

WEST BOYLSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Wednesday, March 12, 2014
Middle/High School Library-Media Center

Mr. Owanisian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Jennifer Breen

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Tyler Arney, Anthony Himmelberger – Student Advisory Council members, audience and press.

1. MINUTES

Mr. Shaw moved, seconded by Mr. Pedone, to accept the minutes of February 12, 2014.

VOTE: All in favor.

2. STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS

Students from the Elementary and Middle/High Schools were recognized for their achievements – Kyle Thompson, Kyle O'Connor and Rachel Langhill.

3. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Advisory council members indicated there were several events going on in the Middle/High School such as upcoming play competition rehearsals for the Class of 2016 and yearbook sales are coming to an end.

4. COMMUNITY INPUT

Karyn Clark, from the Central Mass Regional Public Health Alliance, presented information relative to their program.

5. HIGHLIGHT ON SCHOOLS – LION'S SCHOLAR ACADEMY

Ms. Kristin Tokarz, Guidance Counselor at the Middle/High School, and students presented information about the Lion's Scholar Academy.

6. 2014-2015 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The School Committee reviewed the new school year calendar. Mr. Shaw moved, seconded by Ms. Palumbo, to accept the 2014-2015 School Year Calendar.

VOTE: All in favor.

7. SCHOOL CHOICE RECOMMENDATION

The School Committee reviewed the School Choice recommendation for grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Mr. Pedone moved, seconded by Ms. Palumbo, to accept the 2014-2015 School Choice Recommendation.

VOTE: All in favor.

8. MISSION STATEMENT

Members of the West Boylston School Committee revised their Mission Statement. Ms. Palumbo moved, seconded by Mr. Pedone, to accept the revision of the School Committee Mission Statement.

VOTE: All in favor.

9. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Budget - Mr. Shaw thanked the administrative team for their work on creating the FY15 Budget.
- b. Legislative – No meeting, no report.
- c. Communications – No meeting, no report.
- d. Negotiations - No meeting, no report.
- e. Policy – Ms. Palumbo indicated the next policy to be revised, would be the homeschool policy.
- f. Capital Projects/School Building –Mr. Pedone indicated the committee reviewed the capital improvements and prioritized them.
- g. Ad Hoc: Class Size – Ms. Palumbo referred members to the School Choice Report.

10. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

- a. Edwards Elementary Principal – Mr. Meagher presented highlights from his School Committee Update to include: Community Reading Day at Major Edwards on March 3, 2014, building-wide data team met on March 4, 2014 to go over the mid-term benchmark assessments, and Mr. Meagher welcomed Tracy Frohock, the new school guidance counselor.

- b. Middle School Associate Principal – Mr. LaBreck offered information regarding MCAS testing for the Middle School and thanked those involved with the teacher/student basketball last Friday night to raise money for St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital.
- c. Middle/High School Principal – Mr. Murphy reported that Matt Friedman, an assistant football coach for the Middle/High School, was selected as the Massachusetts Assistant Football Coach of the Year. Mr. Murphy also stated that the first Advisory meeting was held at the High School on February 25th and it was very successful.
- e. Director of Special Education – Ms. Traina reminded parents that we are in the process of Kindergarten registration which began in February and it is ongoing. She stated that parents could see Ms. Marie Johnson at the Superintendent’s office to register their child; packets for registration are available online or in the Superintendent’s office. She stated that if there are parents with a child who will be five years old before August 31, 2014, they are age eligible for kindergarten – no fee/full day.
- f. Business Administrator – Mr. Pontbriand indicated the expenditure report was in the School Committee packet. He stated that the Superintendent has requested a freeze on costs due to unexpected Special Education issues. He stated that this development could add an additional \$120,000 to our Special Education budget. Mr. Pontbriand stated that we will find other areas to make transfers to cover those costs, if in the end; the Department of Education does determine that we are responsible for those students. Dr. Schaper indicated she has had a discussion with the Town Manager about these anticipated costs. He is setting up a meeting with himself, Dr. Schaper, Representative Jim O’Day and Senator Harriet Chandler to resolve this issue.
- g. Superintendent of Schools - Dr. Schaper reported on the following:
- Elementary teachers who are members of the Mathematics Curriculum Team visited Boylston Elementary School to see the Envisions Math Program. They will visit a district that uses MyMath. Both of these companies will provide webinar demos for the team in the upcoming weeks.
 - The district uploaded required information for participation in the PARCC test.
 - Mr. LaBreck and Mr. Meagher went to view a Teacher Round at Claremont Academy on Wednesday, March 12, 2014.
 - Writing Across the Curriculum team met on February 27, 2014 and started making a plan for getting the standards imbedded across our content areas.
 - Our district is still working with the Teaching Learning Alliance to provide high impact literacy coaching.
 - We have been using the Fountas and Pinnell benchmark assessment system – a tool which the Data Team is using to help teachers come up with independent and instructional reading levels for students.
- h. School Committee – Mr. Shaw requested a comparison of data for teacher attendance. Mr. Owanisian stated the Communications Subcommittee will begin a School Committee Blog.

11. ADJOURN

Mr. Shaw moved, seconded by Mr. Pedone, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

VOTE: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie K. Johnson, Recording Secretary