

Pending BOE Approval

**Watertown Board of Education  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** May 26, 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. Janelle Wilk  
Ms. Cathie Rinaldi  
Mr. Donato Orsini

**Members Absent:** Ms. Josephine Cavallo-Rosa  
Ms. Emma Karpinski – Student Council Representative

**Others Present:** 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 May 11, 2015 Regular Board of Education Meeting

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

Text of the Motion: I move that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the May 11, 2015 Board of Education Regular Meeting.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: Mr. Nardella

Vote: Motion Passes

**E. Report from Student Council Representative – Emma Karpinski**

**No report**

**F. Award Recognition**

1) The Watertown Board of Education would like to congratulate the following Judson Elementary School Students who were recognized for Student of the Month for April:

Grade 3

Kaydence Soule  
Julian Guerrero

Grade 4

Emily Kiernan  
Colin Leach

Grade 5

Sarah Kincaid  
Robert Rizk

\*\*Bruno Colella for March

2) The Watertown Board of Education wishes to congratulate the following Swift Middle School students who are being recognized for their “Creativity in the Arts”. These students stand out among their peers due to their talent, vision, creativity and interest in the arts.

Taline Almasian  
Ann Marie Bruzinski  
Lira Cenka  
Rachel Dillon  
Owen Garceau  
Chloe Honda  
Karrie Leduc-Santoro  
Charina Manalo  
Justin Nguyen  
Irene Pham

Eliya Brennan  
Lauren Burkhart  
Malachy Croke  
Jordon Elliot  
Patsy Harris  
Vincent Kaverud  
Trisa Mader  
Kelsey McFarland  
Andrew Petryshyn  
Sarah Tata

Hayley Zemaitis

## **G. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report**

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

- a) Mr. Jonathan Sales to the position of Long Term Substitute Science Teacher at Watertown High School, effective June 1, 2015 through the end of the 2014-2015 school year 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.
- b) Ms. Annemarie Manning to the position of Softball Coach at Swift Middle School for the 2014-2015 school year, being paid the contractual stipend amount of \$1,872.00, payable at the end of the season.
- c) Mr. Joseph Nappi to the position of Baseball Coach at Swift Middle School for the 2014-2015 school year, being paid the contractual stipend amount of \$2,454.00, payable at the end of the season.

### **2. Resignations (Information Only)**

Mr. Raymond Nardella, from the position of Board of Education Member for the Watertown Board of Education, effective May 26, 2015, to focus on his professional career.

### **3. Superintendent's Report**

In the past two weeks, I did a little more than I do, as this is the time of year where there is a lot going on in the schools. I got to see crazy hair day at John Trumbull, very exciting! I was at Judson, and as you know we are doing more with positive reinforcement with the grant that we received. But it was more than just good behavior; it is going above and beyond what is expected. At John Trumbull, I watched as two students were crowned principle for the day. This is apparently one of the most prized possessions to receive with their "Gotcha!" awards. This is the awards given at JTPS with showing that exemplary behavior. You must save up quite a number of these awards to receive this prize and they get to do things like eat in the teachers' lounge, carry a real radio, etc...and it makes them feel great. Likewise, at Judson, Mrs. Scully rolled out her fine dining, which is a STAR award at Judson. Two tables with white cloths, candles (not real), silver plates, silverware. It was gorgeous. Mrs. Scully was the host, as they were seated, she called them by their last name, Mr. \_\_\_ and do you have your guest? They loved it!

Also at JTPS, I attended the Rotary meeting. It was held there this month because they donated a large number of books to the library with a STEM theme. They were invited to see the books in the library as well as to see the children. They had their normal lunch, but then the children came in and pulled down all of the books and read them to the members. These were kindergartners. And they read these books as well as they could, with help from some of the members. It was a great afternoon. I would like to thank the Rotary Club for their donation and to the staff and administration for outing on this event.

I also, just for a moment, want to bring your attention to the grant. This is not a special grant, it is a normal grant for us. It is the IDEA grant and Ms. Rochester discussed what it covers in the beginning of the year. I just submitted them again about two weeks ago and we hope to be funded with what we asked for. It is included in the budget.

#### **4. Grant – (Information Only)**

The 2015-2017 Special Education Grant Programs (IDEA Grants) have been completed and submitted to the State Department of Education for approval. The total amount of the Grant is \$682,742. The grant consists of two components:

- IDEA Special Education Assistance (611 Funds) \$667,364
- IDEA Preschool Education (619 Funds) \$15,378

The award for Part B IDEA 2015-2017 funds is intended to support current staffing and technical services for Special Education programs.

The grant was written by Mrs. Donnah Rochester.

#### **H. Public Participation**

Mary Ann Rosa – 54 Central Ave., Oakville – Ms. Rosa took a moment to thank Mr. Nardella for his time given to the Board of Education and to the children of Watertown.

#### **I. Budget Summary - Information Only**

The budget status reports in the packet reflect the months of March & April. As of the end of April, we are still under budget by about \$172,000. This also reflects all of the budget transfers that we requested as of the last meeting. Currently, we are allowing purchase requisitions for instructional supplies, where in the past they were frozen. We are processing for yearend now. We are also closing all open purchase orders with vendors that we use throughout the school year. We are also determining where in the budget there is an abundance and where we are

deficient, so you will see some more requests from the business office in the next few weeks to balance out the budget.

#### **J. Report from the Board Chair**

On behalf of the Board of Education I would like to thank Dr. Carnemolla and her entire team of Administration, Faculty, and Staff for their tireless efforts on behalf of our school district. Right out of the gate this team built and rebuilt a budget that we continuously scrutinized, recalculated, reworked, and reconfigured until each and every line item was at its best. Figures were analyzed and recalculated daily, and expenses were decreased in areas where we have never been able to do so before. New cost-saving positions were added while others were realigned. We will have a District Social Worker for our students, and a Director of Technology and Data Information Services to assist us in integrating more technology into the classrooms and expand our grant award potential. Our athletic fields and gymnasiums will be utilized by players and coaches that are an important part of the well-being of our students, our classrooms will not be bursting at the seams, and our beautiful facilities will be maintained efficiently.

Thank you to the dynamic parents of the John Trumbull, Polk, Judson, Swift, and Watertown High School PTO and PTSOs. You came to every budget presentation and you inspired us. You shared ideas, brainstormed, and barely rested. You called, emailed, and asked relevant, critical questions that prepared us for the road ahead. You garnered the support of local businesses and provided fantastic incentives to increase voter turn-out in Watertown and Oakville. You hit the ball fields, tracks, neighborhoods and supermarkets, You reminded everyone to vote, you never gave up, and made us #ReferendumReady. Your unwavering dedication to the students and our entire community is extraordinary, and you have raised the bar once again. We are truly grateful.

Thank you to our colleagues Town Manager Bob Scannell, Finance Director Frank Nardelli, the Town Staff, and the Town Council for a new level of collaboration and support, we are truly stronger together.

There is no question that this is a lean budget, but it is one that has incorporated the genesis of some much needed transitions as we continue to provide the best education possible to our students in an efficient climate that is dedicated to learning and safety. The work of this district continues, as living in this budget will take just as much effort as building it did- but now we move forward with the healthy support of the entire district community and we thank you for that. Congratulations to all of you.

Tonight we must accept the resignation of one of our own, Mr. Ray Nardella. A Board Member for three and a-half years, Ray has served our town and our district with integrity and compassion. Guided by a strong moral compass and a passion for education, Ray has been a member in good standing for the entirety of his term on the Board of Education. Throughout the changes in Administrations and the changes in Board leadership Ray always kept his focus on the students. Never losing sight of the job at hand, and never afraid of the tough decisions, he worked diligently to see that the policies and decisions made on behalf of this Board were carefully considered.

Former Board colleague and State Representative Eric Berthel, who wanted to be here this evening but is in session, shared the following: "Ray - what a difficult loss for the BOE - your participation, your commitment and most importantly, your deep concern for the children of

our community - will surely be missed and a challenge to replace. The future ahead of you is no doubt filled with many great things – I can't wait to see what you do and share in the joy of your many successes. Thank you for your service to our community. It has been a pleasure to work with you; I am honored to call you my friend."

I too, am honored to call Ray a friend. His sincerity is something I felt from the moment we met and that has not changed over the last two years that we have been working together. Ray's resignation is a loss for our community, as he will be missed by all of us. While we are saddened by his resignation, we are hopeful for the bright future he has ahead of him.

On behalf of the Board of Education I'd like to present Mr. Nardella with this plaque in deep appreciation for his service to our district.

**Mr. Lambert** - Ray ..We will miss your presence on the Board for a number of reasons. As a respectful and supportive member who always had a new and fresh idea to bring into the discussion.... you will be missed. As a hard-working and dedicated board member who has grown enormously in his position.... you will be missed. But to me personally you will especially be missed because you are and always will be my friend. As a seasoned citizen, father, and grandfather I would like to give you my best advice for your future. When you finally settle down and purchase your first home don't spend your hard earned money on Vinyl siding.... buy the Harley Motorcycle. Do it! Let the wind mess up what hair you have left and sing along to "Born to be wild" and go for it. Kidding aside, my advice would be.....Dream big....Stay positive....Don't be afraid to fail....the rest will come in time if you keep your eye on the prize and continue towards your ultimate goal. You will continue to grow... because you have the passion and the desire to achieve.....nothing was given to you....you had to earn it.....and that's what will set you apart from the pack. You are the reason that we welcome young men and women as fellow board members. Your collaboration, hard work and dedication has reinforced your position on this board for future young board candidates...and they will build upon your success.... because you set the standard. In your next position whether a Counselor, College Dean, or full Professor, you will bring a wealth of knowledge, background, and experience that you can draw from, and when your student has an uphill challenge you might recall the words of our great President Ronald Reagan....There are no great limits to growth... because there are no limits of human intelligence... imagination... and wonder. We wish you well my friend....thank you, good luck, and keep in touch.

**Ms. Wilk** – Ray, it is a bittersweet night. It is sad to have this be our last night, all here as board members, but I am really and truly happy for you and your next chapter in your life. You are such an inspiration for all of these kids and you are so positive and you are so great, and you are all of our friends. You are an amazing friend and I wish you the best of luck.

**Dr. Carnemolla** – Ray, I have worked with you the least amount on this board, but regardless, I knew you as the principle of the high school before becoming superintendent. I know that all of the work that you have done with me, here as the superintendent and with this board, and prior to that, has been all about the students that go to Watertown Public Schools. That is one of the things that I think your youth, for lack of a better word, has brought to the board. Because you have graduated so recently from out school district, you have been able to bring that

perspective to this board and I have always known that, no matter what your questions were, or what your suggestions were, you were acting in that capacity; as a person who has graduated from Watertown schools and made sure that we kept them the best that they could possibly be. So, your presence will be missed here.

**Mr. Nardella** – Thank you, Madame Chair. Oh boy, thank you so much for those words. Janelle, Leslie, Dr. Carnemolla, everyone. I graduated college in 2011. And then, in 2011, I was elected by the people of Watertown and Oakville to the board and the only way I can describe my experience is having a second family. I know that won't change. I take solace in that and the opportunity that the people of Watertown and Oakville have given me is so appreciated and I thank you so much for that. I hope I made you proud...my parents, my brothers back there who helped me put the voting signs up last week and then we got some Dunkin'. If you follow me on social media, you know that Dunkin' is a great part of my life. It really is bittersweet, because I don't know what my future will hold, but I do know that I am going to approach it with this experience and that is all I can ask for. The mentors, the friendships that I have made, I am speechless. I thank everyone so much for entrusting me and constantly supporting me. I know that won't change and I will still be here. Thank you so much everybody.

#### **K. Committee Reports**

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

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

The Policy & Labor subcommittee met earlier tonight to discuss the revisions of two forms: The Field Trip Permission Form and the Field Trip Request Form. Each form was revised for clarity and ease of use.

**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**

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#### **L. Communications – Secretary**

Ms. Wilk read a letter that was sent to the Board of Education received regarding the resignation of Mr. Nardella, dated May 22, 2015.

“Dear Ms. Crotty, I have enjoyed my time with the Watertown Board of Education very much. Only three months after graduating from college, the good citizens of Watertown and Oakville entrusted me to serve on this esteemed body and make important decisions about our town’s

school district on their behalf. My membership on the board, whether it was a subcommittee member, secretary or PTO liaison, has given me such an amazing opportunity and I am so grateful to have experienced it. Through graduate school, the start of my career and many other of life's junctions, I have had the privilege of sharing my experiences with my fellow board members, community members, and school officials. I am currently prepared to focus much more on my professional future, and in the interest of full honesty, I am not certain what that might entail. It is likely that my future career endeavors will take me out of this great town, if not the state. There are many aspects of life that I am in the process of figuring out and I would like to devote as much time to that as possible. While assured that the Watertown school system is consistently in good hands and I have no doubt that will continue to be the case. I am grateful to approach life with the added and valuable experience of the board of education, my second family since 2011. Please accept this as my official resignation from the Watertown Board of Education, effective Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Respectfully and always truly yours, Raymond J. Nardella."

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

Agenda Item:	M.1
Subject:	Consideration of the Approval of an Out of Country Field Trip to Europe
Motion Presented By:	Mr. Nardella
Motion Seconded By:	Mr. Lambert
Text of the Motion:	Madame Chair, I move that the board approve of the field trip to Europe as outlined in the request from April 26, 2016 – April 24, 2016 for approximately twenty to twenty-five (20-25) Watertown High School Students
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion Passes
Agenda Item:	M.2
Subject:	Consideration of the Approval of the Watertown Annual Healthy Food Certification Statement under Section 10-215F of the CT General Statutes (C.G.S.)
Motion Presented By:	Mr. Nardella



Motion Seconded By: Mr. Vincenzi

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the board approve of the Watertown Annual Healthy Food Certification Statement as read for the period of July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: M.3

Subject: Consideration to Approve and Rescind the Non-Tenured Teacher Notices

Motion Presented By: Mr. Nardella

Motion Seconded By: Mr. Rinaldi

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board of Education rescind the action taken on March 23, 2015 regarding the non-tenured teachers, with the exception of one due to a resignation.

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: Mr. Nardella

Motion Seconded By: Ms. Wilk

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the board approve of the request for a long-term leave of absence for Ms. Megan

Chuis, School Counselor, 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**

**Dr. Carnemolla** – Some things I would like to point out that Emma might have mentioned in her report: At John Trumbull this week, we had 120 preschoolers visit kindergarten to see what that would be like. Teachers read books, students completed an activity, had popsicles with the principles and had time to play on the playground. Also, we celebrated the winners of the Watertown Library Poetry Contest. We had a number of winners from John Trumbull and the names were read. Students were invited to a reception at the library where they read their poems in front of their families and other students.

We are continuing on with SBAC testing at Judson and Polk and mostly we are expecting to be completed this week. Upcoming events: at Judson on May 22 are Spring photos, an Author visit on May 26, and the grade 3 field trip is May 28. Student council did a Spirit Week at Polk where there was a new theme each day: Monday was crazy hat & hair day, Tuesday was pajama day, Wednesday was twin day, Thursday was country and western day and Friday was red, white and blue day. Grades 4 & 5 went on a field trip to the Warner Theatre to see the Lightening Thief, a musical rendition of a book they are reading in those grades.

At Swift, we had the Creativity in the Arts recognition, and we had some Swift students recognized in the local Daughters of the Revolution contest. The theme was Focus on the Future and the winner's names were read. We also had a number of students participate in the Memorial Day parade and the band from Swift was fantastic. We also had the robotics team from the high school marching along with several other students, too many to name...

At Watertown High School, we have AP make up exams going on and we are planning on releasing students schedules on June 5<sup>th</sup>. We have also been doing a lot of transition meetings between Swift Middle school and the high school to help the transition of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders into 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Ms. Crotty** – Wanted to also note and thank the Swift School band. She thought they were just phenomenal this year.

**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:	Mr. Lambert
Text of the Motion:	Madam Chair, I move that the board of education go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's evaluation. Attending the Executive Session is Cathie Rinaldi, Vic Vincenzi, Janelle Wilk, Tom Lambert, Leslie Crotty, myself, Ray Nardella, Jim Gambardella and Don Orsini.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion Passes

**Q. Regular Session**

The meeting returned to regular session at 9:46 p.m.

**R. Adjournment**

Agenda Item:	R.1
Subject:	To Adjourn the Meeting
Motion Presented By:	Mr. Nardella
Motion Seconded By:	Mr. Lambert
Text of the Motion:	Madame Chair, I move that we adjourn.
Discussion:	None

Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion Passes

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindi Davidson  
Recording Secretary

Ray Nardella  
Secretary of the Board