I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Mr. Camilleri (Chairperson) at 7:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call
Board of Education
Present: Mr. Camilleri (Chairperson), Mrs. Cantwell, Mr. Flanders, Mr. Fletcher, Mrs. Kelleher, Mrs. Merli, Mrs. Midgley, Mr. Matrullo, Mr. Sousa

Administration
Mr. Maloney, Dr. Karch, Mrs. Binnington, Mr. Butwill, Ms. Cocchiola, Mr. DeCarli, Mrs. DiFiore, Mrs. DiTunno, Mrs. Lynch, Mr. Rose, Ms. Spencer, Mrs. Wyskiel

Absent: Ms. Hollander, Ms. Spencer

Student Representatives
Meghan Savinelli – Absent
Marina Fletcher – Absent
Krysta Pereira – Absent
Erin Sokolowski – Absent

Town Council – Absent

Board of Finance - Mrs. Drew

III. Approval of Agenda/Additions and Deletions & Chair’s Review of Agenda Highlights

Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by Mr. Fletcher, seconded by Mr. Sousa. Vote: Unanimous.

IV. Correspondence - None

V. Public Comments (2-3 minutes per speaker– general information or agenda items) - None

VI. Celebrating Our Students
Mr. Maloney stated that we are very pleased to have the Woodside student representatives for Connecticut's Kid Governor in attendance tonight along with 5th grade teachers, Mrs. Rafferty and Mrs. Perez, to honor their efforts. Mr. Butwill stated that the “Kid Governor” is a program that the entire fifth grade participates in and tonight we are recognizing the students who have had great success developing their campaign platforms. Mrs. Rafferty presented an overview of the Kid Governor curriculum which is part of the 5th grade Social Studies units and entails learning about the branches of government, voting rights, leadership qualities as well as identifying community issues, running a campaign and platform, creating a campaign and participating in the student election process. Mr. Butwill introduced the Kid Governor student representatives and each student stated their platforms. The student representatives include: Jackson Hungerford, Andrew Licurse, Isabella Light, Brooklyn Martin, Lori McClain, Emma Rau, Emma Ribera, Dillon Rozich. Mrs. Rafferty stated that Dillon Rozich not only won at the WIS level, he also won at the State level. Dillon was one of the top seven finalists selected out of over two hundred schools which is quite an accomplishment; this is the second time that Cromwell has been represented in the top seven. On January 19th, Dillon was invited to ceremonies at the Old State Building in Hartford where he was honored for his vision on behalf of the Kid Governor program, Mr. Maloney, Dr. Karch and Representative Carpino, which showed our Woodside Pride.

Please click on the link below for more information on Cromwell and Connecticut’s Kid Governor.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1-FKOzQEES7H1vkS3-a2yQaH5pU5hgxNu2qjL-b9-ulM/export/pdf?id=1-FKOzQEES7H1vkS3-a2yQaH5pU5hgxNu2qjL-b9-ulM&pageid=g3268957b8d_0_0

http://ct.kidgovernor.org/2017-election-candidates

**VII. Celebrating Our Faculty/Staff**

**VIII. Report for Student Representatives**

Mr. Fletcher reported on behalf of the Student Representatives. The junior class sent out a survey to decide the prom theme and senior field trip. If able to participate on a class trip, Washington, D.C. was the location of choice. The three top choices for the prom theme are: New York Skyline, Paris and Hollywood. There is a boys’ basketball alumni Reunion Game Friday, January 26th at 5:00 p.m. This game will involve all basketball alumni from the Class of 1959 to the Class of 2017. There will be a 50/50 raffle and the proceeds will go to Cromwell Human Services. There will be a reception after the varsity game in the cafe. CHS is hosting a Blood Drive on January 30th. Second semester started today which means all midterms have been completed. Due to snow storms the midterms were delayed by a day. Pizza was sold by Student Council and baked goods were sold by GSA during exams. The 8th Grade Orientation was very successful with over one hundred prospective students in attendance. There will be a Hat Day this Friday for senior scholarships. Hockey’s record is 5 wins and 2 ties. Their next game is at Choate Rosemary Hall. The dance team performed at yesterday’s basketball game and will also perform at the reunion game. Cheerleaders will also perform on Friday and are preparing for the first Shoreline Competition at Westbrook High School on Saturday, February 10th at 4:30 p.m. Unified PE went on a field trip to Coginchaug to play basketball games. The Indoor track 4x4 team competed in the 36th Annual Yale Championship on January 19th. Also, many indoor track athletes qualified for Shoreline and States at their last meet. Finally, the girls’ basketball team is ranked #24 in state. The boys’ basketball team is ranked #59 in the state.

**IX. Report of Liaison from the Town Council and Board of Finance (focused on issues of interest to the school community)**
Mrs. Drew stated that the expansion for the Cromwell Public Library was overwhelmingly approved. The Board of Finance does not have a meeting this month. Next month they will be setting the budget and the Board of Education’s budget is due to them on March 22nd.

X. Superintendent’s Updates and Responses to BOE Comments/Action Items and Public Comments from Prior Meeting

Mr. Maloney stated that there are a few updates for the Board, the first is the second semester of the year has started and exams were completed as of yesterday. Second, Mr. Maloney stated that he wanted to commend Mr. DeCarli and Mrs. Williams regarding an application that was submitted that would fund an arabic teacher to teach at CHS next year. Mr. Maloney stated that we are excited for the possibility of expanding the World Language offerings for our students, which is in keeping with our vision for this content area, and will provide updates on the application status. Mr. Maloney added, if we are approved, we will also have the opportunity for a teacher to stay at CHS for a second year. Mr. DeCarli stated that they drafted a schedule for adding an Arabic section that would involve both a teaching and co-teaching component and there will be five sections of classes taught.

Mr. Maloney stated that the middle school had their choral performance last week, he was fortunate to attend the event, and was pleased to see the students showcasing their talents. In addition, there are many parent/family evenings happening across the district this month that will support the school-to-home connection which is in keeping with our strategic framework; events include, Pre-K STEM and Art night for parents and students, Family bingo night at ECS and WIS, CHS is hosting the Reunion Game, and K-5 family math night will be held February 2nd.

Mr. Maloney stated that the curriculum has been rolled out for K-5 Social Studies; Mr. St.Onge has taken an active role in creating the units and they have been well received by the teachers. The third grade unit is “We the People” and they shadow government employees in the local community. Mr. Maloney stated that we have talked with Mayor Faienza and Town Manager Salvatore and they will be collaborating with us to create a school-town partnership that will enhance the experience for our students. Mr. Maloney added, this is another exciting initiative for us. Tomorrow night, Dr. Karch and Mr. Maloney will be meeting with prospective families and students in the CHOICE program which is yet another opportunity to showcase Cromwell.

Mr. Maloney stated that we have a new opportunity for students at CHS, a bass fishing co-op with Rocky Hill where there is access to a boat and captain. Mr. Maloney added that we are not yet certain if this is considered a sport or activity, but we are looking forward to a growing interest in the future.

XI. Old Business – None.

XII. Presentations and Reports of Administration
   A. Budget Update and Report on Business Manager/Financial Projects - None

XIII. New Business
   A. Presentation from Cromwell High School of Proposed World Language International Trip to Madrid, Andalusia (Seville, Córdoba, Costa del Sol & Ceuta), Spain and Tétouan, Morocco June 24 - July 2, 2019

Ms. Smolka stated that when she was in high school she did have a study abroad experience in Spain and it changed the course of her life. As such, Ms. Smolka stated that she would like to bring this opportunity to CHS. The proposed trip would be June 24- July 2, 2019. Placing the
trip far in advance will allow time for organization of details as well as give families the opportunity to plan and save funds. The proposed trip would visit the southern part of Spain and Morocco. The goal of this trip is to foster personal growth and global connectivity for students. The trip is open to all students at CHS and will allow for 20 students and 4 adult chaperones to attend. The price per student right now is $3,257.00. The price does increase after February 13, 2018. A deposit of $50.00 is required at sign up and monthly payment plans are available.

Mr. Matrullo questioned if a student was to get sick, or if there is a potential for illness, is there a disclaimer on communication and process. Ms. Smolka stated that additional insurance can be purchased and the insurance for the United States does work in both countries. Ms. Smolka also stated that she has lived in both countries and has never experienced needing additional shots so that ease burdens on families. Mr. Camilleri noted the risk management aspect information is in the Explorica handout.

Mrs. Kelleher questioned the trip being made available to all students and asked if priority would be given to students who take a language. Ms. Smolka would like it open up to all students to encourage a diverse group. Ms. Kelleher also questioned the time of the trip and asked if it is typical to go in the summer. Ms. Smolka stated that she thought it would be best to not interfere with school for this initial experience.

Mr. Flanders questioned what we do for students who would benefit from this trip but cannot afford the experience and would like to attend. Ms. Smolka stated that Explorica does have scholarships for students to apply and we can also look at fundraising and other creative measures to offset costs for all.

Mr. Sousa questioned the communication to parents on the trip. Ms. Smolka stated that she and the Explorica rep have an international phone.

Motion to amend the agenda to add Action Item Cromwell High School of Proposed World Language International Trip to Madrid, Andalusia (Seville, Córdoba, Costa del Sol & Ceuta), Spain and Tétouan, Morocco June 24 - July 2, 2019 made by Mr. Fletcher, seconded by Mr. Sousa. Vote: Unanimous.

Motion to approve Cromwell High School of Proposed World Language International Trip to Madrid, Andalusia (Seville, Córdoba, Costa del Sol & Ceuta), Spain and Tétouan, Morocco June 24 - July 2, 2019 made by Mr. Fletcher, seconded by Mr. Sousa. Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Flanders stated he would like it to be clear that the Board is willing to explore opportunities for students in need.

Mr. Camilleri would like to add to the February 27th Agenda: Update on CHS World Language International Trip to Madrid, Andalusia (Seville, Córdoba, Costa del Sol & Ceuta), Spain and Tétouan, Morocco June 24 - July 2, 2019.

B. Action: Stipend Approval CHS JV Lacrosse and Golf

Motion to approve the CHS JV Lacrosse and Golf Stipends made by Mr. Flanders, seconded by Mr. Sousa. Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Maloney stated that we will continue to share the vision of how the 2018-19 budget supports the strategic framework and the success of our district. Mr. Maloney explained that in two weeks, his presentation, which will include personnel and insurance, will provide an overview of all aspects of the budget as well as the final number. At that time, the Board will review the final number. Mr. Maloney stated that all administrators are in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions. Mr. Maloney added, that we are committed to the vision and the students that we serve.

For tonight’s presentation of the budget, Mr. Maloney stated that we will start with Special Education then talk through Facilities and Technology. The slides for the packets were handed out.

Mrs. O’Leary stated that sensory rooms at ECS, WIS and CHS are up and running. In terms of future initiatives, the plan is to continue to enhance the sensory rooms with equipment that includes tactile, vestibular and visual input. Students have been using the rooms for planned breaks throughout the day to expel energy which helps the students remain actively engaged in the classroom. The rooms have been placed in the schools based on student needs. Ms. Cocchiola stated that currently there is not a designated room at CMS, but there are items located throughout the school for students that support needs. Mrs. O’Leary stated that in regards to Assistive Technology, we will keep moving forward and would like to purchase noise canceling headphones, ipads/cases, and apps to support student needs that are reflected in their goals and IEPs. In assessments, Mrs. O’Leary would like to purchase Woodcock Johnson Assessment kit and online scoring software. In instruction, Mrs. O’Leary stated that special education would like to purchase iReady seats, Learning A-Z, ALEKS and IXL math, Bookshare, Unique Learning System and other materials to support student IEPs. To support Tier 1 initiatives in the district, Mrs. O’Leary indicated that we already have Bridges intervention kits and LLI at ECS. At CMS, we plan on using some of the IDEA funds to purchase Bridges Intervention kits and LLI benchmark assessments system to support and continue Special Education IEP goals and objectives through the district. For Extended School Year, (ESY), we base our participation on regression and recoupment. A psychologist and BCBA were also put into the budget to support social, emotional and behavioral needs. Lastly, Mrs. O’Leary stated that we do have a Transition Program that is important for our students and several months ago, Ann Mallin, Middlesex Transition Academy Director, spoke to the parents about post secondary plans and how to best serve our students who are ready to graduate.

Mr. Fletcher asked how the vision supports enrichment for students. Mrs. O’Leary shared an example that we model curriculum and make it appropriate for individual student instruction and use resources like ALEKS that has an acceleration component. Mr. Maloney asked Mr. Butwill and Mrs. Binnington to speak more specifically about the concept of enrichment as a whole and explain shifts that were actively being made in the buildings that embed supports for all learners while maximizing in-house resources. In addition, Mr. Butwill and Mrs. Binnington explained how they address the qualifying students to meet their individual needs.

Mr. Camilleri referenced Account 611 stating that in a previous year, the amount in the budget was $23,000 and it is now $9,000 and asked for clarification as to the difference. Mrs. O’Leary will get that information.

Mr. Flanders stated that Department of Developmental Services has a program for transitioning children and wanted to make sure we are incorporating that into our program. Mrs. O’Leary stated that we do have this program already in place for our transition students. Mr. Flanders also questioned the number of Magnet and Charter students we have. Mrs. O’Leary will get that information.
Mr. Maloney stated that Mr. Rose will present the Capital and Facilities budget. Mr. Rose stated the role of facilities serves in a support capacity making sure our buildings and grounds enhance our mission in helping to educate our students. In addition, Mr. Rose stated that our buildings and grounds are in use 12-14 hours a day and essentially serve as community centers for all to utilize. As such, Mr. Rose shared the vision that his main objective is to keep the facilities safe, clean, attractive, functional and in good repair on a cost effective basis. The biggest part of the increase in his specific area of the budget is the electric utilities, with one reason being the generation contract expiring this year. Mr. Rose stated that we do not know what January 1st will bring with respect to fees and Eversource has already informed us there will be an increase on the transmission side of 2-4%. Additionally, we previously did a lighting retrofit at CHS so we have a negative cash flow until the loan is repaid. Overall, Mr. Rose added, the 6.33% increase in facilities over last year is attributed to utilities, an increase in pricing from contractors and current costs. Mr. Rose added that the buildings are in good shape, but as they age they require maintenance. Mr. Rose stated that the Capital Outlay requests are in prioritization of initiatives and he categorized based on safety, program need, and deferred maintenance. With regard to safety, at CHS the fire alarm panel, at ECS a dismissal room window as well as paving and fencing, and all schools to replace two way radios. In programs, the CHS foods room needs updates and has not been updated since the school was built. In deferred maintenance, at CHS bleachers are in need of repair, at ECS window treatments to be changed and at WIS, replacement to LED lights.

Discussion was had regarding no AC units being purchased for CMS. Mr. Camilleri suggested the Facilities Committee to discuss what it would entail for AC at CMS, cost, prioritization and scope of project for a better understanding of possible solutions. Mr. Maloney will supply a layout of CMS.

Mr. Maloney stated that in regards to Technology, we are looking at how to support our teachers and students with accessibility, providing a safe infrastructure, and growing as a district in terms of integration. Mr. Litwinczyk presented the vision for new initiatives for the Technology Infrastructure & Implementation budget. In initiatives, Mr. Litwinczyk stated that we are going to bridge the gap between infrastructure and integration and expand the responsibilities of the tech staff to supplement training and utilization of ongoing tech needs. In hardware, the addition of Chromebooks in CHS (1:1 in grades 3-12). In tech refresh, at CHS, removing and reallocating labs, taking projectors out and the old desktops will be replaced and recycled in-house for the tech-ed classes. Mr. Maloney stated that they are looking at ways to get iPads back from students and repurposing teacher iPads.

D. Action: Approval of Minutes and Motions – January 9, 2018 (Reference “B”)

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Motions and Minutes dated January 9, 2017 made by Mr. Fletcher, seconded by Mrs. Kelleher. Vote: Unanimous.

E. Recognition of District Retirements – Sal d’Alessandro - Cromwell Middle School Band Teacher and Maureen Donahue – Cromwell Middle School – Grade 7 Language Arts Teacher

Mr. Camilleri stated that both long term faculty members have been a very important part in many students lives in this community. Mr. Camilleri stated that he wished them all the best in their very well deserved retirement. Mr. Fletcher second those sentiments as well. They will be missed.

F. Review of CREC Council Meeting – January 17, 2018 - No meeting it was a snow day.

XIV. Board Committee Reports –
A. Policy Committee – Report from January 9, 2018 meeting
B. Facilities and Technology Committee – No Report for January 23, 2018

XV. Public Comment (Agenda items only – 2-3 minutes per speaker) – None.

XVI. Topics for Future Agendas and Possible Action to Approve Additional Topics

February 27    Update on CHS World Language Trip to Madrid, Andalusia (Seville, Córdoba, Costa del Sol & Ceuta), Spain and Tétouan, Morocco June 24 - July 2, 2019

Motion to approve Topics for Future Agendas and Possible Action to Approve Additional Topics as amended made by Mr. Flanders, seconded by Mr. Matrullo. Vote: Unanimous.

February 13    Review and Possible Action of Superintendent’s Recommended Budget 2018-2019

February 27    Final Review and Approval of Superintendent’s Recommended Budget 2018-2019

March 13       Update on Changemakers

March 27       Multi Age Update Transition to CMS

April 17       Announcement of CHS Graduation Date

April 17       Review of District Approach to World Language

May 8          Healthy Food Certification

June 12        Food Service Program – Milk Bid Approval

June 12        Class of 2018 Post Graduation Plans

June 12        Stipend Approval for 2018-2019

June 12        Student Discipline Data Review

July 10        End of Year Board Reports 2017-2018

September 11  Budget Calendar

September 11  Veterans Day Plans

October 9     School Calendar 2019-2020

October 23    Field Trip List

November 13   Approval of Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2019

November 13   Set 2018-2019 Tuition Rate

December 11   

XVII. Comments, Updates and Announcements from Board Members and Administrators
Mr. Flanders stated the legislature appointed a task force to review the cost of Special Education and will begin to meet next week. If anyone should anyone have ideas or questions, Mr. Flanders would be happy to share with colleagues.

Mr. Matrullo stated the supreme court overturned the CCJEF case.

Mrs. Midgley stated that she would like to thank all the teachers and administrators that set up the curriculum display and she is very happy and appreciates the purchased curriculum.

Mr. Camilleri stated that regarding the Northern Regional Band Festival, we had three students entered and due to the poor planning of the festival committee, there was no snow day date. As such, our students were unable to attend and were very unhappy. Mr. Camilleri forwarded the message to Mr. Sinclair to relay to the festival how disappointed our students were that they did not have the opportunity to perform.

Mr. Maloney stated he too appreciated all the work the administrators and staff did in putting the curriculum display together.

Mrs. Cantwell stated that she would like to thank Mrs. O'Leary who came and presented tonight even though she is on maternity leave.

Mr. Sousa stated that he would like to thank everyone for a very successful first half of the year.

XVIII. Adjournment

Fletcher, Flanders 8:58 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:58 p.m. made by Mr. Fletcher, seconded by M. Flanders. Vote: Unanimous.

Public session of the regular meeting ended at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hicks
Lisa Hicks
BOE Recording Clerk