

**MINUTES
WATERTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

Meeting Date: May 14, 2012
Meeting Time: 7:37 PM
Meeting Place: Watertown High School, Lecture Hall

Members Present: Mr. Richard Mazzamaro, Chairman
Mr. Thomas Lambert, Vice Chairman
Mr. Eric Berthel, arrived at 8:04 p.m.
Mr. Guy Buzzannco
Atty. Sean Butterly
Mr. David Guerrero
Mr. Raymond Nardella, arrived at 8:04 p.m.

Absent: Mr. Richard Beland
Ms. Susan McCabe

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
Ms. Donnah Rochester, Supervisor of Special Education
Other interested guests

A. Convene Regular Meeting - 7:37 PM

Mr. Richard Mazzamaro, Board Chair, convened the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

B. Salute to the Flag

Mr. Richard Mazzamaro, Board Chair, led the Salute to the Flag.

C. Watertown Public Schools' Mission Statement – Atty. Sean Butterly

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

1.) School Nurses' Day

Governor Dannel P. Malloy has declared May 9, 2012 as School Nurses' Day. The Board would like to thank the school nurses for all their outstanding

contributions to the students and staff in the Watertown Public Schools. The Board would like to recognize all the Watertown School nurses:

Diane Andrew	Judson School
Linda Burmeister	Watertown High School
Carol Crean	Polk School
Lynn Kelly	John Trumbull Primary School
Susan Mucciacciaro	St. Mary Magdalen School
Mary Sklanka	St. John the Evangelist School
Dorothy Stransky	John Trumbull Primary School
Ann Terzigni	Swift Middle School

Richard Mazzamaro and Gail Gilmore presented a certificate of excellence to each of the nurses present and not present at the podium and congratulated the nurses and expressed their appreciation and thanks for their dedication and service.

2.) W.H.S. FIRST Robotics Team 237
(For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology)

The Board would like to recognize the Watertown High School Robotics Team 237 for the 2011-2012 school year for their excellent teamwork:

Kyle Brown
Thomas Clark
Rachel Conway
Trevor Coulter
Joseph Deary
Steven Donston
Justin Grabowski
Teddy Rogozinski
Alex Sicard
Trevor St. Onge
Orazio Valletta
Kyle Vergauwen

John Boucher, Mentor
Ted Boucher, Mentor
Sean Conway, Mentor
Doug Coulter, Mentor
Kurt Eckert, Mentor
Paul Hoffman, Mentor
Mike Lemay, Mentor
Nikki Mikush, Mentor
Gary Santoro, Mentor
Kevin Shaw, Mentor
Jill Shaw, Mentor
Beth Sorrenti, Mentor
John Vergauwen, Mentor
Eric Lozaw, W.H.S. Advisor

Richard Mazzamaro and Dr. Gilmore presented each team member with a certificate of excellence and congratulated the team for their great work and accomplishments.

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Steven Donston and Justin Grabowski gave a presentation and demonstration of the robot used in their competitions during the 2011-2012 school year.

Justin Grabowski-The robot was built at Swift and they were given a room of their own to build the robot.

Justin Grabowski spoke in length about the type of robot, basketball game, its' catapult system being unique as many other robots do not use this system. The team met over 200 teams in their competition and only one of five has the catapult system in the entire competitions. It also has different heights, 3 bridge balance, PBC pipes, vacuums up the three balls, encoder and auto positions.

They wear the names of each sponsor on their t-shirts. One of their main sponsors being Siemon Co. located in Watertown, Ct.

Competitions - Placed 8th in Maryland out of 60 teams.
Hartford, which was the toughest, placed 5th out of 65 teams.
Final competition, international top teams from all over the world, Australia, Israel, Canada placed 55 out of 100 teams.

Small teams consist of 14 students, some teams have 50 or more. Teams have a six week period of time to get it together, no more, no less.

Many mentors came back to help. Ted and Mike were students who came back to help and the team was so grateful and happy and it has given life lessons needed for the future.

Richard Mazzamaro commented that he remembered it was discussed and didn't know whether or not this program was even going to happen. He thanked the students and their mentors for all their hours of hard work and dedication and the awesome machine as a result of that hard work and dedication.

Sean Butterly commented further on Kyle's talents not only with this program but in hockey as well.

Tom Lambert expressed in looking at the industry for 50 years before going out used complicated logistics, mechanical springs, positioners and other important components. Mr. Boucher has absolutely brought these students to the next level.

David Guerrera commented, "Keep it going. Excellent opportunities for college, universities/graduate school. You will go far."

Dr. Gilmore echoed the Board of Education Member's comments and added Science and Technology are critically important and she again thanked all the families and mentors who have supported all to students.

Richard Mazzamaro said there will be a 5 minute recess at 7:53 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

E. Report from Student Council Representative – Sage Davino

Hi Everyone – The Water-Oak Circle of Sports Award Dinner was held on Tuesday, May 1 where they awarded Frank Judson, A WHS staff member a Golden Ring Award.

This is the last week of AP testing at the high school. Students taking AP classes were able to test their knowledge for no charge and see if they could get collect credit.

The juniors celebrated their Junior Prom on Friday, May 11 at the Grand Oak Villa, Senior Prom will be held this Friday at the Aqua Turf. Seniors will also be celebrating the end of the year with their Senior Picnic on May 25th.

The High School's Interact Club is having a Breakfast for Dinner fundraiser at the restaurant Triple Play on May 29th at 5:00 in order to raise money for their Relay for Life team. Tickets are \$12 each, with \$7 going towards the club's Relay for Life team. They are being sold by Interact members and at the door on the night of the event.

On May 30th, the cast and crew of both the fall play and the spring musical will be attending the Seven Angel's Theatre Halo Awards, being held at the Palace in Waterbury. The Halo Awards celebrate the theatre art in high schools in the region and award them with Halo statues (like the Oscars). Nominations will be posted online next week.

F. Public Participation

Fran Palmer- 220 Middlebury Road

On the policy presented tonight, who is going to enforce those policies?

G. Committee Reports:

1. Student Programs and Services – Richard Beland - Not present
 2. Curriculum and Instruction Committee – Eric Berthel-Dr. Collin updated the committee on our progress and curriculum and planned work over the summer, the high school program and we've begun discussion in support of students who fall behind and stress that issue.
 3. Policy and Labor Committee – Guy Buzzannco-Police and Labor Committee met earlier to discuss Policy and Guideline proposed changes, the first reading will be at the next Board of Education meeting. A June 2nd meeting is scheduled on school policy relative to school staff.
 4. Budget, Finance and Operations Committee – Guy Buzzannco-None
 5. Facilities/PBC/Operations Committee – Thomas Lambert-None
- Governance and Community Engagement Committee – Eric Berthel-Dr. Gilmore and I held a very meaningful meeting in we engaged Mrs. McGuire. We will continue to meet quarterly and as other needs arise. Thank you Dr. Gilmore and faculty for a great meeting.

H. Communications - Secretary –Eric Berthel-None

I. Minutes

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Agenda Item Number: I.1.
Subject: Minutes

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

Text of Motion: Special Board of Education Meeting – April 5, 2012
To approve the minutes of the Board of Education Special Meeting on April 5, 2012

Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstained: 2-Sean Butterly and Raymond Nardella
Vote: 5-0-2 Motion passed.

Agenda Item Number: I.2.
Subject: Minutes

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

Text of Motion: Regular Board of Education Meeting – April 23, 2012
To approve the minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting of April 23, 2012.

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

J. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report

Dr. Gilmore-I want to thank you once again the Robotics Team and Nurses who have had a great effect on all of our students at Watertown High School.

Don't forget to vote on Referendum Day tomorrow at Polk, Judson, Swift and Heminway.

1. Appointments – (Information Only)

- a.) Mr. Evan Crane to the position of Long-term Substitute Grade 2 Teacher at John Trumbull Primary School, effective approximately May 29, 2012, through the end of the 2011-2012 school year, being paid the substitute teacher's rate of \$75.00 per day for the first ten days, and then placed on the first step of the WEA's contract of \$41,287.00 prorated.
- b.) Ms. Kimberly Hailstones to the position of One-to-One Paraprofessional Preschool (Category #1 – Special Education Program) at John Trumbull Primary School, starting May 1, 2012 at the hourly rate of \$14.20, total 20 weekly hours.

c.) Mr. Eric Lozaw to the position of Robotics Team Advisor at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at a contractual stipend of \$1,778.00.

d.) Mr. Salvatore Rinaldi to the position of Custodian, at Polk School, Main Level Area C, 2nd shift, 2:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m., M-F, starting April 30, 2012, at the hourly rate of \$20.30.

2. Resignations – (Information Only)

a.) Mr. Dane Street from the position of .5 Math Teacher, Boys' Soccer Coach, Boys' Track and Field Coach, and Athletic Director at Watertown High School, effective June 30, 2012 to accept another position.

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. Donnah Rochester, Supervisor of Special Education, PreK-5, will present an overview of the Watertown Public School's Pre-School Program.

Donnah Rochester gave a presentation and referred to her handouts which detailed data collected, mandates, collaboration, compliance and quality assessments for the preschool program. The handouts consisted of charts and graphs, bullet points and standards required by Federal and State. Strengthening of ongoing professional development, Sections of IDEA, required Federal and State monitoring. Ms. Rochester reported on Dibels, LitLinks Program, Grants and more.

Dr. Collin made comments of the program's critical importance and said that it is much needed for the preschool.

4. Watertown Foundation Grant

The Watertown Foundation, Inc. has awarded a grant of \$1,000 toward the purchase of baseball equipment to Watertown High School.

K. Report from the Chairman –Richard Mazzamaro-reiterated about Referendum Day tomorrow and he thanked Guy Buzzannco, Eric Berthel and all the Board Members in general for all their time and hard work.

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

Agenda Item Number: L.1.

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Subject: 1. Consideration of the Approval of Safety:
Skateboard/Rollerblade
and Other Such Recreational Equipment Use Policy – Second
Reading

Motion Presented by: Guy Buzzannco

Motion Seconded by: Eric Berthel

Text of Motion: 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 presented this policy to the full Board for the first reading at its meeting on April 23, 2012. This policy is presented for the second reading tonight and for full Board approval. (Attachment A)

It is recommended that the Board approve of the Safety: Skateboard/Rollerblade and Other Such Recreational Equipment Use Policy effective immediately.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item Number: L.2.

Subject: 2. Consideration of the Approval of Loitering or Causing
Disturbance Policy – Second Reading

Motion Presented by: Guy Buzzannco

Motion Seconded by: Eric Berthel

Text of Motion: At its meeting on April 9, 2012, the Policy and Labor Committee reviewed the Loitering or Causing Disturbance Policy, and the committee presented this policy to the full Board for the first reading at its meeting on April 23, 2012. This policy is presented for the second reading tonight and for full Board approval. (Attachment B)

It is recommended that the Board approve of the Loitering or Causing Disturbance Policy effective immediately.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item Number: L.3.

Subject: 3. Consideration of the Approval of No Pets Allowed on School
Property Policy – Second Reading

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

Text of Motion: 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 second reading tonight and for full Board approval. (Attachment C)

It is recommended that the Board approve of the No Pets Allowed on School Property Policy effective immediately.

Discussion: David Guerrero disagreed wholeheartedly. There are residents of Watertown who are responsible taxpaying citizens and should be able to walk their dogs and, therefore, he was in opposition of Agenda Item Number L.3.
Guy Buzzannco-Protecting all students and public from injury that may occur as a result of allowing pets on school property.

Opposed: 1
Abstained: None
Vote: 6-1-0-Motion passed.

Agenda Item Number: L.4.
Subject: 4. Consideration of the Approval of Signs to be Posted in Prominent Locations on School Grounds or Buildings

Motion Presented by: Guy Buzzannco
Motion Seconded by: Eric Berthel

Text of Motion: Signs to be posted on school grounds and buildings are as follows:
1) Smoking and tobacco products are prohibited on school grounds;
2) No loitering or causing disturbances on school property. Police take notice;
3) No skateboard/rollerblade and other such recreational equipment use on school property;
4) No pets allowed on school property.

It is recommended that the Board approve of the following signs to be posted in prominent locations on school grounds or buildings.

Discussion: David Guerrero opposed #4) No pets sign allowed on school property.

Opposed: 1 (as to L.4.4)
Abstained: None
Vote: 6-1-0-Motion passed.

Agenda Item Number: L.5.
Subject: 5. Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts

Motion Presented by: Guy Buzzannco
Motion Seconded by: Thomas Lambert

Text of Motion: 1) Sarah and James Rudzavice would like to donate \$100.00, in memory of Mr. Jerry West, to the Music Department in the Watertown Public Schools.

2) Mrs. Roseanne Mancini would like to donate a ½ size violin valued at approximately \$250.00 to the Music Department in the Watertown Public Schools.

3) The Oakville Post 7330 VFW, Inc. would like to donate \$100.00 to the Watertown Public Schools to be used for the Best Buddies program.

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 passed unanimously.

Agenda Item Number: L.6.1.
Subject: 1. Consideration of Family Medical Leaves of Absence

Motion Presented by: Thomas Lambert
Motion Seconded by: Sean Butterly

Text of Motion: Ms. Katharine Ahlgren, Grade 3 Teacher at Polk School, requests a Childbearing Leave of Absence under the Family Medical Leave Act, commencing August 28, 2012 through November 16, 2012, with use of accumulated sick time and then leave without pay.

It is recommended that the Board approve of a Childbearing Leave of Absence under the Family Medical Leave Act, for Ms. Katharine Ahlgren, Grade 3 Teacher at Polk School, commencing August 28, 2012 through November 16, 2012, with use of accumulated sick time and then leave without pay and a medical doctor's note to return.

Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item Number: L.6.2.
Subject: 2. Consideration of Family Medical Leaves of Absence

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

Text of Motion: Ms. Jennifer Downes, Math Teacher at Watertown High School, requests a Childbearing Leave of Absence under the Family Medical Leave Act, commencing August 28, 2012 through November 2, 2012, with use of accumulated sick time.

Discussion: It is recommended that the Board approve of a Childbearing Leave of Absence under the Family Medical Leave Act, for Ms. Jennifer Downes, Math Teacher at Watertown High School, commencing August 28, 2012 through November 2, 2012, with use of accumulated sick time and a medical doctor's note to return.

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item Number: L.6.3.
Subject: 3. Consideration of Family Medical Leaves of Absence

Motion Presented by: Thomas Lambert
Motion Seconded by: Raymond Nardella

Text of Motion: Ms. Janet Gerace-Sweetland, Grade 6 Teacher at Swift Middle School, requests a Maternity Leave of Absence under the Family Medical Leave Act, commencing approximately June 4, 2012 through October 31, 2012, with use of accumulated sick time.

It is recommended that the Board approve of a Maternity Leave of Absence under the Family Medical Leave Act, for Ms. Janet Gerace-Sweetland, Grade 6 Teacher at Swift Middle School, commencing approximately June 4, 2012 through October 31, 2012, with use of accumulated sick time and a medical doctor's note to return.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

M. Future Agenda Items and Board Members' Comments –None

N. Public Participation

Sandra Greenwood, 156 Bellman Street, Watertown, CT

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Sandra expressed concern about the signs being placed for loitering and skateboarding and how they will be enforced Monday through Friday but especially on the weekends. She said that she previously went to the police, but they did nothing about it.

Dr. Gilmore responded that she and the Administrators will do their very best and on the weekends the police will be monitoring the school grounds for loitering and disturbances.

Sandra Greenwood – While she will report skateboarding and vandalism, other people just don't seem to want to get involved.

Thomas Lambert-We don't want to see anyone get hurt or get sued.

Dr. Gilmore-We are dedicated and behind you 100%.

Sandra Greenwood-Get out and vote tomorrow.

O. Adjournment

Agenda:	O.
Subject:	Adjournment
Motion Presented by:	Thomas Lambert
Motion Seconded by:	Sean Butterly
Text of Motion:	That the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Mr. Eric Berthel
Board Secretary

Deborah Jacobs
Minutes Secretary