

WEST BOYLSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Wednesday, June 11, 2014
Middle/High School Library-Media Center

Ms. Breen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Breen
James Pedone, Jr.
Richard Shaw
Erin Palumbo
Thais Frost

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Molly O'Connor and Anthony Himmelberger – Student Advisory Council members, audience and press.

1. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

Mr. Shaw moved, seconded by Ms. Palumbo, to elect Ms. Jennifer Breen as the West Boylston School Committee Chairman.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Ms. Palumbo moved, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to elect Mr. James Pedone, Jr. as the West Boylston School Committee Vice-Chairman.

VOTE: 5-0-0

2. MINUTES

Ms. Palumbo moved, seconded by Mr. Frost, to accept the minutes of May 14, 2014 regular meeting.

VOTE: 4-0-1

3. RECOGNITION OF PETER DESY

Plaques were presented to former School Committee member, Peter Desy's family in recognition of his 24 years of service to the West Boylston School District.

4. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Advisory council members indicated how the spring sports teams were doing at the Middle/High School and the West Boylston In It To End It – Cancer walk raised \$4,400.00.

5. HIGHLIGHT ON SCHOOLS – Volunteer Recognition

Ms. Jen Gadowski, volunteer coordinator, and Dr. Schaper presented awards to volunteers from Major Edwards Elementary School and the Middle/High School for their service in the schools.

6. ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Robert Reddish of ABM Building and Energy Solutions and Mr. Dave Eckhardt presented information on the investment grade audit within the town and the school district. Information discussed included:

- Fuel Conversion from oil to natural gas
- Replacement of HVAC controls
- Replacement of fluorescent lighting

Mr. Eckhardt stated we are awaiting town approval. The conversion to natural gas will hopefully be completed before the fall heating season in 2014.

7. COMMUNITY INPUT – Fore the Cubs/ Presentation of Gift

Dr. Schaper introduced Kelly Egan, Andrea Allen, and Beth Manjarrez and thanked them for implementing a golf tournament which raised \$8,000.00 for Major Edwards Elementary School. Mr. Meagher indicated that the money would go towards funding the needs of the Linda Richardson Library, the teachers' library and reading initiatives within the school.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Budget - No meeting, no report.
- b. Legislative - No meeting, no report.
- c. Communications - No meeting, no report.
- d. Negotiations - No meeting, no report.
- e. Policy - There was no meeting, but some discussion as to the Graduation Policy and it was noted that the policy was not yet ready to be brought to the Committee for a first reading.
- f. Capital Projects/School Building - Information was presented earlier in the evening with regard to the Energy Management Project.
- g. Ad Hoc Committee - Assessment PARCC/MCAS - Dr. Schaper presented information to the School Committee regarding the differences between the PARCC test and the MCAS.

Mr. Shaw moved, seconded by Mr. Pedone to stay with the MCAS test for next year giving the district time to prepare for the PARCC.

VOTE: 5-0-0

9. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

- a. Edwards Elementary Principal - Mr. Meagher recognized Ms. Sandra Ivins who was retiring from the West Boylston Public Schools and Ms. Pam Frechette the former PTA president at Major Edwards Elementary School.
- b. Middle School Associate Principal - Mr. LaBreck thanked Ms. Debra Goodwill and the GUPPIES, a group of 8th grade students, who organized a wellness carnival. He also thanked Mr. Palmer, Ms. Zell and students for a STEAM presentation.
- c. Middle/High School Principal - Mr. Murphy indicated they were many things that have gone on or are going on in the Middle/High School to include: undergraduate awards, summer reading, Lions Scholars Academy trip to Holy Cross, In It To End It fundraiser raised over \$7,000.00 and Senior Graduation. Mr. Murphy stated that next year's theme is "Be Kind" and Mrs. Somma added to the theme by saying "Be kind, because we all have troubles."
- d. Director of Special Education - Ms. Traina indicated she had nothing to report at this time.
- e. Business Administrator- Mr. Pontbriand stated the paper bid, included within the School Committee packet, was through W.B. Mason and the French River Educational Collaborative.

Ms. Palumbo moved, seconded by Mr. Shaw to award W.B. Mason the paper bid for FY15.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Mr. Pontbriand advised there was a need, per the Town's request, to transfer \$50,000.00 from the School Choice Fund to the School Lunch Program due to a deficit in that account. Mr. Pontbriand indicated the main reason for the lunch program deficit is because of the menu choices and portion sizes - this lunch program was implemented in 2012. Mr. Pontbriand stated that the House voted to allow school districts who incur a deficit for 6 months or more, under the new school lunch program, to withdraw from that program.

Mr. Pedone moved, seconded by Ms. Frost to approve the transfer of \$50,000.00 from the School Choice Fund to the School Lunch Program.

VOTE: 4-1-0

- f. Superintendent of Schools - Dr. Schaper thanked Mr. Bokankowitz for setting up an additional iPad cart for Major Edwards Elementary School and reported on the following:
 - The first Celebration of Teaching was held last week - all first year teachers were invited to present something from their work this year that they were proud of. Their mentors came to the celebration as well. Dr. Schaper indicated that this type of event really welcomes the new teachers into our community.
 - As of June 5, 2014 - 377 new teacher evaluations have been conducted this year.

- The last Data Dashboard for the year includes the college acceptances for the year and the Professional Development courses for teachers which were paid for by the district.
- g. School Committee - Mr. Shaw stated that through the Rotary, to which he belongs, eight (8) scholarships were given out and one of the scholarship recipients was Shannon Downer from the West Boylston School system. No other School Committee members had anything to report. Ms. Breen stated that the last item to be addressed was the selection of a date for the School Committee retreat in August. Dr. Schaper indicated she would submit several dates in the first two weeks of August for the School Committee's approval.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Breen moved that the School Committee enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and to return to open session only to adjourn.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0-0

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pedone moved, seconded by Mr. Shaw to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Marie K. Johnson, Recording Secretary