

WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Board Members Present:

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| Michael Gordon | Chair |
| Jeannie Smith | Vice Chair |
| Elaine Whitney | Secretary |
| Mark Mathias | |
| Karen Kleine | |
| Vik Muktavaram | |
| Candice Savin | |

Administrators Present:

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

PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 7:34 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 27, 2017; seconded by Michael Gordon and passed unanimously.

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 the donation of \$12,500 by the law firm Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder, PC and \$2,500 from the lawyer James D. Horwitz to support the Staples High School We the People team’s attendance at the National Finals in Washington, DC from April 21-24, 2017.

MOTION: Jeannie Smith
SECOND: Candice Savin
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 7-0

Discussion of FY 2018 Education Budget in Light of Vote by Board of Finance to Reduce Overall Budget by \$1,674,000

A. Discussion and Possible Vote on Letter of Assurance from Board of Finance Regarding the Board of Education Medical Reserve Fund

Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education votes to approve adjusting its medical reserve account downward from 8% to 5% in the fiscal year 2017-18 in anticipation of the execution of the letter of assurance by the Members of the Board of Finance, a copy of which is to be appended to the minutes of the meeting of April 3, 2017.

MOTION: Elaine Whitney
SECOND: Vik Muktavaram
RESULT: Passed
VOTE: 6-1 (Mark Mathias opposed)

Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent and the Chair of the Board of Education to begin a dialogue with the Board of Finance and the RTM toward developing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding the Board of Education’s Health Care Reserve Fund for the long term.

MOTION: Elaine Whitney
SECOND: Candice Savin

Candice Savin moved to amend the motion to replace “MOU” with “a legally binding agreement among all of the relevant funding bodies and the Board of Education”; seconded by Jeannie Smith.

Be It Resolved, That the Board of Education amends the motion to replace “MOU” with the proposed language.

MOTION: Candice Savin
SECOND: Jeannie Smith
RESULT: Passed
VOTE: 6-1 (Vik Muktavaram opposed)

Vote on motion as amended:

Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent and the Chair of the Board of Education to begin a dialogue with the Board of Finance and the RTM toward developing a legally binding agreement among all of the relevant funding bodies and the Board of Education regarding the Board of Education’s Health Care Reserve Fund for the long term.

RESULT: Passed
VOTE: 6-1 (Vik Muktavaram opposed)

B. Discussion and Possible Vote to Request Restoration from the BOF

Be It Resolved, That the Board of Education requests a restoration of \$543,000 to the FY 2018 Board of Education Operating Budget, bringing the total BOE budget reduction amount to \$651,000.

MOTION: Karen Kleine
SECOND: Elaine Whitney

Candice Savin moved to amend the restoration amount to \$700,000; seconded by Mark Mathias.

Be It Resolved, That the Board of Education amends the motion to request a restoration of \$700,000.

MOTION: Candice Savin
SECOND: Mark Mathias
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 6-0-1 (Vik Muktavaram abstaining)

Vote on motion as amended:

Be It Resolved, That the Board of Education requests a restoration of \$700,000 to the FY 2018 Board of Education Operating Budget, bringing the total BOE budget reduction amount to \$494,000.

RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 7-0

Approval of New Course Proposal: Staples High School

Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the offering of Psychology of Child Development as a semester course at Staples High School beginning in the 2017-18 school year, in accordance with the materials accompanying the agenda of the meeting of April 3, 2017.

MOTION: Michael Gordon
SECOND: Jeannie Smith
RESULT: Passed Unanimously
VOTE: 7-0

Michael Gordon moved to extend the meeting past 10:30 p.m. to take up a new agenda item; seconded by Jeannie Smith and passed unanimously.

UPDATE:

Update on Strategic Planning

ADJOURNMENT: Michael Gordon moved to adjourn at 10:38 p.m; seconded by Jeannie Smith and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Whitney, Secretary
(Minutes written by Lisa Marriott)