

**WATERTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** June 11, 2012  
**Meeting Time:** 7:30 PM  
**Meeting Place:** Watertown High School, Lecture Hall

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

**Absent:** Mr. Richard Mazzamaro  
Mr. Richard Beland

**Others Present:** Dr. Gail Gilmore, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Karen Clancy, Business Manager  
Dr. James Collin, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Sage Davino, Student Council Representative

Other interested guests

**A. Convene Regular Meeting - 7:30 PM**

Mr. Thomas Lambert, Vice Chair, I would like to convene the meeting of the Board of Education, Monday, June 11, 2012, 7:30 p.m. My name is Tom Lambert. I am acting as Chairman tonight in place of Mr. Mazzamaro who is out on business.

**B. Salute to the Flag**

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

**C. Watertown Public Schools' Mission Statement-Susan McCabe**

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-Dr. Gail Gilmore**

Thank you Mr. Lambert, and Good Evening Board of Education Members and our community. It is such a pleasure for us as a Board of Education to recognize the wonderful students that we have present this evening.

1. The Watertown Board of Education wishes to recognize the following winners in the Superintendent's CAPSS, which stands for Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Awards from the elementary schools. We have already recognized the high school and middle school wonderful students. They participated last fall in that recognition. So tonight is all about our elementary schools and their families that are here this evening. These awards are based on community service and service to others; academic prowess; and leadership service to the school community. We are very proud of our students that are here this evening and Mr. Lambert and I will now go to the podium and we will announce their names and please come up to the podium for your wonderful certificate and we are very proud of these students.

The Superintendents' Award is a very special award and I am so honored this evening to call the following students to the podium with Mr. Lambert and to provide a wonderful certificate of achievement and excellence to our Superintendent Award winners.

<b>Lilliana Spagnoletti</b>	-John Trumbull Primary School, grade 2
<b>Mason LaCapra</b>	-John Trumbull Primary School, grade 2

<b>Ashley Janusonis</b>	-Judson Elementary School, grade 5
<b>Jack O'Donnell</b>	-Judson Elementary School, grade 5

<b>Hannah Mehlin</b>	-Polk Elementary School, grade 5
<b>Vincenzo Basile</b>	-Polk Elementary School, grade 5

2. Thomas Lambert-The Watertown Board of Education wishes to recognize the following teachers who will be retiring at the close of this school year:

**Barbara Clay**, W.H.S., School Psychologist, 36 years  
**Karen Ligi**, Judson School, Grade 4, 27 years

Dr. Gail Gilmore-We certainly appreciate our teachers' dedication and commitment to our students and our community and we thank you very, very much for all of your hard work.

3. Thomas Lambert-The Watertown Board of Education wishes to recognize and thank **Sage Davino**, Student Council Representative, for her attendance and participation at the Board of Education meetings for the 2011-2012 school year.

Dr. Gail Gilmore-I would like to say a few words about Sage. She has worked very, very hard with our Board of Education. She will be attending Hofstra University in the fall, and she does plan to major in sociology. She is currently serving as President of the Interact Club, which is a national high school community service organization tied directly to the Rotary International. Sage has played an instrumental role in this organization since her freshman year. So congratulations Sage. She has also acted as a mentor in our pilot year of our peer to peer mentoring program. She was initially recommended for the class based on her strong social and academic ability and her leadership potential and she has capitalized on all of those abilities and more. She made an almost immediate connection with two special education students in the program and they look forward to her support and encouragement each and every day. Her soothing tone of voice and her accepting personality were both a great match for these students. Sage was also involved in the fall play, the spring musical and she volunteers with the local theater group. A nice round of applause for you, Sage.

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

Since this is my last meeting, I just want to thank the Board of Education and the High School teachers for giving me this opportunity. I gained so much experience by being with every single one of you and now I know so much more about the Town and the Administration. It's been great. Everyone has been so understanding towards me this year and I just feel so much more confident than I did at the beginning of year. So thank you so much for everything that you've done.

- The Interact Club raised over \$3,000.00 for their Relay for Life team and also participated at the event in Waterbury.
- The C.A.R.E. Program received their cable vision award from Governor Malloy on June 8<sup>th</sup> in an assembly with the upperclassmen. All money will be going to Waterbury Habitat for Humanity.
- The Celebration of Sports was this afternoon at 5:30, starting off with a picnic. Teams had tables to show information to prospective students athletes and will also display any trophies or awards from this season. The cheerleaders will also be given their rings for being the state championship team.
- The school year will be concluded for seniors this Friday at 6:30 for their graduation ceremony in the high school gym. The last school day for the high school is the 18<sup>th</sup>, which is a makeup day for any final exams missed. This year has been very successful for all grades, and will hopefully, bring in another successful year.

Thomas Lambert- There will be a 5 minute recess for pictures.

The meeting reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

Thomas Lambert-Thanks again Sage for your help, your attendance, your expertise and you know every year we get a new student council representative and every year they get better and better so thank you very much.

#### **F. Public Participation**

1. Good Evening. My name is Mindy Davidson, 44 Buck Wheat Hill Road. I am a mom of two children in John Trumbull Primary School. I am also a substitute secretary and paraprofessional in the Watertown School system. This year my children will be leaving the cocoon of John Trumbull Primary and the love and support that went along with them.

They will be attending Judson Elementary in the fall and last Saturday, I attended the orientation for incoming parents. I wanted to thank Mrs. Rommel for hosting such an informational and wonderful session and I look forward to working with her and the teachers next fall and becoming involved in the PTO there as well.

While my children are leaving the cocoon of John Trumbull and going into the broader spectrum of elementary school, the reason I am here with you tonight is simple in my eyes but difficult in others. In my substituting, I have had the time and chance to teach the computer class at Polk School. My eyes were opened to what these third, fourth and fifth graders can accomplish in a day. They have mastered word, animated power point, researching on the web and to some extent an excel sheet. They use flash drives, write research papers and do book reports all on the computer, and as usual, they turned around and taught me things when I was also trying to teach them.

So please, imagine my surprise when I found out that my children, and all of the children at Judson now do not have the same luxury. Judson does not have a computer paraprofessional to teach our children the same things that are afforded to the children at Polk. There are approximately 230 children that are graduating if you will from John Trumbull on Monday. At least half will not have the same skills they will need when they enter Swift Middle School in three years. They won't have the same computer lab skills to research their projects. The simple typing skills needed to perform these tasks or the knowledge of how to use these applications such as word, power point or excel. So I ask you tonight and I am here before you to look into this vacancy with the utmost urgency that you can afford. We have the summer to hopefully to rectify and fix our problem and to give both elementary

schools in town the same luxury. There are many ways I alone can think of it, but of course, as Board of Education Members, I am sure you know many more ways as well. I hope you can keep us all informed of a solution, but I know this position is for a Para, but there are many people out there that this job would be perfect for. I only ask that all children that are leaving John Trumbull have the same afforded luxuries to get into Swift as they will need the same computer skills as the children from Polk. Thank you.

2. My name is Kevin Parkhurst and I live at 251 Hamilton Avenue, and recently it has been brought to my attention that there are going to be some teachers who are going to be let go, but yet we have other positions that they can fill and I know they've done that in the past, can we consider that?

Mr. Parkhurst asked, "Tom and David, can you add to that?"

David Guerrero-Yes, Is your son Chris?

Kevin Parkhurst-Yes.

David Guerrero-I don't know, what would you like me to add? Is that is possible?

Kevin Parkhurst-Yes.

David Guerrero-I would ask the Superintendent, but if this is open and there is a qualified position, I would think the internal candidate would have priority, but please correct me Dr. Gilmore if you would like.

Dr. Gail Gilmore-At this time, we would be looking at the most qualified candidate and their certificates and that usually is the process that we look at. Thank you very much.

3. Eileen Withington, 38 Wildwood Street. I also wanted to talk about that. Kathy Sklanka is in Swift right now, and she is a Science teacher, and she is being let go, and there are openings in the elementary school, and I'm just wondering why she couldn't stay. There are elementary teachers there now, why couldn't they not go lower and she could stay where she is. She does a lot of after school activities. She does Robotic Team. She does a lot. She does at least five or six programs after school.

Dr. Gail Gilmore-It is truly about the certification that we are looking at and we always look absolutely at every single certification that the teacher does hold, but we can appreciate you bringing it to our attention as well. Thank you.

Fran Palmer, 220 Middlebury Road. Later on in your Agenda, you are going to be talking about the Wellness Policy and I was wondering if you could in your discussion, discuss whether or not the policy applies to after school activities like if a club where they have a party or if an athletic group were to have a party. Thank you.

#### **G. Committee Reports:**

1. Student Programs and Services – Richard Beland-Not present
2. Curriculum and Instruction Committee – Eric Berthel

Mr. Chairman, we had a meeting earlier this evening with the Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Collin with a pretty robust agenda that we were able to get through in a short amount of time. Dr. Collin

updated us on the integration of the Common Core State Standards throughout the district and discussion about instructional technology and his plan for developing the high school truly, once and for all, as a model for our other school buildings, and to finally bring some closure to some of the issues we have here with security and infrastructure. We also spoke about the intervention for our under credited students at the high school level, and I'm not sure that I totally understand all of what's going on there, but and Dr. Collin, I don't know if we want to take a moment to talk about that now or not, but if you can give us a quick synopsis of what is happening there, I think it would be important. A lot of work has been done and I don't want to just glance over it.

Dr. Collin-I would be glad to give the Board a more robust presentation at a given time. We have been tracking student data for a number of years now, but it seems there are students not keeping pace with their coworker groups moving towards a four year graduation program. As you know, there are a lot of really strong things going on at the high school currently. Let's address that, Tier 1 Curriculum Improvement, Flex Guided Studies, the mentoring program that was mentioned earlier, and a lot of support to keep many, many kids engaged and on pace with their peers, though we still have a group of students who are not reaching. So we were talking about methods, perhaps some online learning alternatives and working with teachers to connect with teachers and with the students and the online learning classwork to make sure there is a connection. We know it is much more complicated than targeting or diverting students to online programs. That student needs an incredible amount of support. We are finding really great rich resources on that online environment that not only help kids recover credits but can also help us and help teachers learn more about the student. So we are investigating that and we hope to make some improvements around that this summer for implementation in the fall.

Eric Berthel-We also had a discussion about our Honors music program here in the high school. Our discussion included a very quick review of a proposal and how that would integrate into the curriculum here. I look forward to additional information as we work through that, and that was it.

3. Policy and Labor Committee – Guy Buzzannco

Thank you Mr. Lambert, Policy and Labor Committee met earlier this evening to discuss final recommendations to the Superintendent's Evaluation Policy to create an updated superintendent policy that better align the superintendent's objectives with the three year district goals, create a new evaluation connected to the superintendent that is more comprehensive and thorough and most importantly to improvise an overall time line for creating, monitoring, evaluating and providing feedback to the superintendent for his or her individual performance objective. So we will bring the first reading to review at the June 25<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting.

Also, this evening, tonight, we will bring to the Board for our first reading a revised updated wellness policy, the Students' Health and Wellness Policy

4. Budget, Finance and Operations Committee – Guy Buzzannco-None

5. Facilities/PBC/Operations Committee – Thomas Lambert

That's my committee. The Facilities Committee Meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup> had a brief PowerPoint demonstration by Mr. James Galletly, Vice President of Energy Education, an energy management company to help school districts save money by changing and educating personnel in our school system on how to manage energy efficiently. The cost of this service is paid for with the energy savings that we will realize through actual energy savings with this program in place.

We also discussed several repair issues that were found in our schools and discussed an ongoing plan to upgrade our lawn mowing and trimming to a higher standard expected by this committee.

6. Governance and Community Engagement Committee – Eric Berthel-None

H. Communications – Secretary-None

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<b>Agenda Item Number:</b>	<b>I.1.</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	Minutes
<b>Motion Presented by:</b>	Eric Berthel
<b>Motion Seconded by:</b>	Guy Buzzannco
<b>Text of Motion:</b>	Regular Board of Education Meeting – May 29, 2012 To approve the minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting May 29, 2012
<b>Discussion</b>	Sean Butterly – Mr. Chairman, I would like to make the following corrections to Page 9 of the Minutes to read democratically running and Page 10 to read went to private college and achieved Manga Cum Laude honors.... Eric Berthel-I also have a number of changes given to me by David Guerrera which I will give to the secretary to update the minutes.
<b>Opposed:</b>	None
<b>Abstained:</b>	1
<b>Vote:</b>	6-0-1 Motion passed.

J. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report-Dr. Gail Gilmore

Thank you Mr. Lambert and Good Evening again. I am delighted to report that Governor Malloy visited Watertown High School last Friday to recognize the outstanding efforts of our Watertown High School C.A.R.E. Students. Care stands for Character, Attitude, Respect and Excellence and our students received the grand prize from Cablevision of \$5000.00. Governor Malloy met with our students prior to the assembly and addressed their exemplary community involvement. The C.A.R.E. Students under the leadership of Ms. Larkin will be donating their prize to the Habitats for Humanity of Greater Waterbury. Governor Malloy honored the importance of giving back to the less fortunate and how important to help those in need. Thank you to the Board of Education Members who attended; Mr. Mazzamaro, Mr. Buzzannco and Mr. Nardella and also to representative Williams for attending as well. Congratulations again to our Watertown High School Students and our town is very proud of your achievement.

We also would like to acknowledge all of our great coaches this year in all sports and our athletic directors. Your guidance, support and sportsmanship have provided a very successful year for our student athletes and our community. Thank you one and all.

It truly is hard to believe that this is the last full week of school. Watertown High School 2012 Seniors will graduate as they expect this Friday, June 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Watertown High School.

On Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> our Grade 8 commencement graduation will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Swift Middle School, and of course, our best wishes to our graduates and their families.

At this time, we would like to acknowledge, the excellent years of service and work of Ms. Karen Clancy, Business Manager and Mr. Balanda, Assistant Principal of Watertown High School and Mrs.

Barbara Marciano, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.

We wish Ms. Clancy and Mr. Balanda the very best of luck in their new positions, and we wish Mrs. Marciano a healthy and happy retirement. We will truly miss them all and our sincere appreciation and thanks to all you have done for our Watertown Public Schools and our community, and you will truly be missed.

Our goal this summer is to attain 100% of all students participating in the Governor's Reading Challenge. All students are asked to log their reading over the summer and submit this reading log on the first day of school which will be September 4<sup>th</sup>, and we do thank our parents for motivating their children and emphasizing the importance of reading. So we can inspire our children to love to read and to reach a goal.

It is important for us this evening to recognize the work of Ms. MaryEllen Lafferty, Grade 1 Teacher at John Trunbull Primary School, who has been chosen as Watertown's 2013 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Lafferty has taught in the Watertown Public Schools for eight years. She has served in many positions; as summer school teacher in the Summer School Enrichment Program, Parent/Child Play Group Staff for the Watertown Family Resource Center, long term substitute teacher and she also works as a college intern at Computer Paraprofessionals. Ms. Lafferty's students experience a variety of learning activities that meets the needs of all learners. Through the use of her interactive SmartBoard, she is able to research various topics, bring literature to life by listening to different authors and creating and implementing language arts, writing and math.

MaryEllen has earned a Masters in education, degree in elementary education from the University in Bridgeport and a Bachelors in Science degree in Medical Technology from Mount St. Mary's.

Ms. Lafferty has lived all her life in Oakville. She married Brian Lafferty and has two children. Her daughter Kate is a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut and her son Nick will be graduating this Sunday at the Watertown High School, and we wish her the very best as our Watertown Teacher of the Year. We are very proud of her.

1. Appointments – (Information Only)

- a.) Mr. Keith Borkowski to the position of Girls' Varsity Softball Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$4,023.00.
- b.) Ms. Jessica Fagan to the position of Girls' Head Lacrosse Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$2,913.00.
- c.) Mr. Justin Froese to the position of Boys' Baseball Freshman Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$2,358.00.
- d.) Ms. Margaret Germain to the position of Softball Coach at Swift Middle School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$2,358.00.
- e.) Mr. John Hoey to the position of Girls' Varsity Track Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$3,052.00.
- f.) Mr. Brian Major to the position of Boys' Head Lacrosse Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$3,052.00.

- g.) Mr. Timothy Malootian to the position of Girls' Tennis Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$2,495.00.
  - h.) Mr. Eric Miller to the position of Boys' Tennis Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$2,495.00.
  - i.) Mr. Joseph Nappi to the position of Baseball Coach at Swift Middle School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$2,358.00.
  - j.) Mr. Charles Ostrander to the position of Girls' Assistant Tennis Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$1,799.00.
  - k.) Ms. Caralyne O'Sullivan to the position of Girls' Assistant Lacrosse Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$1,799.00.
  - l.) Mr. Dane Street to the position of Boys' Varsity Track Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$3,466.00.
  - m.) Ms. Kimberly Tessier to the position of Girls' Varsity Assistant Track Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$1,799.00.
  - n.) Mr. Richard Valletta to the position of Golf Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$2,082.00.
  - o.) Mr. Jerry Valentino to the position of Boys' Varsity Baseball Coach at Watertown High school for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$3,745.00.
  - p.) Mr. Kenneth Wawer to the position of Boys' Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at the contractual stipend of \$2,773.00.
  - q.) Ms. Ashlee Lecchi to the position of Boys' Varsity Assistant Track Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at a contractual stipend of \$1,799.00.
  - r.) Mr. Darren Mallette to the position of Boys' Assistant Lacrosse Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at a contractual stipend of \$1,799.00.
  - s.) Mr. George Palomba to the position of Varsity Assistant Softball Coach at Watertown High School for the 2011-2012 school year at a contractual stipend of \$2,773.00.
2. Resignations – (Information Only)
- a.) Ms. Barbara Clay from the position of School Psychologist at Watertown High School effective at the close of the 2011-2012 school year, after 33 years of service, for the purpose of retirement.
  - b.) Ms. Karen Clancy from the position of Business Manager effective June 30, 2012, to accept another position.
  - c.) Ms. Jennifer Finland-Gluck from the position of English Language Arts Teacher at Swift Middle School, effective at the close of the 2011-2012 school year, for personal reasons.



- d.) Ms. Karen Ligi from the position of Grade 4 Teacher at Judson School, after 27 years of service, for the purpose of retirement.
- e.) Ms. Brianna Lutter from the position of Grade 2 Teacher at John Trumbull Primary School, effective at the close of the 2011-2012 school year, for personal reasons.
- f.) Ms. Barbara Marciano from the position of Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Central Office, after 15 years of service, effective June 30, 2012, for the purpose of retirement.
- g.) Ms. Lisa Zembruski from the position of Reading Specialist at Polk School, effective at the close of the 2011-2012 school year, for personal reasons.
- h.) Mr. Marc Balanda from the position of Assistant Principal at Watertown High school, effective at the close of the 2011-2012 school year, to accept another position.

3. School Health and Wellness Policy – First Reading

At its meeting on May 14, 2012, the Policy and Labor Committee reviewed the School Health and Wellness Policy and presents this policy to the Board tonight for the first reading. (See Attachment A.)

Dr. Gail Gilmore-Tonight, as we mentioned earlier, we will have our first reading of the School Health and Wellness Policy and we do want to thank all of the members of the Committee for their fine work on this policy. Ms. Clancy will provide an overview of the policy.

Karen Clancy-Thank you Dr. Gilmore, if I could take a minute to thank you all, I really enjoyed working in Watertown. It was a wonderful experience. All the Board Members, new and old. I think we made a lot of accomplishments I am very proud of and I want to thank all the staff, administrators and business office, central office, and it's really been a great experience and I appreciate it. So, thank you very much.

David Guerrera-Karen, Congratulations, I had the pleasure of meeting Karen back in June of last year. I wasn't on the Board of Ed yet, and I was in her office every day, getting copies, asking questions, calling her up. You know, trying to learn as much as I could, and she was, every time I went to the office, she was there, she helped me out. At some point, she could have said Dave, O.K., enough is enough, but Karen really thank you for putting up with me and your patience and really trying to bring transparency to the budget, and you've done a great job in that regard. We can only hope to find someone with your qualifications and expertise for our next Business Manager. So, thank you and best of luck to you.

Karen Clancy- Thank you very much, I appreciate it.

O.K. Wellness. The work of the Wellness Committee this year was to the main focus of our work was to bringing food into the schools, and it was really celebratory foods. So Birthday parties. Our current staff, our nurses test food. They test the recipes, they test the ingredients and it's really not something we want our nurses to do. So we wanted to change that. We still want to provide an opportunity for parents to provide snacks of the Committee really was to focus on that. We made some changes you will see throughout the policy. One of the things that we did was to develop a list of alternative ideas. We also created a list of healthy snacks that can be purchased through the Food Services Department. It's not for profit through the Food Service Department, truly for the safety and the health of our students. We don't want to put them in jeopardy, those that have allergies and something in error of

them eating, not good. So we creatively developed a list of healthy snacks and have the opportunity to purchase food if that's what they want to do for a birthday party.

We have developed a process for that. We have a form which is also in your packet. Where they fill out a snack request form, submit it to their classroom teacher and if it is approved, then they actually send it back with that order form to the Food Service Department.

Overall, I don't know if you have anything to add to that Mr. Buzzannco. We did in May, we met and went over our suggestions and Buzzannco was really helpful because we looked at it every which way and he still had some suggestions that we didn't think about to really align the policy more. I don't know if you want to jump in, or Dr. Collin is there anything you want to add

Dr. Collin-The only thing that I would add is the alternative to celebratory food will be discussed between building principals and classroom teachers and we hope to come up with a really robust and fun list of activities that kids, the students, can engage in to celebrate the particular birthday.

The idea behind that is that it is an alternative form of celebration not surrounding food. One of the things that we talked a lot about, we had a really good committee that had different opinions about this topic and when we really looked at the data in terms of obesity and diabetes rates and started to take a look at the amount of sugar that is in a typical cupcake or something, it was a real concern that we were endorsing a product that exposed kids to something they wouldn't eat at home, and in some cases compelled to participate whether it was a cupcake and it had x number of grams of sugar. Perhaps there is even a prohibition about that at home, and that cupcake turns into an equivalent of a can of coke. We had a parent's mom here who came to the meeting and did a great demonstration with us about what you would typically buy or serve for a celebration and the amount of sugar that is in that particular product. These concerns increase in terms of obesity and diabetes rates really weighed heavily on the committee's mind, and at the same time, we are talking about the amount of students who have food allergies and that can be a really broad spectrum of food. We wanted to make sure that we didn't come in heavy handed and say there would be no food offered at all. Should we have really done that? What we really want to emphasize is a shift toward non-food celebration, having fun engaging activities, everybody has a great experience. They acknowledge someone's birthday, but they don't have to consume a number of grams of sugar. The committee really worked on that for a number of months with advocates on both sides and we really did have some strong contentions on considering the options.

Guy Buzzannco-The policy and guidelines that you will be up for second reading and approval in two weeks is pretty lengthy. Although there are just a few changes and those changes you will see. I do want to point out a couple of things. In 2006 before I was on this Board, I got a communication home from the principal at Judson regarding some of the teachers and the nurse at the school had begun checking all contents of cupcake boxes, cake mixes before they can be brought into the school building. I thought, whatever. What an inconvenience for me. That being said, I have matured in my thinking about that and grown in my wisdom about what that the concerns are. Every three minutes in this country a food allergy reaction sends someone to the emergency room. 200,000 people are admitted every year and every six minutes the reaction includes anaphylaxis which is the reaction we are trying to prevent. Anaphylaxis shock can be fatal among children. The next thing I've learned from 2006 and matured in my thinking is that more than 15% of school age children have had a reaction before. Now, I think that having the nurse review the ingredient of an item they brought in the school helps prevent it but is that really the way we want the nurse to spend his or her time?

Instead of providing primary care for a child who is sick or in discomfort when you have a parent who wants you to review ingredients. It just doesn't feel like the right use of their time.

So the committee's work included members of the community, parents, as well as our staff, coming up with this very laudable approach. It still honors the needs and wishes of the parents who want to provide a solution for their children that demands good food in the schools that does in a way feel safe and prevents the possibility of anaphylaxis shock. It's efficient, it doesn't tie up the nurses' time and responsibility and it doesn't take her away from her primary care of the students and additionally is healthy for every other child as Dr. Collin has pointed out. This is really best practice policy. It puts us consistent with leading school districts that prevents anaphylaxis shock situations. It's something we should be teaching along with every other aspect of education. I would like to applaud your work Dr. Collin.

Susan McCabe-Couple of questions, couple of comments. I remember I sat in on one of these first meetings. Food Policy and Labor and then it became the Wellness Committee separate from Policy and Labor. Who on the Board, you served on this?

Guy Buzzannco-I was not on the committee.

Susan McCabe-Were any Board Members on the committee?

Dr. Collin-No, I think you're recalling we brought it to the Policy Committee about a year ago.

Susan McCabe -So this was a committee, independent, completely independent of the Board. I know because I sat in on it. I had some concerns about taking the fun away and I'm always careful about statistics because the statistics that you read are in the country, right? The statistics about food allergies?

Guy Buzzannco-They are not Watertown's statistics, you're right. Watertown could be higher or lower.

Susan McCabe-Right. I really do, I would like to speak and I think Mrs. Palmer's concern, I'm just curious, she's just wondering does this go beyond the classroom? Does this go to sports teams? Does it go to the clubs? You know, because I think in some ways some of the responsibility needs to be on the families. I might have issue with some of the provisions you are putting in and I think everybody is entitled to their own opinion, but I guess I'm not fully understanding, what Fran was saying is, is this going to be part of when you send cookies to a sports game after a game?

Dr. Collin-The answer to the questions is the best part about it is the first reading. You get to change your scenario and read the policy thoroughly and see if you have any other questions. Everyone will have an interpretation about how to implement the policy, but on the first line of the policy on page 4100, the Watertown School District promotes healthy schools by supporting wellness, good nutrition and regular physical activity as part of the school learning environment. That by itself, would we serve ice cream at social activities? You could say no because that's not supporting good nutrition and if you serve ice cream at the social gathering, does every student have an alternative that is healthy? So will there be fruit available in lieu of ice cream or is it just ice cream? So everything is subject to a little bit of interpretation.

Susan McCabe-Exactly, and so I guess, I'm asking it more directly, are you intending to apply this to all school activities or is it primarily the classroom?

Dr. Collin-In further reading of the policy on page 4107 defines Best Practice for bringing food into school and food brought into school to be purchased, we find the celebratory food brought into a school building for the purpose of sharing with a specific student and classmates in the classroom and food brought into the school building by a parent at a time of a pre or post event scheduled to be held after the individuals schools hours. So the idea is that food brought in for those purposes would be healthy in order to align the policy completely. Generally, that's existing language.

Susan McCabe-Yes, right.

Sean Butterly-For example: During this big basketball run, their opinion on local establishment pizza, you know, I was thrilled because the games would start kind of early and I couldn't get to home and then here, I think, so you know, there was pizza here and I'll just get a slice of pizza. If this policy passes, will that be banned, we couldn't have that at our basketball games?

Dr. Collin-No, I think it would force everybody to think about what they are bringing in, whether it's pizza or other products and would force everybody to think about moderation, portion size, serving size, that kind of thing. It would encourage people to bring a healthier option as well. So that there are choices for kids. There's nothing that excludes the given food in that context, but the policy can convey a message in terms of health and wellness for all students through our activities. It's intention is to guide people towards best practice and health food options.

Dr. Gilmore-I think at this point, this is the first reading so we certainly do welcome your feedback and comments, and please do let Dr. Collin know how you're feeling about this and he certainly will bring it forward for the second reading. Thank you.

Dr. Gilmore-And lastly on behalf of the Board of Ed and myself, we would like to thank all of our teachers, administrators and all staff on a very successful 2011-2012 school year. Working together, we have made a difference in the lives of our students and our families and we do wish everyone a safe and healthy summer, and that concludes the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Lambert.

K. **Report from the Chairman** –Thomas Lambert-In light of Mr. Mazzamaro's absence, there will be no report.

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

Thomas Lambert

Agenda Item Number: **L.1. REMOVED BECAUSE WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH BIDS TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS- NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN**

Subject: 1 Consideration of the Approval of the Copes Rubbish Removal Contract

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Agenda Item Number: **L.2.**

Subject: 2. Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gift

**WATERTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**JUNE 11, 2012**

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

**Text of Motion:** Mark and Anne Esposito would like to donate \$50.00 to Swift Middle School to be used for the Student Activity Fund in honor of "Gordon C. Swift Junior High School" retired principal, Mr. Joseph Mercier, on his eightieth birthday

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

**Opposed:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

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**Agenda Item Number:** L.3.  
**Subject:** 3. Consideration of the Approval of Change in Names on the Watertown Board of Education School Lunch Program

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

**Text of Motion:** It is recommended that the Board approve of the change in names on the Watertown Board of Education School Lunch Program to delete the names of Karen M. Baldwin and Karen Clancy and add the names of Dr. Gail A. Gilmore and Shirley Oliver.

**Discussion:** None

**Opposed:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

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**Agenda Item Number:** L.4.  
**Subject:** 4. Consideration of the Approval of Cultural Homestay International Program

**Motion Presented by:** David Guerrero  
**Motion Seconded by:** Raymond Nardella

**Text of Motion:** It is recommended that the Board approve of a female student from Mexico to attend grade 11 at Watertown High School for the 2012-2013 school year through the Cultural Homestay International program.

**Discussion:** None

**Opposed:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

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**Agenda Item Number:** L.5.  
**Subject:** 5. Consideration of the Approval to Waive Board of Education Policy Personnel – General, BOE Approved May 27, 2003, Sec. 5-2

**Motion Presented by:** Guy Buzzannco

**Motion Seconded by:** None, motion falls to the floor.

**Text of Motion:** It is recommended that the Board vote to approve to waive Board of Education Policy *Personnel – General*, BOE Approved May 27, 2003, Sec. 5-2, for the purpose of filling the vacancy for the position of Principal of Watertown High School. (See Attachment C.)

**Discussion:** None

**Opposed:** None

**Abstained:** None

**Vote:** No second, motion falls to the floor.

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

Eric Berthel-I would just like to also express my thanks for Mrs. Clancy. My time working with you was very short. I know I was not quite involved prior to being elected to the Board as Mr. Guerrero but I appreciate the work today that he did back then because he got some good answers for us. We will miss you here at the district. You've done some wonderful things for us. You're going to Cromwell. Cromwell is very lucky to have you. Best of luck to you.

Karen Clancy-Thank you.

Thomas Lambert-I would also like to echo Mr. Berthel's comments. Karen walked into a firestorm when she walked into Watertown High at the time. You know it's very easy to schedule buses. We learned a lot and I'm sure you've learned a lot and I thank you for your help and the process you had to go through and we really do appreciate it and we wish you a lot of luck.

Karen Clancy-Thank you.

Susan McCabe-I just wanted to say congratulations and best of luck. You really did impress me every meeting that you spoke about energy issues and the research you did and the savings that you found for the town, I truly appreciate it and you're going to sorely missed.

Sean Butterly- I agree and I want to thank you also and thanks for tolerating us and whenever I saw you I wanted to say "Whenever they got her Irish up, Clancy lowered the boom." Good Luck up there and thanks for helping us in Watertown.

Karen Clancy-Thank you. I will miss that. Thank you.

Guy Buzzannco-Karen, I would like to add my comments and I congratulate you on your new opportunity as well. You have just been a consummate professional and we are really going to miss you so much. I've been with you a little over two years. (Inaudible) particularly during an especially challenging during a recession, during a time of shifting levels of funding that goes with state and federal levels (inaudible) and everything you've done it so professionally and competently. Our budgets are always accurate, well managed and handled in the most competent manner, we couldn't be more grateful for that. On top of that as Tom said your ownership of the operational side of our school district, you accomplished that beautifully and with such expertise and always with poise, professionalism and creativity and that will be long remembered and appreciated. We know you are going to be successful in Cromwell and I hope that it will be as equally rewarding for you. Thank you.

Raymond Nardella-Congratulations and thank you so much for your dedication and commitment and like Eric said, Cromwell is very lucky to have you.

Karen Clancy-Thank you.

N. Public Participation - None

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**Agenda:** O.  
**Subject:** Adjournment

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

**Text of Motion:** That the meeting adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Eric Berthel  
Board Secretary

Deborah Jacobs  
Minutes Secretary