

**WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Michael Gordon	Chair
Elaine Whitney	Secretary
Mark Mathias*	
Karen Kleine	
Vik Muktavaram	
Candice Savin	

**Administrators Present:**

Colleen Palmer	Superintendent of Schools
Elio Longo	Dir. of School Business Operations
Julie Droller	Dir. of Elementary Education
John Bayers	Dir. of Human Resources
Michael Rizzo	Director of Pupil Services
Jennifer Allen	Dir. of Secondary Ed. & Research

Absent:

Jeannie Smith

\*Participated by telephone

**PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** 7:36 p.m., Staples High School, Cafeteria (Room 301)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**MINUTES:** Elaine Whitney moved to approve the minutes of March 13, 2017; seconded by Michael Gordon and passed unanimously (5-0-1, with Candace Savin abstaining).

**DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

Acceptance of Gifts

**Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts with gratitude and appreciation an anonymous gift of \$20,000 to Staples High School for the purpose of providing stage lighting in the auditorium.**

**MOTION:** Karen Kleine  
**SECOND:** Elaine Whitney  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 6-0

Discussion of FY 2018 Education Budget in Light of Vote by Board of Finance to Reduce Overall Budget by \$1,674,000 and a Possible Vote to Request Restoration by the Board of Finance

**Be It Resolved, That the Board of Education requests a restoration of \$424,000 to the FY 2018 Board of Education Budget, bringing the total Board of Education Budget reduction amount to \$1,250,000.**

**MOTION:** Vik Muktavaram  
**SECOND:** Karen Kleine  
**RESULT:** Failed  
**VOTE:** 2-4 (Vik Muktavaram and Karen Kleine in favor; Michael Gordon, Elaine Whitney, Mark Mathias and Candace Savin opposed)

Michael Gordon moved to begin a new agenda item after 10:30 p.m; seconded by Candace Savin and passed unanimously.

Approval of New Course Proposals: Staples High School

**Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the offering of Accelerated Science 1 and 2, Pilot, as a two-year course at Staples High School, beginning in the 2017 - 2018 school year, in accordance with the materials accompanying the agenda of the meeting of March 27, 2017.**

**MOTION:** Elaine Whitney  
**SECOND:** Karen Kleine  
**RESULT:** Passed Unanimously  
**VOTE:** 6-0

The vote on a second proposed course, Psychology of Child Development, was deferred by consensus to a future meeting.

## **DISCUSSION**

Update on Strategic Planning

Michael Gordon moved to defer discussion of this agenda item to a future meeting; seconded by Karen Kleine and passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Michael Gordon moved to adjourn at 11:53 p.m; seconded by Candace Savin and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Whitney, Secretary  
(Minutes written by Lisa Marriott)