

**WATERTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
WATERTOWN, MA**

**RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
149 MAIN STREET**

**MONDAY  
FEBRUARY 5, 2018  
7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**I. Roll Call**

The School Committee Chairman, Mr. John Portz, called to order the February 5, 2018 meeting of the School Committee at 7:00 PM. Present were School Committee members Ms. Kendra Foley, Ms. Eileen Hsü-Balzer, Mr. Mark Sideris, Ms. Amy Donohue, Ms. Lily Rayman-Read, and Ms. Lindsay Mosca. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Deanne Galdston, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning Dr. Theresa B. McGuinness, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations Ms. Mary C. DeLai, Director of Human Resources Mr. Craig Hardimon, Director of Student Services Ms. Kathleen Desmarais, and various members of the public.

**II. High School Student Advisors**

Miss Lauren Petrillo, student advisor to the School Committee, reported on recent happenings at Watertown High School. She said that Senior Nights for various sports were coming up, Valentine candy-grams were being sold by the sophomores as a successful fundraising effort, and some students were getting ready to travel to Italy over February break.

**III. Public Forum – Session I**

No member of the public spoke.

**IV. Teaching and Learning Showcase: Title I Grant-funded Interventions and Supports for Elementary and Middle School Students; Title IIA Grant-Funded High-Quality Professional Development**

Dr. Theresa McGuinness, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, presented to the School Committee a [memo](#) detailing the district's Title I, Title IIA, and Title IV federally-funded entitlement grants. Grant-funded activities within the Watertown Public Schools were said to include additional elementary math and reading teachers and tutors, reading intervention at Watertown Middle School, parent outreach, professional development, and improved AP access for high school students.

**V. Presentations and Discussion**

**A. First Reading of Policy Changes**

1. [IHBA](#): Observation of Special Education Programs
2. [JMA](#): Awards for Championship Teams or Athletes
3. [KI](#): Visitors to Schools
4. [KIA](#): Guests at Secondary School Dances

Ms. Eileen Hsu-Balzer, Chair of the Policy Subcommittee, presented drafts of the above policies for an initial reading by the School Committee.

**VI. Action Items – Discussion and Vote**

**A. Viability of Lowell School Site for a New High School**

A motion was made that the Lowell Elementary School site will remain an elementary school and will move forward as a part of the elementary schools' building project.

The motion was seconded.

The Chairman presented a [memo](#) from the Superintendent which, in part, detailed the consideration of a future location for a new, relocated high school. In it, Dr. Galdston said the reasons were many and compelling for the Lowell Elementary School to remain an elementary location.

A roll call vote was taken:

Hsu-Balzer: Aye  
Mosca: Aye  
Portz: Aye  
Foley: Aye

Rayman-Read: Aye  
Sideris: Aye  
Donohue: Aye  
The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Student Enrollment Trends and Desired Enrollments at the Elementary Schools**

A motion was made, based upon the enrollment projections presented on January 29, 2018, that the capacity of the elementary school building project be based on no less than the currently anticipated peak enrollment forecast of 1,315 plus ten percent with also the intention to narrow the difference in enrollments among the three schools.

The motion was seconded.

In the same [memo](#), Dr. Galdston said that “determining the capacity for the elementary school post-renovation is of utmost importance... We are considering a 10 percent capacity increase over the [projected] peak enrollment to allow for both growth in the school-aged population as well as the potential for recapturing families who have decided to educate their children outside of the public school setting.”

A roll call vote was taken:

Hsu-Balzer: Aye  
Mosca: Aye  
Portz: Aye  
Foley: Aye  
Rayman-Read: Aye  
Sideris: Aye  
Donohue: Aye  
The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Location of Preschool and Pre-K Classes**

A motion was made that preschool and pre-kindergarten classes will be combined in a site adjacent to the Hosmer Elementary School which will be designed to accommodate additional capacity.

The motion was seconded.

In the same [memo](#), Dr. Galdston said, “The Director of Early Childhood has [highlighted] the importance of early childhood education and the benefits of a WPS Early Education Center... Our recommendation is to create an Early Education Center at the reconstructed Hosmer Elementary School.”

A School Committee member noted his concern that this project could greatly affect the cost of the overall elementary building project.

A roll call vote was taken:

Hsu-Balzer: Aye  
Mosca: Aye  
Portz: Aye  
Foley: Aye  
Rayman-Read: Aye  
Sideris: Aye  
Donohue: Aye  
The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Proposed Policy Changes**

The following proposed policy changes were submitted to the School Committee for a vote.

First Reading of Policy Changes:

1. [JB Equal Educational Opportunities](#)
2. [JBA Student-to-Student Harassment/Bullying](#)
3. [JIC Student Conduct](#)
4. [JJ/JJI Extracurricular Activities](#)

5. [JKAA Prevention of Restraint of Students](#)
6. [JKD/JKE Expulsion and Suspension Policy](#)
7. [IHBEA English Language Learners](#)
8. [IHBF Homebound Instruction](#)
9. [IHBG Home Schooling](#)
10. [KF Building Use](#)

A motion was made to adopt policy JB as amended.  
The motion was seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adopt policy JBA as amended.  
The motion was seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adopt policy JIC as amended.  
The motion was seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adopt policy JJ/JJI as amended.  
The motion was seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adopt policy JKAA as amended.  
The motion was seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to remove policy JKD/JKE.  
The motion was seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adopt policy IHBEA as amended.  
The motion was seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adopt policy IHBF as amended.  
The motion was seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adopt policy IHBG as amended.  
The motion was seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adopt policy KF as amended.  
The motion was seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**E. High School Program of Studies**

A motion was made to approve the [2018-2019 Program of Studies](#) for Watertown High School.  
The motion was seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**F. Vote on School Choice Program**

A motion was made for the School Committee to resolve that the Watertown Public Schools not participate in the School Choice program for 2018-2019 for reasons of space, class size, and financial equity.

The motion was approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

**G. Approval of Gifts:**

1. \$355 from James Russell Lowell School PTO for the bus cost for the Boston Tea Party Museum field trip
2. \$15 from Douglas and Erica Chilson for the Watertown Family Network
3. \$300 from Zurcher Kantonbank for Amy Peca's hosting of a student intern
4. \$200 from Payson Park Church for the Watertown Family Network
5. \$100 from George J. and Marianne P. Snow for the Watertown Family Network
6. \$50 from Janet Marie Calvey for the Watertown Family Network
7. \$50 from Dana A. Cohen for the Watertown Family Network
8. \$20 from Bethan Jane Bailey for the Watertown Family Network
9. \$500 from United Electric Controls for the WHS robotics team
10. \$500 from Gartaganis Brothers, Inc. for the WHS robotics team
11. \$100 from Miller/Tracy Children's Foundation for the WHS robotics team
12. \$50 from Brian Valiton for the Watertown Family Network
13. \$500 from Residence Inn Watertown for the Cunniff Kids and Raider News newspapers
14. \$500 from Watertown Savings Bank for the Cunniff Kids and Raider News newspapers
15. \$50 from Lueders Environmental, Inc. for WPS
16. \$250 from First Parish of Watertown for the Marion Lazan program
17. \$1,000 from Payson Park Church for the Watertown Family Network
18. \$25 from Lyra Klemek Mador for the Watertown Family Network
19. \$500 from Enanta Pharmaceutical, Inc. for the WHS robotics team
20. \$80.15 from Launch Trampoline Park for the WHS robotics team

A motion was made to accept the above-listed gifts.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

**H. Approval of Minutes:**

1. June 19, 2017 School Committee Meeting
2. August 23, 2017 School Committee Retreat
3. August 24, 2017 School Committee Meeting
4. December 4, 2017 School Committee Meeting
5. January 8, 2017 School Committee Meeting

A motion was made to approve the above-listed minutes.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

**I. Approval of Overnight Field Trip**

A motion was made to approve an overnight field trip for Watertown High School students to travel to Spain February 15-23, 2019.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. Reports**

### **A. Subcommittees**

#### **1. Budget and Finance**

A motion was made to approve the [report](#) of the January 24, 2018 Budget and Finance Subcommittee meeting.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **2. Curriculum**

A motion was made to approve the [report](#) of the January 29, 2018 Curriculum Subcommittee meeting.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **3. Policy**

A motion was made to approve the [report](#) of the January 30, 2018 Policy Subcommittee meeting.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. WPS Projects and Activities:**

#### **1. Building for the Future – Update**

Mr. Portz reported that the architects had been working with community members, parents, teachers, staff members, and administrators in visioning sessions for the elementary school building projects.

#### **2. Asbestos Abatement Project at the High School (WHS)**

Ms. Mary DeLai reported the asbestos abatement project was very close to completion with finalization on track for the end of February 2018.

#### **3. Planning for New School Start Times in Fall 2018**

Dr. Galdston reported the district was looking into providing after-school programming for elementary students who would need to wait on campus for their older siblings with whom to go home.

#### **4. Strategy Development Team Update**

Dr. Galdston [reported](#) on recent meetings of the WPS Strategy Development Team.

#### **5. Communications and Marketing Team Update**

Dr. Galdston [reported](#) on recent meetings of the WPS Communications and Marketing Team.

### **C. Monthly Updates:**

#### **1. FY18 Budget**

Ms. DeLai presented the [FY18 budget status](#). She said the report showed that the district currently had an unencumbered balance of \$2,858,838 or 6.2% of the original adopted budget.

#### **2. Enrollment**

The Superintendent reported on [student enrollment numbers](#) across the District. The overall student enrollment had increased by 15 students from the previous month; class sizes had remained largely steady.

#### **3. Personnel**

Mr. Craig Hardimon, Director of Human Resources, presented a [report](#) on recent personnel

changes.

4. **Warrants**

The Chairman presented a [report](#) on warrants recently approved for payment.

**VIII. Public Forum – Session II**

No member of the public spoke.

**IX. Reports**

**A. Chairman's**

The Chairman noted a School Committee retreat had been scheduled for March 7, 2018 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

**B. Superintendent's**

The Superintendent said she was amazed by the collaboration of the individuals and committees within the district as the FY19 budget was being created. Dr. Galdston invited the community to visit with her at a scheduled Superintendent's Coffee meeting on February 28, 2018.

**X. Next Meeting**

Mr. Portz noted the next scheduled School Committee meeting was scheduled for March 5, 2018.

**XI. New Business**

A motion was made for the Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee to investigate the addition of childcare during School Committee meetings.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

**XII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.