

WESTPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES – APPROVED

Board Members Present:

Don'O'Day	Chair
Faith Taylor	Secretary
Elaine Whitney	
Michael McGovern	

Administrators Present:

Elliott Landon	Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Harris	Asst. Superintendent Business
Brian Fagan	Asst. Superintendent Curriculum
Marge Cion	Director of Human Resources

Board Members Absent:

James Marpe
Sandy DeFelice
Mark Mathias

PUBLIC CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 7:00 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:02 p.m., Faith Taylor motioned and was seconded by Don O'Day to go into executive session to discuss Strategies for Negotiations. Elliott Landon, Nancy Harris and Marge Cion joined the executive session at the invitation of the Board. The executive session ended at 7:40 p.m. The following BOE members were present at the executive session: Faith Taylor, Don O'Day, Elaine Whitney. Michael McGovern joined the executive session at 7:25 p.m.

RESUME PUBLIC SESSION: 7:42 p.m. in the Staples High School cafeteria.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting December 6, 2010 were unanimously accepted.

DISCUSSION:

1. **Course Approval: Physical Education Leaders Training -- Dave Gusitsch, Department Chair of Physical Education, K -12**
2. **Policy P4118.25: Social Networking By Staff -- Dr Elliott Landon**

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

1. **Acceptance of Gifts:**

Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts with gratitude and appreciation a gift of two watercolor paintings valued at \$7000 from The Frederic Whitaker and Eileen Monaghan Whitaker Foundation which are to become a part of the Westport Public Schools Permanent Art Collection, and a second gift of \$5,000 from the Helen C. Frick Foundation for the purchase of digital readers and E-books to be piloted as part of the reading program at the Greens Farms School.

MOTION: Don O'Day
SECOND: Elaine Whitney
RESULT: Passed
VOTE: Unanimous

2. Projected Kindergarten Sections: 2011-12 School Year

Be It Resolved, That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to assign one additional Kindergarten section above NESDEC projections at Coleytown Elementary School in the formulation of the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for the 2011-12 school year.

The Board reached an informal consensus not to vote on this item and to direct the administration to use the NESDEC numbers as guidelines only.

3. Adoption of New Board of Education Mission Statement

Be It Resolved, That the Board of Education adopts a new Mission Statement for the Westport Public Schools as reviewed at the meeting of December 20, 2010, said Mission Statement to be included in the Minutes of the meeting, posted on the district website, and electronically transmitted to staff, parents and community.

MISSION STATEMENT

THE Mission of the Westport Public Schools is to prepare all students to reach their full potential as life-long learners and socially responsible contributors to our global community.

WE achieve this by fostering critical and creative thinking and collaborative problem solving through a robust curriculum delivered by engaging and dedicated educators.

WE are committed to maintaining an environment that supports inquiry and academic excellence, emotional and physical well-being, appreciation of the arts and diverse cultures, integrity and ethical behavior.

MOTION:	Elaine Whitney
SECOND:	Don O'Day
RESULT:	Passed
VOTE:	Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:04 p.m. Elliott Landon, Nancy Harris and Marge Cion joined the executive session at the invitation of the Board. The executive session ended at 9:40 p.m. The following BOE members were present at the executive session: Faith Taylor, Don O'Day, Elaine Whitney, Michael McGovern.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith Taylor, Secretary
(Minutes written by Jennifer Robson)