

Pending BOE Approval

**Watertown Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: September 14, 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
Ms. Janelle Wilk, Secretary
Mr. Victor Vicenzi
Mr. Jim Gambardella
Mr. Robert Makowski
Ms. Cathie Rinaldi

Members Absent: Mr. Donato Orsini
Ms. Josephine Cavallo-Rosa

Others Present: Dr. Bridget Carnemolla – Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Jill Browne – Business Manager
Karina Mancini – 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.1
Subject: Minutes of the August 24, 2015 Regular 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 August 24, 2015 regular meeting of the Board of Education as submitted.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	Ms. Wilk
Vote:	Motion Passes

E. Report from Student Council Representative – Karina Mancini

Hello members of the board of education and all visiting members of the community. My name is Karina Mancini and I am the Student Representative from Watertown high school. I look forward to working alongside you all this year to share news from the Watertown public schools.

And now for this week's updates:

At John Trumbull Primary school, students in reading class are discussing good habits, such as reading to smooth out their voices, reading in small phrases, and re-reading to understand more in the text. In math class, students are reviewing addition, writing addition sentences, and adding in any order.

Polk school's first town meeting and Pbis kickoff this past monday went great! School expectations were reviewed and incentives were introduced to get students excited about displaying "Polk Pride". "Filling the bucket" is one method to promote positive interactions among peers by using three beliefs- respect, responsibility, and safety.. By making good choices and making others feel good about themselves, students fill their own buckets and the buckets of others too! Last week was full of smiles, as school pictures took place at Polk. Even teachers were subjected to the paparazzi to prepare for the ID swipe cards that will be used with their new security system.

At Judson Elementary, teachers met in their grade level Professional Learning Communities. Topics discussed were a review of Language arts and Math pacing and assessments, and the upcoming administration of the DRA2 and Aimsweb subtests. Picture day was also held.

In anticipation of the International Day of Peace, all Swift students are decorating peace symbols with quotes about tolerance and kindness that are meaningful to them. These peace symbols will be displayed on each student's locker as daily reminders of Swift's vision for our school community.

Through the SSP program, Watertown High School is in the process of scheduling a distracted Driving assembly to how students the potential danger of inattentive driving. WHS is also planning an AP and CAPT parent night in the fall to help parents better understand the importance of these assessments in preparing students their future rigorous courses at both

high school and college levels.

That is all for this week's announcements, thank you.

F. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report

1. Appointments (Information Only)

- A. Ms. Katherine Ahlgren to the position of School Council Co-Advisor at Polk Elementary School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$516.50.
- B. Ms. Erica Armstrong to the position of School Council Co-Advisor at Polk Elementary School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$516.50.
- C. Ms. Erica Armstrong to the position of Invention Convention, at Polk Elementary School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$759.00.
- D. Ms. Michelle Baim to the position of Fall Play Director, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,040.00.
- E. Mr. Chris Begnal to the position of Fall Play Assistant Director, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$1,020.00.
- F. Ms. Leah Bellemare to the position of Freshman Class Co-Advisor, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$532.50.
- G. Ms. Leah Bellemare to the position of Student Council Co-Advisor, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$1,063.00.
- H. Ms. Shirley Baillargeon was re-appointed to the position of Supervisor of Financial Services, effective July 1, 2015 at an annual rate of \$61,800.
- I. Ms. Krisl Beres to the position of Robotics Team Advisor, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$1,873.00.
- J. Ms. Audrey Brown to the position of Junior Varsity Field Hockey Coach, Step 0, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$1,895.00.

- K. Ms. Jill Browne was re-appointed to the position of Business Manager, effective July 1, 2015 at an annual rate of \$113,300.
- L. Mr. Warren Campbell to the position of Webmaster, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,278.00.
- M. Mr. Warren Campbell to the position of Distributive Education (DECA) Advisor, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$1,404.00.
- N. Mr. Warren Campbell to the position of Career Education Coordinator, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,812.00.
- O. Mr. Paul Catuccio to the position of Athletic Coordinator, Step 4, at Swift Middle School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$3,069.00.
- P. Mr. Michael Cerrato to the position of Interact Club Advisor, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,278.00.
- Q. Ms. Patricia Chipko to the position of Student Council Co-Advisor for Judson Elementary School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid half the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$516.50.
- R. Ms. Ashley Coon to the position of Team Leader, Grade 5, at Polk Elementary School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$506.00.
- S. Ms. Melissa Cope to the position of First Grade Teacher at John Trumbull Primary School, effective September 14, 2015, being paid a salary of \$54,358.69 prorated, Step 8 MA degree, per the WEA contract.
- T. Ms. Susan Danaher to the position of System-Wide Speech & Hearing Co-Coordinator for Watertown Public Schools, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid half the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$1,406.00.
- U. Mr. Eric Dietsch to the position of Boys Soccer Coach, Step 0 for Swift Middle School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend of \$1,895.00.
- V. Ms. Leisha Eckerlin to the position of Homework Club – Co-Advisor, at Polk Elementary School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$774.50.

- W. Ms. Rhoda Emmanouil to the position of Freshman Class – Co-Advisor, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$532.50.
- X. Ms. Jessica Fagan to the position of System-Wide Guidance Coordinator Grades 6-12 for Watertown Public Schools, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,812.00.
- Y. Mr. David Foulds was re-appointed to the position of Director of Food Services, effective July 1, 2015 at an annual rate of \$52,800.
- Z. Ms. Jennifer Geise to the position of Title I Tutor, at Polk Elementary School, effective August 27, 2015 for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid an hourly rate of \$16.00 per hour.
- AA. Ms. Michelle Goldfarb to the position of Sophomore Class Co-Advisor, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid half the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$532.50.
- BB. Ms. Michelle Goldfarb to the position of Yearbook Advisor, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,232.00.
- CC. Ms. Cindy Gubbiotti to the position of Homework Club Co-Advisor for Judson Elementary School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid half the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$774.50.
- DD. Ms. Lisa Guerrera to the position of Senior Class Co-Advisor, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid half the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$936.50.
- EE. Mr. Elio Gugliotti to the position of Long-Term Substitute, Spanish Teacher at Watertown High School, effective September 1, 2015 for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid at the rate of \$226.44 per day, Step 2 of the WEA contract of \$42,117.00 prorated.
- FF. Mr. Joseph Hahn to the position of Band Advisor at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,509.00.
- GG. Ms. Christine Halloran to the position of Honor Society Advisor at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$1,873.00.
- HH. Ms. Mary Hathaway to the position of Science Coordinator at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,812.00.

- II. Mr. Andrew Hennessey to the position of Senior Class Co-Advisor at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid half the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$936.50.

- JJ. Ms. Anna Jedd to the position of System-Wide K-12 Music Coordinator for Watertown Public Schools, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,812.00.

- KK. Mr. Kris Kuegler to the position of English Coordinator at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,812.00.

- LL. Ms. Marylou Kuegler to the position of Honors Cohort Team Leader at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$1,994.00.

- MM. Ms. Marylou Kuegler to the position of Social Studies Coordinator for Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,812.00.

- NN. Ms. Elizabeth Langlais to the position of Technical Education Teacher at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid on an annual contractual salary of \$42,117.00, Step 2, BA degree, per the WEA contract.

- OO. Ms. Lisa LaPlante to the position of School Play Drama Director at Polk Elementary School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$1,033.00.

- PP. Mr. David Leary to the position of Transition Driver for Watertown Public Schools, effective September 8, 2015, being paid the rate of \$14.00 per hour.

- QQ. Ms. Donna Lorusso to the position of World Language Coordinator at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,812.00.

- RR. Ms. Elizabeth Loughlin to the position of Link Crew Coordinator at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$1,043.00.

- SS. Ms. Elizabeth Loughlin to the position of Student Council Co-Advisor at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid half the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$1,063.00.

- TT. Mr. Eric Lozaw to the position of Sophomore Class Co-Advisor at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid half the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$532.50.
- UU. Ms. Sherri Marquardt to the position of Student Council Co-Advisor at Judson Elementary School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid half the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$516.50.
- VV. Ms. Pamela McGuire to the position of System-Wide Special Education Coordinator for Watertown Public Schools, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,812.00.
- WW. Ms. Angela Mitchell to the position of Paraprofessional – Category #2 at John Trumbull Primary School, effective August 27, 2015 for the 2015-2016 school year. Working 12 hours per week, at the contractual rate of \$14.01 per hour Step 1.
- XX. Ms. Christina Moher to the position of World Language Honor Society Advisor at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,306.00.
- YY. Mr. Charles Ostrander to the position of Girls Assistant Swim Coach, Step 1, at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend of \$2,043.00
- ZZ. Ms. Janice Pond, to the position of Long-Term Substitute, Spanish Teacher at Swift Middle School, effective August 24, 2015 for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid at the rate of \$21,380.64, Step 14 of the WEA contract, prorated.
- AAA. Ms. Mary Racevicius to the position of Cross Country Coach, Step 2 for Swift Middle School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend of \$2,194.00.
- BBB. Ms. Kelly Raimo to the position of Junior Class Advisor at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$1,065.00
- CCC. Ms. AnneMarie Reeser to the position of Paraprofessional – Category #3 at John Trumbull Primary School, effective August 27, 2015 for the 2015-2016. Working 20 hours per week, at the contractual rate of \$14.01 per hour/Step 1.
- DDD. Ms. Dorothy Rinaldi to the position of Team Leader – Grade 4 at Polk Elementary School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid half the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$506.00.

- EEE. Mr. Roberto Rinaldi to the position of Mathematics Coordinator at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$2,812.00.
- FFF. Ms. Amy Slattery to the position of Title I Tutor, at Polk Elementary School, effective August 27, 2015 for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid an hourly rate of \$16.00 per hour.
- GGG. Ms. Meriah Smith to the position of Title I Tutor, at Polk Elementary School, effective August 27, 2015 for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid an hourly rate of \$16.00 per hour.
- HHH. Mr. Stephen Sorriero to the position of System-Wide K-12 Physical Education Coordinator for Watertown Public Schools, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend of \$2,812.00.
- III. Ms. Kelly Spargo to the position of Girls Soccer Coach, Step 0, for Swift Middle School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend of \$1,895.00.
- JJJ. Ms. Donnah Swaby was re-appointed to the position of Director of Student Services, effective July 1, 2015 at an annual rate of \$ 121,435.
- KKK. Ms. Kate St. John to the position of Field Hockey Coach, Step 4, for Swift Middle School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend of \$2,485.00.
- LLL. Ms. Valerie Tasker to the position of Homework Club Co-Advisor at Polk Elementary School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid half the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$774.50.
- MMM. Ms. Elise Taylor was re-appointed to the position of Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, effective July 1, 2015 at an annual rate of \$54,540.
- NNN. Ms. Robyn Troisi to the position of Homework Club Co-Advisor for Judson Elementary School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid half the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$774.50.
- OOO. Mr. Tyler Troisi to the position of K-12 English Language Learners (ELL) Tutor at Watertown Public Schools, effective September 8, 2015 for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid an hourly rate of \$20.00 per hour.
- PPP. Ms. Jennifer Wernery to the position of Team Leader – Grade 3 at Polk Elementary School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid half the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$506.00.
- QQQ. Ms. Beth Wolf to the position of System-Wide Speech & Hearing Co-Coordinator for Watertown Public Schools, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the MOU with the WEA of \$1,406.00.

2. Resignations – (Information Only)

- a. Ms. Deborah Geer resigned from the position of Secretary II Grade IV for Polk Elementary School, effective September 16, 2015, for the purpose of retirement.
- b. Ms. Elaine Monte resigned from the position of Paraprofessional Category 2 at John Trumbull Primary School, effective August 21, 2015 for the purpose of retirement.
- c. Ms. Cathy Ordway resigned from the position of Paraprofessional Category 3 for John Trumbull Primary School effective August 26, 2015 for personal reasons.
- d. Ms. Jennifer Reho resigned from the position of First Grade Teacher at John Trumbull Primary School, effective August 24, 2015 for personal reasons.
- e. Ms. Jean Schumacher resigned from the position of First Grade Teacher at John Trumbull Primary School, effective August 24, 2015 for personal reasons.
- f. Ms. Jessica Sharkey resigned from the position of Special Education Teacher at Watertown High School effective September 24, 2015 for personal reasons.

3. Grant – Informational Item

The 2015-2016 Bilingual Education Program Grant Application has been completed and submitted to the Connecticut State Department of Education for approval. The total amount of the grant is \$1,944.

The award for this grant is intended to provide children identified as limited English proficient with materials such as native language primary-level print materials, as well as bilingual primary-level books.

The grant was written by Janet Parlato, Ed.D.

4. Superintendent's Report

I have a few updates from our office. You can see from the agenda that we have filed our bilingual educational grant application and this is something that we submit annually. Dr. Parlato wrote it and turned in for us. We are hopeful we will have any issues there and although it's not a lot of money, as you see is \$1,944, but it is some amount of money to assist us in providing much-needed bilingual services to some of our students with limited English proficiency.

I have started the monthly visits to our schools over the past two weeks, I have been to Swift and spent an entire day there. I did have a day scheduled here at the high school, but that unfortunately was the day which was the first of the two very warm days and necessitated me cutting that short. I was only here for about three hours that day. While we're on the subject I would like to take a little bit of opportunity to talk about the heat and the issues

that caused, and how we ended up making the decision that we did. First, I guess I would say that there are a number of any given school days in a year where the temperatures outside will get hot and we deal with that. This time however, what was a little bit different about this and what we have faced in other warm days, we had what I would call a perfect storm upon the buildings. A combination of the sun beaming on the buildings, there were no clouds, bright sun coming in the windows and on the exterior walls, and these factors he did at the buildings very quickly. The humidity was very bad both of the days, especially the second day, and also obviously, the temperatures. Normally, we can take those things in stride and in our buildings we monitor the temperatures and we move students because there are areas and every building that have air conditioning. We are able to move students into rooms like this one for instance, lecture halls, auditoriums, but, in this particular case, as we are monitoring temperatures there were too many classrooms there were getting to warm too fast. We continued monitoring even after we made the call for dismissal and found that there were a number of areas in all of our buildings that had temperatures over 85°. There were also several areas, particularly at Swift middle school, and here at the high school and also at John Trumbull where there were average temperatures in several areas of the schools that were over 90° with some individual classrooms that topped out at over 96°. So I just want to reiterate, while we tried to take the heat in stride and maintain our usual schedules, there will come times where it obviously becomes the best decision for the district to allow for the early release and then go back to business as usual. Along the same lines, I want to take this opportunity again, to ensure that our families are accurate and current emails and phone numbers on file at each of the schools. It is critically important every day, every year, but it's an especially important when we have to do things like this with the dismissal and were coming up upon the weather ones so I want to make sure are getting the calls to the right phones and that we are also able to send electronic communications when we need to say that we don't have to bother people with a phone call.

As you know, at this time of year, I can't make all PTO meetings because of the nature of my schedule but I attempt to go to each of the first meetings. I was able to do that last week at John Trumbull. They had a fantastic turnout parents and also a fantastic turnout of the faculty. I wonder think all the parents are coming out that night and also the faculty and staff at John Trumbull where we had a good evening of getting to know some of our students' parents that night. Mr. Lambert and I also attended the Polk PTO meeting where we had a record crowd of parents also. I'd like to think Mrs. Fekete for what she did to advertise that in getting the parents there. Unfortunately, we had to reschedule the Judson PTO meeting as it was on one of those half days, and that is rescheduled to tomorrow night along with the Watertown high school PTO meeting. Both of those conflict with the subcommittee meeting for facilities for the Hemingway building. I have now found out that the Watertown high school PTO meeting has been changed so I will have to figure out when I can attend the Judson PTO meeting as I do have to go to the facilities meeting.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the town manager, Bob Scannell, Roy Cavanaugh, and the entire staff at the public works department for the work that they did on the sidewalks at John Trumbull. That is a shared service and we had the money in the budget

for the concrete and some of the other potential materials, but the town did the work. We are also able to do it without any overtime. They did a great job and they did it quickly. If you visit John Trumbull you will also see the parts of the original sidewalk that were supposed to be done were in front of the building. Coming from the parking lot there's another sidewalk that is not in great shape and also need some repair. That was not able to be done because of the magnitude of the job. We made the decision that we have to fix it somehow even if it's only to patch it. We discussed many options for it and then we stopped short and said even though we know how busy they are we will see if the town can do it. I was amazed because I talked to the town manager on a Saturday afternoon and on Monday at noon I came to John Trumbull for a meeting, and the public works department were outside surveying it and stopped to talk to me and by that afternoon it was fixed. They patched it, it is not an eyesore, it looks good and it is not a safety concern. I cannot say enough good things about the work they did and our thanks. I also want to thank Mr. Turner and our IT department and give you some information about what's been going on with our technology. Everyone knows that we are behind a little bit with the funding with technology because of the grant that was pulled from the state. However, we are still able to make do right now instead of replacing all the computers that we will really need to at some point, we are replacing hard drives with SSD drives that cost us about \$100 and set of \$600-\$700 for a new computer. This will increase the memory and the speed of the computer and every one of the computers that Mr. Turner has done that with so far has worked well and people have been thrilled. We have been able to stop some of the phenomenon of turning the computer on, then going to lunch, and then coming back and having it finally boot up. There are some places that we will not be able to do this, as the machines are antiquated enough that we will not be able to upgrade them. They are primarily at Swift middle school. We do have some money in the budget for technology and some of that will now be prioritized to replace these machines that cannot have the upgrades done. A place we can do the upgrades we are doing them and they are going school by school. We have done 20 within the last week and a half, likewise with the tickets that are put in when there are maintenance or technical issues or technology requests from a certain teacher, the past two weeks have had the IT department complete 64 tickets which range from replacements of projectors, to bulbs that were much needed, to help my computer is taking much too long.

Just a few other notes, I held the office hours with Dr. C at the Oakville Public Library and some folks have to come to see me so I was grateful. We have had negotiations continuing for teachers contracts and I'd like to thank Mr. Lambert, Ms. Crotty, and Mr. Orsini and town Council member Mary Ann Rosa who have been with us for all of those negotiations. Because everyone has been present, we've been able to move forward. We also had the 9/11 memorial where some of our board participated in along with a few of our students and it was very well put together by Lisa Carew and I want to thank her for inviting us to come over. With that I will move onto Mrs. Brown to discuss the sealcoating bid.

Ms. Browne – In accordance with the policy number 3030, we put out to bid a paving job to be performed at John Trumbull primary school to repair part of the parking lot as well some

of the playground area. The invitation to bid ran them both our local Town Times and the Republican American on 13th of August. Also on that date, all that the documents were released on our website for any interested contractors. The bids were doing new in August 20 and we received one bid from Connecticut Sealcoating. Because we only received one bid, I contacted our attorney who helped us with this process and also help us with all of our documents and asked if it would be appropriate to go back and talk with that one bidder about their price and the job to be done. I wanted to see if there is room for negotiation to save us a few more dollars. Through that process we came to the realization that they are doing some work for the town of Watertown and they agreed to give us the town contracted price. That saved us about \$5000-\$6000. This bidder can perform the services over the long weekend of Columbus Day weekend, 9th-12th while the students are not in the schools. For a total of what we expect to be between \$30,000 and \$32,000, the pavement repair will be \$25,285 to the nearest dollar and the crack sealing will be by the pound at a \$1.24 pound and we expect that will come in at \$6000 for the lot of work that we asked. Originally we put in the budget when we designed it, \$42,000 for this work and that's because the excesses they are because the playground originally was going to be torn up and replaced and upon further inspection we decided to do crack sealing in that area. That is the difference in price. So I will turn it over to you for questions as policy dictates anything over \$20,000 becomes a board decision.

Dr. Carnemolla – We are happy that we were able to save some money here with this bid, because as you know from being at the facilities meeting those of you that were, we are looking for some money to replace the generator at John Trumbull. That is not in the budget as we did not expect it to break down. I am hopeful that maybe we can take some of the money needed with the savings.

Mr. Vicenzi asked for an update regarding residency and I have that for you this evening. I will give you the numbers based on the year that I have been superintendent as I was out I was able to put together for you. Starting with July 2014 and going through April 2015. They stop there, because we had two issues that we are looking into as the school year ended in the investigations had to stop and they have now been picked back up that school is back in session. Between that timeframe are residency officer investigated 12 cases that were brought to us and as a result six students were removed from Watertown public schools. Looking at each individual student, much of the evidence is not maintained after the decision is made for privacy reasons. There were four students where they had just recently moved. There are many different ways we received complaints along with what people perceived to be children who did not belong in our school system. What I will say is that many of these complaints were of children with divorced parents. As long as one of the children's parents live in Watertown they are legally students of our district. There were also two that were investigated were the children were determined to be homeless. This is where they do not have a permanent residence, for example there may have been a fire at someone's home, and they've now come into our district where typically they try to keep a student where they were, but it may not have worked out and the districts in the towns have spoken, but to

these came to me in the end to work with our homeless liaison because technically they were homeless. So six were removed, two were determined to be homeless, and the other four were found to have lived here. I should say the families because sometimes there was more than one child involved. To finalize it and follow up, people have concerns the best thing they can do is to call the school directly or they can call my office and in either case we will do some of our own due diligence before we turn them over to the residency officer. In part, because we pay for his services and sometimes we were able to resolve them ourselves without handing them over. We also rather do it that way.

5. Presentation – (Information Only)

Mr. David Guerrero and Mr. Feng Chen, co-founders of AIEP (Apex International Education Partners), will present to the Board of Education their international student/host family program for the Watertown Public School system. AIEP is based in Watertown, Connecticut, and recruits international students and their homestays, and is looking to partner with Watertown Public Schools to enroll international students.

Mr. Guerrero - Thank you for your time everyone. Myself and my business partner, Mr. Feng Chen, are the cofounders of AIEP and we are based here in Watertown, Connecticut. What are we? We are an international middle and high school recruiting and homestay program throughout Connecticut. We also have host families that host our international students coming from China on year-long F-1 visas. AIEP currently has about 190 students studying in over 30 schools throughout Connecticut under the F-1 student visas. In Canada is about 1,168 Chinese students, which is about half of all Connecticut's foreign students. In the US, there are about 29,000 students up front about 65 decade ago. As you can see, there are a lot of Chinese students studying in the US. They are coming as early as the fifth, sixth and seventh grades, with the majority being in college and high school being the largest growing market. There definitely is demand for Chinese students wanting in American education.

AIEP currently has a staff of 13 in Connecticut. We've been in operation for almost 4 ½ years since being founded in May 2011 and we are looking to expand into more Asian and non-Asian countries. We are proud to be a small organization that started from the ground up and we have a lot of staff from Watertown and we started with Holy Cross and Waterbury. So we've come a long way and I wanted to share with the Watertown Board of Education what we may be able to offer your schools.

One of things I am very proud of is that we are CSJET compliant. That is a governing body that accredits homestay organizations like ours. Everything for making sure we are doing background checks on our host families to making sure we are recruiting and advertising abroad the correct way to actually checking with our students monthly to make sure they are doing well while they are here. So we are always 100% compliant and this is our third year being accredited by CSJET. We are one of the few organizations nationally that are accredited so this is really a stamp of approval that we are doing our job and doing it the right way. We are partnered with a little over 40 schools in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, and New York. The majorities of the schools are parochial, public, boarding, and independent schools. Some of the schools you may know very well, such as Chase, Sacred Heart high school, and Holy Cross high school. We've a lot

of partners in Connecticut there are currently hosting our students that we have recruited over the past 4 to 5 years.

We recruit with our partnerships in China with our existing relationships, with international educational institutions, and a personal network of interested families. We recruit students with sufficient English skills and the desire to succeed in American classroom. We do all of the hard work that host families can focus on hosting their students and not babysitting them. We work one-on-one to set basic admission requirements of each student and we always dedicate ourselves 100% transparency, trust, and compliance between schools, our agents, and regulatory agencies.

We have a great support network with our 13 membered staff that are responsible for finding host families and doing background checks. They do house visits, reference calls, and we also have full-time host family coordinators that are available 24/7 that check in with our host family's monthly, a visit our schools, and they are also current or past host families that have been through our program and know what it means to be a host family. We also have local full-time student coordinators that are fluent in Mandarin and English. They are also responsible for checking with our students monthly and they are also a mediator between the host families, the students in the United States, and their parents in China. We have great events throughout the year including community service events, weekend excursions, Chinese new year celebrations, host family appreciation night, and farewell picnics. And also as every student that stays here in the US, some will need some extra help, so we had a great association with some private tutors here in Connecticut that help out with the TOEFL exam, SSATs, ACT, and ESL. So they're not only getting support from the school they are attending but also from AIEP.

You can see up on the chart here is a copy of our staff and what they are responsible for along with the schools we are partnered with. They all have student coordinators and support staff that are responsible for our host students and their host parents while they are studying in the US. Here are some pictures of some community service events that we have throughout the year. Every AIEP student is required is required to attend community service events through our organization. We took some to Vero Beach on a farm for homeless people and they worked with the vegetables and did some weeding in the farm area. We also have bent food shelter and helped pack up food. We are very involved in our community and wonder students to understand what it means to give back. A lot of our students to come from privileged backgrounds and we want them to see the other side of what it means to be in America and help out and give back to community. We also have fun events where we celebrate the Chinese new year with authentic Chinese dancers, we had our farewell picnics and we did some outlet shopping.

So the first step to actually recruiting students for the Watertown public school system would be to apply for SEVIS certification. Basically, you are applying with the Department of Homeland Security to issue visas to international students that want to study at your schools. The process can take anywhere from 6 to 12 months to receive her certification. Dr. Carnemolla has been in contact with other superintendents who have gone through this process. It is simple, but does take some time and this is the first step that the schools Watertown would have to do to receive approval to issue I 20 forms for students to have an F-1 visa to study here. And with that comes the responsibility of tracking their students in any record-keeping that the Department of Homeland Security requires. AIEP is also willing to provide any legal assistance to complete the filing as well. Our plan for the Watertown public schools is to have them first apply to be certified to issue F-1 visas and we are looking to recruit students in grades 5-12. We do recruit half and full-year academic year students to begin in the 2016-2017 school year. The international students will pay full Board of Education approve tuition rates for their studies in

Watertown. Currently the tuition rate for middle school children is \$11,000 per annum in the high school is \$12,000 per annum. Because they are international students they will pay tuition for their time in the US whether it's prorated for the half-year or for the entire full-year. We also would like to use some local families that we currently have and some new Watertown public schools host families and if you do host to receive \$1000 monthly stipend and you can host up to students at the time.

We are looking to have 12 to 15 students in the school system. That can be anywhere from \$100,000-\$250,000 in additional funding for your school budget. We would have a happier program is geared towards grades 5 to 8 and the full-year program geared more towards the high school. So, in summary Watertown public schools receive additional dollars for the school budget, local Watertown families receive supplemental income from hosting, and it's a cultural experience for the entire Watertown student and residential population.

Mr. Lambert - It amazes me that there aren't any language issues when they first come from China. So they are well-versed in English in China prior to coming here? A- Yes, English is mandatory for all students in China. They begin as early as second and third grade. They certainly have different levels of English that they are acts, but we do Skype interviews with all their students and test their English. If there are students that need extra help we have tutors that can help them.

Ms. Rinaldi - You do background checks on all of our families, will we get any information prior to them coming to us? So, what I'm asking is will we get some information on that child? A – Absolutely. We have a profile and what we also do is set up a Skype call with the student and the family in China. It's about an hour long, and you can introduce yourself to the student and meet their parents as well.

Ms. Crotty – When the students are here, and there is a behavioral concern, that may require some sort of contact with guardianship, will that fall under the host family's jurisdiction, or what a fallen to yours? A – So the host family has their own set of rules that the student has to abide by and we actually have a form that must be filled out with the rules of the house. The host family ultimately has the say in things like what time we go to bed, what time we wake up, and chores. It can't be resolved, the host family can come to us and we will have our student coordinator, who is fluent in Chinese, will speak to the student and try and resolve the issue. If it still is a resolved, we have the right to send the student back home and if it's a host family issue we also have backup host families.

Q - Okay, so the host families become the American parents, so to speak, for the duration of the stay, and the schools would be in contact with them directly for any issues? A- Yes, the school would be in contact directly with the parent as if they were their own child. The host parents are actually the legal guardians of the child while they are here in the US.

Personally, I think this would be a great addition to the Watertown public schools. I know there are a lot of other companies out there that also provide the services. Can you also tell me what other countries you are considering expanding into?

Mr. Guerrero – Sure. So, we are also looking into Korea and we are also looking into Brazil. Those are the two countries are now that we are focusing on and we will actually be in a conference in Miami in December so that we can start to explore those partnerships. Those are countries that already have students coming into the US but to afford the tuition, it would really

be Chinese students that will be the bulk of the students coming to the US. We will gladly accept students from other countries if they are willing to study in the US as well. As far as other organizations, we are probably one of the largest in Connecticut for F-1 students, and in terms of being local, it is something we pride ourselves in when we are just a phone call our driveway. If anything does happen, we have our entire staff in Watertown that is available.

G. Public Participation

None

H. Report from the Board Chair

Today I just want to talk a few minutes about the partnership that I think is so important to the success of all of our students here. That is the partnership between the school district and the families at home. We spend an inordinate amount of time hiring professionals, making sure that our teachers and our schools have everything that they need, continually updating curricula, making sure that our children are in a safe, welcoming environment, providing them the best education that we can with the greatest number of resources possible within our budget and our means. There is a whole other side of that, which is support for their education from home. Our children spend most of their time and a five day period in our buildings. They come home from our schools and our parents tend to say, "How was your day?" In our children tend to say, "It was good, it was fine, it was okay." But it's usually one word answers. And some of us are better than others at prying information out of our children but I would ask parents to go a step further than that in our community. What we have found, is that part of the keys to success in children, and I know most of the audience knows this, and I'm sure most of the public that will view this, know that supportive homes for education is extremely important. It is vital to the success of the child. In some recent conversations that I have had with some parents brought something to light to me, were parents has said that education is important to have the child graduate high school, but they are not going to college. For me, supporting education does not mean that you want your child to obtain a certain goal, college or job, it's what your child is doing and making the most out of every possible moment that they can while they are in the buildings, while they are in school, while they are doing anything outside of the home. Regardless of what the end result might be. So some ways that our parents and the district can get more information through their child, not necessarily out of their child, is to do things like utilize the resources that we have already provided. Go on the websites, whether it's the district home page or all of the individual school pages, read some of the fires and information and blogs that are posted. You'll learn a lot about what's going on in the schools and you can even see what the teachers that your child has are teaching in the classroom that week. And perhaps all the sudden, you can bring up conversations about the periodic table of elements, or not. But there are ways to do that. Another way to do that, is to bring your child to a school event. If your child is interested in basketball, and they are in elementary school, check out the athletic page at the high school and bring them to a varsity basketball game. It is extremely motivating

and very exciting for them to see the kids and the spirit that goes on at the high school. It's great public relations for your child and your child will feel great about coming to school and it also helps develop conversation about school with your kids. Multiple ways to do that, go to your PTO meetings but you will learn a lot and you don't have to go every month. But just as important, I feel, as clothing your child and feeding your child and finding them shelter, is supporting what they're doing for the large majority of their day, of their week, of their month, and of their year. And I would ask parents in their community to continue to be partners with us for their education and continues to help be part of their child's success.

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. Tom Lambert, Chair – No

Facilities/PBC/Operations Committee, Mr. Tom Lambert, Chair – Yes

Yes, we had a meeting tonight for the facilities and operations committee. We discussed subjects such as John Trumbull's sidewalks, the shared services project, our security grant update, the E rate program, the Wi-Fi network, and the ongoing floor issues at Judson and Watertown high school. We also discussed the possible replacement of the John Trumbull primary school generator and also at that school the paving bids which we will address tonight.

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

J. Communications – Secretary

No report

Ms. Crotty – I will share with the board that this came via a message, not written, that our colleague Josephine Rosa was extremely grateful for the support that the school district gave her in the Board of Education has shared with her through letters and cards during this time. She hopes to be joining us at our next meeting.

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

Agenda Item:

K.1

Subject:

Consideration of the Approval for the Watertown Board of Education to Accept a Possible Bid Agreement from Connecticut Sealcoating, Bethlehem, CT, for the

Removal and Replacement of Bituminous Concrete Pavement and Stone Base at John Trumbull Primary School.

Motion Presented By: Mr. Lambert

Motion Seconded By: Mr. Vicenzi

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the board approve of the possible bid agreement from CT Sealcoating, Bethlehem, Connecticut, for the removal and replacement of bituminous pavement and stone base at John Trumbull primary school.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

L. Future Agenda Items and Board Members' Comments

Ms. Rinaldi - I have a story that I wanted to share. I was with a parent this past weekend and their son had just started college. He called home the other night to see how well prepared he was in his class and how a lot of students around him were complaining about having to be in class for so long and the way that the professor was teaching because they couldn't follow along. The student had said that he was really happy in really excited because he felt so prepared. Sometimes sitting in the classes in the high school, the teacher would say that he they were preparing them for college and a lot of the students said okay whatever, but they really did prepare him and it really did pay off and he's having a good experience so thank you and even goes down to our elementary schools where they start the language art blocks and at Swift where they start changing her classes in preparation for high school. So good job to all of our schools thank you.

M. Public Participation

None

N. Adjourn

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

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

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

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindi Davidson
Recording Secretary

Janelle Wilk
Secretary of the Board