
Cory Chinn	Nay	Judy Moran	Nay

Mrs. Johnson made and Ms. Moran seconded a motion to approve the creation of the music course Foundations in Music.

Aye 0 Nay 5 The motion failed.

Kristen Panzer	Nay	Nikki Johnson	Nay
Christopher Mayville	Nay		
Cory Chinn	Nay	Judy Moran	Nay
Richard Keller-Coffey	Abstained.		

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8. BUSINESS and OPERATIONS

***8.01. Establishment of 2015-2016**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education establishes the 2015-2016 Webutuck School Breakfast/Lunch prices as follows:

2015 - 2016 Webutuck School Breakfast/Lunch Prices

BREAKFAST PROGRAM:

Full Price (all schools)\$1.00
Reduced Price (all schools) \$.20
Free -0-
Adults (all schools) \$ 1.73 + tax

LUNCH PROGRAM:

Primary - full price (K-3) \$2.40
All Other Students - full price (4-12) \$2.60
Reduced Price (all schools) \$.25
Free -0-
Adults \$ 4.63+tax

Mrs. Johnson made and Mr. Mayville seconded the motion.
Aye 6 Nay 0 The motion carried.

9. BOARD OF EDUCATION

9.01. Other

Mrs. Johnson reported that the Poughkeepsie Journal came out with their All Star Athletes. Leshawn Thrasher was named Best Center Fielder, Tim McEnroe was Coach of the Year, and there were seven honorable mentions for baseball and five honorable mentions for softball. Hudson Valley Sports' Report Dream Team named Hunter Coulthard as pitcher, Andrew Thrasher as catcher and Leshawn Thrasher as outfielder to the team. Chris Reed was named to the Dream Team II. Mrs. Johnson commented the number of students recognized was amazing for our small school. The Board of Education congratulated everyone.

Ms. Moran would like to discuss the establishment of the Committee for the RTTT monies on the next agenda. She also would like to find out about virtual BOCES classes. Ms. Moran explained that there is money left over from Race to the Top (RTTT). In order to access the money the District must form a committee with all shareholders (community, teachers, students, and administrators). The money has been available since June 15. Specific guidelines have to be established to be able to use the money. Mrs. Hawthorne will gather information and send it in a Board packet. Discussion ensued.

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Mr. Keller Coffey commented that it was a great idea to form an Ad Hoc Committee to research bus behavior and changing start time. He felt we should move on it quickly. He also noted he attended a Lion's Club meeting last week and they were honoring students who received scholarships. He commented that it was a nice meeting and he met students, parents and the photography teacher. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Moran calculated putting a bus monitor on each bus six hours a day would be \$136,268 dollars including benefits. She would like a committee formed as soon as possible to research bus behavior topic. President Panzer asked for options for the bus behavior. Mr. Castellani clarified what the Board actually wants as an outcome to this conversation. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Johnson made and Ms. Moran seconded a motion approve changing the start time of grades 4-6 to the grades K-3 start time for the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Keller Coffey stated that his understanding was to form a committee immediately to address behavior on the bus and then longer term conversation about start times.

Mrs. Chinn continued that her children do not ride bus because of the age difference and type of the conversation on the bus. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Panzer commented that the staff, faculty and administration have reported and given their opinion on this subject to say it would be difficult to do at this time. She was shocked that Board members want to push through a vote and not build consensus. Mrs. Johnson stated that her intent was for there to be a record of it. She has asked several times for the topic to be on the agenda and for information but it hasn't happened.

There was an amendment to the motion to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to study the change in start time for the 2016-2017 school year and the committee will be created and start the study by September 30, 2015.

Board members commented that the committee should begin as soon as possible.

There was second amendment to the motion to establish the Ad Hoc Committee to study the issues of transportation, starting times for grades 4-6, and bus safety for 2016-2017 school year.

Ms. Moran made and Mr. Mayville seconded the motion.

Mr. Keller Coffey pointed out the original motion stated that the start time change begin for 2015-2016 school year.

Mrs. Johnson withdrew her original motion.

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Ms. Moran made and Mrs. Johnson seconded that the Board of Education and Superintendent will work together to create an Ad Hoc Committee with relevant members of the school district, administration and staff, to study the issues of student conduct and safety on the buses as its first task and to study the school start and ending times for grades 4-6 as its long term goal.

Aye 6 Nay 0 The motion carried.

Mr. Keller Coffey commented that he and Ms. Moran went to a great Law Conference through the New York State Board Association. He has a binder that he will leave with Mrs. Trotter. Any Board member can borrow it.

Mr. Mayville asked if information could be available earlier to Board members. Mrs. Trotter stated it can. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Chinn asked if the special teachers could get training for working with special education students when other teachers are getting professional development in the beginning of the year. Discussion ensued.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following were topics commented on by the public:

- changing the school day more issues than busing
- Millerton Elementary School
- Summer School Program and staff has done a great job

Chris Mayville reported that at the last meeting the Board approved a letter of support for a grant that NECC is applying for. Ms. Moran commented that neither the Town of North East nor the Village of Millerton approved it so it will not go forward. Discussion ensued.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Mayville and Mr. Keller Coffey seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 8:30 pm for the purpose of contract negotiations.

Aye 6 Nay 0 The motion carried.

RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Mayville made and Mrs. Johnson seconded a motion to adjourn the executive session and to reconvene the public session at 11:30 p.m.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Chinn made and Mr. Keller-Coffey seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting of August 3, 2015 at 11:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese M. Trotter, District Clerk