

## WHPS Board of Education Meeting Summary

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| <b>Representative for WHEA:</b><br>Ron Wziontko   | <b>Date of Meeting:</b><br>10/18/22 |
| <b>Type of meeting</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular<br>Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Agenda<br><input type="checkbox"/> Work<br><input type="checkbox"/> Committee | <b>Agenda:</b> <a href="#">link</a> |

### Attendees

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| <b>Board Members in Attendance:</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lorna Thomas-Farquharson<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Deb Polun<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clare Nesoralla<br><input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jason Oliver Chang<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Ari Steinberg<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Gayle Harris<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ethan Goldman | <b>Administrators Present:</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrew Morrow<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Vicinus<br><input type="checkbox"/> Roszena Haskins<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anne McKernan<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julio Duarte<br><br><b>Student Rep:</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Hall: Caitlin Striff-Cave<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conard: Meghan Murphy<br><br><b>Others Present:</b><br><b>Melissa Caballero</b><br><b>Michelle Graveline</b><br><b>Kerry Jones</b><br><b>Jessica Ritter</b><br><b>Elizabeth Hewitt</b> |
| <b>Press Present/Reporters' Names:</b>   |   |

### Notes

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| <b>Public Comments:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Group</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Asked BOE to support the club to help prevent further tragedies and to help improve mental health in the school community.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <b>Tracie Wilson</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Spoke in favor of BOE Policy 8355 - Addressing Meeting Conduct and Public Comment.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <b>Beth Bye</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Recognized Jack Darcy, former BOE chair.</li> <li>b. Spoke in favor of policy 8355 as well.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. <b>Mark Walsh</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Shared concern/frustrations about</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |
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| <p style="text-align: center;">student committing suicide in the district and how it was handled.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <b>Addy Lourden</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Shared frustration/discrimination on policy and communication with being unable to attend virtual BOE meeting.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. <b>David Johnston</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Shared issues he has with school life in town.</li> <li>b. Focused on concerns with social media and use of smartphones.</li> <li>c. Briefly commented on how teachers are under stress.</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. <b>Matt Mcunes</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Advocated about school bus electrification and alternative fuel for school buses.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |
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| <b>Unfinished Business:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Motion to accept first reading revised Policy 8355.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Anne McKernan highlighted the main change is referring to the number of speakers instead of the number of minutes.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Ethan Goldman had some concerns with the verbiage.</b></li> <li>○ <b>There were numerous discussions on clarity among the BOE members.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Deb Polun expressed if the BOE doesn't feel it isn't working they can review and amend the policy.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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| <b>New Business:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Anne McKernan explained that back in June 2, 2020 BOE voted to approve all model policies that Shipman and Goodman drafted that are all legally required by state or federal law, otherwise essential to operation of the district.</li> <li>● There have been changes in state and federal law and that is why there are revisions to these policies.</li> <li>● Jessica Ritter emphasized that all policies presented tonight are required by law to have and there is no discretion.</li> <li>● She stressed that if not it can lead to significant exposure and liability toward the district.</li> <li>● They need to be followed, compiled, and readily available to staff and community.</li> <li>● Deb Polun asked to add Guardian to Policy 6212 Parent-Teacher Communication - Jessica agreed to it.</li> <li>● Deb Polun asked if Policy 5130 Transportation - could match with what the district does.</li> <li>● Clare Nesoralla asked if Policy 6291 Parent and Family Engagement Policy for Title I Students, can a meeting with parents be possibly virtual?</li> <li>● Jessica Ritter said they could add that if the BOE wanted it.</li> </ul> |
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- Clare Nesoralla felt it was a great accommodation for a population that might have difficulty making a meeting.
- Ratification of WHEAA Contract
  - 50 Administrators
  - 3 year contract
  - Step movement
  - Wage increase
    - 2023-24 - 2.75%
    - 2024-25 - 2.5%
    - 2025-26 - 2.5%
  - Increased Annuity Payment by \$250 each year
  - Approved
- Ratification of Cafeteria Managers Contract
  - 6 employees
  - 4 year contract
  - Insurance cost share
    - 2022-23 - 20%
    - 2023-24 - 20.5%
    - 2024-25 - 21%
    - 2025-26 - 21%
  - Wage Increase
    - Steps 1-6 - step movement and 2.5%
    - Steps 7 - 3%
  - Increase longevity payment by \$125 for each category
  - Approved

- **Post Secondary Transition Program Report**
  - **Melissa Caballero highlighted what the transition program is.**
    - **Set of activities for a student with disability to focus on school to post-school activities to support items like vocational training, independent living, access to adult services, etc.**
  - **Two physical program sites**
    - **Cogswell Building**
    - **Town Hall Building**
  - **53 students enrolled**
  - **Highlighted job sites and programming**
  - **Had three students share their experiences/successes with BOE.**
- **State Assessment Results (Literacy, Mathematics, and Science)**
  - **Paul Vicinus presented:**
    - **Literacy 67.3%**
    - **Mathematics 58.2%**
    - **Science 65.6%**
    - **District continues to be top 3rd in performance of all districts based on DRG and State Analysis**
    - **The High Needs Group is doing slightly better but still needs more work.**
  - **Kerry Jones:**
    - **At the elementary level, the district has a strong intervention.**
    - **25 math tutors.**
    - **Contributes to math growth.**
    - **Increased up to 27 tutors for literacy.**
  - **Michelle Graveline:**
    - **At the middle school level, math coaches have helped with tier 1.**
    - **Pull out programs have also been tailored based on student needs.**
- **Superintendent Report**
  - Thanked SAVE Group Students for presenting tonight.
  - Appreciate parental support and feedback.
  - Teachers are looking forward to upcoming conferences mid November.
  - Through grants and other funding, the district is able to keep all breakfast and lunch free until winter break.
  - Encouraged eligible students and the community to get vaccinated for both flu and COVID.
  - Still actively hiring for substitutes, paraprofessionals, and teaching assistant positions.

**Staff Communications & Reports:**

- **Hall Updates**
  - **Coach Frank Robinson named Jets Coach of the Week**
  - **Blackbox Theater hosting a Comedy of Errors next week**
  - **Started NEASC**
  - **Hosting homecoming dance this Saturday**
  - **Spirit Week this week**
- **Conard Updates**
  - **Students had opportunity to attend Q&A interview with Michael King director of The Rescuers**
  - **Equity Squad Leadership Institute to meet at end of October**
  - **Girls Swim and Dive only undefeated team**
  - **Pink Out games have been going on in athletics**
    - **Soccer had dedicated night to Coach Kerrie Massaro**
  - **College career center super busy with college visits and fair**
  - **10 and 11 graders took PSAT**
  - **Had a Say Something week**
  - **Blackbox had 3 shows of Clue**

- Peg Beecher, long standing principal at Charter Oak and Bugbee passed away last week.

**Routine Matters:**

- Financial Report
  - Returned under \$57,000 to the town.
  - Education non-lapsing account with \$750,000 was planned to be used within 2 years - was used and empty - no longer exists.
  - Surplus in salary due to a wide range of salaries among teachers.
  - Purchase services - Higher than expected out of district tuition expenses.
  - A few grants are being returned to the state.
  - Returned a district grant of \$8 back to the state.
  - Largest carry over of ESSER II and III grants of 9.6 million dollars.
    - ESSER II - 9/30/23
    - ESSER III - 9/30/24

**Information & Reports:**

N/A

**Future Business**

**Future Meeting Dates**

- Tuesday 11/1/2022 @ 7:00pm
- Tuesday 11/15/2022 @ 7:00pm

**Comments from Visitors:**

N/A