

Pending BOE Approval

**Watertown Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: October 15, 2019
Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Place: Lecture Hall, Watertown High School

Members Present: Ms. Leslie Crotty, Chairman
Mr. Tom Lambert, Vice Chairman
Ms. Janelle Wilk, Secretary
Mr. Robert Makowski
Ms. Cathie Rinaldi
Ms. Diane Bristol
Ms. Cindy Eastman
Ms. Josephine Cavallo-Rosa
Ms. Cheryl Albino

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Rydell Harrison –Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Tom DiStasio – Business Manager

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

B. Salute to the Flag

C. Roll Call – Ms. Davidson

D. Minutes

Agenda Item: D.1
Subject: Minutes of the September 23rd, 2019 Regular Board of Education Meeting

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

Text of the Motion:	Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the minutes from the September 23 rd , 2019 Board of Education meeting as presented by Ms. Davidson.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	Ms. Crotty Ms. Albino
Vote:	Motion passed

E. Report from Student Council Representative – Jordan Arnold

Report combined with Dr. Harrison's report

F. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report

1. **Appointments – (Information Only)**

Ms. Paulina Auclair to the position of Link Crew Lead Coordinator for Watertown High School, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, being paid the WEA stipend amount of \$2,113.00.

Ms. Sandra Barolli to the position of Special Education Paraprofessional at Swift Middle School, effective October 7, 2019, at a contractual hourly rate of \$15.17.

Ms. Kristen Bates to the position of CARE Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, being paid one fourth of the contract stipend in the amount of \$577.00 per the Watertown Education Association.

Ms. Kristen Bates to the position of SSP Co-Advisor at Watertown High School, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, being paid half of the contract stipend amount of \$1,250.00 per the Watertown Education Association.

Ms. Leah Bellemare to the position of SSP Co-Advisor at Watertown High School, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, being paid half of the contract stipend amount of \$1,250.00 per the Watertown Education Association.

Ms. Leah Bellemare to the position of CARE Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, being paid one fourth of the contract stipend in the amount of \$577.00 per the Watertown Education Association.

Ms. Rebecca Borbas to the position of System Wide Music Coordinator for Watertown Public Schools, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, at the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$2,849.00.

Ms. Rovena Cavallo to the position of Special Education Paraprofessional, Category 2 at Swift Middle School, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, at the contractual hourly rate of \$15.17.

Ms. Kerry Dains to the position of Special Education Paraprofessional, Category 2 at John Trumbull Primary School, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, at the contractual hourly rate of \$15.17.

Ms. Sofia Flamengo to the position of Peace Pals Advisor at Swift Middle School, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, to be paid the WEA stipend amount of \$1,026.00.

Ms. Sofia Flamengo to the position of Juvenile Review Board Case Manager for Student Services, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, to be paid the WEA contract stipend amount of \$5,200.00.

Ms. Kristian Kuegler to the position of Cross Country Coach/fall season, for Swift Middle School, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, to be paid the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$2,517.00.

Ms. Nicole Lewis to the position of CARE Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, to be paid one-fourth of the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$577.00.

Ms. Nicole Lewis to the position of SSP Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, to be paid half of the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$1,250.00.

Ms. Amy Mordarski to the position of Special Education Paraprofessional for Polk Elementary School, effective October 7, 2019 at a contractual hourly rate of \$15.17.

Ms. Ashley Pettinato to the position of Special Education System Wide Coordinator for Watertown Public Schools, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, at the WEA contractual stipend amount of \$2,849.00.

Ms. Christine Sales to the position of SSP Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, to be paid half the WEA stipend amount of \$1,250.00.

Ms. Christine Sales to the position of CARE Co-Advisor for Watertown High School, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, being paid one fourth of the contract stipend in the amount of \$577.00 per the Watertown Education Association.

Mr. Charles Schofield to the position of School Security/Residency Officer for Watertown Public Schools, effective September 30, 2019, at a salary of \$40,000.00 (prorated).

Ms. Sarah Simmons to the position of System Wide Nurse Coordinator for Watertown Public Schools, effective for the 2019-2020 school year, at the contractual stipend amount of \$2,849.00.

Mr. Donald Wailonis to the position of Interim Assistant Principal at John Trumbull Primary School, effective October 7, 2019 to be paid a salary of \$120,558.00, Step 4 of the WEA agreement (prorated).

2. **Transfers– (Information Only)**

None

3. **Resignations – (Information Only)**

Ms. Janet Crocker, from the position of school nurse at John Trumbull Primary School, effective October 1, 2019 for personal reasons.

4. **Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Harrison – Good evening everyone. This is our update from **John Trumbull**. In reading, students are expressing good reading habits including habits such as reading to smooth out their voice, reading small phrases, and re-reading to better understand the text. In math, students are reviewing and understanding addition, writing addition sentences and adding in any order. And in writing, students are brainstorming ideas, discussing what makes a good writing partner, how to choose a quiet place to write, using capital letters and punctuation. We would like to say a thank you to the Watertown Fire Department for visiting all classes and teaching students about fire safety.

At **Judson**, Ms. Scully reports they had their first STARS assembly last week. This supports their PBIS program that has been developed by the work of the school leadership team. STAR students of the month were recognized as well as those that participated in the Governor’s summer reading challenge. In addition, students participated in “Start with Hello” activities developed by Sandy Hook Promise. Members of the Lotus Counseling shared the simple steps of “Start with Hello” in order to address social isolation. Judson and Polk staff, as well as John Trumbull, were excited to welcome Off. Chip Schofield to their schools when he began a couple of weeks ago.

At **Polk**, Ms. Galik reports information about their reading assembly that is part of the school’s culture initiatives. Students were treated to a “Literacy Alive” reading celebration last week. This fun filled enrichment program was designed to get students excited about reading. The presenter, Robert Rivest, used a variety of rhyming and improvisations to reveal the hidden treasures of reading and comically illustrated the joys of reading every day. This humorous celebration of reading was a huge hit with students. We also wanted to share about the school family meetings. In an ongoing effort to build community and civic mindedness, our next family meeting will take place on October 25th where each of the school families will gather together to play their favorite board games and spending time getting to know members of these small groups better. These families are comprised of one adult and students from grades 3, 4, & 5.

At **Swift**, they have reported that over 200 Swift Middle School 8th graders went to Boston this month as an extension to their social studies curriculum. Students walked the Freedom Trail and visited historic sites such as The State House, Faneuil Hall and the USS Constitution. Students became experts in one site each and then talked to their peers about that site when they arrived there. Students are also being encouraged to sign up for a possible trip to Philadelphia in the spring. On behalf of the administration at Swift, they want to say a huge

thank you to Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation who has once again extended their generosity to Swift. They awarded a grant for the Swift fitness room in the amount of \$2,300 to purchase an additional piece of exercise equipment. This is the second year that the foundation has contributed to Swift and we are all very grateful for their continued support. As many of you have already seen on social media, the **High School** continues to make their “Good News” calls home since the first week of September. They have made 25 “Good News” calls so far. Students are proud to be recognized by their teachers and family members to get the “Good News” calls and they are also appreciative of the positive reviews from the school. Last week, Dr. Parlato, Mrs. Cote, and two teachers attended the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents conference about grades, grading practices and grade reporting. This conference featured, Dr. Thomas Guskey, who is the national expert on grading in schools. I also wanted to share information about the High School’s after school credit recovery program known as Pathways where students can make up courses where they have lost credit. This is an afterschool program where all 15 seats in the program are being utilized so that students can catch up and be on track for graduation. The high school counselors, administrators and four students visited Swift to present the High School’s offerings to 8th graders. This presentation was well received by students and the high school presenters enjoyed explaining all of the choices available at Watertown High School. Also, Jordan will be sharing more information about at the next meeting about our first Superintendent’s Student Advisor Council meeting with our students and that will be part of his reporting going forward and he will share information regarding that.

Ms. Crotty – A note about the “Start with Hello” program, I just want to thank Ms. Albino for bringing it to my attention through the Sandy Hook Promise. I then shared that information with Dr. Harrison. It is a great program, not sure if our principals were already aware of it, or have received materials through that, but I was really excited to see some of our principals take that on. I know it aligns very well with some of things that we already do in all of the schools, but it was a nice, different way to package it into our programs.

G. Discussion regarding request from Charter Revision Commission on Board of Education related items

Ms. Crotty – All department heads and chairs of boards were requested/invited to come to the charter revision this coming Tuesday to come and explain how the charter affects their board or department and what we may want them to consider to change. As you all know, the charter revision commission has until April of 2020 to make their recommendations to the Town Council. Going through the charter (it was sent electronically to all Board members), I hope you have had a chance to review it. In terms of the Board of Education, I am sure you are all very well aware, there are very few sections that have to do with the Board of Education because this board is governed by the State Boards of Education and state statutes. So what does relate to us are things like the eligibility for election, how to be appointed if a member resigns, the term of our offices, how vacancies can be filled, and then items related to chair in regards to responsibility to the town reporting on our budget. Is there anything anyone feels, within those few sections, have anything that they think should be changed or have recommendations in terms of more gender neutral terms in the charter, or cleaning up of some statutes that are updated, things like that, but in terms of the Board of Ed, is there anything you would like me to consider sharing with the commission?

In general, I think that it will be my sentiment in terms of how the charter is written in terms of us; I do know that they plan on asking some questions and I am bringing along Dr. Harrison and Mr. Lambert. I am sure that I could submit what I have to say in writing, but I will attend and take their questions. I do know that some other members of the Town and other department heads may have already submitted some things that may or may not have to do with the Board of Ed that they may or may not ask me about that evening, but I would appreciate if you think of anything between now and then to just let me know and I will make sure to convey it to them.

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, Ms. Janelle Wilk, Chair –Yes

Negotiations with the Administrators Union will begin next week.

Budget and Finance Committee, Ms. Diane Bristol, Chair – No
Facilities/PBC/Operations Committee, Mr. Thomas Lambert, Chair –Yes

Municipal Center/Town Hall is ramping up. Looks like they are heading towards their hard date deadline so they are...even there on Columbus Day running around...they are really starting to target getting this done. Concentrating on the leak areas, getting specialists in there, ripping off sheet rock, replacing insulation...it is getting down to painting and some issues with the roof. I would say November is a good target right now. I also want to say thanks to our maintenance department for power washing at Swift, I love the new look! It made such a difference.

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

J. Communications - Secretary

None

K. Report from the Board Chair

No Report

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

Agenda Item:	L.1
Subject:	Consideration for an Out of Town Field Trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Motion Presented By:	Mr. Lambert
Motion Seconded By:	Ms. Rinaldi

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of an out of state field trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from May 7th to May 8th, 2020 for approximately 144 Swift Middle School students as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: L.2

Subject: Consideration for an Overnight Field Trip to Hartford, Connecticut

Motion Presented By: Ms. Rinaldi

Motion Seconded By: Mr. Makowski

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of a field trip to Hartford, Connecticut from April 2nd to April 4th, 2020 for approximately 4 Watertown High School music students as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: L.3

Subject: Consideration for an Overnight Field Trip to Watertown, Connecticut

Motion Presented By: Mr. Makowski

Motion Seconded By: Ms. Bristol

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of a field trip to Camp Mataucha in Watertown, Connecticut from December 6th – December 7th, 2019 for approximately 20 Watertown High School Robotic Team students as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: L.4a

Subject: Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts

Motion Presented By: Ms. Bristol

Motion Seconded By: Ms. Rosa

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the \$2,300 donation from Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation in Thomaston CT for the purchase of equipment for the Swift Middle School fitness room and that a letter of appreciation be sent to the donor.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: L.4b

Subject: Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts

Motion Presented By: Ms. Rosa

Motion Seconded By: Ms. Albino

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the \$2000 donation from the Swift Middle School PTSO for the purchase of equipment for the Swift Middle School fitness room 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

Ms. Crotty – I would like to take a minute to congratulate Dr. Harrison officially...I know it has been in the newspaper, on Facebook, on Twitter, but being appointed by Leader of the House Ritter to serve on the committee that reports and recommends directly to the Governor and to the State Board of Education on professional standards in the education field...we are really proud to have you represent us and to be the only Superintendent. That committee is structured by state statute and they are only allowed one Superintendent in the entire state on that committee and that is Dr. Harrison and we are super proud. We don't like to get political on the Board of Education, especially with the elections coming up, but I would like to note that Mr. Ritter is a Democrat and Watertown is known to be, over the years, having more Republicans in the district, having both our Senator and Representative are both Republicans and to see such an appointment made in a town that is largely represented by Republicans is also quite amazing. Congratulations and I look forward to reading more about it.

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

None

O. Adjournment

Agenda Item:	O.1
Subject:	To adjourn the meeting
Motion Presented By:	Ms. Albino
Motion Seconded By:	Ms. Eastman
Text of the Motion:	Madame Chair, I move that we adjourn.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion Passes

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindi Davidson
Recording Secretary

Janelle Wilk
Secretary of the Board