

**Watertown Board of Education  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** May 28, 2013  
**Meeting Time:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Meeting Place:** Lecture Hall, Watertown High School

**Members Present:** Mr. Guy Buzzannco, Chairman  
Mr. Tom Lambert, Vice Chair  
Mr. Eric Berthel, Secretary  
Ms. Mary Colangelo  
Mr. Ray Nardella  
Mr. Richard Beland  
Mr. David Guerrero  
Atty. Sean Butterly  
Mr. Adam Kuegler, Student Council Representative

**Members Absent:** Ms. Susan McCabe

**Others Present:** Dr. Gail Gilmore, Superintendent of Schools  
Pasquale Buccitelli, Business Manager

- A. Convene Regular Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- B. Salute to the Flag – Mr. Buzzannco
- C. Watertown Public Schools’ Mission Statement – Mr. Nardella

The mission of the Watertown School District, with determination to be a world-class educational leader and a centerpiece of a dynamic and growing community, is to meet the diverse needs of each student – academic, artistic, athletic, emotional, ethical, social, and technological – to develop members of our community who:

- embrace life-long learning;
  - are caring and responsible citizens;
  - have a sense of social justice.
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Mr. Buzzannco – Thank you very much Mr. Nardella. Before we proceed, I would like a motion to add an agenda item to tonight’s agenda. Earlier this evening, the Facilities Committee met and approved in concept the establishment of a memorial at Watertown High School in memory of Mary Jane Miller. Is there a motion to add an agenda item to tonight’s agenda?

Motion Presented by:	Mr. Nardella
Motion Seconded by:	Mr. Berthel
Text of the Motion:	Mr. Nardella - Mr. Chairman, I move that we add an item under Action Items – Adoption of Items to be approved by consent: Item M.4., Consideration of the Approval of the Establishment of a Memorial at Watertown High School.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Vote:	Motion Passes

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### D. Award Recognition – Dr. Gilmore

**Dr. Gilmore** – Thank you Mr. Buzzannco. We are very excited to have our Watertown High School Robotics Team present their excellent skills tonight to our Board of Education and, of course, to our community. The Robotics Team really emphasizes STEM, science, technology, engineering and math. At this time, Madison Lammlin, Watertown High School grade 10 student, will be providing a presentation about the Robotics Team’s successes. One of them was at the most recent Hartford Regional’s. Madison will also explain the history behind FIRST and the benefits of student involvement in the program. Team 237 recently presented at a kickoff event for the One Community Read with the Friends of the Watertown Public Library. And this is a concept of innovation, perseverance, and creative thinking that is married so well in the featured book “Rocket Boys” by Homer Hickam. Thank you, all of you for your hard work, and a very special thank you to Krystal Beres, Green Team Science Teacher, at Swift Middle School and Robotics Advisor for all of your efforts in the program. And at this time, I will pass it on to Madison. Madison, please?

**Madison Lammlin** – Good Evening. I am Madison Lammlin and I am a member and student on the Watertown High School Robotics Team, along with: Andrew Beres, Kyle Brown, James Chhit, Thomas Clark, Rachel Conway, Trevor Coulter, Mike Cullen, Joe Deary, Steven Donston, our captain, Justin Grabowski, our co-captain, Ethan Hoyt, Ryan Johnston, Hannah Koval, Teddy Rogozinski, Justine Roy, Alex Sicard, Orazio Valletta & Kyle Vergauwen. This year, our goal was to build a robot that could either throw Frisbees into a goal or build a robot that could climb a ten foot pyramid. Our robot was able to shock the crowd, astonish other teams and caught the attention of judges at not only the New York regional and the Hartford regional, but anyone who caught a glimpse of our robot walked away stunned with our robot’s ability to climb the ten foot pyramid in a breath taking and unique way. By combining our knowledge of mechanical engineering, computer programming, mathematics, science and excellence in electronics, our

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students and mentors were able to stun the crowd, not only going up the side of a pyramid, but flipping the entire robot up the pole. Our robot was extremely popular at both competitions and will continue to be popular at all of our upcoming events. You can see when and where all of our upcoming events will be at our website: [Team237.com](http://Team237.com). You can also see pictures of this year's build season, our past robots, our history as a team, and also interviews with the mentors by the students of this year's robots by a professional's perspective. Our students have been able to continue the exemplary reputation of Team 237 has earned with our continuous success at competitions, shocking millions and most importantly, allowing kids to walk away with more knowledge and hands on experience involving stem related subjects that will help them shape the rest of their lives. I would like to take this moment to show our gratitude to our very devoted mentors and teacher mentors. Mrs. Beres, who is a teacher at Swift, that helped us all through the season. I would also like to thank our senior mentor, Shawn Conway, for helping us, again, all throughout the season and many seasons before. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Shawn Conway** – Good evening, I am Shawn Conway. I am not sure why Maddie mentioned me, there are a lot of devoted mentors that are here and I am just one of them. I am here tonight to tell you a little about what we really do. The robot is a side effect of what this program is about. So I am here to give you a little presentation of the organization we are involved in called FIRST and a little bit about our team. So, what is FIRST? It stands For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. It was created to be what was to be called a varsity sport for the mind, an alternative to athletics. We build a robot, there are strict rules, time limits, limited resources, we have 6 weeks to build a competitive robot. The students are mentored by professional engineers, which most of the volunteers of this program are, we build using a kit of parts, but there is also a lot of free style involved in this. And the biggest thing is that students are eligible for over \$16 million dollars in scholarships. I have been active in this program since 2002 and in that year there were \$ 2 million in scholarships so you can see the growth over time has been incredible. These are some of the colleges that offer scholarships, there are many more than this, there are over 150 providers, these are just a few. This is a quote by a gentleman by the name of Woodie Flowers, he is a professor at MIT, and this quote is extremely accurate. It really is a real life engineering experience that we do every year. And with working in the industry, I can absolutely tell you that it is not easy. The mission of FIRST is to inspire young adults not educate them. However, this is what is involved. As Maddie pointed out in her presentation, there is math, there is science, there is language arts, and it goes beyond that, there is business, finance, and then there is the computer science aspect, the fabrication of parts, the mentorship relationship between us and our students, teamwork and a couple of registered trademarks, "Gracious Professionalism" and "Cooperation". Those were invented by FIRST, I suggest you go to the website and find out what that is. The website, by the way, is [usfirst.org](http://usfirst.org). And this shows the growth of the FIRST program. The mission of FIRST, in the end, is that have FIRST available to every student in the United States. That's the end game. Now there are over 50K students involved , over 2500 hundred teams, and when I started this program, there were about 600, so that shows you that the growth has been phenomenal. There has been a study done and purpose of the study was to see what kind of an impact FIRST was having. So, compared with their peers, students involved with FIRST are significantly more likely to attend college, 3 times more likely to major in engineering, and you can read the rest there. Basically, this program is working. To go further, it is especially working in targeted areas which happen to focus on female FIRST alumni that are 4 times more likely to pursue technology

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careers, and that has been a focus, because, honestly, we are under represented by women in engineering. The same is true of minorities. Some of the sponsors there are responsible of making this program happen on the national level. And the strategic partners that provide a lot of the equipment that we use. Now we move on to us, what is Team 237? It is Watertown High School's First Robotics Competition Team. Our nickname is Black Magic, in the past we have had other nicknames, Black Magic was the original name in 1999, it then changed to TRIBE, for the longest time we were that second name that you see there, which no one could pronounce, which is why we have gotten away from it, it was Sie-h2o-bots, which was how we pronounced it, which was a nod to the Siemon Company, who was our primary sponsor, h2o being Watertown, and we build robots. And the Sunseekers which was a fun name that we used back in 2000. First season was in 1999, as I mentioned, founded by Carl Palkat, a retired Woods teacher at Watertown High School. It was obvious to me over time that Mr. Palkat was a guy that was a visionary. He saw this being what it is before anyone else did. We won 3 regional championships. One in Hartford, one in New Jersey and one in New York city over the course of the last 13 or 14 years. We have also been to the finals 2 times. We have won a lot of technical awards and that is actually the strength of this team, not so much that we win, but that we do some amazing things that you will see in the video we are about to see. We have been published in a book. In 2006, certain award winning robot teams in the FIRST competition were selected to write an essay about their robot, what it did, provide all of the technical drawings that it had, and that was compiled into a book and that book is still for sale on Amazon and anyone who wishes to purchase may do so. Now we were interviewed on national TV this year at the NYC regional competition. It was on the Better Homes and Gardens network, Better TV, one of our students, Teddy Rogozinski, was the host of that segment, so that was quite an exciting night. And what our students have done. They have earned degrees in engineering and scientific disciplines. They have been awarded scholarships to various institutions, more than we are showing there, that is just a highlighting a few, and most importantly, they are returning to the program as mentors. Our mentoring staff right now is primarily graduates of the program. And the local companies that sponsor us. Without them, it would not be possible at all. This is an expensive endeavor. They are responsible for it, particularly the Siemon Company. And this is what we have done recently. The NYC regional, the Hartford regional are the big competitions that we attended this year, the CT state championship, this was the inaugural season of that, that occurred a couple of weeks ago, and we will be competing at Wolcott High School next weekend, not this weekend, the following Saturday. It's a little mini competition. We do fundraisers year round, we are always trying to raise money, as I said, it is an expensive endeavor, and we appear at a lot of community events where we try to give back as much as possible, which is part of the One Town Read kick off, we visit the students at Swift to get them interested, we appear at the Fall Festival and basically anything we can to raise awareness. And with that, I think we are ready to show you a video of our robot in action. Thank you for your time. (Video plays)

I'll just finish up by saying , as you can see, our objective was to climb up the side of that pyramid and anyone who has been involved in engineering that flipping end over end the way that we did is a little bit of a challenge. To be honest, we did struggle with it, and it took a long time to get it right, but we eventually did. I am proud of the students for how hard they worked

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on it this year and I am very happy of the addition of Mrs. Beres to the team. She has been an asset in more than one way. Thank you.

**Dr. Gilmore** – And at this time we would certainly want to thank each and every one of our Watertown High School students for your wonderful innovation and this is a fantastic opportunity for us all to say thank you to you. And I would ask at this time if Team 237 could come right up front and we could take a photo of the entire team with their advisors and wonderful mentors and on behalf of the BOE and myself, once again, thank you. I know that the Board would like to say a few comments as well.

**Mr. Buzzannc** – Well certainly I would be glad to start. Thank you for this presentation, thank you, Krystal, for your work this year and definitely I agree with what everyone just said, you have been a tremendous addition to this team and we appreciate it so so much. I know the emphasis is on science, technology, engineering and math, but what I see up there is an emphasis on problem solving, creativity, commitment, discipline, rebounding from failures and setbacks. You had to overcome the law of gravity, just about the most in volatile law I can think of and you did it. Those are skills that will carry you through life, make you so successful and we could not be prouder of your accomplishment, thank you for sharing with us this evening, congratulations.

OK, with that I will call for a 5 minute recess , we will re convene at 7:55, and give you some time to come up and get your picture taken, then we will call the meeting back to order in about 5 or 6 minutes. Thank you.

It is 7:55 p.m. and I would like to have Adam give us his report of the student council, we would appreciate it.

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### **E. Report from Student Council Representative – Adam Kueglar**

**Adam Kueglar** – Thank you Mr. Chairman. This Friday will be the Senior Prom at the Aqua Turf so students are all getting ready for that and ticket sales are done, so we are ready to go and have a good time. The CT Technology Exam was conducted to students that took more than one technology or related class this year and the results are actually already in and the teacher who administered it is hoping to have the standings compared to other school districts very soon. The senior picnic was last Friday, and although the weather wasn't perfect, we probably got the best day of the week to do it compared to the rest of the week. It was overcast with some rain, but the sun peeked out a little and students still had a good time at that event. The World Language Honor Society induction will be June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Madame Miller's family will be presenting a scholarship in her honor to someone who is planning on studying Spanish in college. So that kinda goes along with the agenda item that was added on tonight. The Halo

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Awards are taking place tonight and actually Mr. Tartarcelli isn't here because he is attending those and he is keeping Mrs. Carnemolla updated on that, but she left so I guess we are without updates. Maybe Mrs. Browne? Mrs. Browne has us covered. Watertown is nominated in 21 categories plus 2 special recognitions awards for various students and I am told that is the most nominations ever at WHS and I think that anyone who attended a musical or play knows that those are well deserved. And just to finish with athletics: the Spring sports are winding down, athletes are competing in states with their respective NVL tournaments, so hopefully next meeting I can have a full recap on the Spring sports season went.

Atty. Butterly – Did you get any update on Fitch Watertown baseball today? Didn't they play today?

Adam – I think they did play and Mrs. Carnemolla was going.....

Atty. Butterly – How'd it go? (Audience member speaking, "they lost") That is a great program, Fitch, we were right in there, right? There are a lot of young kids in there, including your son, right Mrs. Mecca? (Mrs. Mecca speaking, inaudible) Well thanks, I was just wondering if I could get to an inning or two and then get to this meeting at since they were two hours apart, I thought maybe not but as long they a good year and it got them to states. Thank you.

**Mr. Buzzancco** – Thank you Adam, an excellent report.

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### F. Budget Summary

**Mr. Buzzancco** – Now board members in Fridays packet you received the budget status as of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. Before I open it to any questions or comments, I just want to ask Dr. Gilmore or Mr. Buccitelli to amplify some of the comments that were in the cover memo.

**Dr. Gilmore** – Yes, thank you Mr. Buzzancco, first of all I would like to say to the board members tonight the town council will hold a meeting to consider an appropriation in the amount of 1.2 million dollars from the General Fund to the BOE for additional medical costs for the fiscal year 2012 – 2013. The healthcare overage this year was unprecedented in the history of our town. Also the town will be scheduling the next referendum date and I certainly encourage our community to participate and support education for our children's future. And at this time I would ask Mr. Buccitelli to review the budget summary for us.

**Mr. Buccitelli** – The thing that I just wanted to point out on the report is the over expenditure of the tuition account. That is the (inaudible) special education tuition. I have alluded to several factors that contributed to the over expenditure, but what we are going to do is provide the Board with a detailed report on the over expenditure and hope to have the report within 30 days. So that you get a very good idea of what occurred in the terms of that over expenditure. So the details of that will be forth coming.

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**Mr. Buzzannco** – Thank you, any questions?

**Ms. Colangelo** – Will we be able to absorb that shortage?

**Mr. Buccitelli** – Yeah, what is happening is that if you look at the certified salary account, the balance of that account....now one of the reasons for that balance is that the salaries would normally be put in there, but the certified salaries are in Carryover grant and the Idea grant and you have two years of the grant that one is the 2012-2014 and one is the 2013-2015 and we used all of the carryover amounts and we don't usually use all of the carryover amounts but the carry over grants were fully charged for the salaries and that left a balance in the general fund. And we covered that overage.

**Mr. Buzzannco** – Any other questions? David.

**Mr. Guerrero** – Mr. Buccitelli, there are several retirements and resignations in the packet and in the last meetings packet and do you anticipate any savings from the retirement (inaudible) as the replacing of the positions granted, not in the same step, will there be any savings carried over to the new budget?

**Mr. Buccitelli** – That would affect the budget next year, not this budget, next year's budget in terms of any reductions that would take place.

**Mr. Guerrero** – Even though they are resigning now?

**Mr. Buccitelli** – Yes, it would affect next year now. It would be for the 13-14 budget.

**Mr. Guerrero** – Oh, I'm sorry, yup, I see it. Ok, then, my other question is that I know that the town council is meeting on the budget and I am a little confused why the BOE didn't have any say. We have had so many meetings of the Budget and Finance committee and sub committees with the board on the budget and we are being told tonight they are going to vote on what number we have to come to referendum. So I am not sure if Dr. Gilmore or Mr. Buccitelli can shed some light on of why this board has no say in this process and we are being handed down a number that we seem to have our hands tied.

**Dr. Gilmore** – Mr. Guerrero, we have been working very closely with the town manager and as you know, we have had 19 catastrophic cases and working very closely with 1.7 million and tonight the town council is taking on that appropriation of for us as a BOE for 1.2 so we are working very closely with them in regards to the health overage.

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**Mr. Guerrero** – I understand that but I guess the BOE is not working with them as a whole and as a member of the finance subcommittee when I hear tonight that we are proposing a .6 cut in the budget that was originally going to referendum and I have no say in that, so I am just a little confused as to why the BOE doesn't have more of an active part in this process.

**Mr. Buzzannco** – Historically, the town council either affirms the budget that is sent to the town council or adjusts it up or down. That is what they did for the first referendum, if you recall, they cut the budget by approx. \$91,000 and they then sent it back to the board and Dr. Gilmore and Mr. Buccitelli and their staffs identified the cuts that would be made to cover that \$91,000 cut. So the process is always that the finance committee or the council as a whole will send back to the BOE what the revised budget needs to be, meaning, as a BOE, on June 10<sup>th</sup>, will come back and then tell Dr. Gilmore what the specific cuts will be taking into account the entire commissions so that we can achieve these recommended cuts by the council. Typically the council does not say how much can you cut, they give us a number and we need to work toward it.

**Mr. Guerrero** – Thank you.

**Mr. Buzzannco** – Any other questions? Now let's move on to our first round of public participation.

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### **G. Public Participation**

**Mr. Buzzannco** – Is there anyone tonight that wishes to address the board? Is there anyone tonight that wishes to address the board? If not, we will close our first round of public participation and move on to item H, committee reports.

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### **H. Committee Reports**

**Curriculum and Instruction Committee, Mr. Eric Berthel, Chair-No**

**Policy and Labor Committee, Mr. Eric Berthel, Chair-Yes**

**Mr. Berthel**-Yes, board members should have received in their packets this week policies for first reading. Dr. Gilmore will be providing a brief on some of the changes that occurred with the last meeting of the policy and labor committee and I just want to remind board members that if you have edits or feedback, that you do that directly to Dr. Gilmore.

**Budget and Finance Committee, Mr. Tom Lambert, Chair-No**

**Facilities/PBC/Operations Committee, Mr. Tom Lambert, Chair-Yes**

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**Mr. Lambert** – The only thing we have on PBC and Facilities was that earlier tonight we did discuss a memorial for Madame Miller that will be set up in the high school and that was fully discussed.

### Governance and Community Engagement Committee, Mr. Ray Nardella, Chair-No

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#### I. Communications – Secretary – Mr. Berthel

No communications this evening.

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#### J. Minutes

a) Minutes of Education Regular Meeting May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

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Agenda Item Number:	I.1
Subject:	Minutes of the Education Regular Meeting May 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2013.
Motion Presented By:	Mr. Berthel
Motion Seconded By:	Ms. Colangelo
Text of the Motion:	To approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting on May 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2013.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	Mr. Guerrero
Vote:	Motion Passes

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#### K. Superintendent's Recommendation and Report

**Dr. Gilmore** – Thank You Mr. Buzzannco, and I personally want to thank the WHS students, staff, parents and guardians for their very kind and thoughtful recommendation for the high school World Language hallway wing to be dedicated to Madam Mary Jane Miller. It is a very kind and thoughtful gesture in her name and so deserving and I personally want to thank each and every one of you for your involvement and your kindness. Tonight, as Mr. Berthel, mentioned, we will be reviewing CAFE Policies for the first reading board members and our policy 0200 talks about the goals for the Watertown Public Schools and it highlights our BOE goals and a slight revision to the mission

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statement which is omitting only the very last line. Policy 4212.42 Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers, this policy was reviewed and all of our transportation providers and confirmed by our Business Manager who oversees transportation. The next policy is 6115A School Ceremonies and Observations where our Schools provide opportunities for silent meditation, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the display of the US Flag. Policy 6121 assures Nondiscrimination to foster good human relations and I did send those policies to the principals and we will be talking about that tomorrow at administrative council for our handbook. And policy 6171.2 we presently do provide our preschool students with disabilities the opportunities in special education programs and services for which they may benefit. And thank you to our schools planning and placement process to ensure that this state and federal statute is adhered to. And that is just a quick and brief overview of the first reading of the policies and as Mr. Berthel said, please contact me with any edits and revisions. And I personally want to thank the Policy and Labor committee, this was very labor intensive work and I appreciate your time and energy.

This evening we certainly want to acknowledge the outstanding teaching of Grade 1 teachers Ms. Davies and Ms. Soucy at JTPS. We wish them well on their retirement and thank them for their many years of dedicated service to our children and, of course to our community. We are pleased to acknowledge two submissions to the CT Department of Ed for two grants, the 2013-2015 IDEA Grant and the Youth Service Bureau Grant with matching funds from the town and the board. We thank Donna Rochester, Jenna Larkin, and Matt Saccoman for their outstanding leadership and work. And tonight we are very pleased to provide an update on the Junior Achievement program at Swift Middle School. The program teaches financial literacy, entrepreneurship, work force readiness, and thank you to Principal Lerz and her staff for providing this great partnership with our community. And thank you Ms. Lerz for your presentation this evening.

**Ms. Lerz** – Good Evening members of the Board of Ed, Dr. Gilmore, and our community members. It gives me great pleasure to speak to you tonight about a wonderful program our 8<sup>th</sup> grade student participated in sponsored by Junior Achievement. We were fortunate to have 10 business members join us on May 7<sup>th</sup> to work with our student with JA in a day, a series of lessons on real life topics such as budget and finance. The JA volunteers worked with the students in small groups keeping their interest with many hands on activities. Great discussions took place, and the students were able to connect their JA experience to their own personal goals. The program connected nicely with the student's success plans, our students are in the processing of developing here are school to support career choice. Before I show you a brief clip of the students being interviewed about the program, I would like to thank Lou Golden, president of JA, SW New England and Sumaya Ayou, JA District Manager for organizing the event. They had a special event tomorrow or they would have been here tonight. In addition, we were fortunate enough to have two Swift parents present as part of the program, Monica Noland and Rob Gurrey and I also want to thank teachers Mary Beth Gallo and Diane Gaulzetti, for bringing JA to us. And most especially Julie Ayer, school counselor, who

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organized the entire event. It was very successful and we thank them. JA reps Lou Golden and Sumaya Ayou have asked that I pass on their response to presenting the program at Swift. We would like to express our delight with the positive responses we have received from our very first JA in a day at Swift Middle School here in Watertown. We look forward, not only to the next school year, but to expanding the program to other schools in the community. We are certainly hopeful that we can repeat this valuable program at Swift next year. And I would like to show you a brief clip of students being interviewed about their experiences by our school councilor Julie Ayer. But before you do that Dave, I would just like you to know that when Lou Golden spoke to us, he has been to a lot of schools in the district and he thought Swift far surpassed all of the others. He was so impressed by our 8<sup>th</sup> graders, they were there from 9-12:30 and they were totally engaged with what they were doing. It was phenomenal and we were very proud of that. And he loves Swift, so I just wanted to share that. Thank you and now we will show the clip. (video plays)  
Thank you very much and plan to continue our partnership with them and we plan on introducing it to more grades as well.

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### **2. Appointments – (Information Only)**

- a. Mr. Jeffrey Barna to the position of Long-Term Substitute Chemistry Teacher at Watertown High School effective, May 20, 2013 through June 21, 2013 of the 2012 -2013 school year, at the rate of \$75.00 per day for the first ten days, and then placed on the first step of the WEA contract of \$41,700.00, prorated.
- b. Ms. Lauren Godbout transferred from the position of Acct. Clerk/Assistant to the Secretary of the Superintendent at the Board of Education, to Secretary 1 Grade II at Swift Middle School effective, May 20, 2013 at an hourly rate of \$17.05.
- c. Ms. Susan Petrok to the position of Category #2, Paraprofessional at Swift Middle School effective, May 20, 2013, for 30 hours per week at the hourly rate of \$16.17.

### **3. Resignations (information only)**

- a. Ms. Patricia Davies from the position of First Grade Teacher at John Trumbull School effective, June 28, 2013 for the purpose of retirement.
  - b. Ms. Sharon Soucy from the position of First Grade Teacher at John Trumbull School effective June 28, 2013, for the purpose of retirement.
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**L. Report from the Chairman**

**Mr. Buzzannco** – I want to begin by thanking every parent, every student, every staff member who worked tirelessly to encourage a strong turnout at last week’s referendum. Our PTO members made over 1000 reminder calls the night before the referendum reminding our folks to vote. Dozens of people launched social media campaigns, students from the high school posted flyers along the hall ways and the principals and teachers of the schools threw open the doors of our schools with outstanding events that made it convenient for many people and parents to vote. Thank you all. It is not for a lack of effort that our school budget was rejected. The communication effort and your enthusiasm were outstanding. When only 8% of the towns registered voters turn out to support a budget, the problem isn’t in spreading the word. The problem is that we just created a budget that our town just couldn’t get behind in this referendum. The only have to look at the incredible volunteer support, our parents, our community members, our seniors, provide throughout our five schools to know this town cares about our children and education. But there is a difference between what our parents and taxpayers want and what they can afford. So, right now, literally as we speak, town council is meeting to set a new town and school budget for our next referendum. I know our Superintendent, our business manager and their administration, will be working diligently to streamline our districts operations so that we can send a new budget to referendum that will win the support of our voters.

I want to turn now to a matter that is of increasing concern for our parents, for our administrators, for our teachers and for our councilors, and for many of us on the board. Increasingly, parents are recognizing the need to make sure their child can reach them in an emergency of any kind and provide them with cell phones and smart phones. But more and more, it is clear that the very device that parents give their children to keep them safe can be putting those children in increased risk. Students may need to call their parents or guardians from time to time, but when are given a phone that gives them unbridled access to the internet, and applications like Snapchat and Instagram and include features like still pictures and video cameras, they are given tools that can facilitate impulsive, regrettable and possibly harmful actions. I believe we need to stop weaponizing the phones we give our children. Particularly phones we give our children in elementary and middle schools, the features on these phones are not just inappropriate, they are dangerous. Let’s remember why we give our children a phone in the first place, to keep them safe. Every smart phone allows that parent to restrict that phones features and applications. You disable the camera, you can shut down the internet access, and the access to social media applications. You can shut down or limit the time frame for texting. Did you get your child an iPhone or ITouch device? If so, Google iPhone parental restrictions and follow the instructions to disable the apps that don’t belong in the hands of a youngster. Google Android parental restrictions if that is the type of phone your child has. DO the same for their iPads, computers, laptops. I am asking all parents whether it’s worth putting

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these questionable applications in the hands of their children, particularly children in the lower grades where phone and iPad usage is increasing dramatically. And our parents of driving age children need to take a moment to give thanks that their child was not one of the 3000 teenagers killed in accidents last year while texting. 3000 teens killed is more than the number or teens killed in drunk driving accidents last year. I remember, and I am sure those of you who are my age remember, the massive campaign Mothers Against Drunk Driving started years ago. Since MADD began its work in 1980, drunk driving deaths have been cut in half in this nation. When it comes to texting and driving, we can't just rely on luck to keep our children safe, we have to take action. As parents, our job is not to make our children happy, it is to raise them to be productive, caring and mature young adults. Thank you, that concludes my report for this evening.

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**M. Action Items – Items to be Approved by Consent**

Agenda Item Number: M.1

Subject: Approval of the Watertown Annual Healthy Food Certification Statement

Motion Presented By: Mr. Berthel

Motion Seconded By: Mr. Nardella

Text of the Motion: Mr. Chairman, I move that the board approve the Watertown School lunch program pursuant to section 10-215F of the Connecticut General Statutes during the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

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**Mr. Buzzancco** – We will move on to Item 2, consideration of the 2013-2016 WEA, particularly the contract with the co-curricular and coordinator stipend schedule. Dr. Gilmore or Mr. Buccitelli, would you like to amplify this motion before we make it and let the board know why we are taking this up this evening.

**Dr. Gilmore** – Yes, I did ask Mr. Buccitelli to chair this particular committee, so at this time Mr. Buccitelli, if you would please give us an over view.

**Mr. Buccitelli** – When we were going through the final review of the co-curricular stipend schedule, we recognized that there was an oversight on the peer leader's stipends on grades 6, 7, & 8. The amount that was in that schedule was \$2250

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per grade level per peer leader. The amount should have been \$1000 and was picked up, we reviewed it over and over, but we just picked it up recently before the memorandum was to be signed. What we did here, the recommendation here is to now is to take those funds, because we are not going to be taking \$1000, or we are not going to be paying \$2250 per peer leader and add some additional activities with those funds and so the recommendation is to add four additional activities and then the actual budget would be neutral, there would be no increase to the budget. We are increasing the number of activities, but decreasing the amount that is set aside for the peer leaders.

**Mr. Buzzannco** – Thank you Mr. Buccitelli, do board members have any questions? Hearing none is there a motion?

Agenda Item Number: M.2  
Subject: Approval of the Updated 2013-2016 WEA Contract Co-Curricular and Coordinator Stipend Schedule

Motion Presented By: Mr. Lambert  
Motion Seconded By: Mr. Beland

Text of the Motion: Mr. Chairman, I move that the board approve the updated WEA Stipend Agreement pertaining to the 2013 – 2016 WEA contract with the Watertown Public Schools as recommended by the Stipend Committee.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None  
Abstained: None  
Vote: Motion Passes

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Agenda Item Number: M.3  
Subject: Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts

Motion Presented By: Mr. Nardella  
Motion Seconded By: Ms. Colangelo

Text of the Motion: Mr. Chairman, I move that we gratefully accept a donation of \$200 from Epic Masonry and Restoration, to be directed to the C.A.R.E. Team's work in support of Habitat for Humanity.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None  
Abstained: None  
Vote: Motion Passes

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Agenda Item Number: M.4

Subject: Consideration of the Approval of the Establishment of a Memorial at Watertown High School.

Motion Presented By: Mr. Nardella

Motion Seconded By: Mr. Berthel

Text of the Motion: Mr. Chairman, I move that we approve the establishment by the World Language Department of a memorial dedicating the hallway of the World Language Department to the memory of Mary Jane Miller with funding provided by donations raised by the students of the World Language Department and the final design of the memorial elements to be approved by the board.

Discussion: **Mr. Berthel:** I would just like to add that we did hear a presentation earlier this evening in the Facilities meeting regarding this project and I can't think of a more appropriate and genuine and humble way for us a Board and the people within this building to honor the memory of Madame Miler. I will fully support this action.

**Mr. Buzzannco:** With that I just want to emphasize that is not a top down initiative, this is a grass roots initiative that came to fruition because of the love, affection and devotion of Madame Miller's students have for her and will always have for her. What we are considering tonight is because of the fruits of their labor and their recommendation and will only happen because of their follow through and commitment to doing their own fundraising for the memorial following a design that is very tasteful, very appropriate, to honor this great educator and frankly, humanitarian. We also have Christina Moore here tonight, and we thank her volunteering to help coordinate, guide and mentor the students in this process. We can't thank you enough for your steady encouragement and guidance. We appreciate it so much.

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

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**N. Future Agenda Items and Board Members' Comments**

**Mr. Buzzannco** – Do any board members have any comments or future agenda items they wish

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to propose? Hearing none, we will move on to item O, our second public participation of the evening.

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### **O. Public Participation**

**Mr. Buzzannco** – Is there anyone tonight that wishes to address the board? Is there anyone tonight that wishes to address the board? If not, we will close our first round of public participation and move on to meet in executive session, so I would ask that the members of the public dismiss themselves at this time, thank you. Board members at this time, we will take a 5 minute recess and reconvene at 8:40.

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### **P. Executive Session**

Agenda Item Number: P.1

Subject: Executive Session: Personnel-Anticipated executive session for discussion of the performance and year-end evaluation of the Superintendent.

Motion Presented By: Mr. Lambert

Motion Seconded by: Mr. Nardella

Time of Motion: 8:50 pm

Text of the Motion: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the performance and year-end evaluation of the Superintendent. Attending the Executive Session will be David Guerrero, Sean Butterly, Susan McCabe, Guy Buzzannco, Eric Berthel, Ray Nardella, Mary Colangelo, Rich Beland and Tom Lambert.

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

### **Q. Regular Session**

Meeting re-entered Regular Session at 11:11 p.m.

Motion Presented by: Mr. Berthel

Motion Seconded by: Ms. Colangelo

### **R. Adjournment**

Agenda Item Number: R

Subject: Adjournment

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Motion Presented by: Mr. Berthel

Motion Seconded by: Mr. Nardella

Text of Motion: Meeting: The meeting adjourn at 11:11 p.m.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion passes.

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Meeting adjourned at 11:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Eric Berthel, Board Secretary

Mindi Davidson, Minutes Secretary