

Pending BOE Approval

**Watertown Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: June 12, 2017
Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Place: Lecture Hall, Watertown High School

Members Present: Ms. Leslie Crotty, Chairman
Mr. Tom Lambert, Vice Chairman
Mr. Robert Makowski
Ms. Cathie Rinaldi
Mr. Victor Vicenzi
Ms. Josephine Cavallo-Rosa
Mr. Jim Gambardella
Ms. Cheryl Albino

Members Absent: Ms. Janelle Wilk, Secretary

Others Present: Dr. Bridget Carnemolla – Superintendent of Schools
Jill Browne – Business Manager
Ali Dika – Student Council Representative

A. Convene Regular Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

B. Salute to the Flag

C. Roll Call – Ms. Davidson

D. Minutes

Agenda Item: D.1a
Subject: Minutes of the May 22, 2017 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Motion Presented By: Mr. Makowski
Motion Seconded By: Ms. Rinaldi

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the minutes of the May 22, 2017 regular meeting of the Board of Education as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: D.1b

Subject: Minutes of the May 31, 2017 Special Board of Education Meeting

Motion Presented By: Ms. Rinaldi

Motion Seconded By: Mr. Makowski

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the minutes of the May 31, 2017 special meeting of the Board of Education as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: Mr. Makowski

Vote: Motion Passes

E. Report from Student Council Representative – Ali Dika

At John Trumbull, over the past two weeks, the first ever evening kindergarten concerts and the annual first grade concerts were held, with students receiving standing ovations. 3 winners of the Annual Watertown Library Poetry Contest were chosen: Jacob Caviasca, Caitlyn Gabel, and Olivia Brevetti. The annual Second Grade Celebration was held, organized by the JTPS PTO and over 100 volunteers.

At Judson School, the PTO held a Father's Day Sale where students were able to purchase a variety of items. All classes went on a field trip -- Grade 5 to the Bronx Zoo, Grade 3 to the Connecticut Historical Museum and Grade 4 to the Science Center in Hartford.

In Polk, the Awards Assembly for Grades 3 and 4 will take place next Thursday, 2:15 - 3:00 in the Café. Grade 4 to 5 Class Placements will take place all day next Friday

And in Swift, last week the third annual STEM night was held, being a huge success with over four hundred participants ranging from John Trumbull to the high school. Eighth graders William

Tucker and Natalie Lindstrom are the Swift Middle School Scholar Leaders, chosen by the Swift staff for the prestigious award. They were chosen based on academics, and participation in the school and community.

And finally at Watertown High School, our Senior Picnic was at Holiday Hill on Friday June 2nd, with our first Senior Dinner being held Monday June 5th at the Grand Oak Villa. The CNA students graduated from their program on Tuesday June 6th and the Spring Concert was also held on Tuesday, June 6th. Our Senior Scholarship and Award was held on Wednesday, June 7th, with 24 students being recognized for maintaining a 90 or better GPA throughout all their years at WHS. 327,000\$ of scholarship money was given out by local organizations. The underclassmen awards night was on Thursday June 8th, with over 100 students in attendance. Thank you.

F. Award Recognition

Governor's Scholar Program

The Watertown Board of Education would like to congratulate **Julia Squillace** for achieving the Watertown High School 2017 Governor's Scholar. The purpose of the highly esteemed Governor's Scholars Program is to recognize academically talented high school juniors in schools throughout the state and present them for special recognition to the Governor of Connecticut.

Class of 2017 Valedictorian & Salutatorian

The Watertown Board of Education wishes to recognize and congratulate the 2017 Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian at Watertown High School:

Daniel DiPrimio - Class Valedictorian
Rachel Martineau - Class Salutatorian

2016-2017 Board of Education Student Council Representative Award

The Watertown Board of Education wishes to recognize and thank Ali Dika graduating senior at Watertown High School and Student Council representative for the Watertown Board of Education, for his outstanding service throughout the school year. We wish him the best of luck as he continues his education at the University of Connecticut next year, while majoring in Computer Science and Engineering.

Retirees Recognition

The Watertown Board of Education would like to thank the following retirees for bringing their experience, knowledge, and compassion to the Watertown School District. While you will be missed, your presence will be with the students and people you have influenced in the district. Thank you for all that you have done for the Watertown School District.

Name	Position	School	Years in District
Anna Jedd	Music Teacher	Watertown Public Schools	38.5
Joanne Crowell	Special Education Teacher	John Trumbull Primary School	23.5
Pamela Jenusaitis	Reading Specialist	Swift Middle School	27
Diane Gaulzetti	Computer Education Teacher	Swift Middle School	23

G. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report

1. Appointments – (Information Only)

Mr. Brian Lafontaine to the position of Girls Outdoor Track Head Coach for Watertown High School, effective for the 2016-2017 school year, at the contractual amount of \$3,652.00 per the WEA agreement.

2. Transfers – (Information Only)

Ms. Linda Laudieri transferred from the position of Cook/Baker at Swift Middle School to Cook/Baker at Judson Elementary School, effective August 30, 2017.

3. Resignations – (Information Only)

Ms. Susan Mucciacciaro, from the position of School Nurse at St. Mary Magdalen School, effective June 30, 2017 for the purpose of retirement.

Ms. Alysia LaMay, from the position of Fourth Grade Special Education Teacher at Judson Elementary School, effective June 30, 2017 for personal reasons.

Ms. Cindy Delorenzo, from the position of Cook/Baker at Judson Elementary School, effective June 21, 2017 for the purpose of retirement.

Ms. Elizabeth Fridinger, from the position of Science Teacher at Watertown High School, effective June 30, 2017 for personal reasons.

Ms. Abby Spinella, from the position of Second Grade Teacher at John Trumbull Primary School, effective June 21, 2017 for personal reasons.

Mr. Craig Lamphier, from the position of Custodian at Polk Elementary School, effective August 4, 2017 for the purpose of retirement.

4. Superintendent's Report

Thank you. First I would like to remind the board and our administrators that we have our first graduating class from the Transition Academy. We sent out invitations and it is on June 15th at the Siemon Company.

The hot weather has brought some concerns with the heat in the buildings and the places where there is no air conditioning. As in other years, we have a contingency plan in the buildings, with each operating a little differently, depending on where the air conditioned rooms are. Generally speaking they are the libraries and computer labs, and what we do when it heats up, to the extent that we can, is take students from the warmest classrooms and we move them to other parts of the building when temperatures rise. As long as we are able to do that, and utilize other space, we will keep an eye on the temperatures and we will move forward. In previous years, there have been times where we have had to close because of the heat, and that happens when we come to a place where there are too many rooms that are warm in the buildings and there is not enough space left to move classes to cool students down. We will keep an eye on it but we are hoping with the few days that we have left that we can maintain full days and we will check it again tomorrow as we did today.

We are running fast towards the end of the year and I have been out in all of the schools. This is the time of year where it is difficult to stay in any one for an entire day, so sometimes my visits are split over two or three days, but I have been at just about all of the schools over the past week. We have had many events going on. I would like to thank the high school for a great scholarship night, senior night, underclassmen awards night, top ten brunch, prom....we have had quite a number go on. We have the Swift dance, tomorrow night, which is the eighth grade dance, and I hope they are looking forward to it. We are finishing up evaluations with teachers and team papers for our newer teachers who are still going through our process for permanent certification; so we have not had all of those papers submitted. The team program, as you know, is run by the state Department of Education and is required of all beginning teachers, where they complete reflection assignments over a two year period based upon various instructional practices that they choose to look more closely at and improve. Each of these newer teachers work closely with a magnet teacher who answers questions, reviews their reflection papers and shares their ideas and for this school year, we have completed all of the cycles that are required of those beginning teachers.

This summer, hopefully with the passage of the budget on the 27th, we will move forward with an opportunity for our teachers to continue to write the course curriculum. This year, we are looking to write units aligned to the next generation science standards for grade K – 12. We are hoping to be able to move that forward to get prepared for the next school year. Two other areas that we are looking to focus on that have a priority are more units aligned to the Connecticut social studies frameworks in grade K – 12, as they are also new frameworks that have been released over the last two years and, of course, continuing to work on our mathematics on K – 12.

We are not officially recognizing our new Director of Student Services, but he attended this evening, so we have managed to secure our contract and therefore I can see he is here this evening, and we have Mr. Chris Brown, who, beginning July 3rd, will be our new Director of Student Services. This will be the first of many exciting two Mondays a month.

Mrs. Browne and I facilitated numerous conversations related to the switch in brokers and insurance companies and this past week, a number of informational sessions were held for our current employees to go and ask questions of the representatives of Cigna and they were very well attended. Many, if not all, of the questions seemed to be answered by the representatives. There are a few things that are still being looked into and some behind the scenes work that is being done in preparation for the change on July 1st, but we are grateful that we were able to

involve so many of the faculty to attend those meetings and that they came down from Cigna for them. Thank you to Mrs. Browne for attending them as she was also able to bring back any issues that came up administratively to deal with from either the unions or the employees. That said, I will remind everyone that our last two days are the 20th and the 21st and that graduation for both Swift and the High School are here at the high school. That is a result of some logistical issues particularly related to the parking and so forth that have posed some less than ideal conditions in the parking lot and we had been asked to look into moving the Swift graduation to the high school. The fire chief and the police department have had a growing amount of difficulty maintaining passage ways at Swift because of the parking lot and a number of other issues that they have to cover with graduation. So that is the primary basis for the change. It will also allow our students to bring more people to the graduation. The gym and the overflow room are both air-conditioned and simultaneously broadcasting are also both pluses to changing the venue to here. Swift graduation is on the 21st here at 6:00 p.m. and the High School graduation is on the 20th 6:00 p.m. and project graduation will follow directly after. And I will end by thanking you, Mr. Dika, for making my life much easier at this table by the school reports that you have given. You have made it possible for me to talk about other things and not speak quite so much. I appreciate that and I know the amount of work that you put into preparing for these meetings because, as you know, Mr. Dika is given all of the reports from all of the schools and then collates them and puts them together and works with Mr. Jones. Your work here has been much appreciated, completely understandable that there were many other things that you could do every other Monday night but your input and insight as a student has been invaluable to us and I am deeply appreciative that you gave so much of your time and intellect to be a part of our board.

H. Public Participation (Please state name, address and topic of discussion)

None

I. Committee Reports:

Curriculum and Instruction Committee, Ms. Cathie Rinaldi, Chair – No
Policy and Labor Committee, Mr. Victor Vicenzi, Chair – No
Budget and Finance Committee, Mr. Thomas Lambert, Chair – No
Facilities/PBC/Operations Committee, Mr. Thomas Lambert, Chair – Yes

A reminder that our budget referendum is on June 27th, 2017

Governance and Community Engagement Committee, Mr. Robert Makowski, Chair – No

J. Communications – Secretary

None

K. Report from the Board Chair

Ms. Crotty – I just want to thank my fellow board members for the amount of award ceremonies that you have participated in over the past couple of weeks. It shows how much you support Watertown Public Schools and their students by what you do as a board, but also going to as many events as you can to participate in those celebrations particular to our students and I appreciate that. I also will thank you in advance for you time that will be spent in this school in the upcoming week with all of the various events, ending with our graduation. So thank you for that.

I want to mention, Mr. Dika that you had mentioned the three field trips that went on at our elementary schools this past week and it just reminded me that those field trips couldn't happen without the support of the parents and the PTO. They greatly subsidize some of those field trips and I just want to thank them for bringing those field trips to our schools that align very nicely with the curriculum and I just wanted to send out a special thank you out to them.

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

Agenda Item:	L.1
Subject:	Consideration of the Approval of the Acceptance of a Gift
Motion Presented By:	Ms. Rosa
Motion Seconded By:	Mr. Gambardella
Text of the Motion:	Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the generous donation of \$630.00 by Mr. Jay Rameikas of Oakville to the Watertown High School Art Department, and that a letter of appreciation be sent to the donor.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion Passes

M. Future Agenda Items and Board Members' Comments

None

N. Public Participation (Please state name, address and topic of discussion)

None

O. Executive Session

Agenda Item: O.1
Subject: To go into Executive Session

Motion Presented By: Mr. Lambert
Motion Seconded By: Ms. Rinaldi

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing two candidates for the position of Athletic Director and for a discussion regarding the Superintendent of School's contract. Attending the Executive Session will be Rob Makowski, Cathie Rinaldi, Vic Vicenzi, Leslie Crotty, Bridget Carnemolla, Josephine Rosa, Jim Gambardella, Cheryl Albino, Paul Jones, and myself, Tom Lambert.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion Passes

P. Regular Session

Agenda Item: P.1
Subject: Consideration of the Approval of the Hiring of the Position of Athletic Director

Motion Presented By: Mr. Vicenzi
Motion Seconded By: Ms. Albino

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of hiring Mr. Paul Cattucio for the Watertown Public School's Athletic Director position at a step one of the Administrator's Contract, as it pertains to the Athletic Director, effective July 1, 2017, at an annual salary of \$96,000. The appointment is subject to providing and maintaining the necessary certification and all additional contract requirements.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None
Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: P.2
Subject: To go into Executive Session

Motion Presented By: Ms. Crotty, Moved by Mr. Lambert
Motion Seconded By: Ms. Rinaldi

Text of the Motion: I would entertain a motion that the Board go back into Executive Session for discussion regarding the Superintendent of School's contract. Attending the Executive Session will be Rob Makowski, Cathie Rinaldi, Janelle Wilk, Tom Lambert, Leslie Crotty, Bridget Carnemolla, Josephine Rosa, Jim Gambardella, Cheryl Albino, and Vic Vicenzi.

So moved by Mr. Lambert

Discussion: None

Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: P.3
Subject: Consideration of the Approval of the Extension of Contract for the Superintendent of Schools

Motion Presented By: Mr. Gambardella
Motion Seconded By: Mr. Vicenzi

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board extend the contract of employment for Dr. Bridget Carnemolla as Superintendent of Schools, through and including, June 30, 2020.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: P.4
Subject: Consideration of the Approval of Carry Over of Unused Vacation Time by the Superintendent of Schools

Motion Presented By: Mr. Makowski
Motion Seconded By: Ms. Rinaldi

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bridget Carnemolla carrying over six (6) unused vacation days from the contractual year that began on July 1, 2016, to the contractual year that begins on July 1, 2017.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion Passes

Q. Adjournment

Agenda Item: Q.1
Subject: To adjourn the meeting

Motion Presented By: Mr. Gambardella
Motion Seconded By: Mr. Makowski

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that we adjourn

Discussion: None

Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion Passes

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindi Davidson
Recording Secretary

Janelle Wilk
Secretary of the Board