

**MINUTES  
WATERTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Meeting Date:** January 9, 2012  
**Meeting Time:** 7:30 PM  
**Meeting Place:** Watertown High School, Lecture Hall

**Members Present:** Mr. Richard Mazzamaro, Chairman  
Mr. Thomas Lambert, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Eric Berthel, Secretary  
Mr. Richard Beland  
Ms. Susan McCabe  
Mr. Guy Buzzannco  
Atty. Sean Butterly  
Mr. David Guerrero  
Mr. Raymond Nardella

**Others Present:** Dr. Gail Gilmore, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Karen Clancy, Business Manager  
Dr. James Collin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Matt Geary, Principal Watertown High School  
Ms. Sage Davino, Student Council Representative  
Other interested guests

- A. Convene Regular Meeting - 7:30 PM**
- B. Salute to the Flag**
- C. Watertown Public Schools' Mission Statement**

Richard Mazzamaro – As stated a month ago, we are going to read our Mission Statement at the beginning of each Regular Meeting and I thought it would be nice if we had a different Board Member do it each time. Mr. Berthel will read our Mission Statement.

Mr. Berthel - Thank you, Mr. Chairman –

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.

**MINUTES OF WATERTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**January 9, 2012**

**D. Recognition**

The Board would like to recognize the Watertown Foundation, Inc. for their dedicated service and generosity to the Watertown Public Schools. The Watertown Foundation awarded the Watertown Public Schools grants totaling \$16,000 for the year 2012. Here tonight to accept this plaque is Mr. William Dunbar, President, and past President Ms. Susan Atkins.

Richard Mazzamaro-I would like to read from the plaque. We would like to recognize the Watertown Foundation and present them with a plaque that Dr. Gilmore will award.

Presented to the Watertown Foundation, Inc. in appreciation and recognition for continued dedication and support to the Watertown Public Schools given by the Watertown Board of Education this January 9, 2012.

Dr. Gail Gilmore – Thank you Mr. Mazzamaro. I am delighted this evening to recognize the Watertown Community Foundation for their dedicated service and generosity to the Watertown Public Schools. This foundation has awarded the Watertown Public Schools grants totaling \$16,000.00 for the year 2011-2012. They have awarded grants to not only the Watertown High School Robotics Team but to our music boosters and our theater boosters and many of our sports programs. Here tonight we are very honored and to accept this plaque is Mr. William Dunbar, President and past President Ms. Susan Atkins.

**E. Report from Student Council Representative – Sage Davino**

Hello Everyone. Since we got back, the past week has been uneventful. During the week before winter break, students successfully took all of the midterms in full school days. This made the day before break very relaxing and easygoing. Students got their midterm grades when they came back to school. This will help both the teachers and students in going over lessons students had difficulty with and for future learning.

The Interact Club held a Warm Clothing Drive before break to give warm clothing to the Waterbury Youth Services.

**F. Public Participation - None**

**G. Committee Reports:**

1. Student Programs and Services – Richard Beland- No Report
2. Curriculum and Instruction Committee – Eric Berthel

Mr. Chairman, there is a meeting set for Monday, January 23, 2012 with Dr. Gilmore, Dr. Collin and myself to revisit where the Committee left off prior to the change in leadership.

3. Policy and Labor Committee – Guy Buzzannco – No Report
4. Budget, Finance and Operations Committee –

Guy Buzzannco – Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Budget and Finance Committee met on December 19, 2011 to establish finance and budget and recognize the budget challenge in the preparation process for the upcoming year. The Superintendent and our leadership team are now developing a recommended budget that recognizes a nearly \$700,000.00 decrease in federal funding while

**MINUTES OF WATERTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**January 9, 2011**

addressing needs in the areas of teaching and particularly in class size and the current educational program offering we have and addressing and strengthening comprehensive literacy and literacy instruction for all students throughout the district as we transition our college course. We also maintain, support and acknowledge leadership of Swift Middle School and target resources for the development of technology offering throughout the entire district and target resources for continued professional development and lastly to provide sufficient resources as we discussed earlier this evening for maintenance of our facilities and infrastructure so we can provide a safe, healthy and usable environment for all our students, our staff and public.

Our next meeting will be the public presentation of the budget and we invite the public to attend on Thursday, January 19, 2012 in this room at a time to be determined.

Gail Gilmore – 6:30 p.m. at Watertown High School.

Richard Mazzamaro – Thank you, Gail.

**5. Facilities/PBC/Operations Committee –**

Thomas Lambert – Yes, Mr. Chairman. We had an extremely productive meeting tonight. We had an hour long meeting before this meeting. We discussed the Capital Improvement Plan. We discussed improvement for the maintenance of our schools and shared services for future projects. We will meet once a month. We will keep discussing the improvements we are going to make and the shared services that will be coming forward. Thank you.

**6. Governance and Community Engagement Committee – Eric Berthel – No Report**

**H. Communications - Secretary – No Communications**

**I. Minutes**

**1. Regular Board of Education Meeting – December 12, 2011**

---

<b>Agenda Item Number:</b>	<b>II.</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	Minutes
<b>Motion Presented by:</b>	Eric Berthel
<b>Motion Seconded by:</b>	Susan McCabe
<b>Text of Motion:</b>	To approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting, December 12, 2011.
<b>Discussion:</b>	None
<b>Opposed:</b>	None
<b>Abstained:</b>	None
<b>Vote:</b>	Motion passed unanimously.

**J. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report**

Dr. Gail Gilmore – Thank you Mr. Mazzamaro and good evening Board of Education Members. We certainly want to wish you a healthy and happy New Year.

I would like to recognize this evening the Watertown High School Robotics Club. I had the opportunity to attend their fund raising event yesterday and we want to thank the students

**MINUTES OF WATERTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**January 9, 2012**

participating in the Robotics Team and their families and alumni members and advocates for these successful fundraisers for our students. The Robotics Team promotes higher order, 21<sup>st</sup> Century critical thinking skills, problem solving and collaborative team work and it really was a pleasure to be there yesterday.

I also want to comment this evening on the Payroll Budget Sense Program. I want to personally thank Ms. Clancy and our Business Department for successfully launching the new payroll system. This is for the paraprofessionals, custodians and secretaries. This was a new conversion and a very new process and we appreciate everyone's diligence. This week the Business Department goes live bi-weekly for teachers, administrators, nurses and affiliated staff. So thank you Karen for your work.

I will be meeting with the full Administrative Counsel tomorrow and we will discuss Board of Education School Presentations to keep you informed of instructional practices that are on line with the State standards for maximum learning for our state's students.

1. Appointments – (Information Only)
  - a.) Ms. Dominique Antico to the position of Paraprofessional at Watertown High School effective January 3, 2012, Resource Program, Category #2, Monday through Friday, 5.0 hours paid per day, 0.5 hour lunch unpaid, 25.0 weekly hours at the rate of \$12.85 per hour.
  - b.) Ms. Janet Bloemker to the position of Paraprofessional at Watertown High School effective January 3, 2012, Resource Program, Category #2, Monday through Friday, 5.0 hours paid per day, 0.5 hour lunch unpaid, 25.0 weekly hours at the rate of \$12.85 per hour.
  - c.) Mr. John Hoey to the position of Cross Country Assistant Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at the stipend of \$1,799.00 payable at the end of the season.
  - d.) Ms. Barbara Mordenti to the position of Secretary to the Supervisors of Special Education at John Trumbull Primary School, Secretary III – Grade V, effective January 9, 2012, 7.0 hours paid per day, Monday through Friday, 1.0 hour unpaid lunch, 12 months per year, at an hourly rate of \$22.64.
  - e.) Ms. Cristina Pinton to the position of long-term substitute Art Teacher at Judson School and Polk School, effective December 21, 2011, through the end of the 2011-2012 school year, at the rate of \$65.00 per day for the first ten days, and on the eleventh day, being placed on the first step of the Memorandum of Agreement between the WEA and the Watertown Board of Education of \$41,287.00 prorated.
  - f.) Ms. Christine Soda to the position of Ell Tutor effective January 3, 2012 at Swift, Judson and Polk Schools, for the 2011-2012 school year at the rate of pay of \$80.00 per day.
  - g.) Mr. Jeffrey Martorelli to the Munson House cleaning position effective January 4, 2012, for three evenings a week, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the

**MINUTES OF WATERTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**January 9, 2011**

hourly rate of \$12.00.

2. Resignations – (Information Only)

- a.) Ms. Marilyn Ebreo from the position of Secretary to the Supervisors of Special Education at John Trumbull Primary School, effective January 3, 2012, for the purpose of retirement.
- b.) Mr. Dana Berglund from the position of custodian for the Munson House effective December 12, 2011 for personal reasons.

3. Three School Project Update – (Information Only)

Administration will present an update on the final phases of the Three School Project.

I also wanted to report on the Three School Project Update. The Watertown High School outside sign has the letters attached and we are beginning to have the electrical and lighting completed and I also want to report the Judson School floors we have O & G completing a drainage assessment and they are going forward.

4. Superintendent's Entry Plan

My Superintendent Entry Plan for community outreach continues. It truly has been a pleasure visiting all schools and classrooms and meeting with organizations and attending faculty and PTO meetings. Today, I was interviewed by the students of the Polk School Media Club and Newspaper and tomorrow, I will meet with all PTO Presidents to discuss the importance of supporting our students and schools with a strong educational focus for our community. So I would like to say thank you to all of our parents who are so committed to our Mission Statement and that concludes my Superintendent's Report Mr. Mazzamaro.

Richard Mazzamaro - Thank you Dr. Gilmore,

**K. Report from the Chairman**

Richard Mazzamaro – Tonight, just a couple of things you might see in the pipelines, two dates tentatively scheduled for January 25 or 26 for the CAFE Rules and Responsibilities Workshop. I have spoken with you tonight on which dates would work better. We would like to get that scheduled as soon as possible. I believe the 25<sup>th</sup> is Wednesday and the time would be 6- p.m.

Discussions among Board Members on which day would be convenient to them.

Richard Mazzamaro – So, we are looking at Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup>, and Sean I understand that the Cafeteria negotiations, that you will have a hard time making those meetings as well, so we will need one Board Member to serve on the Cafeteria and Negotiations Committee. They want to set up some initial meetings and get that done.

Gail Gilmore – Yes, we would like to actually begin as soon as possible, early February and that would be great if we could have one Board Member on the Negotiating Committee.

Richard Mazzamaro –You can just call me or Barbara and let her know.

**MINUTES OF WATERTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**January 9, 2012**

Sean Butterly – I just wanted to stress also, after I meet with my doctor on the 31<sup>st</sup> and if I am cleared to go, I will let you know.

---

**L. Action Items – Adoption of Items to be Approved by Consent**

<b>Agenda Item Number:</b>	<b>L1a.</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b><u>Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts</u></b>
<b>Motion Presented by:</b>	Guy Buzzannco
<b>Motion Seconded by:</b>	Raymond Nardella
<b>Text of Motion:</b>	The Watertown Ecumenical Council would like to donate \$146.00 to Watertown High School to be used to purchase books for the classrooms.
<b>Discussion:</b>	It is recommended that the Board accept this generous gift and a letter of thanks to be sent to the donor.
<b>Opposed:</b>	None
<b>Abstained:</b>	None
<b>Vote:</b>	Motion passed unanimously.

---

<b>Agenda Item Number:</b>	<b>L1b.</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b><u>Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts</u></b>
<b>Motion Presented by:</b>	Guy Buzzannco
<b>Motion Seconded by:</b>	Eric Berthel
<b>Text of Motion:</b>	Ms. Shirley Plourde, on behalf of the Aetna Foundation, would like to donate \$298.60 to Watertown High School to be used for the Athletic Program at the high school.
<b>Discussion:</b>	It is recommended that the Board accept this generous gift and a letter of thanks to be sent to the donor.
<b>Opposed:</b>	None
<b>Abstained:</b>	None
<b>Vote:</b>	Motion passed unanimously.

---

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

David Guerrero – Mr. Chairman, do we have any update on when we are going to vote on the substitute salary increase.

Richard Mazzamaro – Yes, I believe that was put on hold until our January 23, 2012 meeting.

Dr. Gilmore – That is correct.

Richard Mazzamaro – That is actually a good point. Do the Board Members have information that was necessary? I know there were some questions and information given out to Board Members has that been satisfied.

**MINUTES OF WATERTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**January 9, 2011**

Guy Buzzannco – Well, primarily I think we wanted to make sure that the budget process could accommodate the increase of the substitute teacher rate.

David Guerrero - Also, I received a letter from a resident in Watertown I wanted to present to the Board. This is an article in the Republican-American from January 6 and the title is Southbury School Board wants to hear from Public on Priorities and I think we can incorporate and we probably are already but I just wanted you to hear, it's very short.

The Region 15 Board of Education School Administrators would try something new as they draft a budget for 2012-2013. "The district will invite input from taxpayers, parents, business owners and students to learn what programs and services they consider priorities for the next school year. The feedback will be used by the School Board Administrators to help with funding plans for the district which serves Southbury and Middlebury. The feedback will be gab at a Community Budget Workshop on January 26", and so forth. This is something for consideration and she wanted me to present this to the Board.

Richard Mazzamaro – I saw that article in the paper as well, it's not a bad idea. It is probably something we can look at as well for community relations as well.

Dr. Gail Gilmore – I want to thank you for bringing that to our attention, because truly it is about parent outreach and community outreach and the input we have at the Board of Education, the more fiscally responsible we will be making our decisions around. So I truly would like to consider that priority of course.

**N. Public Participation – None**

**O. Adjournment**

**Agenda Item No.**

**Subject:**

**Motion Presented by:**

**Motion Seconded by:**

**O.**

**Adjournment**

Richard Beland

Sean Butterly

**Text of Motion:**

**Discussion:**

None

**Opposed:**

None

**Abstained:**

None

**Vote:**

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Eric Berthal

Board Secretary

Deborah Jacobs

Minutes Secretary