

REVISED MINUTES
WATERTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING

Meeting Date: March 12, 2012
Meeting Time: 5:00 PM
Meeting Place: Watertown High School, Lecture Hall

Members Present: Mr. Thomas Lambert, Vice Chairman
Mr. Eric Berthel, Secretary
Mr. Richard Beland
Ms. Susan McCabe
Mr. Guy Buzzannco
Atty. Sean Butterly

Absent: Mr. Richard Mazzamaro, Chairman
Mr. David Guerrera
Mr. Raymond Nardella

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

Thomas Lambert - In the absence of our Chairman, Richard Mazzamaro, I will be acting Chairman of the meeting tonight.

A. Convene Regular Meeting - 5:00 PM

Mr. Thomas Lambert, Vice Chairman, convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

B. Salute to the Flag

Mr. Thomas Lambert, Vice Chairman, led the Salute to the Flag.

C. Watertown Public Schools' Mission Statement-Read by Richard Beland

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.

D. Report from Student Council Representative – Sage Davino

- I'm sure everyone knows all about the basketball team and their recent success, so I'll just remind you that the WHS Boys' Basketball team won NVL's a couple of weeks ago and are playing in the quarterfinals tonight at 7:00 p.m. versus Brookfield in the gym. I think Adults are \$8.00 and Students are \$5.00, everyone is welcome.
- On other sports news, the girls' cheerleading team won their state competition on Saturday. They

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- celebrated the win by wearing their shirts and metals today in school.
- The Interact Club finished their Battle of the Beards competition last Friday. In this event, teachers and students grew beards and raised money for Special Olympics. They raised \$700.00 for this cause.
- The Musical Theatre Department held a McTeacher's night at McDonald's on March 6th. Teachers and administration worked the cash registers, fries, drive thru, and chicken nuggets for 3 hours. Ten percent of the proceeds went to this year's musical, which is Seussical the Musical. Many students attended and the musical ended up raising \$300.00. The musical will take place on March 22, 23 and 24. Tickets are \$12.00 at the door, everyone is welcome.
- The Robotics team at the high school went to the Chesapeake Regional Robotics Competition in Baltimore. For three days the team competed against others in the region in a game called "Rebound Rumble" where robots played a game similar to basketball.

E. Public Participation - None

F. Committee Reports:

1. Student Programs and Services – Richard Beland-None
2. Curriculum and Instruction Committee – Eric Berthel-None
3. Policy and Labor Committee – Guy Buzzannco-None
4. Budget, Finance and Operations Committee – Guy Buzzannco-None
5. Facilities/PBC/Operations Committee – Thomas Lambert-None
6. Governance and Community Engagement Committee – Eric Berthel-None

G. Communications - Secretary – None

**Agenda Item No.
Subject:**

**H.
Minutes**

**Motion Presented by:
Motion Seconded by:**

Eric Berthel
Sean Butterly

Text of Motion:

To approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting, February 27, 2012

Discussion

None

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

None

Vote:

Motion approved unanimously.

I. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report

Thomas Lambert-After Item 3 of the Superintendent's Report, Recognition of Music Students, there will be a 5 minute recess for pictures.

Gail Gilmore-Thank you Mr. Lambert and Good Evening Board of Education Members and our Community. On behalf of the Board of Ed and myself, we would like to congratulate our Watertown High School Boys' Basketball Team and their coaches for their NVL League Championship game and tonight, of course, their quarter final game which we will all attend at 7:00 p.m.

We also want to congratulate the Watertown High School Cheerleading team and their coach for their win Saturday for the CIAC Class L State Championship.

1. Appointments – (Information Only)

- a.) Mr. Bradley Mahar to the position of Freshman Boys' Soccer Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at a stipend of \$1,799.00 according to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Watertown Board of Education and the Watertown Education Association.

2. Resignations – (Information Only)

- a.) Mr. Matthew Geary from the position of Principal of Watertown High School effective April 20, 2012 to accept another position.

Dr. Gilmore – Tonight, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Matthew Geary, Watertown High School Principal, on his many years of dedication and commitment to service for our students and staff at Watertown High School. Mr. Geary has taken a position in another district in April and we will miss his talent and leadership in Watertown. On behalf of the Board of Education and myself, we wish you much success and happiness and we thank you for making Watertown High School an exceptional school Matt and a positive learning community for our Grades 9 through 12 students. Would everyone please join me in an excellent round of applause.

3. Recognition of Music Students

The month of March is *Music in Our Schools Month* and tonight we are very pleased to recognize the talents of the Swift Middle School and Watertown High School music students and their accomplishments and excellence in the CMEA Northern Region Festival. We will provide certificates of excellence to our great students. Congratulations to all of our students and, of course, their parents this evening and the district music educators who inspire all students to reach their highest potential. At this time, we would like to congratulate them and hand out their certificates.

Ms. Anna Jedd, District Music coordinator and Mr. Lambert will assist me in handing out certificates of excellence in Music to the following music students:

Christine Manalo, W.H.S., grade 10, CMEA Northern Region High School Music Festival and CT All-State Music Festival – Highest Honor in the State as a Chorus Member

Ted Rogozinski, W.H.S., grade 10, CMEA Northern Region High School Music Festival – Band (Trumpet player)

Jen Bavone, W.H.S. grade 12, CMEA Northern Region High School Music Festival – Chorus

Aidan Leffler, Swift, grade 8, CMEA Northern Regional Middle School Music Festival – Chorus(Bass)

Caroline Henry, Swift, grade 8, CMEA Northern Region Middle School Music Festival – Chorus(has been a member for 2 years in a row)

Andrea Pannoni, Swift, grade 8, CMEA Northern Region Middle School Music Festival - Chorus

Kristen VanDerlyn, Swift, grade 8, CMEA Northern Region Middle School Music Festival - Chorus

Mary Ryan, Swift, grade 7, CMEA Northern Region Middle School Music Festival - Chorus

Caran Manalo, Swift, grade 6, CMEA Northern Region Middle School Music Festival –

Orchestra (violinist and wonderful pianist)

Lauren Giampietro, Swift, grade 8, CMEA Northern Region Middle School Music Festival – Band (multitalented musician, saxophonist in Swift Band, String Ensemble and she also is in her 2nd year at the Regional Festival as a member of the Band)

Gail Gilmore-Thank you Mrs. Judd and Mr. Lambert and I just want to say that music education is very very important in our district and we are so proud of our students. Would you please give them another nice round of applause.

Meeting recessed for 5 minutes for pictures at 5:12 p.m.
Meeting reconvened at 5:17 p.m. by Mr. Lambert.

4. Presentations Highlighting Best Instructional Practice

Dr. Collin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, will introduce the next segment in our series of presentations to the Board highlighting best instructional practice. Ms. Julie Haggard, Secondary Supervisor of Special Education Services, will present on Transition Services as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA.

Dr. Collin - Thank you Dr. Gilmore – It is my pleasure to introduce Ms. Haggard our Secondary Supervisor of Special Education Services, who will take you through her work and the work of the high school in improving and extending our transition services. I will highlight when we talk to the Board about bringing this series along. We said some of it is anchored in best practice, some is required by legislation, and in some cases there is a mirror. So this particular initiative in transition services for special education students, while it is required by law, it is also very aligned with best practices for our students and for ourselves.

Julie Haggard- Did everyone get a copy of the hand out? That helps make sense of everything. I just wanted to reiterate a thank you to Matt Geary for all the work he's done for the transition program for the students at the High School. We couldn't of reached this point of excellence without him. So, I just want to extend that thanks personally.

The Transition Best Practices-I am going to give you a brief overview of what it looks like, why we do it and there is a little diagram that breaks out for you the different domains and the pathways students can take in their transition path to adulthood and beyond.

- Under IDEA the PPT Team of considered transition planning for students with disabilities.
- The transition component of IEP must address the targeted post-school outcome in each of the domains in IDEA. There is postsecondary education, vocational training, integrated employment (including supported employment, which means a sheltered environment, students who need assistant in the employer environment would receive that after they graduate high school through adult servicing), continuing adult education, adult services, independent living and community participation. Those are our areas of focus.
- The IEP, which is a legal document. The Individual Education Plan contains certain goals that are focused on these areas. (I am sorry about all the acronyms, but I think special education has the highest number of acronyms.) There is free domain.

Postsecondary Education/Training
Employment
Independent Living and Community Participation

So, we write goals within the student's individualized education plan to address these three areas and we are monitored federally through data collection on these goals and postsecondary outcomes as far as students.

Indicators are measured on both 13 and 14. There is a little description there for you and, basically, they track data about our students once they leave the high school, once they graduate. They also track data based on whether or not we're meeting the goals outlined in the transition component of the IEP through our data collection. So those are very key areas of focus in transition planning for our students and they are very measured and we need to report that to the federal government.

In order to meet some of those requirements at the high school, students engage in a variety of experiences to assist in planning for the future. We have job shadows, career explorations, community partnerships programs which you have heard a little bit about. We do visits to universities, we plan through Naviance, which is the next bullet there, which is a wonderful program that really connects transition programming 6 to 12 to the success planning to all students. Within that program, we work on portfolio creations. It serves as a resource for learning and interest inventory to help students better know themselves as learners and for future planning for careers and vocational training and postsecondary education training. There is coordination within all this. The Secondary School Reform, which Dr. Collin talks about, there are several mandates, but also there is a mirror of that practice. This is best practice for all students and it is very successful.

Each special education student upon graduation receives a summary of performance which is a document that really highlights their strengths and their needs moving forward as adult members of the community and it provides something for them to take with them and use as a resource and also used towards employment, or in the college process, they can take that to a college learning resource center to receive additional services within some universities.

We also work on linkages with outside agencies which is very important. Connecting families to resources to the community is really what insures future success for these students as adults. There are agencies such as DDS, Department of Developmental Services, BRS, Bureau of Rehabilitative Services, Social Security Administration, there are benefits there for our students upon turning the age of eighteen. Agencies out there for advocacies for our students that we also link up with from time to time and we also invite these agencies to PPTs to help plan for the future for our students and it strengthens family partnership in the process.

On page two, there is kind of a brief pie chart of the different paths that students may take. We have postsecondary college. Some students choose to go on to a university or a two year college. Some choose to go into something like Porter and Chester, which is a vocational training or other certificate in a trade area.

We also have extended services for those students through PPT who qualify for extending transition services through the age of 21, and we also have workforce and career readiness. For those students who after high school who will be pursuing a career right away and through that we provide a variety of portfolios, strengthening of the portfolio, resume building, career experiences within the community and our community partnerships program. When we bring it all together, we try to prepare our students, not only our students with disabilities, but all students for the future and what that future might hold for them so they are really educated and know themselves with the overarching principals of self-advocacy. So they can go out and advocate for themselves about who they are, what they need to be successful and how to make that happen.

If you have any questions, I would be more than happy to answer or you can always contact me in the office.

Gail Gilmore-Thank you Mrs. Haggard and Dr. Collin.

5. Connecticut Community Foundation Grant

The Board of Education has received a check in the amount of \$5,000.00 representing the final payment of the 2011 Connecticut Community Foundation grant to the Watertown Public Schools District for the LitLinks P3 Preschool Collaboration.

J. Report from the Chairman -Mr. Lambert-Due to Mr. Mazzamaro's absence, there will be no report tonight.

Agenda Item No. K1.
Subject: 1. Consideration of Approval of Proposed Tuition Rates for the 2012-2013 School Year

Motion Presented by: Eric Berthel
Motion Seconded by: Sean Butterly

Text of Motion: Tuition to be charged for each out of Town pupil attending the public schools of Watertown shall be at the rate based on audited PSIS enrollment date and ED0001 expenditure data for the preceding year.

It is recommended that the Board approve of the proposed tuition rates for school year 2012-2013. (Attachment A)

Discussion None
Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

Agenda Item No. K2(1).
Subject: 1. Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts

Motion Presented by: Guy Buzzannco
Motion Seconded by: Richard Beland

Text of Motion: To approve the following donations to the Music Department in the Watertown Public Schools in member of Mr. Jerry L. West:

Kent Village Housing for the Elderly, Inc.	\$ 50.00
North Purchase Residents Association	\$ 50.00
Joseph and Betty Durso, Jr.	\$ 25.00
Robert and Donna Lepage	\$100.00
Eleanor Gobillot	\$ 20.00
Phyllis West	\$175.00
Templeton Farm Residents Fund	\$ 50.00
Total	\$470.00

It is recommended that the Board accept all these generous gifts and letters of thanks and appreciation to be sent to the donors.

Discussion None
Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

Agenda Item No. K2(2).
Subject: 2. Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts

Motion Presented by: Eric Berthel
Motion Seconded by: Sean Butterly

Text of Motion: To approve The Watertown Music Boosters Association donation of the following items to the Swift Music Program in the Watertown Public Schools:

- a.) Portable white board with imprinted music staves, valued at \$900.00,
- b.) Bass Clarinet valued at \$1,200.00,
- c.) Baritone Sax valued at \$2,000.00.

It is recommended that the Board accept all these generous gifts and a letter of thanks and appreciation to be sent to the donor.

Discussion None
Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

Agenda Item No. K2(3)
Subject: 3. Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts

Motion Presented by: Guy Buzzannco
Motion Seconded by: Richard Beland

Text of Motion: To approve Ms. Carol Gilbert's donation of the following items to the Watertown Music Program:

- a.) Soprano and alto recorders valued at \$64.00,
- b.) Len-on Tenor recorder valued at \$600.00,
- c.) Len-on Bass recorder valued at \$1,800.00,
- d.) Rolling lamb's-wool case valued at \$200.00,
- e.) Extensive music and CD collection valued at \$2,000.00.

It is recommended that the Board accept all these generous gifts and a letter of thanks and appreciation to be sent to the donor.

Discussion None
Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

Agenda Item No. K2(4).
Subject: 4. Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts

Motion Presented by: Guy Buzzannco
Motion Seconded by: Richard Beland

Text of Motion: To approve The Oakville-Watertown Youth Athletic Association donation of \$800.00 to the Watertown Public Schools. This money was

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generated from the concession profits from the Watertown Football Program's home games for the 2011 season.

It is recommended that the Board accept this generous gift and a letter of thanks and appreciation to be sent to the donor.

Discussion None
Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

Agenda Item No. K2(5).
Subject: 5. Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts

Motion Presented by: Guy Buzzannco
Motion Seconded by: Richard Beland

Text of Motion: To approve The Swift Leo Club's donation of \$150.00 to Swift Middle School to support an eighth grade student in need of assistance to attend Swift's yearly educational Washington, D.C. trip.

It is recommended that the Board accept this generous gift and a letter of thanks and appreciation to be sent to the donor.

Discussion None
Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

Agenda Item No. K2(6).
Subject: 6. Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts

Motion Presented by: Guy Buzzannco
Motion Seconded by: Richard Beland

Text of Motion: To approve The Swift Leo Club's donation of \$100.00 to Swift Middle School to be used to purchase CMT tee shirts.

It is recommended that the Board accept this generous gift and a letter of thanks and appreciation to be sent to the donor.

Discussion None
Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

Agenda Item No. K2(7).
Subject: 7. Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts

Motion Presented by: Guy Buzzannco
Motion Seconded by: Richard Beland

Text of Motion: To approve Mr. Kristian Kuegler and Mrs. Mary Lou Kuegler's donation of \$25.00 to the CARE program at Watertown High School.

It is recommended that the Board accept this generous gift and a letter of

thanks and appreciation to be sent to the donors.

Discussion	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion approved unanimously.

L. Future Agenda Items and Board Members' Comments

Guy Buzzannco - Mr. Geary, I hope we have another opportunity to have a more formal and appropriate recognition and farewell to you before your official day of departure, but because we discussed it this evening, I would just like to make a few comments about how lucky Manchester is because we know how lucky we were here. In the past few moments, I was just sitting here and was able to recall what you have done for our students and what you have done for our entire school system. To be placed on the list of ten most improved schools in the State of Connecticut for our CAPT scores improvement last year is a remarkable achievement in and of itself. The fact that you shepherd us through a very challenging effort to remove the warnings status from our last accreditation by focusing on hearing element of the educational experience and extracurricular activities and infrastructure and providing programs is a remarkable achievement from what you started with and your leadership is just outstanding. Not only did you focus of course on the improvements of our instructional package for the CAPT 10 scores increase but you also put a premium on character development and fortunately, I was able to work with you on the Red Rubber Ball experience and you worked hard on each of the three different seminars. You are so inspiring, the children are so uplifted by that and so fired up. You really have a way of connecting with children in so many ways. We really appreciate that and we will miss you terribly and we wish you all the best in Manchester.

Sean Butterly - I would just like to briefly echo the thoughts of my colleague and, ultimately, Guy did summarize what you have done, but I also want to say that in Manchester, one of my favorite people in education Budget Director, Pat Brooks is going to get a real gem to work with, but I know that together with both of your levels of education in kids and you are also thinking of creative things to do in this era, you are going to do great things and don't forget us here in Watertown, you are always welcome to come back and see us and we thank you.

Thomas Lambert - I would like to say something about Mr. Geary. I know when I was with Mr. Geary at the festival, I was getting a little sick and tired of the students coming up and addressing Mr. Geary all the time and by his first name. I don't know about you, but when I went to high school, I didn't want to go anywhere near the Principal. So, that really says something about you Matt and I think you are going to miss these students here at Watertown. I know you will and I know they'll miss you which is more important in the long run and you've done a great job with these students. On a personal note, it really shows. Thank you very much.

Susan McCabe - I would like to also say Matt, I enjoyed serving on the Curriculum Committee with you. You were great from teacher to teacher. You know I really have a, for a young guy, you are pretty remarkable and we are really going to miss you and best of luck.

Eric Berthel - Matt, I would just add my comments as the newest member of the Board here tonight. Thank you for helping me to understand some of the curriculum work and best of luck to you in Manchester.

Richard Beland - Mr. Geary, I would like to thank you actually for, on top of whatever everybody else has said, for starting the actual ball rolling again for the Wall of Honor.

M. Public Participation

Matthew Geary - Just briefly, my seven years here in Watertown have just been tremendously rewarding. I am very proud of all the progress that we have made together. I think achievement has increased across the board thanks to sort of new and various instructional strategies in classrooms. School climate is better and I think teachers and students make strong connections across disciplines. Certainly, we have been able to complete the three year construction project which was exciting to be a part of. All of the warnings from

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NEASC are removed at this point. So, I am very proud that Watertown High is well positioned to move forward. All of you nicely thanked me and I wanted to take few minutes to thank some people without whom

this work doesn't get done. First, as a result of the NEASC warnings, I had an opportunity to spend a great deal of time with some curriculum instructions Subcommittee Members. People like Gina Calabrese and Mary Dzioba and Kevin Killeen and Mrs. McCabe, who without their support would not have been able to transform curriculum instruction at the high school which we have been able to do. Also, I spent most of my time here working for two Superintendents, Phil Pelosi, who was always tremendously supportive of my work. Really dedicated and innovative himself, Dr. Pelosi essentially ignored my age when a lot of people would not have done so and supported my candidacy for high school principal and that allowed me the freedom to innovate, solve problems and he always lent a thoughtful ear whenever I needed it. The second Superintendent I worked for, for the most part, was Karen Baldwin from whom I learned a great deal about the whole system reform. Karen was a tireless worker with a strong moral compass and always encouraged me to think deeply about the steps necessary to create organizational change and always for the interest of kids first and I hope that Karen is proud of all the work that we did here. I have only gotten to work with Mark Winzler and Dr. Gilmore briefly, but also appreciated their effort. Administrators in general in Watertown work countless hours trying to make a difference and I am very thankful that I have been able to be a part of the administrative team here. I have always enjoyed strong support from Dr. Collin and Mrs. Clancy, who take all the challenges we encounter with optimism, enthusiasm and balanced energy. Although, they don't work directly with the students, their work ensures that students are challenged every single day here and they attend clean, safe and caring schools and so I am really appreciative of them. Also, I appreciate my administrative colleagues, specifically, Marylu Lerz who I worked closely with in terms of making transitions smooth from Grades 8 to 9 and Laura Meka who took really good care of my kids in summer school at the high school age. My teaching staff, department chairs, secretarial staff Jean Creem who has been sort of my right hand here. Things don't get accomplished without those people and just finally my two exceptional Assistant Principals Marc Balanda and Monica Kreuzer who have really been partners in the work, both outstanding leaders with bright futures and gave 110% every single day. I am especially appreciative of your appreciation and I wanted to make sure I thanked all of the people who were able to support my work here. So thank you very much.

Agenda Item No.
Subject:

N.
Adjournment 5:40 p.m.

Motion Presented by:
Motion Seconded by:

Eric Berthel
Richard Beland

Text of Motion:
Discussion
Opposed:
Abstained:
Vote:

None
None
None
None
Motion approved unanimously.

Submitted By:

Eric Berthel
Board Secretary

Deborah Jacobs,
Board Secretary