

**MINUTES
WATERTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

Meeting Date: April 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. Richard Beland
Ms. Susan McCabe
Mr. Guy Buzzannco
Atty. Sean Butterly
Mr. David Guerrero
Mr. Raymond Nardella
Mr. Eric Berthel

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
Mr. Fran Serratore, Interim Principal of W.H.S. 4/23/2012
Ms. Fran Palmer, WEA Representative
Other interested guests

A. Convene Regular Meeting - 7:30 PM

Mr. Richard Mazzamaro, Board Chair, convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

B. Salute to the Flag

Mr. Richard Mazzamaro, Board Chair, led the salute to the flag.

C. Watertown Public Schools' Mission Statement—Raymond 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.

D. Recognition

Richard Mazzamaro – Tonight the Watertown Board of Education wishes to recognize the Watertown High School's Girls' Varsity Cheerleading Team for winning the 2011-2012 Class L State Champions and with that I will have Dr. Gilmore introduce the coaching staff and the cheerleaders.

Dr. Gilmore - Thank you Mr. Mazzamaro. On behalf of the Board of Education and myself, we are so very proud of you. You have really brought such great distinction to Watertown High School and most importantly to our community. Thank you to each and every one of you for your athleticism and your

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spirit because you truly have risen all of us in Watertown to be the very best wonderful athletes, and so we would like to acknowledge their coaches and every wonderful cheerleader as well. So if the coaches would please join us at the podium with Mr. Mazzamaro and myself.

Sean Butterly –Mr. Chairman as you walk up, I just want to make a comment. We had our salute, but Ms. Fusco, I just saw before the meeting, what a great way to start the greatest high school game I ever saw, the Brookfield game, that tournament game we were all so luck to see and have her sing a wonderful version of the national anthem. All your other skills are amazing you guys have, but that was just another thing that made you guys special. My wife was a co-captain of the 69 team and she was very excited and she wanted me to say that to the whole squad.

Dr. Gilmore-Thank you Mr. Butterly, and we are so excited to present to our wonderful coaches a special certificate for their hard work and dedication to our wonderful cheerleaders. Would you please give a nice round of applause for Sherry Cosmos, and Rachael was not able to make it this evening. Rachael LaFlamme, we certainly want to acknowledge her excellent work and please acknowledge a wonderful coach, Judith Gentile and please acknowledge Miranda Weidemier.

The 2011-2012 Girls' Varsity Cheerleading Team is coached by:
Sherry Cosmos
Rachael LaFlamme
Judith Gentile (choreographer)
Miranda Weidemier (assistant)

Coach Cosmos presents the certificates to the girls

The 2011-2012 Girls' Varsity Cheerleading Team is comprised of:
Hannah Caron
Jenna Carpino
Karli Fisher
Allison Frenette
Alaina Fusco
Connor Kinzly
Juliana LaFreniere
Angelica Lee
Jade Lynn
Kristin Mabry
Micaela Mastrofrancesco
Jordyn McClary
Samantha McQueenie
Brianna Meka
Brooke Pavao
Vittoria Perugini
Carolina Polanco
Erica Polanco
Marisa Rinaldi
Jessica Semeraro
Catherine Seres
Amanda Stango

On behalf of the Watertown Cheerleaders, we thank you for this honor and recognition. Have a good evening.

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Richard Mazzamaro – The Board of Education wanted to present the coaching staff with this plaque which I will read. In recognition of the Watertown High School Girls' Varsity Cheerleading Team 2011-2012 Class L State Champions presented by the Watertown Board of Education April 9, 2012.

Dr. Gilmore-If all of the athletes can come up in the front for photos with our wonderful coaches.

Meeting recessed for photos at 7:37 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

E. Report from Student Council Representative – Sage Davino

Hi Everyone. I am going to apologize, I forgot my notes because I had to do a thing before this, so I just wrote them really quickly down, I hope I didn't miss anything.

Last week on April 4, 2012, the Tri State Music Honor Society held a Battle of the Bands in the gym and the student's bands competed with each other in front of a band of judges or teachers. All the proceeds went to their fundraising and it was a good time. I went because my friend was in it. It was a lot of fun.

Tomorrow, there is the Pop Concert for Coral Springs and Band and it's their spring concert where they show off what they've learned for the year. It's their last concert, the spring one, so it's going to be tomorrow at 7:00 in the auditorium, and on Wednesday, students are going to be leaving for their Italy trip. A group of students that were chosen and went for passports and documents and all of that are leaving to go to Italy in six weeks with the teacher chaperon Don Miller and a couple other teacher chaperons to make sure everything is under control and, hopefully, they'll be having fun on their spring break, and that's all I have.

F. Public Participation

Fran Palmer, 220 Middlebury Road – Tonight I am speaking as a teacher from Swift. I was very relieved to see under one of the action items, one single session day on Monday, June 18. While discussing this action, I would hope that you consider three single sessions day instead of just one. At the end of the year teachers are expected to complete many tasks. Three single session days will enable us to do these tasks more efficiently. Thank you.

I am not accustomed to public speaking, Marsha Ranko, I am here on behalf of my son in law, Dane Street, who is facing a real dilemma. He is your Athletic Director. He loves this school. He loves the kids, but he can't make do with the salary, and I don't know if there is any hope of him staying here. It will be a great loss.

Richard Mazzamaro - This is a personnel matter, we couldn't discuss it completely.

Marsha Ranko - I'm just here to speak for him. 636 Platt, Watertown

Marco Ranko - It's public speaking correct?

Richard Mazzamaro-Yes

Marco Ranko-Platt Road and Dane is also my son in law and I am not looking to debate or discuss, but may I say my two cents on this? I am saddened that our Town is going to be losing this wonderful

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man, and I know you all feel that way also. I also know, and my wife may not agree with me on this, I have to imagine that your hands are tied, there's not much that can be done, but you are truly losing a marvelous person here.

Richard Mazzamaro – Thank you, and we will agree. Is there anyone else who would like to address the Board this evening?

G. Committee Reports:

1. Student Programs and Services – Richard Beland-No Report this evening.
2. Curriculum and Instruction Committee – Eric Berthel-No Report this evening
3. Policy and Labor Committee – Guy Buzzannco –

Yes, Mr. Chairman, the Policy and Labor Committee met earlier this evening. The Superintendent brought forward some revisions and improvements in policies that relate to health and safety of our students, our staff, our teachers and public. Policies that relate to smoking and tobacco use, loitering and causing disturbances on school property, skate boards and roller blade use on school property and animal and pets on school property. The Policy and Labor Committee approved these recommendations and they will move to be featured at a full Board of Ed meeting.

4. Budget, Finance and Operations Committee – Guy Buzzannco-No Report this evening Mr. Chairman

5. Facilities/PBC/Operations Committee – Thomas Lambert

Yes Mr. Chairman, the Facilities Committee has been and will be moving forward with warranty issues and issues moving forward with finishing up with our buildings and we want to pay strict attention to all of the warranty issues that are going on so we can get them wrapped up and have them resolved.

6. Governance and Community Engagement Committee – Eric Berthel-No Report Mr. Chairman

H. Communications - Secretary –Eric Berthel – Mr. Chairman, I think probably all of the Board Members received some communication from the Memorial Day Parade Committee from the Watertown Oakville Veteran's Council. Traditionally, the counsel has invited the Board of Ed along with other departments and Town Council to march in the parade. I realize this is a personal thing for Board Members who may have other commitments, but I think we should make an effort, if we can, to get some folks to march in that parade. So, if you have received one of these and if you are interested, then go ahead and send them back.

Richard Mazzamaro – It is a nice way to get to see the public and generally hand out some candy, and join the parade as well.

Agenda Item No.	I.1.
Subject:	Minutes
Motion Presented by:	Eric Berthel
Motion Seconded by:	Thomas Lambert
Text of Motion:	Regular Board of Education Meeting – March 12, 2012 (Tabled March 26, 2012 To approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting, March 12, 2012

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Discussion: Richard Mazzamaro- One thing for discussion about the Minutes is the time. The time was 5:00 p.m. the Minutes reflected the meeting convened at 7:30 p.m.
Eric Bethel – So we will make that correction and move for acceptance.
Richard Mazzamaro – Yes
Dr. Gilmore – Correction noted.

Opposed: None
Abstained: 3
Vote: 6-0-3 Motion approved.

Agenda Item No. I.2.
Subject: Minutes

Motion Presented by: Eric Berthel
Motion Seconded by: Thomas Lambert

Text of Motion: To approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting, March 26, 2012

Discussion: David Guerrero-Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if we could put a little note in there that some of the Board Members were attending the Town Council Meeting and were excused from that or just wanted to put that in and make a note that we were there on behalf of the Board of Education.

Eric Berthel-Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Minutes reflect, and Dave I think your name needs to be added to that, there was a comment in the Minutes that Guy you were not there but we can edit that to add your name. With that correction we can move to accept the minutes.

Opposed: None
Abstained: 3
Vote: 6-0-3 Motion approved.

J. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report

Dr. Gilmore – Thank you Mr. Mazzamaro and Good Evening Board of Education Members and our community. Tonight I am very pleased to introduce our new distinguished appointment as the Interim Principal of Watertown High School. Our educational leader has served as the Naugatuck High School Principal for four years, retiring just this past year 2012. He has served as a Middle School Principal for fifteen years and he holds a BS and MS in Physical Education from Southern Connecticut State University and a six year degree in Supervision and Leadership who loves working with the students and staff and looks forward to visiting Watertown High School tomorrow and Wednesday to visit students, classrooms and teachers, and he will begin as Interim Principal on April 23, 2012. Would you please welcome to our Instruction Leadership Team, Mr. Fran Serratore.

Fran Serratore-I am very excited to be at Watertown with Mark and Monica and Mr. Geary, and I have some familiarity with Watertown. I've been in Naugatuck and met last year twice with Town leaders and Department Heads (*inaudible)

I have a lot of respect for Dr. Gilmore, she worked for a time in Bristol, and I'm from Bristol and I am 5

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familiar with her and will enjoy being part of making an easy transition for permanent appointment.

1. Appointments – (Information Only)

- a.) Mr. Warren Campbell to the position of Administrator of the Investment and Personal Finance Education Grant for the 2011-2012 school year at a stipend of \$1,250.00 which is included in the grant proposal.
- b.) Ms. Chryll Beliveau to the position of 2012 Summer School Lead Teacher K-5 Title 1 Summer School & Summer LEAD Program at the stipend of \$3,750.00 payable from the Title 1 Basic Grant.
- c.) Ms. Laura Meka to the position of Grades 6-12 Summer School Director for the 2012 Summer School at Watertown High School/Swift Middle School at the stipend of \$3,750.00.
- d.) Ms. Maria Marcal to the position of Paraprofessional (cafeteria) at Polk School effective April 2, 2012, at the hourly rate of \$12.85 for 7.5 weekly hours.
- e.) Ms. Kelly Pannofino to the position of General Cafeteria Worker at Swift Middle School effective March 19, 2012, M-F, at the hourly rate of \$11.52.
- f.) Mr. Francis Serratore to the position of Interim Principal of Watertown High School, effective approximately April 23, 2012, through the end of the 2011-2012 school year, at the per diem rate of \$572.85.
- g.) Mr. Gary LeMay to the position of Group Leader at John Trumbull Primary School, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, effective March 19, 2012, in accordance with Article XII, Section 1.a. of the Working Agreement between the Watertown Board of Education and Local 1049, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, at the hourly rate of \$21.86.

2. Wall of Honor

The Watertown Board of Education is currently seeking nominations for the Watertown High School Wall of Honor. The purpose of the Wall of Honor is to recognize those individuals that have brought distinction to Watertown High School and the community through their commitment to excellence. To be nominated to the Wall of Honor, a candidate must have graduated from Watertown High School at least 10 years prior to the year of induction and consistently demonstrated the highest standards of excellence and honor in his or her chosen vocation. Award recipients will be chosen from the fields of Athletics, Business/Finance, Fine/Performing Arts, Education, health/Medical Services, Government/Public Service, and Science/Technology. Nomination Forms can be found on the district's website at www.watertownps.org. The completed nomination forms must be received in the district offices no later than April 15, 2012.

3. 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. Monica Kreuzer, Assistant Principal, Watertown High School, will present on the school's implementation of a system of Positive Behavioral Supports known as DREAM.

The one thing I must say before Monica speaks to you specifically about the High School

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program is the concept of the positive behavioral supports are really starting to take hold across the state and across the country and it is a different approach from our previous practices when the rules were posted and the rules were enforced and that was sort of the end of the story. Positive behavioral support is much more than that. It is about the explicit instruction of the expectations and acknowledging the students when they actually exhibit those expectations, and that is far more powerful and far more effective.

Monica Kreuzer-Thank you. When you think PBS, you think Public Broadcasting System or Station and we're here to clear up that. It's Positive Behavioral Support, and if you look at the handout I gave you, when you think about PBS, it's more pro-active than reactive and there are four elements when you look at that.

First off, three years ago, when I was still a teacher here in Watertown, Mr. Geary had our PD and we sat at the faculty and said, you know, we're coming up with an idea of what should happen here in the auditorium, in the classroom, in the hallways, in the library, in the laboratories, and he didn't just say here's the rules, he said why don't we do this as a community, what do you expect and we took in everyone's information. So that was in 2008-2009 and we developed what we thought DREAM should stand for and when we say DREAM, we are referring to our DREAM Grid, which we will look at in a second.

So when you look at PBS, there is a lot of, what's the big outcome. We ultimately want kids to regulate themselves and manage their impulses and their behaviors and they don't always come to us that way and we need to educate them and help them and assist them to maybe learn the best behavior when they come here. So it happens in an environment here at the High School. Some other theories about PBS is it all has to do with what's happening in the classroom so we want to start with good quality instruction. We also want to be pro-active rather than reactive like I said. We want to teach them appropriate behaviors and I think that's where we can probably, as a system, as he was just saying, get better at that. We don't always know how to teach the behavior and I think that's one place we can start to improve, and we're always looking at data.

So, when we first started off, when you look at this, there's data, there's practices and systems and ultimately, we want kids to increase their achievement, increase our positive school climate and it ties in with our school wide goals. So if you look on the paper and talk about the two goals this year about school climate and all of our current programs that we use, administration, faculty and staff will work together to continue the current WIST, which is the Watertown Intervention Team Process in order to identify students who are struggling academically or behaviorally, and we have some certain things that are there: Guided Study Hall, Peer Mentoring, Teaching Assistant, SHAPE, Flex, and these little words, they might sound like weird little words, Flex, SHAPE, but they are all Tiered Interventions, because at first we have grade common core curriculum, we have best practice strategies that we have taught teachers or hope to be improved with a little PD and then they move on, get more specialized with kids who might have other certain problems, and we are being pro-active again rather than reactive. Maybe put this kid in a guided study hall this year or perhaps this isn't working out for him, maybe he needs to be in a more individualized class, so as we move up and flip over to the next page there's tiered instruction.

Another thing with our school climate, school climate to be improved through the implementation of DREAMS and we wanted everybody to buy into this so that in 2009 when we started the PD, the last page the orange page, if you look at the DREAM Grid, we demonstrate determination, we respect ourselves and others, we expect excellence, we accept responsibility and we make good choices, DREAM, and so what does that look like in a classroom, what does it look like in a study hall, what does it look like in the library or media center, hallways, bathrooms, cafeteria, assemblies and before and after school, and so the

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faculty came up with, and we as a team, developed this. I think also one of our first advisory sessions, the kids had input on this and then we compiled it all to make one overall DREAM Grid and then we got posters and made lovely posters so these were up in the classroom, what DREAM represents, what you would be doing, what good behavior is there in Study Hall, assemblies, before and after school, bathrooms, you get the idea.

We also had bracelets on my arm, I look like I got a lot of bracelets here, but first Mr. Geary had us achieve our potential, then he had us DREAM and then we had to DREAM big and now this year, we are DREAM it or do it, so pretty soon we'll have a full arm, all of this tying into PBS and we also then did DREAM Assemblies which included a little bit of knock out basketball, then searching through eggs, finding the letters dream and the first people who did that either got prom tickets or movie tickets, and then there's also DREAM dollars if you've heard about DREAM dollars. We had to put Mr. Geary on the last DREAM dollars so you'll all get a DREAM dollar for your reward and your positive feedback.

I just wanted to go back to that Tiered Intervention. When you look at the tiers, obviously, the entire school system, everyone is aware of the DREAM Grid. Tier One -We had DREAM Assemblies, the Truth about Hate, Rachel's Challenge, Advisory, Flex, What's Your Red Rubber Ball this year, Common Curriculum, Best Practice Instruction and Super Senior Dinner. Many kids will come into my office and say please don't give me detention because I want to go to the Super Senior Dinner, but they really enjoy coming to that and having the faculty serve them and it really curves some of their behavior. It's quite amazing. As we move up the Tier, it is a little more specialized; students who are in Shape, which is a self-help kind of program. Guided Study and Mentoring Center, that's new this year and is really a great program and then we get up to Tier three. We have Individualized Student Support classes and After School Alternative. So as you move up, there are less children but really kids who have a great need for us and I think that's it. Do you have any questions?

Guy Buzzannco-One quick question. Thank you for this excellent presentation. I've witnessed some of these activities first hand too and I can see that they contribute to a very positive climate and appreciate all your efforts. Is there a sense that there's a moving toward fulfilling a goal of improving school climate with the reduction of some of the measurable attributes surrounding these times.

Monica Kreuzer-Right, we've looked at the data last year and this year. I think in the beginning we were just more consistent. That's just one of the parts of how the behavior support system is where everyone is more consistent across the board, so numbers might have gone up initially but we're seeing a reduction.

Guy Buzzannco-Is there a sense that you need to or considering assessing student perception, any sense that you need to go back and say to students are you feeling like this is a safe or more positive climate now as well.

Monica Kreuzer-We have school surveys for students and staff. We also have students who are on our DREAM Team if you will who are a part of the decision making process. Believe me some of them were not into it at the beginning. Why should he get rewarded for coming to class when I come to class always, but people are brought in, and I'm glad you brought that up. Mr. Balanda got an email just recently and actually I brought it with me. It was a student, she wanted to do a fundraiser for someone who had passed away and she said at the end, "being a Watertown High School graduate, I now understand the DREAM program and how important it is to be ambitious and aspire to achieve your goals". So here is a former student who is looking back at it and she was in at the initial phases so she didn't get the DREAM Assembly.

Guy Buzzannco-Thank you.

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Dr. Gilmore-I certainly appreciate the work you have done with the Administration and our Teachers and Staff to help each and every student, so thank you very, very much for this great presentation. Thank you.

K. Report from the Chairman

Richard Mazzamaro –First, I would like to begin on behalf of the Board and welcome Mr. Serratore to the Watertown High School and, secondly, I just wanted to remind Board Members that there will be an Executive Session at our next meeting to review the current goals of the Watertown Board of Education. If you would, each Board Member be prepared for the Executive Session with one or two goals that we can discuss and what we intend to do at that Executive Session we wanted to add a couple of those goals to the existing goals, that's what we would like to do. So there will be that session at our April 23rd meeting. Thank you.

Agenda Item No.	L.1a.
Subject:	1. <u>Consideration of the Approval of High School and Middle School Graduation Dates</u>
Motion Presented by:	Raymond Nardella
Motion Seconded by:	Eric Berthel
Text of Motion:	a.) It is recommended that the Board vote to approve of Friday, June 15, 2012 as the date for graduation exercises for the Watertown High School Class of 2012. Because we have used one inclement weather day for closing schools since the 2011-2012 school year calendar revision on November 28, 2011, it would bring the last day of school for the 2011-2012 school year to Monday, June 18, 2012.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion approved unanimously.

Agenda Item No.	L.1b.
Subject:	1. <u>Consideration of the Approval of High School and Middle School Graduation Dates</u>
Motion Presented by:	Thomas Lambert
Motion Seconded by:	Raymond Nardella
Text of Motion:	b.) It is recommended that the Board vote to approve of Monday, June 18, 2012, as the graduation ceremony date for Swift Middle School.

Because we have used one inclement weather day for closing schools since the 2011-2012 school year calendar revision on November 28, 2011, it would bring the last day of school for the 2011-2012 school year to Monday, June 18, 2012.

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

Agenda Item No. L.1c.
Subject: 1. Consideration of the Approval of High School and Middle School Graduation Dates

Motion Presented by: Eric Berthel
Motion Seconded by: Thomas Lambert

Text of Motion: c.) It is recommended that June 18, 2012 would be an early dismissal day (single session) for the school system.

Discussion Because we have used one inclement weather day for closing schools since the 2011-2012 school year calendar revision on November 28, 2011, it would bring the last day of school for the 2011-2012 school year to Monday, June 18, 2012.

David Guerrero – Mr. Chairman, I would like to honor Ms. Palmer’s request. Would that be a separate issue? How do we discuss that? She had brought up that she would like to have three single sessions. So I am wondering, how we address that? Should we have some debate on that or should we bring in another action item?

Richard Mazzamaro – I think what I would like to do is have the Superintendent address the scheduling for that.

Dr. Gilmore – What I would like to do is to vote on what we have in front of us this evening and then I will certainly be talking to WEA in regards to that.

Guy Buzzannco – To that point, Mr. Guerrero is asking for some discussion or rational or why we are having one half day session. Is there any information we can share relative to the recommendation of having one ½ day? (inaudible)

Dr. Gilmore-Yes, we did discuss this in our cabinet meeting in regards to previous school years and there was a rational and a verification for that and we felt that having a ½ day session is in sequence with last year and so we are just providing that again for this year, the ½ day session.

Guy Buzzannco – I think last year we did multiple half days.

(some back and forth discussion amongst the members and Dr. Collin were inaudible)

Susan McCabe – Can I add that despite the fact that graduations are on Friday for the High School, everybody went full days.

More inaudible discussions between the Board Members and Dr. Collin.

Susan McCabe –Is the High School still in exams at that point?

Dr. Collin – No, they are separate.

Sean Butterly – There is a more substantial half day for the High School, right Mr. Chairman?

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The High School has a separate and distinct and they have more exam days than ½ days. Correct? In my district in Hamden that's what they do. So I guess they are asking that maybe there could be some consideration for having more ½ days at Swift. Do they have a similar exam day at Swift?

Dr. Collin-No

Guy Buzzannco-We can modify the schedule for the High School proposed later.

Richard Mazzamaro-Any further discussion? Dave, did that answer your question?

David Guerrera-Yes, I think it would be good to vote on this today. I'm going to go with it, but I think we should have some discussion about the proposed two extra days and then if it is appropriate we bring it up as an action item at a future meeting, but it might be good to discuss that. I don't know what the benefits are or the disadvantages, so we can discuss that later. Thank you.

Eric Berthel-Dr. Gilmore, is there an easy way to obtain a rational for change or is it something too complicated for the purpose of our meeting, because I understand we did have, I think, three years ago, it was five ½ days and then we went to three, so I don't know if now is the time to discuss it or not.

Dr. Gilmore-I certainly can provide that in the pipeline on Friday, but the rational is always about instructional practices and this schedule is identical to the one last year and it was successful

Opposed: None
Abstained: 1 (Sue McCabe)
Vote: 8-0-1 Motion approved.

Agenda Item No. L.2.1.
Subject: 2. Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts

Motion Presented by: Guy Buzzannco
Motion Seconded by: Raymond Nardella

Text of Motion: 1. To approve the donation of \$629.00 from Mrs. Phyllis West, in memory of Mr. Jerry L. West, to the Music Department in the Watertown Public Schools. This donation will be used to cover the purchase price of an Amadeus Bass Outfit which includes the bass, bow, and case and the shipping charges.

It is recommended that the Board accept 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. L.2.2.
Subject: 2. Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts

Motion Presented by: Guy Buzzannco
Motion Seconded by: Raymond Nardella

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Text of Motion: 2. To approve The Watertown Foundation's donation of a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Watertown High School to be used for the sound system for the high school play.

It is recommended that the Board accept 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. L.3.
Subject: 3. Consideration of the Approval of Family Medical Leave of Absence

Motion Presented by: Thomas Lambert
Motion Seconded by: Eric Berthel

Text of Motion: Ms. Lydia McCarthy, grade 2 teacher at John Trumbull Primary School, requests a childbearing leave of absence, under the Family Medical Leave Act, commencing June 11, 2012, until the close of the 2011-2012 school year with use of accumulated sick days and a medical note to return.

It is recommended that the Board approve of a childbearing leave of absence, under the Family Medical Leave Act, for Ms. Lydia McCarthy, grade 2 teacher at John Trumbull Primary School, commencing June 11, 2012 until the close of the 2011-2012 school with use of accumulated sick days and a medical note to return.

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

M. Future Agenda Items and Board Members' Comments

David Guerrero-Just wanted to make an announcement. This Thursday Town Council is having their Public Hearing, 7:00 p.m. at Swift Middle School Auditorium. I encourage everyone to come, teachers, faculty, residents; you know, come make your voice heard and voice your opinion. I think we're moving forward and this is the last approval process so please do come, 7:00 p.m. on Thursday at Swift Middle School Auditorium.

Richard Mazamaro-Thank you, that's very important. Any other comments?

Thomas Lambert-Just quickly, looking back at the cheerleaders today receiving their awards. I can't help but thinking the parents behind those cheerleaders, they should be commended also. Many, many ours of driving them and going to different meets and being here at practice and volunteering. Behind every good sportsman, cheerleader, academic student are the parents, they are the backbone and we should celebrate them also. Thank you.

Guy Buzzannco – I have a comment. I want to thank Mrs. Clancy for another internal achievement that being the State of Connecticut evaluates and investigates every four years our School Cafeteria 12

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program to make sure we are in compliance with various regulations, district policies, civil rights compliance, and other compliances. Our investigation by the State was conducted last week at Polk Elementary School and Mrs. Clancy has shared with us that the evaluator said in part that she wished all the evaluations were this good and that the overall results were excellent and that the district should be commended for a job well done. So on behalf of the Board, we want to congratulate you and we share our congratulations with all the managers and cafeteria workers who care so much about our children.

We should also recognize, encourage and support our Team 237 Robotics Team who competed with students out of town. Two weeks ago Team 237 competed in a New England Regional Competition in Hartford and qualified to compete in the next level, an international competition in St. Louis at the end of this month. So we congratulate those students involved and the teachers who support them and the sponsors who contribute financially and who make that all possible and we wish them the best of luck.

Richard Mazzamaro –That is one outstanding program. I would be remiss also; I believe this is Mr. Geary's last Board Meeting. I sat hear when we first decided we had to promote him to principal because there were rumors that he was going to move on and wanted to be a principal and we absolutely had to be in Watertown and you've done an outstanding job at Watertown High School. When you first took over, we had NEASC trouble, the curriculum needed some work to say the least and Matt has done an outstanding job and I want to thank you for your service and I really wish you well in your new endeavor. Matt has also helped my family in a decision we were trying to make and took time out after school, and I really wanted to say thank you.

Dr. Gilmore-On behalf of all of us, Matt Geary, you know that you have been our shining star and we know you will continue shining in Manchester. Thank you so much for your commitment and dedication to our students here.

Sean Butterly-I feel kind of bad for Manchester, you know my friend Pat Brooks is up there Mr. Geary, but it looks like the Naugatuck baseball team spanked them the other day, if I heard that right. That means you have to come back to the Valley now with a strong baseball team. Good luck seriously, you did a wonderful job. Thank you.

N. Public Participation -None


Agenda Item No.	O.
Subject:	Adjournment 8:18 p.m.
Motion Presented by:	Raymond Nardella
Motion Seconded by:	Eric Berthel
Text of Motion:	None
Discussion	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Berthel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Berthel" clearly distinguishable.

Eric Berthel
Board Secretary

Deborah Jacobs
Minutes Secretary