

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting  
March 12, 2012

The Webutuck Board of Education held their March 12, 2012 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Library.

The following Board members were present:

Dale Culver, President  
William McGhee  
Judy Moran  
Kristen Panzer  
John Perotti

Also Present:

James Gratto Jr., Superintendent  
Mary Grden, School Business Manager  
Therese Trotter, District Clerk  
Kenneth Sauer, WHS Principal  
Jon Zenz, Athletic Director  
Louis Simmons  
John Eboli  
Community

Absent:

Joanne Boyd  
Robert Trotta  
Brian Christofel, Student Representative

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Culver called the business meeting of March 12, 2012 to order at 7:34 p.m.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT** There were no comments from the public.

**3. STUDENT REPORT** Student Representative Brian Christofel was not present at the meeting.

**4. PRESENTATION:** Ken Sauer, High School Principal – High School dropout prevention measures.

Mr. Sauer spoke about this year's projected graduation rate. He noted that there were several students that were at risk of not graduating. Mr. Sauer explained several initiatives that have been put in place this year to better support students. A few of the initiatives are Saturday Support, peer tutoring and afterschool support. Mr. Sauer meets individually with every student on the failing list to discuss a course of action. Guidance staff and the CAPE Counselor meet with those students or any student at risk. Mr. Sauer impressed on the Board that the focus is not only to improve graduation rate but to support students in college and career readiness. He hopes to have an 86% graduation rate this year. Mr. McGhee questioned how many students come to Saturday Support. Mr. Sauer explained the process that has evolved in contacting parents and students, and how many show up for the help. Discussion ensued.

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**5. CONSENSUS AGENDA VOTE**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded the following motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Culver acknowledged Joan Smith retiring in appreciation and thanked her on behalf of the Board of Education for her years of service. He also gratefully acknowledged the donations to the District. 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.

Ayes 5      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**6. DISTRICT CLERK'S REPORT**

**A. Delegations**

-Mr. Shufelt – Contract negotiations

Mr. Shufelt, a taxpayer and community member, commented that he understands that the District is waiting to hear from the Teacher's Union whether there will be open negotiations. He spoke about teacher's salaries and the fact that in the current contract teachers that work here for nineteen years will make approximately eighty-three thousand dollars. His concern was compounded costs into the future if this contract is extended for the next five years. Mr. Shufelt noted that anyone teaching for nineteen years could then make one hundred thousand dollars and new teachers would have a starting salary of \$58,000. He addressed the Board that they will have to decide how they would finance this. President Culver commented that we are in a new financial world for everyone negotiating contracts. There is no continued or increased State Aid. Fiscally, if things do not get in line, reduced, or frozen where they are our School District in ten years will not be able to continue. Ms Moran explained to Mr. Shufelt that if there is no new negotiated contract and we rolled the present contract over, the step figures will stay exactly the same, however, teachers will be able to move up a step. Discussion ensued.

**7. PERSONNEL**

**\*A. Position Authorization**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education designate the following individual to the position indicated, for the 2011-2012 school year:

CPSE/CSE Parent Representative	Renee Whitehead
Ayes 5      Nays 0	The motion carried.

**\*B. Support Staff Appointment**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded the following motion:

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

Joseph Murtagh	Probationary Bus Driver
Effective: March 13, 2012	Salary: \$16.87, Step 1 as per CSEA
Ayes 5      Nays 0	The motion carried.

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**\*C. Instructional Staff Resignation**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby accepts the following instructional staff resignation for the purpose of retirement:

Joan Smith

Elementary Education

Effective: June 30, 2012

Ayes 5      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Request received from the Town of Northeast and Village of Millerton**

Mr. Gratto explained that Webutuck was asked if we would participate in an Energy Study on the Millerton School building. President Culver stated there would not be any way we could contribute to an Energy Study because it was not budgeted for this year. Past experience with an Energy Conservation Company was discussed. Mr. Gratto will reply to them with the Board's decision. Ms. Moran asked Mr. Gratto to find out what is their objection to selling off the portion of Millerton Elementary land as far as their usability of the school building.

**B. Request for Amenia Town Hall**

Mr. Gratto has been in contact with Bill Flood, Amenia Supervisor, and he would like to reopen negotiations on the Amenia building. They are interested in using the three rooms that were put aside for our use in the original contract agreement. In return, they would take over the lawn maintenance. President Culver pointed out that that original contract agreement regarding those three rooms was to protect the District if an occasion arose where we were in need of extra space. It was decided that Mr. Gratto will contact Mr. Flood and set up a meeting to include the Facility Committee for further discussion.

**9. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

**\*A. Adoption of Math Textbook Series**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby adopts the Go Math Series for Grades K-6 and Houghlin Mifflin Math Series for Grades 7-8.

Ayes 5      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**\*B. Adoption of Required Race to the Top Interim Assessments**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby adopts the NWEA Interim Assessments for Grades K-6.

Ayes 5      Nays 0      The motion carried.

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**10. BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS**

**\*A. Acceptance of Atlantic Restorations Services Donation**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the generous donation of wood, valuing approximately \$150, from the Atlantic Restorations Services.

Ayes 5      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**\*B. Acceptance Silk Screening Supplies Donation**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the generous donation of silk, screening, supplies, valuing approximately \$700, from Heather Olsen.

Ayes 5      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**C. Discussion**

**1. Update on Water and Septic Issues**

Ms. Grden stated there is no knew news since Friday. She noted that Zone 9 is shut down. Mr. McGhee and Mr. Culver explained that the computers were supposed to be controlling the system, shutting the fields off alternately. They questioned if it could be a problem there. At the time it was installed, the Board was worried about the complexity of that system. Mr. Lounsbury will provide an update on March 19, 2012.

**11. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**A. Facilities Committee Report**

President Culver reported the Committee reviewed the five year plan that will be sent to the architect. He noted that the Committee began building walk-throughs.

**B. Other - none**

**C. Out of School Suspension**

President Culver questioned Mr. Gratto on the process of out-of-school suspension (OSS). Mr. Gratto explained that students are given OSS when there has been a physical altercation. Mr. Gratto will review the process with the principals and discuss the terms of the recent OSS cases. Mr. Gratto brought up the in-school-suspension (ISS) program which is located this year across from High School office. He explained that there is a different staff person each period, which is not consistent. President Culver asked Mr. Gratto to produce a report for the Board on in-school and out-of-school suspension, the protocol, and how parents respond when they find out their child is in OSS or ISS, etc. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Moran noted that she had recently spoke to Erin Marshall and she would like to bring people into the school to speak to students on various topics such as organic farming or what it's like to live during the depression. Ms. Moran requested some follow-up.

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**12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**The following are topics commented on by the public:**

- Health Insurance for employees that are out sick on worker's compensation.
- Contract negotiations process

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:56 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person or persons.

Ayes 5      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**14. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Panzer seconded a motion to adjourn the executive session and to reconvene the public session at 9:58 pm.

Ayes 5      Nays 0      The motion carried.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mrs. Panzer made and Mr. Perotti seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting of March 12, 2012 at 9:59 pm.

Ayes 5      Nays 0      The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese M. Trotter  
District Clerk