

**WATERTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WATERTOWN, MA**

**COMMANDER'S MANSION
440 TALCOTT AVENUE
WATERTOWN, MA 02472**

**WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 23, 2017
12:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE RETREAT**

I. Roll Call

Present for the August 23, 2017 School Committee retreat were School Committee members Mr. John Portz (Chair), Dr. Guido Guidotti (Secretary), Ms. Eileen Hsu-Balzer, and Ms. Elizabeth Yusem. Also present were the members of the Watertown Public Schools' (WPS) Cabinet including Superintendent Dr. Deanne Galdston, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Theresa McGuinness, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Mary DeLai, Director of Student Services Ms. Kathleen Desmarais, and Director of Human Resources Mr. Craig Hardimon. Also present were the members of the WPS Administrative Council including Ms. Shirley Lundberg, Mr. James Kimo Carter, Mr. Robert LaRoche, Ms. Mena Ciarlone, Ms. Stacy Phelan, and Ms. Karen Feeney.

Not present were School Committee members Ms. Kendra Foley (Vice-Chair) and Mr. Mark Sideris.

II. School Committee Retreat: General Discussion of Schools' and District's Goals and Plans

All present members of the School Committee, Cabinet, and Administrative Council joined in a lunchtime discussion around success protocol for the District. They also discussed proposed short term district strategy.

Four strategic objectives for WPS that had been recently developed by District leadership were presented to the School Committee for discussion. The proposed strategic objectives were:

- Provide all students with a rigorous, relevant, standards-based curriculum throughout our core instructional program
- Increase student engagement, agency, and authorship over their own learning in an inclusive educational community
- Ensure effective communication among families, students, staff, and the greater community
- Establish effective systems of support and allocate resources to maximize organizational success

III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.