

**WATERTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Meeting Date: April 23, 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. Guy Buzzannco
Mr. Richard Beland
Ms. Susan McCabe
Atty. Sean Butterly
Mr. Raymond Nardella
Mr. David Guerrera

Others Present: Dr. Gail Gilmore, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. James Collin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Sage Davino, Student Council Representative
Mr. Fran Serratore, Interim Principal of Watertown High School
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 - Guy Buzzannco

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 - Hello Everyone.

- Before spring break, Watertown High School said their last goodbye to Mr. Geary. On April 14th, Mr. Geary gave a formal goodbye to the senior class in a special assembly. Mr. Balanda made an announcement for the school, giving a speech and good luck to the principal. The senior class also gave their goodbyes with a sign at the front of the school and special notes on post it notes that covered his car on his last day. The school wishes him luck in Manchester.
- Today was Mr. Serratore's first day at the high school. He visited all of the 9th and 10th grade English classes and had special assemblies with the junior and senior classes to formally introduce himself. Students and teachers welcomed him and hope he will feel comfortable at

WHS for the next two months.

- On Thursday, April 26th, the high school's Robotics Team will compete in the St. Louis Championship. They will be competing until the 29th.
- The Junior Variety Show will be held on Thursday, May 3rd in the high school auditorium. Students with any special talent are encouraged to show them off to their peers.

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
The Police and Labor Committee brings forward the first reading tonight of three policies relating to student safety, health and well-being.
4. Budget, Finance and Operations Committee – Guy Buzzannco-None
5. Facilities/PBC/Operations Committee – Thomas Lambert
Today, we had a walk through of Watertown High School because we had some ongoing maintenance items that we had our committee look at. Also, we had a Facilities PBC and Operations Committee meeting today and our discussion surrounded facility upkeep of the district of all our buildings and the constant attention we are paying to keep these facilities in tip top shape.
6. Governance and Community Engagement Committee – Eric Berthel-None

G. Communications - Secretary – Eric Berthel-None

Agenda Item No.	H.
Subject:	Minutes
Motion Presented by:	Eric Berthel
Motion Seconded by:	Raymond Nardella
Text of Motion:	To approve the minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting, April 9, 2012
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion passed unanimously.

I. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report

Dr. Gilmore-Thank you Mr. Mazzamaro and Good Evening Board of Education Members and of our community that is here this evening. I would like to begin by welcoming our students and staff back from the April vacation. I am looking forward to visiting all schools and attending the many end of the year achievement celebrations. I am also pleased to announce that Mr. Fran Serratore, who is here this evening, began his position today at the High School as our Interim Principal and we wish you well in your leadership.

Our 2012-2013 Budget was unanimously approved by the Board of Education and the Town Council. Thank you to our Town Manager and the Town Council for their diligence as we work together for the betterment of our community.

I would like to remind our community that our Town Referendum will be held Tuesday, May 15, 2012 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Judson, Polk, Swift School and at the Hemingway Municipal Center. Please do exercise your right to vote on May 15th, and do make a difference for our Town.

The Watertown High School Robotics Team which is called First, which stands For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology did finish sixth overall out of 64 teams from 8 states in Hartford, and this week as Sage mentioned, they are competing in St. Louis and have been invited to share their robots and results with our Board of Education next meeting.

I will be attending the Watertown/Oakville Gold Circle of Sports' 35th Annual Dinner Celebration this week and congratulations to Watertown High School Staff Member Frank Judson as well as Dave Granger and Rich Jacovich for achieving the Gold Ring award, and tonight as Mr. Buzzannco mentioned, we do have a first reading to the Board of Education for three new policies and they are all about safety for our students and community. The first reading is skate boarding, roller blading and other such recreational equipment use policy. The second policy is loitering or causing disturbance and lastly, the third policy, no pets allowed on school property. All of these policies do take into consideration the health safety and well-being of students on school property and I do want to thank the Board of Education's Policy and Labor Committee Members, Chair, Mr. Buzzannco, Mr. Guerrero and Mrs. McCabe for their leadership, and to continue this evening with our focus on instruction best practices at every Board of Education Meeting, I would ask Dr. Collin to please introduce our next presentation.

1. Appointments – (Information Only)

- a.) Mr. Eric Dippelhofer to the position of Cafeteria Custodian, John Trumbull Primary School, First Shift, 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., M-F, starting April 9, 2012, at the hourly rate of \$19.99.
- b.) Ms. Karen Mrowka to the position of Secretary I – Grade II, Main Office at Watertown High School, 7.5 hours paid per day, 0.5 hour unpaid lunch, 11 months per year, effective July 1, 2012, at a salary as per the secretarial contract.

2. 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. Mrs. Kathy Scully, Principal, John Trumbull Primary School, will present on the implementation of Scientific Research Based intervention (SRBI) at J.T.P.S.

Dr. Collin-Thank you Dr. Gilmore, Good Evening Board Members. Today, I would like to introduce Mrs. Kathy Scully to talk to you about SRBI and in particular the challenge to remember is that SRBI, Scientific Research Based Intervention, requires us to design curriculum for all students that makes sure that it meets the needs of all students that 80% of kids will achieve that benchmark standard in their first round of classroom instruction and then we know by design that some kids are going to need more intervention and more specific intervention. The challenge becomes, how do you orchestrate that; how do you make that happen on a data based way and a routine way? Mrs. Scully and her team have done just that through the process called Acceleration Station.

Kathy Scully-In order to fully tell the story, I need to provide a brief history for you on how Acceleration Stations came to be. We needed to address our current practices of providing Scientific Research Based Interventions to support literacy as well as provide enrichment opportunities for our first and second graders. The first thing that needed to happen is that we needed to create a block of time that is common to all our first and second grade classes and this took some very creative scheduling on Mrs. Mecca's part. She is amazing at scheduling so she was given that task actually last summer because we needed it in place in order to move forward this school year. This insured us that every first and second grade teacher as well as every support staff, so that included reading teachers, special ed teachers, school psychologists, speech and language pathologists were available each day from 9:05 to 9:40. Then the real planning began. We already had an

SRBI Team established so this team took on the task of identifying, and in some cases actually creating interventions. The interventions focused on fundamental awareness, phonics, fluency and comprehension. They also established the assessments that would be used to monitor each student's progress and created a referral for teachers to refer students as well as a review process to look at the data at the other end when we're done. They also became the conductors of each intervention or enrichment group. The information was shared with all the staff that were involved and they were asked to participate, Dr. Collin is laughing. We had a kickoff event and with our team Acceleration Stations each conductor was given a certain bandanna, depending on which intervention that they were going to be teaching, and so after the kickoff event, we had to prepare students by practicing transitions from classroom to their stations and then the train left the station for the very first time. A little nervous, you know, 400 students transitioning through hallways, finding new destinations and it was really quite impressive. They did fabulous. The first rotation of Acceleration Stations lasted for six weeks and during that time, intervention and enrichment groups met daily. Data was gathered through the established progress monitoring tools and through benchmark assessment. At the close of six weeks, data review meetings were held where the SRBI Team was gathered, classroom teacher would join the group, interventionists that were providing the intervention were also present and we talked about every first and second grade student. Based on the data, we had decisions that needed to be made. Should the student stay not in the same intervention group, but the same focus intervention group. So, if I was in fluency, but data did not show the progress necessary to come out of fluency, I would remain in fluency with a different interventionist though. So that the intervention would be a bit different. Or was a decision made to move into a different intervention. So, I've got fluency under wraps pretty well, but my comprehension is not where it needs to be so I may move to a comprehensive group; or do I come out of an intervention and into an enrichment group? So, once again new groups were established and the second rotation began.

So, we are currently midway through our next eight week rotation and really the journey has been a smooth one. When we review the data, if we look at Grade 1 students who participated in an intervention group for the first six week rotation, we had 49%. Now we know that that's a high percentage, it is certainly higher than what we would want it to be, but it was our first attempt. I really feel teachers felt like it's an opportunity, maybe some over referrals. You know, maybe we had some students may have been better served in enrichment, but we know now, those numbers are way down. We have 31% in first grade receiving interventions, and in second grade, for the first rotation, we had 35% and that percentage is down to 28%. So some nice changes.

We know we need to look at the current model. We know that this was a huge undertaking and really required input from staff. They needed to now plan for a new set of students. They had to become familiar with new students. So it was an added obligation, commitment, but they certainly stepped up and were willing. So we know we have some things to consider moving forward. How can we make the teacher to student ratio even smaller, because the groups aren't quite really where we wanted them to be? What other interventions could we provide to further support students? How can we better monitor student's progress? Even in those enrichment groups and how can we provide more time for teacher collaboration? Always an issue.

I have to thank the SRBI Team for their dedication and commitment and this was hard work. As well as every teacher and paraprofessional involved, and I am excited and as I mentioned, it was a huge undertaking and I think we've seen some nice results and I am encouraged that as we move forward and we refine our practices even further that we will be able to address the needs of all students.

Any questions?

Thomas Lambert-It sounds like this is a great undertaking. It sounds like there is training both on your end and on the children systems and it sounds like you are involving as you are going along and refining your methods and I guess that's what SRB is all about and it sounds like this program, by the numbers even is starting, you have a great effect on these students. Thank you very much.

Kathy Scully-As Dr. Collin mentioned, we need to be creative on how we were providing interventions. A lot of the responsibility falls on the classroom teacher. This is above and beyond what is happening in Tier I in the core. It really was a way to have specialists available to bring those intervention groups so they're more targeted and more focused and then kind of the added opportunity is we are able to provide enrichment for students that are at and above grade level expectations.

Susan McCabe-Do you foresee, the whole school did this for six weeks, and so how much time lapse was there between first rotation/second rotations.

Kathy Scully-There was probably two weeks Susan. You know, with our data review meetings, we really thought we could bring this out in a day or two. The review meetings as I mentioned talked about every student scheduled every first and second grade teacher had a ½ an hour block where we talked about each student, but then you have to take all of that information and now create new groups and we didn't need as many intervention groups as we did, so we had to recruit a couple of teachers to shift some intervention to enrichment so it was more involved than we anticipated so there was about a two week turnaround time, which isn't so bad.

Susan McCabe-No, I think that is a short amount of time. The whole student body and the whole school would be involved in this program.

Kathy Scully-Right now, it's first and second. We have some other things in place for kindergarten. Kindergarten presents its own challenges with a ½ day program. If I told ½ day kindergarten teachers that I was taking a ½ hour out of their 2 ½ hour day already, so we actually have some push in services going into those classrooms.

Eric Berthel-Mr. Chairman, I have a question and a comment. First of all, is the plan to continue this for next year? Is that on the radar for?

Kathy Scully-Right, it is. We are hoping, as I mentioned, some of the things we know we need to address. You know, those intervention groups right now range from 5 students to 9 or 10. You know, we'd like to even increase that teacher student ratio for Tier III, as you would say. Students that really require almost individualized intervention. But our plan is yes, that we want to continue, but we know we need to modify what we have in place, but this was our first attempt.

Eric Berthel-The comment that I would like to make is that I have a child in second grade who was just so enthusiastic and excited about being a part of this new way of learning and actually would come home and talk about this before anything else that was going on in his school day and I think that that kind of feedback and inflection from any student is pretty powerful and that besides the fact it was novel and new, even after getting close to the end of that first session and his change into the second session still brought the same level of enthusiasm, so congratulations to everyone on a job well done. It is something that obviously has been well thought out and having a good impact on our students.

Guy Buzzannco- I would like to reinforce that. I have a second grader as well. He is rarely vocal about anything besides recess. He really enjoyed the experience and other children have had that same type of feedback and I think that reflects the theme surrounding the whole thing. It's almost earning disguised as fun. I cannot detect in him or the parents that talk to their kids a sense that there were any negative or positive connotations about the experience in either intervention or enrichment so you handle it in a very supportive and exciting way and it seems to have a positive effect.

Dr. Gilmore-Mrs. Scully-You know that I did visit and I loved going into group stations with you and the students are truly engaged and it is having a major impact on our achievement and we certainly at the Board of Education want to thank you and our staff for your commitment and the hard work that you have done and I just wanted to say thank you.

Kathy Scully-Thank you.

Richard Mazzamaro-I just wanted to echo that as well. I remember when this was being discussed and there was a lot of excitement around this and to see it finally come into fruition and actually see it in action so quickly now for the betterment of the students at John Trumbull, you can see yourselves and everyone involved should be commended for a job well done and we want to thank you.

3. Safety: Skateboard/Rollerblade and Other Such Recreational Equipment Use Policy – First Reading

At its meeting on April 9, 2012, the Policy and Labor Committee reviewed the Safety: Skateboard/Rollerblade and Other Such Recreational Equipment Use Policy, and the committee presents this policy to the full Board for the first reading tonight. (Attachment A)

4. Loitering or Causing Disturbance Policy – First Reading

At its meeting on April 9, 2012, the Policy and Labor Committee reviewed the Loitering or Causing Disturbance Policy, and the committee presents this policy to the full Board for the first reading tonight. (Attachment B)

5. No Pets Allowed on School Property Policy – First Reading

At its meeting on April 9, 2012, the Policy and Labor Committee reviewed the No Pets Allowed on School Property Policy, and the committee presents this policy to the full Board for the first reading tonight. (Attachment C)

J. Report from the Chairman -None

Agenda Item Number:	K1.
Subject:	<u>Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts</u>
Motion Presented by:	Guy Buzzannco
Motion Seconded by:	Richard Beland
Text of Motion:	CSC Holdings LLC would like to donate \$500.00 to Watertown High School to be used for the CARE Program.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item Number:	K2.
Subject:	<u>Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts</u>
Motion Presented by:	Guy Buzzannco
Motion Seconded by:	Richard Beland
Text of Motion:	The Engle and Raczkowski Families would like to donate \$50.00 to Swift Middle School to support an eighth grade student in need of assistance to attend Swift's yearly educational Washington D.C. trip.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion passed unanimously.

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

L. Future Agenda Items and Board Members' Comments

David Guerrero-Mr. Chairman, I had read in the paper a couple of days ago. I think it was yesterday's paper about the Waterbury Board of Education's stance on Governor Malloy's education reforms. I am wondering as the Board of Ed if we should have more discussion on this in the future and take a stance and voice our opinion. I think it is good to get our thoughts on the reform that's going to affect Watertown and every other school district so it might be good to talk about this and see what our thoughts are.

Richard Mazzamaro-I agree, we can certainly think we can certainly take that into consideration and to see where this goes. It seems like its a little bit up in the air still really where it's going to go, but point well taken.

Any other comments or questions?

M. Public Participation -None

Richard Mazzamaro - The Board will take a five (5) minute recess. 7:55 P.M.

Meeting reconvened at 8:02 P.M.

N. Discussion of Board of Education's Goals

Richard Mazzamaro-Tonight, what I thought we'd do is come back to the Board goals and what I'd like to do tonight is we have the current set of goals that was set in 2009 that are set in sunset in the 3rd year at the end of this year, at the end of the school year. What I wanted to ask Dr. Gilmore to do is kind of review these goals and if it were in the best interest of the Board to really keep these goals in place. I also at our last meeting asked the Board Members to come prepared with a couple of their own. All we'd like to do is maybe compile these goals from Board Members and take maybe three or four of those and put them on for the next three year cycle. So the next set of goals we would have in place, those goals, what we are going to do is schedule a CABE Workshop to go over the objectives and how the Superintendent intends to reach each of these goals with both the current, I don't want to speak for the Superintendent, but any new ones that may be prioritized and put them together at that time. So with this, I will turn it over to Dr. Gilmore.

Dr. Gilmore-Thank you Mr. Mazzamaro, and you are absolutely correct, when you look at the Board of Education Goals, we are looking at the global goals, the big picture and what you have in front of you are, of course, the district goals that you created for 2009 through 2011 and those goals all lead to the very first goal which is critically important that we work with the Board of Education, the Administration and the Superintendent to imbed all of these goals together with number one Improving Student Achievement and your second goal was Community Engagement to support student learning, your third goal was School Culture and Climate and how that fosters high level of student success in behavior and conduct and your last goal, of course, was Facility and Fiscal Responsibility, and these are resources to support financial development in the district. So as Mr. Mazzamaro was mentioning these four goals are critically important for us to stay the course. We need to make sure that we have benchmark assessment showing that we have reached these four goals and as you know, I will be meeting with my leadership team and the Administrative Council to have a very specific conversation on how the Administrators did meet their benchmark goals through their School Improvement Plan and then through that conversation we create our District School Improvement Plan which then aligns with the Board of Education goals. So as Mr. Mazzamaro mentioned, it is critically important that we stay the course, especially with student achievement and consider these four goals going forward for 2012 through 2014.

What I did on the second handout is re-write the goals in a different format for your consideration. So, if you were to look at the first bullet in regards to Student Achievement, I wrote the Watertown School District will systemically improve student performance and celebrate academic achievement for all students. So that is just another way to write your number one Student Achievement Goals for your consideration.

The second bullet is all about Community Outreach. Promoting collaboration with our parents, our school,

our businesses, our communities through pro-active, ongoing and open communication. Once again, another way to write a goal with more specificity is in fact that's the way the Board of Education wants to re-write their second goal.

The third goal talks about insuring that every student is engaged in a rigorous and engaging learning experience that recognizes and challenges him or her to balance their academic progress with expressive, personal, physical, civic and social development which truly aligns with our mission statement, and I've also mentioned to insure that the deployment of resources sufficiently supports the district's mission and priorities established so that would be your fiscal and financial goal; and lastly

I chose to add integrating technology to enhance instruction information systems and resource management because we have had many discussions in regards to possibly looking at a Web Master and enhancing the learning of students in the classroom and as Mr. Mazzamaro mentioned, it is critically important to hear what your feedback is, your vision, your goals going forward and we certainly will have a more detailed CABE Workshop to really talk about the nuts and bolts about our goals, and the Administrative Cabinet and I will produce strategies and objectives to oversee the Board of Education goals. So with that we can certainly open it up for discussion with your feedback, your vision for goals going forward for the 2012 through 2014 school year.

Richard Mazzamaro-So first I would ask the Board Members for the rewritten goals. Is this something you want to move forward with with the current goals that Dr. Gilmore has written, if you agree with them?

Thomas Lambert-Mr. Chairman, I certainly, on my radar screen, development of resources that's a first a priority especially as related to facilities management. We certainly, as well known tonight in our meetings, that a lot of our resources, hopefully, in the future will not only move the district forward in facilities, but maintain our facilities in a way that certainly creates good stewardship by the Board of Education and that's one of my main focuses as you probably know, and I really think that that's a priority.

Richard Mazzamaro-Dr. Gilmore, at the CABE Workshop that is going to be scheduled in a couple of weeks, these bullet points that we have, your strategies and your cabinet strategies for achieving where we are, where you are with these goals right now and we'll be carrying them forward into the school year and into the following three year cycle.

Dr. Gilmore-This would actually begin the 2012-2014 cycle. This is another way to rewrite the 2009-2011 District Goals. I just thought that some of the verbiage had some more specificity and more breathe and depth for teaching and learning and we certainly can discuss this at the CABE Workshop with our facilitator who will be Nick Caruso from CABE.

David Guerrero-This sheet you provided will replace all the District Goals. I'm a little confused, which section it will replace.

Dr. Gilmore-Actually, this set is the District Goals that you have approved for 2009 through 2011 and what we can do at this point is take these four goals and choose to rewrite them as I mentioned in the bullet areas and then I would provide for you the strategy and the objectives to meet each one of these goals.

David Guerrero-The one thing that jumps out at me that we may want to discuss is the 90 percentile. It reads the Watertown Board of Education is committed to providing challenging and engaging learning experiences for all students and has established a performance target of 90% for all students at or above goal in Language Arts, Mathematics and Science for 2012, and then the other bullet point says that each school increase CMT and CAPT scores in each content area by 5 or 10 percentage points annually in support of the school.

Doing the rough math and we know where we are right now, I don't think those numbers match up. The 90th and some of our scores in the 40th and 50th percentile, and even if you went up 5 or 10 points, it still wouldn't get to the 90 percent. So I'd ask that we reconsider that 90% goal and come up with a more meaningful target that we can achieve and then layer it out over the next two or three years and we'll have a meaningful target.

Richard Mazzamaro-Dave, I think that's exactly right and I don't want to speak for the Superintendent.

Rewriting that whole number one in systemically improved student performance, within that, that's how you are going to put in your obtainable goals. I think Dave in the CABA Workshop under the objectives, discussion, that's where that will take place and I think we had talked about that in the previous meeting about having those broken down and having a measurable and being able to incrementally meet these goals instead of going straight to the 90% and let's see where we are here to get here, in steps, and I think that discussion will take place.

Thomas Lambert- I agree, I think Mr. Guerrero is right on target, we need to set attainable goals and I think it's realistic and necessary.

Sean Butterly-One thing and I agree with you Mr. Vice Chairman. One thing, I just want the clarification, so the bulleted items presented by Dr. Gilmore, this evolves where we were before and maybe where we are moving forward to and then we are having a workshop, it's not a vote tonight or is it something we might vote on tonight?

Dr. Gilmore-No, tonight is preliminary discussion to hear all of your feedback for this evening and then we bring that to the CABA Workshop to flush out.

Sean Butterly-First of all, let me just say this is a great start and I like the simplicity and the things you put in the bulleted items, I like. In fact, my colleague, Mrs. McCabe, I know she has something she forwarded to us that she thought about and some good food for thought and what my colleague, Mr. Guerrero said, I think that exactly where we are going is that to say what is realistic and what we can do, always wanting to be better. We have a good system, a really good school system, but we always want to be better and we want to be realistic about where we are going and where we've been and do it as a collaborative thing and not as a hammer on people and I like the way you are approaching this Superintendent Gilmore and I think the workshop session would be a very good and productive way to finalize itself. I kind of like what I'm seeing.

Richard Mazzamaro-Stay the course with the current set of bullet points that we have here and have the discussion at the workshop on the specifics right here and Dr. Gilmore and the Cabinet will come back with the specifics on that.

Dr. Gilmore-We will be coming back with the Smart Goals which are specific and measurable, attainable, timely and relevant and that is exactly what you need to hear that very comprehensive focus and specificity from the Administrative Council and the Superintendent aligning with the Board of Education goals and it is all imbedded as we move forward with teaching and learning for higher achievement for all students.

Richard Mazzamaro-With that being said, Susan forwarded to me. I don't know if everyone has a copy of this.

Susan McCabe-This is what I came up with, it's kind of mirrors what you said somewhat.

Richard Mazzamaro-For the Board Members, Susan submitted the following:

To fulfill the mission of the Watertown Public Schools, the Watertown Public Schools' Board of Education will strive to help

1. Every Student in Watertown to demonstrate academic achievement and be prepared for success after high school;
2. Retain and recruit quality faculty and staff;
3. Promote parent/guardian community engagement in student's education;
4. Work toward school culture of respect, empathy and collaboration.

David Guerrero-There are two more topics I would like bring up. I am not sure if they can be covered in these bullet points. The first one is the issue of student residency that I wanted to bring up and it's not in these bullet points at all. It has been brought to my attention since I was running for Board of Ed and since I'm on now that there are some students, I'm not sure of the numbers, but there could be many, who are attending Watertown Schools who are not from Watertown, and I'm not sure how we build that in, but I think we need

to create, and if we do have a platform, approve upon it and implement a new structure of policy to monitor students who are in Town and see if the current way of going about it is affective. One suggestion I had is a residency officer, I know that's something we've been looking at also. But I'm not sure if this really fits into any of these bullet points.

Dr. Gilmore-If I may Mr. Guerrero, the deployment of resources, that could be an area where we become very pro-active as the Board of Education as a possibility of a retired police officer, the possibility of a support outreach person for us to really hone in and review that policy and make it happen.

David Guerrero-So that is something we can discuss during the CAFE Workshop. The second point, and maybe this falls into one of the bullet points, I would like to have some type of goal of increasing transparency and accountability on the budget process, which means that we're never going to be 100%, we never can be but a continuous improvement process. I'm not sure how we will write that it, but I think we have particularly made some great lengths in the past few months and that should definitely be a goal going forward that we continue to improve transparency and accountability in the budget process not only internally in the Board of Ed but with the public. So hopefully, we can work that into one of the bullet points, but that's something that I would like to see.

Richard Mazzamaro-To me that would fall under collaboration among parents, schools, ongoing and open communications. So if there were some objectives that the Cabinet comes back to us with as to how that can be added.

Guy Buzzannco-These proposed five bullet points, I truly applaud the work you've done here and the work of the cabinet on these goals. You fit the definition of what the goals should be, very broad and reflect outcome that we want to see and create and reflect a high performing school district. The next phase that you do mention is in facilitation and systems. (inaudible)with your contribution and the Cabinet's contribution will put the means to those ends,(inaudible) those are the objectives. Then we start to properly define and categorize the whole process will be easier. We have outlined some goals tonight that are nonspecific and then move to more time down objectives and will definitely help these goals come to fruition and so I appreciate that very much. The new one on technology, we can take this up a little later on but it occurred that we might also look at technology at another angle. Here we are talking about sufficiently integrating technology to enhance instruction so that we also want to consider it as a goal to utilize technology to sufficiently using it to enforce and enhance instruction and to also create students who are familiar with and comfortable with and capable of utilizing technology in their further education and (inaudible).

Eric Berthel-Dr. Gilmore, I would echo what Guy said as well. I think this is really a great start and help to define what we are going to do going forward. My only observation on it is that I don't think we have considered that our existing District Goal #3 talks very specifically about school culture and climate and we have done such a tremendous amount of work over the last few years to improve that and make our schools welcoming and to really bring that to fruition, and I think that that wording should be a part of that proposed rewritten Goal #3, the third goal point. Somehow message that into it to say that school culture and climate remains an important goal for the school system. It's so important. I think we'd be remiss not to include that as a specific part of the goal.

Dr. Gilmore-You are absolutely correct, because without culture and climate, we will not have student and teachers because it is all about relationship building, it's about our teachers and administrators and our parents that are here this evening connecting to our Board of Education goals to build capacity for teaching and learning, so absolutely, we can re-word that and specifically add those words culture and climate.

Eric Berthel-As the goal is written, it makes perfect sense, but that's an important piece of it, an important facet, so thank you.

Dr. Gilmore-Thank you.

Richard Mazzamaro-Any other Board Member that would like to have anything put on the table that we should be considering before the CAFE Workshop?

Were there any other questions or concerns by any of Board Members?

The CABE Workshop, Dr. Gilmore do we have a schedule yet?

Dr. Gilmore-I did talk to Mr. Caruso today, he is looking at his calendar. He's highly scheduled, but I really want to have that workshop as soon as possible, so I will be contacting him at the end of the week.

Sean Butterly-Would that be like a 5 p.m. thing? Those times are pretty good. I know you travel Mr. Chairman, I don't want to interrupt.

Richard Mazzamaro-Absolutely, I think we can do something about 5 or 5:30.

Sean Butterly-Sometimes this time of year, the weekends get kind of crazy with kids in sports and all those other things this time of year. So, if we could do that, personally, I think that would be great if we could try that. But I will work around other peoples' schedules.

Dr. Gilmore-It would be a two hour block because we would be able to focus on that one evening for the nuts and bolts and then drilling down and have that closure which is so critically important because we know how busy the Board of Education Members are and many times for all of us to get together in a two week period really doesn't put that together for cohesion and putting closure on something so critically important for us moving forward with teaching and learning, so a one or two hour block will really do it properly.

Agenda Item Number:
Subject:

O.
Adjournment

Motion Presented by:

Sean Butterly

Motion Seconded by:

Eric Beland

Text of Motion:

That the meeting adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Discussion:

None

Opposed:

None

Abstained:

None

Vote:

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Eric Berthel
Board Secretary

Deborah Jacobs,
Minutes Secretary