

**Wilmington Public Schools**  
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*School Committee*

**Minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting**

December 14, 2011

1. **Roll Call:** Chairwoman Margaret Kane called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Present were: Superintendent Joanne Benton, Assistant Superintendent Kathleen Burnham, Ms. Ginny Bonish, Mr. Robert Hayes, Mrs. Kathleen Carroll and Mr. Paul Ruggiero. Mr. Mario Marchese, Mr. Quincy Vale and Dr. Leslee Quick were not present.
2. **Executive Session:** Chairwoman Margaret Kane requested a motion to recess for Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations.

**Motion**, by Mr. Robert Hayes, seconded by Mrs. Kathleen Carroll to recess for Executive Session; Motion carried unanimously.

The Regular Session recessed at 6:33 p.m.

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Chairwoman Margaret Kane reconvened the Regular Session at 7:08 p.m.

Present were: Superintendent Joanne Benton, Mr. Quincy Vale, Ms. Ginny Bonish, Mr. Robert Hayes, Mrs. Kathleen Carroll, Ms. Kathleen Burnham and Mr. Paul Ruggiero.

Chairwoman Kane announced that negotiations with the Cafeteria Workers are complete.

Superintendent Benton thanked the community for coming out to vote on December 6 and 10 to support the new high school; she stated this is "truly wonderful" for the present students, future students and staff.

3. **Approval of Items by Consensus:**
  - A. **Introduction of Items by Superintendent**
  - B. **Requests to Withdraw Items**
  - C. **Items for Approval:**
    1. **Approval of Minutes: October 26, 2011 – Regular Session**
    2. **Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip – HS Wrestling Team**
    3. **Warrants: FS6, FS7, FS8, FS9, G404, G405, G406, L16, L17, L18, L19, L20, L21, L22, L23, L24, L25, R208, R209, R210; Payroll 10/26, 11/9, 11/22**
  - D. **Consideration for Items Withdrawn From Consensus**

Superintendent Joanne Benton reviewed the items for approval under the Consent Agenda.

Chairwoman Margaret Kane requested a motion to approve the October 26, 2011 Regular Session School Committee minutes, the Out-of-State High School Field Trip and Treasury Warrants as stated.

**Motion**, by Mr. Robert Hayes, seconded by Ms. Ginny Bonish to approve the October 26, 2011 Regular Session School Committee minutes, Out-of-State High School Field Trip and Treasury Warrants as stated.

Motion passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Margaret Kane called for a motion to approve the Payroll for 10/26, 11/9, and 11/22.

**Motion**, by Mr. Robert Hayes, seconded by Ms. Ginny Bonish to approve the Payroll for 10/26, 11/9, and 11/22.

**Vote:** Four (4) in favor, one (1) abstain; Mrs. Kathleen Carroll abstained from vote.

#### **4. Student Representative Report**

Ms. Michaela D'Ambrosio was present to report on behalf of the Student Representatives'. She reported on recent school events: The winter sports season began last week with games taking place this week; the Girl's Basketball Team Tournament will take place in Disney World over the winter vacation. The Strings Holiday Concert was last week, and Chorus has a concert tomorrow night. Ms. D'Ambrosio additionally announced that the Ambassador Club will again raise funds to assist a family in need during the holiday season.

Earlier this month, Mike Semonelli and Sarah Luz were crowned Mr. and Mrs. WHS.

DECA's first competition is Thursday evening in Chelmsford.

Ms. D'Ambrosio concluded her report stating that the students are excited about the new school improvement plans.

#### **5. Superintendent's Report**

##### **1. Personnel Report**

Superintendent Joanne Benton reported that High School Security Monitor, Tim McLaughlin has resigned and wished him well.

##### **2. End-of-Year Report FY11**

Superintendent Joanne Benton stated that the End-of-Year Report was submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; she thanked Mr. Paul Ruggiero for a phenomenal job.

#### **6. New Business**

##### **1. Superintendent's Preliminary FY2013 Budget**

Superintendent Joanne Benton began her presentation by acknowledging the Leadership Team for their incredible work and thanked them for attending; questions may be directed to them following the presentation.

Ms. Benton began her presentation of the budget, "Educating our students to adapt to our changing world" and provided a supporting PowerPoint presentation; she noted that the budget is in preliminary stages and additional meetings with the Town Manager will occur in upcoming weeks.

Ms. Benton reviewed 21<sup>st</sup> century skills learned through the curriculum, Budget Assumptions and Risks, Components in the Breakdown and Analysis, Additional Staff Requests, and Summarized Federal and State Unfunded Mandates.

She announced the Preliminary Budget for FY2013:

Total increase \$1,733,076    Salary \$1,421,823    Non-Salary \$311,253

FY12 Budget \$31,467,500

Total: \$33,200,576; 5.51% increase

She continued to report that the level of funding recommended for FY2013 will enable the school department to ensure all legal mandates are funded and fund all contractual requirements; we will continue cost-efficiency methods, maintain current staffing levels, add a literacy coach at each primary school, increase strings staff, continue to support the full-day Kindergarten program and add reading support to Early Intervention. The virtual classroom will continue at the high school to support AP course enrollment; a Guidance Counselor will be recruited for the Middle School. Additionally, we will continue to meet standards for providing services to English Language Learner students. Technology initiatives will continue to support the beginning of a new strategic plan; deficits in the NEAS&C Report will be addressed by increasing the high school library budget by \$10,000.

Ms. Benton reviewed "Next Steps--Addition by Subtraction" which included: converting the Middle School to wireless, move to a K-12 STEM Coordinator and a K-12 Reading, English, Language Arts Coordinator, hire an Assessment and Data Coach, reconfigure the Middle School schedule to allow more time for mathematics and language arts, and recruit a K-12 Library Coordinator.

Ms. Benton concluded her report stating that this budget reflects recommendations from each school. She further stated she is thankful for a supportive Leadership Team; further review will occur in January.

#### **Questions and Comments:**

Chairwoman Kane commented that she is truly grateful for Superintendent Benton and Mr. Ruggiero's diligent work and dedication. She instructed the School Committee Members to email the Roman House with any concerns.

#### **\*Safety Regulations for School Athletic Programs**

Superintendent Joanne Benton stated that as of January 1, all schools must submit to the Department of Public Health, affirmation on letterhead that a policy has been developed governing the prevention and management of sports related injuries and concussions. Ms. Benton reported that Ed Harrison and Doreen Crowe had already been working on concussion guidelines which assisted in the development of the policy.

Ms. Benton distributed the Athletic Concussion Policy and stated that the second reading of the policy will occur on January 13.

#### **7. Delegations**

There were no delegations this evening.

#### **8. Other Reports**

##### **1. Subcommittee Reports**

Mr. Robert Hayes reported that he attended the MASC Business Meeting in November and all articles passed. He reviewed recommendations to school districts offered by Tony Wagner, Author of "Enclosing the Global Achievement Gap".

Mr. Hayes announced that he has been elected as Secretary/Treasurer (Division 1) to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

He concluded his report stating that the Anti-Bullying Committee will meet in January and the Technology Task Force Committee will meet in February.

Chairwoman Margaret Kane reviewed highlights of the Wilmington Education Foundation (WEF) and Health and Wellness meetings on behalf of Dr. Leslee Quick:

## **WEF**

The WEF Fundraising Event “Teacher Tribute Program” is a wonderful way to recognize a teacher that has enriched your child’s life and support our schools. Forms and donations are due by December 16—the form can be downloaded via the link on the K-12 website. The event will take place on March 30 at the Knights of Columbus.

The Karate program is set to begin; a percentage of enrollment fees will be allocated to the WEF. A donation of \$2,000 was received from Staples – thank you to the D’Iorio family for the support. Ms. Kane announced that the Walk for WEF raised \$17,349.

**Request for Proposal** dates were reviewed:

The Curriculum Grant: January 3; deadline January 31.

Educational Explorers: February 14; deadline March 15.

Technology Grant: March 1; deadline April 2.

The WEF is looking to come up with a grant that does not fit within the confinements of the aforementioned grants—there will be more information available in 2012.

## **Health and Wellness Report**

Ms. Kane continued to report that the Health and Wellness Committee met on November 16; The West and the North Intermediate Schools received Bronze Medal/School Wellness Awards from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Mr. Quincy Vale reported that Calendar Sub-Committee has had two (2) meetings and a Task Force has been coordinated; information will be shared as further progress is made.

## **9. Correspondence**

Mr. Hayes reported that there was no correspondence this evening.

## **10. Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items**

- a. January 11, 2012—Program of Studies, Athletic/Concussion Policy, FY2013 Budget

## **11. Adjournment**

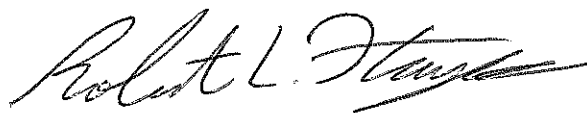
Chairwoman Margaret Kane requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion**, by Mr. Robert Hayes, seconded by Mr. Quincy Vale to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was carried by all.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Robert Hayes, Secretary