

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
May 12, 2014

The Webutuck Board of Education held their May 12, 2014 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Library.

The following Board members were present:

William McGhee, President
Christopher Mayville
Judy Moran
Kristen Panzer
John Perotti
Judy Westfall

Also Present:

James Gratto Jr., Superintendent
Mary Grden, School Business Manager
Therese Trotter, District Clerk
Jon Zenz Jerry Heiser
Andrew Coon Dale Culver
Gab Napoleon Kevin Kleespies
Barbara Riley Jenn Chason
Vinnie Merendino Katy McEnroe
Tammy Nethercott Jordan Mayville
Nancy Gagne
Sherry Fisher
Pat McKeever
Cindy Dietter Smith
Prachi Patel
Kristen Gil
Bill Havranek
Carrie Calderio
Candy Swart
Kenneth Sauer

1. CALL TO ORDER

President McGhee called the business meeting of May 12, 2014 to order at 7:32 p.m.

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2. 2014-2015 PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING – J. Gratto

Mr. Gratto reviewed the 2014-2015 budget for the public before taking questions. The proposed budget amount is \$21,250,158 with a proposed tax levy increase of 1.26%. Mr. Gratto explained that the budget had to pass by a 60% majority on May 20th because the District is over the 0.12% tax cap limit. He also reviewed the transportation proposition as well as what happens if the budget doesn't pass by a 60% majority.

Mrs. Panzer asked Mr. Gratto to explain the additional expense of \$77,000 for a business manager. Ms. Grden clarified that \$77,000 is what BOCES will pay a business manager plus benefits three days a week in District. Mr. Perotti questioned if the District will have a need to purchase buses in the next three years. Mr. Gratto commented that Mr. Heiser stated the small buses and vans would hold up for the next several years with no additional vehicles needing to be purchased.

An audience member asked about the business courses on the agenda and how it would affect the business position being cut. Mr. Gratto stated that we can consider those courses, due to retirements, so if students sign up the Board can consider maintaining that position. It was asked what percentage of the buses is filled. Mr. Heiser stated that it depends on field trips and sports. Every one of the buses is scheduled for 35 passengers each day; however they are not always filled. Legally, we have to plan for the maximum number of students. It was asked about purchasing the buses versus leasing them. Ms. Grden did look at leasing the buses and found the value looked much better when purchasing/trading rather than leasing. Ms. Moran commented that rational was given that if the District decided to lease, times got harder and we could not continue to lease, the District would have nothing, but by purchasing vehicles we would have value. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Perotti made and Mr. Mayville seconded the motion to close the Public Budget Hearing.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following topics were commented on by the public:

- students spoke in support for Mrs. Gil and presented a signed petition to the Board to keep her
- Mrs. Gil spoke about how she loves her job
- teacher spoke in support of Ms. Gil and the ease of which guidance runs

4. STUDENT REPORT

Representative Coon stated APs were almost finished. The Junior Prom will be at the Villa Borghese this weekend. Sectionals will take place this Saturday. The freshman will hold the last dance of the year on May 30th.

Discussion ensued.

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5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Internet Filtering

Mr. Gratto commented that the Technology Committee recommended that the District move the filtering to the minimum required. The Superintendent is in support of this and pointed out the District's Acceptable Use Policy. He can adjust the policy if the Board is in agreement. The Board members agreed.

B. Potable Water System Issues

Mr. Gratto stated that the water system issues are getting worse. Mr. Lounsbury's monthly reported details the situation getting worse. It can be submitted as an emergency project. Board members are in agreement with going forward submitting it as an emergency project. Discussion ensued.

C. Proposed Course Offerings: Accounting 101, College and Career Readiness

Mr. Gratto is in support of adding the courses to the course catalog. They could run if enough students sign up.

6. CONSENSUS AGENDA VOTE

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion as amended.

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 #10.A. for further discussion. Mrs. Panzer congratulated Mr. Rocconova on the approval of his grant and gratefully accepts and recognizes the generous anonymous donation of \$3000 and also acknowledges Kula Foundation

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

7. DISTRICT CLERK'S REPORT

***A. Approval of Minutes for April 22, 2014 Board meetings.**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded a motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***B. Acceptance of Financial Reports as submitted:**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded a motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

Treasurers Report for the month ending March and April.

Comprehensive Budget Status Report ending March and April.

Comprehensive Revenue Status Report ending March and April.

Extra Classroom Fund Quarterly Report ending March.

Claims Auditor Report Warrants #49-58

Warrants #49-58

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

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C. Delegations – none

8. PERSONNEL

***A. Substitute Support Staff Appointments**

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

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

Nancy Luther	Substitute Bus Monitor
Effective: May 13, 2014	Salary: \$11.29 per hour
Steve Willette	Substitute Bus Driver
Effective: May 13, 2014	Salary: \$16.80 per hour
Chris Porteus	Substitute Custodial Worker
Effective: May 13, 2014	Salary: \$13.36 per hour

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***B. Support Staff Appointment**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall 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:

Anne Poveromo	Food Service Worker
Effective: May 13, 2014	Salary: \$10.90 per hour

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***C. Substitute Instructional Appointment**

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

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

Chris Porteus	Substitute Teacher
Effective: May 13, 2014	Salary: \$85/day

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

9. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

***A. Authorization to Establish New Courses**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the creation of the two new courses listed below to begin September 2014:

- Accounting
- Career Readiness

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

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A. Approval of Potable Water System Repair/Replacement

This item was removed from the consent agenda.

WHEREAS, the water supply pumps that serve the Webutuck (North East) Sr./Jr/ High School building are failing in a manner that periodically results in the complete failure to supply water to the school building; and

WHEREAS, the water supply pumps are necessary for the movement of water from the building's underground water tank to the building and their failure results has resulted in an ongoing issue involving the complete loss of water to the building and additional maintenance costs to put into effect interim repairs, the water supply pumps are a significant component required for the safe operation of the Middle/High School, and they must be replaced as soon as possible as essential to the School District's ability to provide a healthy and safe facility for its students and staff; and

WHEREAS, the use of other short term solutions will not restore the water supply pumps to a fully functional state and would only result in a short term remedy that could fail at any time during a time when school is in session causing disruption to the educational program of the District; and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of the students and staff is threatened by the lack of fully functional water supply pumps to its water supply system; and

WHEREAS, the current and expected continued failure of the water supply pumps requires immediate replacement to preserve the property and to assure the health and safety of students and staff.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board of Education hereby determines that the replacement of the water supply pumps with a new automatic vacuum priming system and associated repair to or replacement of related piping and electrical components to the water supply system servicing the Sr./Jr. High School is an ordinary contingent expense that is necessary to preserve property and to assure the health and safety of students and staff. The Board of Education further determines that the current and continued failure of the water supply pumps is a condition that affects the health and safety of students and staff and that the replacement of the water supply pumps requires emergency, immediate action to preserve the property.

Section 2. The School District is hereby authorized to undertake the replacement of the water supply pumps with a new automatic vacuum priming system and make repairs to associated piping and electrical components as needed.

Section 3. The School District is hereby authorized to undertake the replacement of the water supply pumps and associated piping and electrical work and to expend from the General Fund an amount not to exceed \$64,500.00 for such purpose.

Section 4. The Superintendent of Schools and District Engineer are hereby authorized to file any necessary and proper paperwork with the State Education Department to proceed with the emergency replacement of the water supply pumps and are hereby authorized to immediately prepare bid specifications in accordance with Board policy and the General Municipal Law, if applicable, and proceed with completion of the above water supply pump replacement project.

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Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.
Mrs. Panzer made and Mr. Perotti seconded the motion:

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***B. Approval of Budget Transfer**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the attached budget transfer schedule #19 over five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***C. Acceptance of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley Donation**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education gratefully accepts the “Magnetic Levitation: An Uplifting Experience” grant from the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley in the amount of \$632.90 proposed by Technology Teacher John Rocanova.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***D. Acceptance of Anonymous Donation**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts with gratitude an anonymous donation in the amount of \$3000 to be used in part or whole towards the “One Book/One School” Program and any remaining dollars be used towards a recommendation of Superintendent of Schools.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***E. Acceptance of Kula Foundation**

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts The Kula Foundation for “The Kellogg’s Family Rewards” program in the amount of \$2.63

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

11. BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Committee Reports

1. Finance/Facilities

Mr. Gratto reported that the committee met and spoke about the budget, the water issues and plans to clear the Millerton Building.

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B. Mr. Mayville questioned where we are with the CAPE Program. Ms. Caldiero has called them weekly. Ms. Trumpeto has been out sick. They will continue to try touch base about having the program come to Webutuck.

Mr. Perotti commented on the grant being written by NECC on the green house. He would like to see Pine Plains, NECC, and WCSD work collaboratively on this green house and possibly offer additional courses in agriculture.

Mrs. Panzer commented that NECC is very interested in being a partner with Webutuck in alignment of goals for both NECC and the Webutuck District. They are very interested in helping the youth of the area.

Discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Mayville made and Mr. Perotti seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 8:27 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person or persons.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

13. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded a motion to adjourn the executive session and to reconvene the public session at 9:31 pm.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Perotti made and Mr. Mayville seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting of May 12, 2014 at 9:32 pm.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese M. Trotter
District Clerk