

Pending BOE Approval

**Watertown Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: March 09, 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
Mr. Victor Vicenzi
Mr. Jim Gambardella
Ms. Cathie Rinaldi
Ms. Josephine Cavallo-Rosa

Members Absent: Ms. Janelle Wilk
Mr. Donato Orsini

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 23, 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:	None
Vote:	Motion Passes

E. Awards

1. **The Watertown Board of Education wishes to congratulate the following students from Watertown High School for their Student of the Month Achievements:**

December

John Albini	Social Studies	Grade 12
Andrea Pannoni	Social Studies	Grade 11
Sindy Yang	Social Studies	Grade 10
Domeniko Skrelja	Social Studies	Grade 09

January

Robert Lawton	DREAM Award	Grade 12
Benjamin Hudobenko	DREAM Award	Grade 11
Andrew Consalvo	DREAM Award	Grade 10
Holly Anne Chapin	DREAM Award	Grade 09

February

Angela Hughes	Mathematics	Grade 12
Mariam Hafez	Mathematics	Grade 11
Angela Nozzolillo	Mathematics	Grade 10
Allessandra Mayo	Mathematics	Grade 09

2. **Board of Education Recognition Month**

The Month of March is Board of Education Recognition Month

Thank you Board Members for your outstanding work, your volunteer services to the community and your dedication to the Watertown Board of Education:

- Mrs. Leslie Crotty-Board Chair
- Mr. Thomas Lambert-Vice Chairman
- Mr. Raymond Nardella-Board Secretary

- Mr. James Gambardella-Board Member
- Mr. Don Orsini-Board Member
- Ms. Cathie Rinaldi-Board Member
- Ms. Josephine Cavallo-Rosa-Board Member
- Mr. Victor Vicenzi Jr.-Board Member
- Ms. Janelle Wilk-Board Member

- Ms. Emma Karpinski-Student Council Representative
- Ms. Mindi Davidson-Board Clerk

3. Recognition of Music Students

The Month of March is Music in Our Schools Month.

Watertown Board of Education would like to congratulate and recognize the following students that were accepted in the Connecticut Music Education Association (CMEA) Music Festivals for 2015:

Watertown High School:

Peter Ryan, Grade 12, Connecticut Northern Region High School Music Festival- Choir

Kristen VanDerlyn, Grade 11, Connecticut Northern Region High School Music Festival and 2015 Connecticut All-State Choir - Soprano.

Daniel Gursky, Grade 11, Connecticut Northern Region High School Music Festival Band - Percussion.

Nicholas Ciarlo, Grade 12, Connecticut Northern Region High School Music Festival Choir-Tenor.

Alexander Perez, Grade 10, Connecticut Northern Region High School Music Festival Choir-Tenor.

Joshua Viltrakis, Grade 11, Connecticut Northern Region High School Music Festival Choir-Tenor.

Swift Middle School:

Charina Manalo, Grade 8, Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Band-Trombone.

Vincent Kaverud, Grade 7, Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Orchestra-Violin.

Grace Brown, Grade 6, Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Choir-Soprano.

Lira Cenka, Grade 6, Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Choir – Soprano.

Megan Gallagher, Grade 8, Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Choir –Alto.

Hannah Lee Jack, Grade 7, Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Choir –Alto.

Isabelle Sarandrea, Grade 6, Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Choir–Soprano.

Lily Skye Shaw, Grade 8, Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Choir–Soprano.

Hayley Zemaitis, Grade 7, Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Choir–Soprano.

Lily Burne, Grade 7, Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Mixed Choir–Soprano.

Steve LeClerc, Grade 7, Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Mixed Choir–Bass.

Nicholas Pietrorazio, Grade 8, Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Mixed Choir –Tenor.

Noah Ryan, Grade 6, Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Mixed Choir–Soprano.

Sarah Tata, Grade 8, Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Mixed Choir–Soprano.

F. Report from Student Council Representative – Emma Karpinski

At John Trumbull, Dr. Seuss' birthday was celebrated last week. Students answered riddles, pledged to read every day and night, and were read to by Thing 1 and Thing 2. The PTO hosted the annual auction of March 6th at the Grand Oak Villa. Pedicures with the Principals, Principal for the Day, and several other prizes were raffled off.

For Polk, at March's staff meeting, Terry Verillo presented how to monitor the progress of students receiving Tier II Instruction using the new assessment platform. The math coach from EdConn spent the day with teachers from grades 3 and 5 planning activities for students in need of extra help.

At Judson School, they raised \$1,000 for Angels for Angela. Polk and Judson families enjoyed the Beginner Strings Concert that was held at Judson last week.

At Swift, fourteen students participated in the Regional Music Festival last weekend. They were selected after trying out in a competition. Swift science teacher Krisl Beres and the Watertown High School Robotics Team #237 competed in a District Competition last weekend. They ranked fifth out of 34 teams after qualifications, and their alliance placed second overall at the competition.

And at Watertown High School, sophomores completed PSAT lessons and will be participating in Career Cluster Inventory lessons. Juniors will be able to sign up for the Hartford College Fair field trip on March 26th. A college application process survey was posted for students and parents and positive feedback was received.

G. Public Participation

None

H. Committee Reports

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

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

Ms. Crotty noted there was an expulsion hearing this week.

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

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

Mr. Lambert and Ms. Crotty took a moment to thank all of the maintenance staff and those from the town for the great work they did removing all of the snow and ice this season.

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

I. Communications – Secretary

None

J. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report

1. Appointments (information only)

- a) Ms. Maureen Ziegler to the position of Secretary II, Grade IV, Assistant Secretary to the Superintendent/Accounting Clerk for the Watertown Board of Education, effective February 25, 2015 at a rate of \$19.15 per hour.
- b) Mr. Keith Borkowski to the position of Boys' Basketball Coach at Swift Middle School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$2,454.00, payable at the end of the season.
- c) Mr. Keith Borkowski to the position of Varsity Softball Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$4,186.00, payable at the end of the season.
- d) Mr. Kevin Danaher to the position of Boys' Swimming Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$3,753.00, payable at the end of the season.
- e) Mr. Justin Froese to the position of Junior Varsity Baseball Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$2,738.00, payable at

the end of the season.

- f) Mr. Joseph Giannelli to the position of Girls' Basketball Coach at Swift Middle School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$2,454.00, payable at the end of the season.
- g) Mr. Angelo Gizzi to the position of Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$691.26 (prorated), payable at the end of the season.
- h) Mr. Jason Hurdle to the position of Boys' Basketball Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$4,618.00, payable at the end of the season.
- i) Mr. Michael Kelly to the position of Boys' Junior Varsity Lacrosse Co-Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$936.00, payable at the end of the season.
- j) Ms. Sarah Macary to the position of Girls' Varsity Lacrosse Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$2,886.00, payable at the end of the season.
- k) Mr. Darren Mallette to the position of Boys' Junior Varsity Lacrosse Co-Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$1,083.50, payable at the end of the season.
- l) Mr. Christopher Martin to the position of Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$1,762.73 (prorated), payable at the end of the season.
- m) Mr. Garry Smith to the position of Boys' Diving Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$3,321.00, payable at the end of the season.
- n) Mr. Stephen Paternoster to the position of Indoor Track Head Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014-2015 school year, being paid half of the contractual stipend of \$1,515.50, payable at the end of the season.
- o) Mr. Corrado Perugini to the position of Ice Hockey Assistant Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014 – 2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$2596.00, payable at the end of the season.
- p) Ms. Andrea Szarkowicz to the position of Indoor Track Head Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014-2015 school year, being paid half of the contractual stipend of \$1515.50, payable at the end of the year.
- q) Mr. Mike Theriault to the position of Girls' Junior Varsity Lacrosse Coach at Watertown

High School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$2167.00, payable at the end of the season.

- r) Mr. Jan Wivestad to the position of Golf Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$1872.00, payable at the end of the season.
- s) Mr. Tyler Wragg to the position of Assistant Ice Hockey Coach at Watertown High School for the 2014-2015 school year at a contractual stipend of \$2738.00, payable at the end of the season.

2. Discussion Regarding the Voluntary Early Retirement (VERIP) for Certified Staff

In an executive session in a prior meeting, the board voted to extend early retirement certified staff. It was negotiated and completed. We have ten retirements to have chosen to retire under the plan. The letters were due last Monday. A person is eligible for retirement if they have obtained the age of 60 and accumulated 20 years of service or there any age and they have 35 years of accredited service, where 25 of those have to be in the state of Connecticut. There are definitely ways for pro rata and early retirement which are documented in what came home to you this week. Under our early retirement plan, our eligible employees who are able to retire as of June 30, are receiving a total of \$22,000 as an incentive. They will be paid that amount of three installments, July 2015, July 2016, & July 2017. That breaks down to \$7333.33 in 2015 and 2016 and \$7733.34 in July 2017. This money is being put directly into an HRA, which is a health retirement account which works just like a health savings account, except that is for retirees. The head of the Watertown Education Association and I signed this on our behalf and the letters have been turned in. The list has been given to the board this evening for approval.

Ms. Crotty noted her thanks to Dr. Carnemolla for negotiating this and for keeping this within our approved budget. Dr. Carnemolla noted that these numbers have been budgeted, as they worked with a number of 10 for a number of retirees, so the numbers that were used in the budget are accurate. It may seem that while paying out \$22,000 is costing us money, but for all of these teachers we are seeing their salaries between the top step salary and where we will hire in new people. And in certain cases we are not refilling these positions and saving those salaries altogether.

3. Phone/Network Utilities Update

Tonight we are going to talk a little bit about what ERate is. These are numbers that are already in the budget, but this is the large utility contract and I thought the board should be informed on how it works and how we have selected the carrier we are going to use.

Ms. Browne – Erate is federal dollars that is administered through the FCC. The FCC is very smart about the process because every year they make us go out and get quotes from local utility

companies where they have to bid to get the best price. So before they even give us grant dollars they're going to ensure that we have the most optimal pricing. The services that are covered are in telecommunications, local and wide area networking and broadband services. From the past years, we receive most of our money in telecommunications. That is a category one service. There are a total of two categories. Category one is mostly phone number category two is mostly networking. They are phasing out category one as it is not directly related to students like information technology can be. So because I was being phased out we will receive 20% less, as well everyone else. Because we're trying to get as much money as we can we are making improvements to our wide area networking. Especially at John Trumbull, where we need several access points for Wi-Fi. We also need to improve our bandwidth and connectivity throughout all of our five schools. We received forbids for local area networking, but to were not complete and be between the two that were there's a difference in the hardware where one offers better range and connectivity and we will probably make that choice. We've only had one company did on our wide area networking and the good news is that the bid is \$13,000 less than what we spent this year. Our current carrier would also like to place a bid that has not yet done so. So, we will most likely have another update going forward.

4. Superintendent's Report

Also, tonight we have a motion before us for the proposed tuition rates of 2015 – 2016. I wanted to be clear on what those are. Every year, based on our per pupil expenditure, we must set tuition rates, and we can establish that after the Board of Education establishes a budget. It is usually used for when a nonresident wishes to send their child to Watertown public schools. This may also be used if there is a residency issue. For the 2015 – 2016 school year, the tuition is broken down by grade level. For grades nine through 12, it is \$12,230, and for both middle school and elementary school it would be \$11,233. The extended programming kindergarten is \$5516. That is a percentage increase of 1.0299. A resident of Watertown who would like to pay for the extended programming kindergarten would then pay \$2536.

Last week, generally speaking, I think we were delayed more than we were in school but I hope this is the last of it. To say was spent at Swift Middle school where I saw all of eighth-grade, all of seventh-grade, and most of sixth. We had a PD day scheduled last week, as you know, due to the delayed opening, had to be canceled. We are still looking as to when to reschedule that, as it was timely PD at the time with a number of outside presenters. To make matters a little bit more difficult, we start standardized testing soon and we can't interfere with that testing to have a half day for PD. When and if we can reschedule, I will bring it back to you. Even with the weather, though, are teachers at Swift middle school were able to get in some professional development with the teachers at UConn and working hard with the curriculum there. Also, the administrators, Ms. Parlato, Ms. Rochester, and I participated in some professional development that we got for free, on our evaluations, and the company came in to help us with the midyear check. It helps us look at the hard data in our valuations.

I want to think again, our maintenance and custodial staff, who also come in at 4 AM, to make sure we are able to have the delays versus closing the schools.

Last week I attended the legislative dinner that Gov. Malloy spoke at the Grand Oak Villa, it was a nice evening where several of us are business owners, board of Ed members, and townspeople got to meet and greet. As a great opportunity to meet some people who are interested in doing internships and jobs having her high school students.

Last week, I presented the board approved budget to very large group at John Trumbull and we had a good discussion about that with a lot of questions. I will do the same again this week on Wednesday night where I will be at Polk school on Wednesday at 7 PM for combination of both Polk and Judson PTOs.

Since this is the last time I will see you before this coming Saturday, one last plug for the Shamrock Shuffle. They are very generous with their donations where one half is going to a student from Swift middle school who has been diagnosed with cancer and the other half going to the Guy Buzzancco Memorial scholarship that a committee has established.

Ms. Crotty noted a point that was brought to her attention in regards to the budget. Due to a senior center brochure that lists that the Board of Education is sponsoring musical tickets for seniors in our community for the upcoming musical, there have been some members of the community that made the assumption after reading that in the senior center brochure that the board of Ed was using district funds to pay for those tickets. Ms. Crotty clarified to the board into the public, that those are personal and individual choices the board members have made to donate money to help our seniors have access to musical this year and it is not district funds, it is our own personal finances.

K. Report From the Chairman

Tonight Dr. Carnemolla recognized the Board of Education, and I would like to add a few words that pertain to my fellow colleagues sitting up here tonight.

I would like to thank each of you for the commitment you have made to the Watertown community. You each participate in the schools in different ways, and you actively listen to the concerns of parents, employees, and community members. I have witnessed your passion for education, and your understanding of the value of other's opinions. You respond quickly to problems and are not afraid of making the hard decisions. You consistently act with professionalism and humility, and show patience and kindness in all of the work that you do.

It is a pleasure working with a group that shows respect to all of its members, who each share the same core value and vision for the school district that we serve. These qualities make you each a successful school board member, which in turn helps to create a successful Superintendent and school district. Our mutual understanding that the Superintendent is the education expert in our school district is an important characteristic of this Board.

As the quality of our school district directly reflects the competence of our superintendent and the school board, we must continue to operate with the understanding that no organization can be better than its leadership. If you want an outstanding environment for our students we must have an outstanding superintendent and school board. Together we all truly believe and put into practice the credo “the student comes first”. Let us continue this practice, and provide an atmosphere that encourages growth and continue to strive to inspire the community’s confidence.

I thank you for your service, and I look forward to the continued work that we will take on together.

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

Agenda Item:	L.1
Subject:	Consideration of the Approval of the Proposed Tuition Rates for the 2015-2016 School Year
Motion Presented By:	Mr. Lambert
Motion Seconded By:	Mr. Nardella
Text of the Motion:	Madame Chair, I move that the board approve of the proposed tuition rates for the 2015/2016 school year as recommended by Dr. Bridget Carnemolla, Superintendent of Schools. The tuition to be charged for each out of town pupil attending the Watertown Public Schools is at a rate based on audited PSIS enrollment data and ED001 expenditure data for the preceding year.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion Passes
Agenda Item:	L.2
Subject:	Consideration of the Approval of the Voluntary Early Retirement Plan (VERIP) for Certified Staff
Motion Presented By:	Mr. Vincenzi
Motion Seconded By:	Mr. Gambardella

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the board approve of the voluntary early retirement incentive plan between the BOE and the following staff members: Carole Weaver, Cheryl Magnanimo, Patricia Hotchkiss, Christine Goversen, Gary Reznik, Cheryl Kaiser, Linda Bartholomeo, Layne Allison, Deborah Bortolan, Ann Marie Downey

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: L.3

Subject: Consideration of the Approval of the Acceptance of a Gift

Motion Presented By: Ms. Rosa

Motion Seconded By: Mr. Lambert

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the board approve of the donation of a Pole Vault with a value of \$850.00 for use in Track and Field, given by Mr. Timothy Farrell. It is recommended that a letter of thanks be sent to the donor for this generous donation.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Vote: Motion Passes

M. Future Agenda Items and Board Members' Comments

None

N. Public Participation

None

O. Adjourn

Agenda Item:	O.1
Subject:	Adjournment
Motion Presented By:	Mr. Nardella
Motion Seconded By:	Mr. Lambert
Text of the Motion:	Madam Chair, I move that adjourn the meeting
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion Passes

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindi Davidson
Recording Secretary

Ray Nardella
Secretary of the Board