

**WATERTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
WATERTOWN, MA**

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

**MONDAY  
JUNE 4, 2018  
7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**I. Roll Call**

The School Committee Chairman, Mr. John Portz, called to order the June 4, 2018 meeting of the School Committee at 7:04 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**

The 2017-2018 high school advisors, Ms. Emily Koufos and Ms. Lauren Petrillo, provided an overview of events at the high school. The advisors spoke of a trip to Kimball Farm, prom, the senior barbeque, playoffs, and having graduation outside. The students were enthusiastic about their events and wanted to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve. Ms. Olivia Lampasona and Ms. Honor Petrie, the new student advisors for the 2018-2019 school year, are very excited to get started. The Chairman thanked Ms. Koufos and Ms. Petrillo for their work in the past year and wished them luck in their future endeavors.

**III. Public Forum – Session I**

No one spoke in the Public Forum.

**IV. Athletic Director's Awards**

Mr. Michael Lahiff, Director of Athletics, introduced Mr. Eric Fratado, a college student at Endicott College and a graduate of WHS, who is currently doing a 120-hour internship in the Athletics Department this spring. Mr. Lahiff is appreciative of the opportunity to celebrate and honor senior student athletes at this meeting. He noted that approximately 75% of any given class (i.e. juniors, seniors, etc.) participated in at least one season of a sport, and 54% of senior class members remain athletes. Mr. Lahiff shared numerous highlights from the past year's sporting events. The Athletic Director's Award was created to celebrate any athlete who had participated in sports for all 12 seasons of the high school career. It was an effort to increase the number of multisport athletes within the district. Sixteen seniors achieved this accomplishment, which is double the number of students who were honored in 2017. The following students were recognized by the School Committee members and were presented with a plaque:

- Alexander Abrahamyan (UMASS Amherst)
- Angus Brouillard (Gettysburg College)
- Gabriella Cacia (Simmons University)
- Liz Cam (UMASS Amherst)

- Nicholas Cordeiro (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)
- Valentina Gaete (UMASS Boston)
- Emily Koufos (Holy Cross)
- Ben Landry (Bob Jones University)
- Maddelyn Leitner (Long Island University)
- Matthew Muldrew (University of Rhode Island)
- Anthony Panza (Framingham State)
- Stella Papadopoulos (Curry College)
- Sydney Poulin (Endicott College)
- Elizabeth Powderly (Penn State)
- Christine Saroufim (Simmons University)
- Ana Zoubian (Mass College of Pharmacy)

Of note, Ms. Poulin was actually a 13-season athlete as she was part of the school's hockey team while she was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The Chairman thanked Mr. Lahiff for 11 years of leading the Athletics Department. Mr. Mark Sideris also thanked Mr. Lahiff for the work that he's done with the students of Watertown and lauded his ability to piece all of the sports together.

## **V. Teaching and Learning Showcase**

Before beginning this update, Dr. Dede Galdston, Superintendent of Schools, introduced Mrs. Renee Ruggiero, a new member to the Central Office team. Mrs. Ruggiero is the Executive Assistant to both the Superintendent and the School Committee and comes with 20-years' experience in higher education.

### **A. Elementary School Highlights**

Dr. Galdston wanted to highlight for the community some of the exciting things that are happening in the classroom. She presented slides from the schools documenting interdisciplinary learning activities such as the hatching of baby chicks at the Cunniff, the new maker space program at the Hosmer, and an author's showcase with parent participation at the Lowell. In the future, Dr. Galdston will share highlights from an individual school at each School Committee meeting.

## **VI. Presentations and Discussions**

### **A. Watertown Community Foundation**

Mr. David Siegel from the Watertown Community Foundation (WCF) spoke about the merger of the WCF and the Watertown Educational Foundation. Mr. Siegel explained the rationale for merger, as well as resulting implications. Both groups have had longstanding, overlapping goals to increase collaboration between the schools and the community, therefore such a merger makes sense. The WCF is excited for this new relationship and looks forward to having the ability to give out more money in a better way, for a longer time. The Chairman agreed that this merger is a "win win" for the community and added that WPS teachers have always been appreciative of the financial support from these groups.

Mr. Siegel mentioned that this year will mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WCF and a celebratory event will take place at Fair on the Square. Also, the WCF Spring Awards event will take place on June 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM at the Mosesian Center.

**B. School Improvement Plans – Cunniff, Lowell, Hosmer Schools**

Dr. Galdston introduced the principals of the three elementary schools who talked about developments in working with site council members (made up of parents and teachers) to determine individual school improvement plans (SIP) via previously agreed upon objectives. Middle and high school SIPs will be presented at a later time. Each school shared their own vision, mission and core values, SIP action plans, strategies and initiatives. They also talked about coteaching and how each school's approach is unique. All three principals are committed to offering coteaching models within their schools. The Chairman thanked the teachers and parents who put so much time into this work.

**VII. Action Items and Related Reports – Discussion and Vote**

**A. Memorandum of Agreement on Merger of Town and School Facilities into a Department of Public Buildings**

Dr. Galdston described the process of investigating the possibility of merging the town and school facilities and creating an MOA. She indicated that much of this work was done prior to her coming to Watertown. There were many meetings between the Town Manager and School to determine the best, most successful solution for everyone involved. Dr. Galdston added that this process will take time but be worth it in the end. The Chairman commented that such collaboration has been discussed for many years and this is the first time action is actually being taken.

Mr. Sideris indicated that the Town Council will be meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> to review and refer the MOA to the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Committee. They may require changes; therefore Mr. Sideris requested that the vote to approve this MOA is tabled until the next School Committee meeting. Ms. Mary DeLai reminded everyone that the MOA is essentially only a draft and the actual MOA will most likely be edited and added to many times in the future. Ms. Eileen Hsü-Balzer added that part of the process will be to figure out what the relationship will be between DPW and this new entity, as well as how the union will be handled. A motion was made by Mr. Sideris to table this vote until June 18<sup>th</sup> which was seconded. *Motion passed 6-0.*

**1. Report by Building and Grounds Subcommittee**

Ms. Lily Rayman-Read, Subcommittee Chair, recapped a Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee meeting which discussed the potential facilities merger. Participants discussed the MOA and all included articles which were unanimously approved to go before the School Committee. There was further discussion about facilities regulations and the fee structure which required some adjustment. Meeting participants were treated to an informative and interesting presentation by Ms. Lori Kabel, Director of Public Buildings, who also shared her strategic plan for the school and town buildings.

A motion was made by Mr. Sideris to accept the report and was seconded. *Motion passed 6-0.*

## **B. Proposed Fees for Use of School Buildings**

Ms. DeLai presented updated rental rates for use of school buildings. When investigating other schools, she indicated that more and more are using a tiered system. For-profits should be charged a high rate than non-profit ones. The new fee schedule, if approved, would start on July 1, 2018. Mr. Sideris recommended that the School Committee examine these fee structures more often.

A motion was made by Mr. Sideris to approve the new fees and the motion was seconded by Ms. Kendra Foley. *Motion passed 6-0.*

## **C. Approval of Gifts**

- \$100.00 from Francis Mainville for PEROS Scholarship.

A motion was made by Mr. Sideris to approve these gifts and the motion was seconded by Ms. Rayman-Read. *Motion passed 6-0.*

## **D. Approval of Minutes**

1. **May 7, 2018 School Committee Meeting Minutes**
2. **May 21, 2018 School Committee Meeting Minutes**

These minutes were tabled.

## **VIII. Reports**

### **A. Subcommittees**

#### **1. Curriculum**

Ms. Lindsay Mosca reported that the Curriculum Subcommittee met on May 21<sup>st</sup> and discussing the rollout of standards-based report cards (see minutes from May 21, 2018).

A motion was made by Mr. Sideris to approve this report and the motion was seconded by Ms. Rayman-Read. *Motion passed 6-0.*

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

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

##### **a. Elementary Project**

Mr. Sideris presented on behalf of the School Building Committee. He said that the Committee met over the previous weekend and reviewed proposals for the three schools. Mr. Sideris states that the School Building Committee is taking extra time to make sure these plans work together with both the schools and community. They have a recommendation but have yet to determine if the recommendation meets our needs. The Committee will be meeting frequently in the upcoming weeks. The next meeting will happen on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at Town Hall.

##### **b. [High School Project](#)**

Dr. Galdston has submitted the names of the members of the High School Building Committee. The next deadline is July 2<sup>nd</sup> which requires online enrollment projections and the educational profile questionnaire.

## **2. District Improvement Strategy**

Dr. Galdston said that the Strategy Team will be meeting on June 14 to finalize its improvement strategy. They also met on May 24<sup>th</sup> with members of the Leadership Team and the Marketing Team who reviewed the work to date. The Strategy Team has settled on three core values which are excellence, equity and community. They are finishing up their vision, have identified the key issues in front of them, and are developing strategic objectives which will define the improvement plan moving forward. The Chairman said that there will be more discussion about this at the next meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **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 \$785,928 or 1.7% of the original adopted budget. The Budget and Finance Subcommittee will be meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM to discuss options for what to do with the remaining funds including a possible transfer into the Special Education Stabilization Fund. Both Ms. DeLai and Dr. Galdston will be meeting with the Town Auditor about this in the immediate future.
- 2. Enrollment:** The Superintendent reported on student enrollment numbers across the District. The overall student enrollment had decreased by six students from the previous month. Long-term churn reports will be presented at the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
- 3. Personnel:** Mr. Craig Hardimon, Director of Human Resources, presented a report on recent personnel changes. Mr. Sideris wished Mr. Hardimon well in his retirement and the Chairman thanked him for his service to WPS.
- 4. Warrants:** The Chairman presented a report on warrants recently approved for payment.

## **D. School Committee Chair**

The Chairman did not make a report.

## **E. Superintendent**

1. Update on Admin. Searches – Middle School Principal and Lowell Assistant Principal

The Superintendent talked briefly about the status of two current searches. There will be a Superintendent's Coffee on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Galdston was very impressed with this year's graduation ceremony and was grateful that it was able to be held outdoors. She asked people to remember others who are also transitioning, such as the district's 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and invited everyone to attend the mural dedication happening on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **IX. New Business**

No new business was presented.

## **X. Announcements**

- A. Policy Subcommittee – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**
- B. Budget and Finance – June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**
- C. School Committee Meeting – June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**XI. Public Forum – Session II**

Mr. Pete Caron offered thanks and congratulations to Dr. Kimo Carter on his new position in Weston. Additionally, he thanked everyone on the School Committee for their time and talents via the work they do for the children of the Watertown community.

**XII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Sideris to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Ms. Rayman-Read. *Motion passed 6-0.* The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM

Meeting Documents:

Minutes submitted by Mrs. Renee Ruggiero, Executive Assistant to the School Committee

Approved 6/18/18