

WEST BOYLSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Wednesday, October 8, 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 Joe Debonis – Student Advisory Council members, audience and press.

1. MINUTES

Mr. Shaw moved, seconded by Ms. Frost, to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2014 regular meeting.

VOTE: 5-0-0

2. STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS

Students from the Elementary and Middle/High Schools were recognized for their achievements – Abby Rickert, Mackenzie Shea, and Ryan Zumpano.

3. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Advisory council members provided information on - Peer Students, Service Projects, Day for Change, Peer Lion Award and Foreign Language Honor Society inductions.

4. HIGHLIGHT ON SCHOOLS - MCAS Report

Dr. Schaper presented the district level results of 2014 MCAS testing. Principals presented school level results.

5. DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Dr. Schaper requested the School Committee vote to approve the District Improvement Plan.

Mr. Pedone moved, seconded by Ms. Palumbo to accept the District Improvement Plan.

VOTE: 5-0-0

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Budget - No meeting, no report.
- b. Legislative - Mr. Shaw spoke about the gun bill, the foundation budget panel review, suicide prevention training, school resource officers.
- c. Communications – No meeting, Mrs. Palumbo mentioned that she recently updated the school committee blog.
- d. Negotiations - No meeting, no report.
- e. Policy - Ms. Palumbo stated the graduation policy was still under consideration and it would be presented in the November School Committee packet for a first reading.
- f. Capital Projects/School Building - Mr. Pedone stated he had reviewed the work being done at Major Edwards Elementary School and the Middle/High School. The lighting updates were about 85% complete, gas lines had been installed and the oil tanks have been removed from both schools.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

- a. Edwards Elementary Principal - Mr. Meagher indicated there were several things going on at the Elementary School such as: a grade level data team meeting was held on October 1st, back pack Thursday emails were going to be streamlined through School Messenger and there is a winter coat swap scheduled for October 18th.
- b. Middle School Associate Principal - Mr. LaBreck thanked Mr. Stefanelli and the Middle School Band for playing at both of the home football games. He stated the Middle School held their first school wide advisory on September 10th and they would be heading back to Ocean Park, ME on October 14th for Nature's Classroom.
- c. Principal Middle/High School - Mr. Murphy stated the Lions Scholar Academy students had recently been to Tufts Medical School. He also indicated that all members of the Lion's Scholars Academy will participate in either the science fair at WPI or the Model United Nations at Clark University.
- d. Director of Special Education - Ms. Traina indicated students from the High School had contacted Special Olympics and will be offering Special Olympics events throughout the year.
- e. Business Administrator- Mr. Pontbriand gave an update on the implementation of the new software system being used for finances. He also indicated the FY14 auditors will be in next week. The planned transportation purchases will be presented to the Budget and Capital Projects/School Building subcommittees prior to the November meeting.
- f. Superintendent of Schools - Dr. Schaper reported on the following:

- Teachers who are new to the district received training on the new evaluation system on September 25, 2014.
 - Forty teachers have signed up to participate in Teacher Rounds groups for the purpose of sharing professional practice and looking at teaching and learning practices in their classrooms.
 - In district fall professional development offerings include: Writing Across the Curriculum, Teacher Rounds, Robust Vocabulary Instruction, Google Apps for Education, Paraprofessional Skills, envisions Mathematics Preparation, and Teacher Induction
- g. School Committee - Mr. Shaw thanked the administration for communicating so with regards to the construction project.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pedone moved, seconded by Ms. Palumbo to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Marie K. Johnson, Recording Secretary