

WEST BOYLSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
WEDNESDAY February 12, 2014

LOCATION: West Boylston Middle/High School Media Center

PRESENT: SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Owanisian, Chairman  
Jennifer Breen  
Richard Shaw  
Erin Palumbo  
James Pedone, Jr.

ADMINISTRATORS

Elizabeth Schaper, Superintendent  
Lawrence Murphy, Principal Middle/High School  
Christopher LaBreck, Associate MS Principal  
Richard Meagher, Elementary Principal  
Roger E. Pontbriand, Jr., Business Administrator  
Sherri Traina, Special Education Administrator

COMMUNITY

Faculty & Staff:		Guests:	14
Student Advisors:	2	Press:	1

Mr. Owanisian opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to February 12, 2014 School Committee Meeting.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Shaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular School Committee Meeting of January 8, 2014; Ms. Palumbo seconded; **Voted 5-0-0.**

**Student Recognition Awards**

Mr. Meagher congratulated Alice Mead on her student of the month status. She is a fifth grader at Major Edwards Elementary School.

Mr. LaBreck introduced the student of the month for the Middle High School, Dylan Hackett – grade 7, and congratulated him on his accomplishments.

Mr. Murphy congratulated Tyler Arme, an 11th grader in the High School, on his many achievements.

**Student Advisory Council**

Anthony Himmelberger described the events going on in the Middle High School to include: the Class of 2017's completion of their play comps script, the sophomore class is currently selling carnations for Valentine's Day, juniors have also finished their play comps script – in the nurse's office - screenings for grades 6-9 will be conducted, Team Hoyt came to the school on Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Tyler Arme stated PBIS ambassadors are working with the staff team to develop a lesson on hallway expectations and they are also working on developing a change committee.

**Acknowledgment Of Camera Crew**

Mr. Owanisian thanked Mr. Bokankowitz for his work filming the meeting.

**Highlight on Schools – Full Day Kindergarten Proposal**

Dr. Schaper stated that the committee had a proposal in their packets explaining the advantages of full day kindergarten and she requested the committee vote in the full day/free kindergarten program for all children in West Boylston beginning in September of 2014.

Dr. Schaper stated the proposal presented information with regard to local urgency to this issue.

Dr. Schaper stated that the proposal is posted online for families to review.

Mr. Pedone voted to accept the full day kindergarten proposal as presented by Dr. Schaper, Mr. Shaw seconded; **Voted 5-0-0.**

Dr. Schaper presented the FLLAC agreement for the committee's approval.

Mr. Shaw made a motion to approve the new FLLAC agreement as presented, Ms. Palumbo seconded; **voted 5-0-0.**

Mr. Owanisian called for a report from the Budget Subcommittee. Mr. Shaw indicated that both he and Mr. Pedone met with Mr. Pontbriand and Dr. Schaper to discuss the budget, the kindergarten program and several other initiatives that are in process at this time.

Mr. Owanisian called for a report from the Chapter 74 Subcommittee. Mr. Shaw stated the subcommittee did not meet as their meeting that was to occur was snowed out, but he indicated they have been communicating through email as to the current status. Dr. Schaper stated that at this time of year we are in the process of having students come forward to let them know they plan on attending the vocational school. She stated we have 12 students who have indicated to the vocational school that they are interested in their program. She said that the next thing for students to do is to fill out a form for her to sign to authorize our district to pay their tuition. She stated that we have only received five of those forms to date. She stated we have budgeted for those 12 students. She said that overall it looks as though the total amount of students interested in vocational education might be down slightly from last year.

Mr. Owanisian called for a report from the Communications Subcommittee. Ms. Palumbo stated that the subcommittee met and discussed the various means of communicating with the community and one of those would be to start a blog; under a generic school committee listing – so anybody on the school committee could post on the blog. She indicated that they were also going to work on their mission statement for the school during the February retreat. She stated they are hoping to publish something in the Banner once they know how the budget is going.

Mr. Owanisian stated that relative to the Negotiations Subcommittee, there was nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Owanisian called for a report from the Policy Subcommittee. Ms. Breen stated that the Policy Subcommittee has not met, but Dr. Schaper did email the Homework Policy out to parents across the district. Ms. Breen indicated it will take some time to see if the policy works for people, and if necessary corrections will be made.

Mr. Owanisian called for a report from the School Building Subcommittee. Mr. Pedone indicated they were scheduled to meet soon to go over the buildings capital improvement.

Mr. Owanisian called for a report from the Technology Subcommittee. He indicated that they have not met recently, but that they do have an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Owanisian called for a report from the Transportation Subcommittee. Ms. Palumbo indicated that the subcommittee met with Mr. Pontbriand and decided that, financially, it makes sense to stay with the AA Transportation Company and extend that contract for another two years.

Ms. Palumbo made a motion to accept the AA Transportation bid extension for 2014-2016, seconded by Mr. Richard Shaw; **Voted 5-0-0.**

## **FLLAC Agreement**

## **Subcommittee Reports**

## **Community Input**

Ms. Lisa Thompson addressed the committee about the SEPAC.

## **Communications and Reports**

Mr. Owanisian called for a report from the elementary school. Mr. Meagher indicated both grade 4 and grade 2 had put on performances relative to reading – “Books Upon the Self” and “Love to Read Day.” He indicated that March 3 would be community reading day at Major Edwards. Mr. Meagher stated that the elementary school continues their work with TLA.

Mr. Owanisian called for a report from the middle school. Mr. LaBreck indicated that the middle school started a debate club and had a strong turnout of about 12 students. He also indicated that work continues in the middle school with TLA. Mr. LaBreck thanked Mr. Walker and his father for coaching basketball together this year, for their 25<sup>th</sup> year.

Mr. Owanisian called for a report from the high school. Mr. Murphy stated both he and the students from the Lion’s Scholar Academy made a trip to the Massachusetts State House and it was a huge success. The group spent some time with Representative O’Day, received a tour of the building and met the new mayor of Boston, Martin Walsh.

Mr. Murphy indicated they are working on their NEASC recommendations. One of the recommendations was to have an advisory so that every student at the high school has an adult to reach out to other than their guidance counselor. He stated that they have come up with a model that hope to implement for the high school and are looking to start the program on February 25, 2014.

Mr. Owanisian called for a report from the Director of Special Education who stated there was nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Owanisian called for a report from the Business Administrator. Mr. Pontbriand indicated the expenditure report was included in the committee’s packet. He stated that not much has change except the Special Education deficits are slowing increasing and we are still monitoring that. He also stated that we did not qualify for the Foundation Reserve Program or for Circuit Breaker relief this year.

Mr. Owanisian called for a report from the Superintendent of Schools. The report included an update on the work of the Mathematics Curriculum Team, PARCC test preparation, planning for teacher rounds, a writing curriculum team update, an update on educator evaluation and an announcement concerning the new teacher mentoring program.

Mr. Owanisian requested information regarding teacher absences. He was concerned because the amount of teachers absent seemed like a significant amount. Dr. Schaper offered to work with the committee during the February retreat on a more concise reporting format.

Mr. Owanisian called for a report from the School Committee. Mr. Pedone indicated he had nothing to report at this time. Mr. Shaw stated, he also, wanted to thank both Mr. Walker and his father for their years of service coaching basketball in West Boylston. Ms. Breen updated the committee with regard to WestBEST activities. She stated that within the last year, WestBEST has given out about \$9,300.00 in requests/largely technology based. She indicated the Father Daughter Dance would be coming up on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Palumbo had nothing new to report. Mr. Owanisian reminded those in attendance that the committee’s mini retreat is scheduled for Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Owanisian announced that he would be retiring from his position as School Committee Chairman at the end of June of 2014.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:42 p.m. by Mr. Pedone seconded by Ms. Breen; Voted: **5-0-0**.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marie Johnson  
Recording Secretary