

Pending BOE Approval

**Watertown Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: February 23, 2015
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. Ray Nardella, Secretary
Ms. Janelle Wilk
Mr. Victor Vicenzi
Mr. Jim Gambardella
Mr. Donato Orsini
Ms. Cathie Rinaldi

Members Absent: Ms. Josephine Cavallo-Rosa

Others Present: Ms. Emma Karpinski – Student Council Representative
Dr. Bridget Carnemolla – Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Jill Browne – 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 February 11, 2015 Regular Board of Education Meeting

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

Text of the Motion:	I move that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the February 11, 2015 Board of Education Regular Meeting.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	Mr. Gambardella
Vote:	Motion Passes

E. Awards

1. The Watertown Board of Education would like to congratulate the Swift Middle School Pep Band for their hard work. These seventh & eighth grade students go above and beyond the normal band requirements, preparing stadium cheers and short band arrangements for several sporting events under the direction of band teacher, Ms. Becky Borbas.

Taline Almasian	Jessica Beverly
Bethany Brown	Marie Allysa Cayabyab
Terance Charkowsky	Shelbie Childs
Malachy Croke	William Daddario
Nicole DeFeo	Victoria Derasmo
Carissa Deschaine	Kaylee DiBianco
Spencer Dodge	Olivia Emst
Megan Gallagher	Sydney Greco
Nicholas Guerrera	Emily Gursky
Mostafa Hafez	Michael Hanis
Rebekah Holmes	Rachel Hughes
Carlie Liseo	Caterina Liseo
Charina Manalo	Cailin McGuire
Kayla Misiolek	Arbri Muso
Rachel Pieger	Nicholas Pietrorazio
Branden Purvis	Megan Ricci
Kyle Robinson	Jack Ryan
Timothy Schell	Rachel Shirk
Stephanie Shneydman	Julia Spagnoletti
Sarah Tata	Kaitlyn Tran
Timothy Tscheppe	Taryn White
Emma Zaccagnini	

2. Project Graduation

The Watertown Board of Education would like to recognize and thank the parents involved in raising funds for our graduating senior students at Watertown High School since, 2010. The purpose of Project Graduation is to provide a safe, drug & alcohol free

environment where students can celebrate the accomplishment of high school graduation as a school community. Thank you to the following parents for all their countless hours and contributions, and for making project graduation a huge success.

Cara Laflamme
Pamela Ciccio
Holly Gurry
Lori Birtwistle

John Ciccio
Robert Gurry
Jan Carpino

Ms. Leslie Crotty, Chairman of the Board of Education - read a statement regarding how students feel both a sense of accomplishment and a sense of loss. They also feel it is a time that they can let loose, be with their friends, and party. It is a time where drinking by underage children increases as does accidents involving alcohol. Recognizing this, and knowing that we needed alcohol and substance free parties in our town for our children, these Watertown and Oakville parents put together project graduation since 2010 from 10:00 pm to 5:00 am. What makes it unique is the mindset of the children. By signing up to attend project graduation, they have made a conscious decision to enjoy their graduation without alcohol or drugs.

Officer Dave McDonnell, Watertown Police Department – read a statement on what he has seen firsthand what underage drinking can do to teens and their families. Teens do not understand how life altering their decisions can be. Offering alternative parties like project graduation can save lives. Often times efforts like these, from these parents, go unnoticed. They are the people behind the scenes and they should be recognized. Here, representing the Watertown Police Department, he wants these parents know that every member of the force know and appreciate all of your hard work. We are proud to honor your efforts and want to thank you for keeping our students safe on that either graduation.

Eric Berthel, State Representative – read a statement sharing a story of when he was a senior at Pomperaug High School. He lost a very good friend to underage drinking and driving. At 17, the grief is immeasurable. Once subsided, he helped start one of the first chapters of SADD, or students against drunk driving. We came together as a community to do whatever we could to prevent that sadness and senseless loss of life. Tonight he is proud to stand here and help recognize the parents and the entire community, who are essentially doing the same thing, who give freely and selflessly, of their time to help prevent a tragedy from occurring in Watertown or Oakville. He also noted two things: the first being that many of these parents do not have seniors in Watertown high school but give of their time regardless; and secondly that the board chair, Ms. Leslie Crotty, and her husband Bill, should also be recognized as they too are part of this project. Thank you all for the giving of yourselves for the betterment of our students. Our community is a better place because of each of you.

Rob Kane, State Senator – read a statement and looked at today's news with the students at Wesleyan University who were hospitalized for using the drug "Molly". Drunk driving in drug use in our state is discussed with his constituents and we thank the volunteers that you are recognizing tonight. It is incredible that you do this and hopefully we will always be able to keep it going. He talked about when he was in high school and not having the same opportunities as the children do now. Our children are exposed to so much now in the year 2015, then what we saw when we were kids. It is

very important that these types of projects occur and what you're doing is incredible and to the volunteers, I thank you.

Adam Kuegler, former student president of the class of 2013 at WHS – (letter read by Ray Nardella) - he wanted to provide some words of thanks to the parents to carry out project graduation. He took the time to admit he was a skeptic as he wasn't sure he would enjoy an event like this. As graduation neared, he was concerned that he would not enjoy a night spent overnight at his high school. However, he found that his skepticism was ill-founded. When he arrived he was greeted by enthusiastic and caring volunteers. They ensured he had a wonderful experience and it was clear they were meticulous in their planning. I enjoyed having a wonderful time and I cannot thank these fine, dedicated volunteers' for their efforts on behalf of my fellow classmates, and myself. These parties keep students from drugs and alcohol as these have ended too many lives. In short, project graduation save lives. We are very grateful for the time and effort.

3. WHS Scoreboard - Timing System

In 1991, the Watertown Recreation Swim Team Parents Association/Booster Club purchased the original Colorado Time System and donated it to the Town of Watertown for use at the Watertown High School pool. When this project started, a fund was established to have money available to be able to buy new parts and pieces for the timing system when things wore out or broke. Each season each of the three (3) swim teams, WRST (Watertown Recreation Swim Team), and both Watertown High School teams, contributes \$250 to the Colorado Maintenance Fund. This money comes from fund raising activities from the team's parents' groups. This will be the largest replacement of equipment since the original purchase.

The Recreation and High School teams have recently donated the funds to the Town to purchase a new Colorado Time Systems equipment with a value of \$11,224. The Recreation Team contributed \$3611.50 this year. This is over and above their yearly contribution to the Colorado Maintenance fund. We took the remaining \$7632.50 from the fund to which all three teams put money after every season.

The Watertown Board of Education would like to thank the Watertown Recreation swim team parents as well as the Watertown High School boys & girls swim team parents for their generous donations for the pools timing system. This technology will benefit all the swimmers in the years to come.

The following people were the point people for the funding of this equipment this year:

- Andy Tscheppe, Representative for the Watertown Recreation Swim Team, Booster Club
- Margaret Butler, Representative for the Watertown High School Parents Boys' Swim Team.

- Marianne Pannoni, Representative for the Watertown High School Parents Girls' Swim Team.

F. Report from Student Council Representative – Emma Karpinski

At John Trumbull, students celebrated the 100th day of school on February 17th. Kindergarteners made something out of 100 items and counted to 100. First graders decorated shirts with 100 items, and second graders wrote 100 things they learned. Second grade teachers participated in their first math coaching day.

At Polk, auditions for Aladdin were held last Wednesday after school. Wednesday was also Polk Night at Daveluy's. \$500 was raised to fund a free family fun night in April.

At Judson, Dr. Carnemolla visited last week and participated in activities with the students. The School Leadership Team met last week to continue their work on Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports.

At Swift, the Swift PTSO will be having a joint meeting with Watertown High School principal Mr. Jones March 16th at 6:30. Swift 8th grade students will be visiting the high school Tuesday and Wednesday. They will complete a tour and activities created by Link Crew members. 8th grade parent night will take place in the high school auditorium Wednesday night at 6:30.

And at the High School, AP parent night was held February 18th to inform parents on the exam process. Course selection information was given out to underclassmen. Students have been rehearsing for the spring musical, Leader of the Pack, and have been raising money for the show in late March.

G. Public Participation

None

H. Budget Status (Information Only)

Jill Browne – went over that we continue to operate within 1% of budget overall. We have spent less and certified and noncertified salaries. We also spent less and contracted maintenance and repair which we have been watching very closely. We also spent less in textbooks and instructional supplies. Where I see more monies spent is in professional and technical services, pupil transportation and tuition. That is all related to outplacement. We may see some offset from the grant at the end of the year. We also seen more in heat energy and the biggest reason being is because we prepaid for oil. Currently, we are working on our e-rate vendor. They are all

responding to a bid and at our next meeting we will bring you an outline of all the bids received. We will also recommend our choice to you at that time for approval.

Mr. Lambert asked when the contract was up for the oil and what her hope was for the price going forward. Ms. Brown responded that is the year-to-year contract and the consortium is meeting to decide if they are going to renegotiate the price. It usually happens in the month of March. They negotiate on heating oil, diesel and gasoline, not natural gas. They discussed how natural gas prices were formed as well. Mr. Lambert then asked what our student transportation contract ends and was told it is a five-year contract, to which we are only in year one. Mr. Lambert then asked if Ms. Browne if she has ever considered having an energy consulting firm come into our schools, possibly to train our people on how to respect the energy in our schools. Ms. Browne responded that some degree we've done this with several different avenues already.

I. Committee Reports

Curriculum and Instruction Committee, Mr. Ray Nardella, Chair – No

Policy and Labor Committee – Ms. Leslie Crotty, (Acting Chair) – Yes

The policy and labor committee met earlier tonight and discussed a review of our homeschooling policy and the correct location for some policies that need to be moved within our manual. In addition to that they also discussed the changing graduation requirement policy that we will have to make if the new program of studies at the high school is approved this evening.

Budget and Finance Committee – Mr. Tom Lambert, Chair – No

Facilities/PBC/Operations Committee, Mr. Tom Lambert, Chair - No

Governance and Community Engagement Committee, Mr. Ray Nardella, Chair-No

J. Communications – Secretary

None

K. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report

1. Appointments (information only)

- a. Ms. Eva Jacquette to the position of Secretary III, Grade V, to the Business Manager for the Watertown Board of Education, effective February 9, 2015 at a rate of \$20.07 per hour.

- b. Ms. Brooke Biolo to the position of Long-Term Substitute Spanish Teacher at Watertown High School, effective February 10, 2015 to approximately May 1, 2015 at the rate of \$75.00 per day for the first ten days, and then placed on the second step of the WEA contract of \$42,117.00 prorated.

2. Resignations (information only)

- a. Ms. Jennifer Larkin, from the position of School Counselor at Watertown High School, effective February 12, 2015, for personal reasons.
- b. Ms. Cheryl French, from the position of Special Education Teacher and Pathways Facilitator at Watertown High School, effective February 12, 2015, for personal reasons.

3. 2015 – 2016 Proposed School Calendar

A draft was given to all board members. All calendars reviewed, including previous school and regional calendars. We are hopefully in line to move to regional school calendars within the next two years. We have made some slight changes, the first being how we do professional development days. We are doing them on the first two days of school and then convocation on the third. That makes our first day of school August 27. The other big change this calendar is the way we will handle half days for professional development going forward. Instead of having them on Wednesdays, we have moved them to Fridays. That way it will not disrupt the school week for children. It gets the entire week of instruction without disruption. It also makes easier on families. The April vacation is in line with the regional calendar which the way we are in compliance with it. It is a little later than normal for us, but that is the way it will be moving forward. You also see little difference on the conferences compared to the prior year, and that is mostly to make sure that teachers have enough time to do the conferences. One thing I want to point out that is completely new, as the late arrival days at Watertown High School. Because we are preparing for NEASC, teachers need to have time to do some reporting. Instead of dismissing early, we are doing something that is usually done in other districts by having the teachers come in early and the students come in later.

4. 2015 – 2016 Proposed Budget Discussion

This was a basic opportunity to review and ask questions about the proposed budget. There were no questions asked and Dr. Carnemolla took a moment to thank everyone who worked on the budget with her. It was a tremendous amount of work in a huge undertaking. She also made a point to thank the people from the town who worked closely with her to bring a budget both sides could agree upon. She wanted to make sure the increase was supported, and a 2.9% increase was as low as she could go to bring this budget in and still make sure that we met our needs, especially with the fixed costs going up as much as they did. The fixed costs were well

above the 2.9% increase alone, and we did whatever we could to reallocate our current funds to put what we needed into this budget and maintain this increase.

5. Watertown High School – Program of Studies Discussion

In the packets was a first read for the program of studies that will be coming to Watertown high school that was discussed in the curriculum and instruction meeting last week. It is being brought to you again tonight and hopefully will take an action to approve it. Ms. Crotty asked a question on how we will be able to bring a change in the program within the current scheduling system within the high school. It was noted that Mr. Jones has been leading a scheduling committee knowing we're going to have to make these changes to our studies. We are looking at changing high school scheduling so can address these concerns. We can't say at this moment what the schedule look like as they are still working to complete it. Mr. Jones had a little bit of time going over how the scheduling committee was working to complete this process. The current block schedule will now allow for the choices that we need to offer going forward. There are not enough periods in the day in that that type of schedule. Ms. Rinaldi asked if we would be going to eight classes next year and was told it is a possibility.

6. Consideration of the Approval of the Board of Education Policy – First Reading

The policy and labor committee met this evening, and even though it's a first reading, I wanted to speak to the language little. It was not necessarily a reading of a policy, but a reading of a suggested course of action to take regarding homeschooling. Please take a moment to read the advice that is given to us and come back with any questions that you may have.

7. Superintendent's Report

Last week, she was at Judson and was able to see the majority of classes: all of the third, all of fifth and some of fourth. She spent all day at Polk on Thursday and got to see all of the third, fourth, and fifth grades. She also had the privilege of attending a basketball game at Swift last week and it was very exciting, and we won so it was extra exciting. It was also a busy week with events in the community, she attended a crimestoppers board meeting on Wednesday morning. The main fundraiser that is organized to crimestoppers is there big pasta dinner and April and they are very excited and do a lot of work with our police department and also with our schools. She was at the Chamber of Commerce meeting for Watertown on Thursday morning and let them know where the Shamrock Shuffle proceeds are going. I also mentioned to the chamber, and now here, on March 6 at 6:30 at the Grand Oak Villa we have a gala for John Trumbull Primary School which the PTO has put together there. There will be a silent auction and it is to raise money for specific technologies at John Trumbull. There was also a nice article in the paper about the Bells for Ben activity we participated in at the senior center. That was the majority of how she spent last week. She also thanked Ms. Borbas and Ms. Lerz for having the band come this evening.

L. Report From the Chairman

In November, this Board adopted a District Improvement Plan that our administration has made its priority. Not once did they take their eye off the ball, regardless of the obstacles standing in the way of this achievement. Merging the Improvement Plan into the Budget Strategy was not an easy task- and there were many things that had to be worked on in order to accomplish even the most minor changes to our budget. Starting with the examined needs of our district and combining that with the historical information collected from a decade of processes and decisions made by past leaders, and analyzing them as effectively as possible, a budget developed. And it is not easy to present a budget where we cut almost a ½ million dollars in teaching and learning- including much needed literacy, numeracy, and English language tutors, and supervisors of math and science. However it becomes easier knowing that the budget process carefully scrutinized the best way to efficiently use our funds with the ultimate goal of having a maximum impact on student achievement. Recognizing that class size has a direct impact on this, the responsible choice was made to bring an additional K and 3rd grade teacher where it will have the greatest impact on self concept, social skills, and test scores. This budget ensures that every single resource available is being utilized effectively. It focuses on providing a physically and emotionally supportive environment for teaching and learning to take place in. This is a budget that communicates with and engages all stake holders and includes the efficient use and proactive maintenance of all of our beautiful facilities while cutting as many of the facility projects possible without being penny wise and dollar foolish. It is a budget where every cost savings possible was analyzed and obtained, where spending is absolutely efficient and subsidized by the ongoing pursuit of grant dollars where ever possible. It continues to take very seriously the responsibility of educating all students, providing Special Education Services where needed, and brings our District into 2015 with advancements in safety and technology that will greatly impact our ability to comply with mandated testing, evaluations, and the input of data necessary to maintain both compliance and security.

I look forward to presenting this budget to the Town Council on March 19th, and bringing it to the community throughout the next two months leading up to the Referendum.

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

Agenda Item:	M.1
Subject:	Consideration to Approve the 2015-2016 Budget
Motion Presented By:	Mr. Lambert
Motion Seconded By:	Mr. Gambardella
Text of the Motion:	Madame Chair, I move that the board approve the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2015/2016 as recommended by Dr, Bridget Carnemolla,

Superintendent of Schools.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: M.2

Subject: Consideration of the Approval of the proposed 2015 – 2016 School Year Calendar

Motion Presented By: Ms. Wilk

Motion Seconded By: Ms. Rinaldi

Text of the Motion: Madam, Chair, I move that the Board of Education approve of the proposed 2015 – 2016 calendar for the Watertown Public Schools.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: M.3

Subject: Consideration of the Approval of the Proposed 2015 – 2016 Program of Studies at Watertown High School

Motion Presented By: Mr. Vincenzi

Motion Seconded By: Mr. Gambardella

Text of the Motion: Madam Chair, I move that the Board of Education approve of the proposed program of studies at Watertown High School for the 2015 – 2016 school years.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: M.4
Subject: Consideration of the Approval of a Child Rearing Leave of Absence

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

Text of the Motion: Madam Chair, I move that the Board of Education approve the request for long term leave of absence for Ms. Julia Culbertson for the 2015 – 2016 school year, without pay, for the purpose of child rearing.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Vote: Motion Passes

N. Future Agenda Items and Board Members' Comments

Mr. Vincenzi – Requested an update in a future meeting regarding the security grant and where we are with all of the upgrades.

Dr. Carnemolla – Noted her upcoming “Office Hours with Dr. C”: March 4 – JTPS, March 11 – Polk, March 16 – Swift.

O. Public Participation

None

P. Executive Session

Agenda Item: P.1
Subject: To Enter into Executive Session

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

Text of the Motion: Madam Chair, I move that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the negotiated contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Custodial, Maintenance, and Technical Employees. Attending the Executive Session will be James Gambardella, Josephine Cavallo-Rosa, Don Orsini, Tom Lambert, Janelle Wilk, Vic Vicenzi, Cathie Rinaldi, Leslie Crotty, Bridget Carnemolla, and myself, Ray Nardella. Also attending is Jill Browne.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Q. Regular Session

Agenda Item: Q.1
Subject: Possible action concerning the negotiated contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Custodial, Maintenance and Technical Employees.

Motion Presented By: Mr. Nardella
Motion Seconded By: Mr. Lambert

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the board table the possible action regarding the negotiated settlement between the Board of Education and the Custodial, Maintenance and Technical Employees.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

R. Adjournment

Agenda Item: R.1
Subject: To Adjourn the Meeting

Motion Presented By: Mr. Lambert

Motion Seconded By: Mr. Nardella

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

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindi Davidson
Recording Secretary

Ray Nardella
Secretary of the Board