

Pending BOE Approval

**Watertown Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: October 13, 2015
Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Place: Lecture Hall, Watertown High School

Members Present: Mr. Tom Lambert, Vice Chairman
Mr. Victor Vicenzi
Mr. Jim Gambardella
Mr. Robert Makowski
Mr. Donato Orsini
Ms. Josephine Cavallo-Rosa

Members Absent: Ms. Leslie Crotty, Chairman
Ms. Janelle Wilk, Secretary
Ms. Cathie Rinaldi

Others Present: Dr. Bridget Carnemolla – Superintendent of Schools
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 September 28, 2015 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Motion Presented By: Mr. Makowski
Motion Seconded By: Mr. Orsini

Text of the Motion:	Madame Chair, I move that the board approve of the minutes of the September 28, 2015 regular meeting of the Board of Education as submitted.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	Mr. Orsini
Vote:	Motion Passes

E. 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 September:

Grade 3

Garrett Trudeau
Ryann Walsh

Grade 4

Liam Murphy
Ava Veronneau

Grade 5

Tyler Wilkesman
Brielle Trudeau

2. **Award of Excellence**

The Watertown Board of Education would like to congratulate Mariam Hafez, who represented Watertown High School and the State of Connecticut in June 2015, at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston, Massachusetts. She watched live surgery, and was personally taught by some of the greatest living minds in medicine. Mr. Paul Jones, Principal, will present Mariam with an Award of Excellence.

F. Report from Student Council Representative – Karina Mancini

Good evening Board of Education and community members,

At John Trumbull primary school, students in writing classes learned techniques from mentor authors that will help them express how they want the reader to feel. In math class, students are writing addition and subtraction number sentences and solving story problems

At Polk, the first student council meeting of the year was held and went great. Also, 3 of the fifth grade classes met with their book discussion partners from Watertown High School.

In Judson, the 45 chromebook donated by the PTO are being put to good use throughout classrooms and Judson is very grateful to the PTO for this donation.

At Swift, the mentoring program is being continued, which pairs adult volunteers from the Siemon Company and Webster Bank with select students. This week was the annual Mentor-Mentee breakfast, where students and mentors got to know each other. Swift clubs are up and

running, with Leo Club selling pink bracelets for Susan G. Komen foundation, Student Council electing officers, and newspaper club working on their first edition. Also, the garden club cleaned up the courtyard gardens, woodshop, Lego, and robotics clubs are meeting each week, and Peer helpers and peer leaders are beginning soon.

At Watertown High School, the college information night last week was a big success. There was a great turnout of senior parents who were able to speak with representatives about the application process and financial aid. WHS will be hosting a Career and College fair upcoming on October 22nd at 6:00 in the Gym

That is all for this week's updates.

G. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report

1. Appointments (Information Only)

- A. Ms. Diane Valunas to the position of Webmaster at John Trumbull Primary School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the WEA contract of \$2,278.00.
- B. Ms. Mary Metcalfe to the position of Title I Tutor at John Trumbull Primary School, effective, September 14, 2015, at the rate of \$16.00 per hour.
- C. Ms. Robin Quadrato to the position of Paraprofessional, Category 2, at Polk Elementary School, effective, October 5, 2015, at the hourly rate of \$32.50.
- D. Mr. Andrew Miceli to the position of Cross Country Assistant Coach at Watertown High School, effective for the 2015-2016 school year, being paid the contractual stipend as represented in the WEA contract of \$1,500.00, payable at the end of the season.
- E. Ms. Pamela Kosloski to the position of Paraprofessional, Category 2, at Watertown High School, effective, September 28, 2015, at the hourly rate of \$14.01.
- F. Mr. Seth Uricheck to the position of .50 Music Teacher –Strings, at Judson Elementary, Polk Elementary and Swift Middle Schools, effective, October 5, 2015, being paid the stipend amount of \$18,931.06, (prorated), as represented in the WEA contract.

2. Resignations

- a) Ms. Karen Carlotto from the position of Paraprofessional at Polk Elementary School, effective, October 8, 2015, for personal reasons.

3. Grant – Informational Item

Watertown Foundation Grants

- a) A grant was received from the Watertown Foundation, valued at \$1,700.00, obtained from the Watertown Music Boosters Association for the purchase of six (6) replacement piano keyboards for the Swift Piano Lab.

Frances Palmer, mathematics teacher at Swift Middle School, wrote the grant.

- b. A grant was received from the Watertown Foundation, valued at \$1,700.00, for the purchase of Orff instruments for Judson and Polk Schools.

Anna Jedd, music teacher at Swift Middle School, wrote the grant..

4. Superintendent's Report

There were some questions that were asked of Mr. Foulds, the Foods Service Director, at the last board meeting and I have the answers for this meeting tonight. I have some averages that handed out to you but I will speak to them to make it a little bit easier tonight. Specifically, the question was asked, what the average dollar amount is students were spending on breakfast and lunch. If you looked on this chart, you will see it is broken down into breakfast, lunch, à la cart, and then adult. The adult category is people like me who may happen to stop in and get lunch at a school or teachers that come down and eat lunch. The total sales you see for the year for breakfast were \$60,046 and with 180 days of operation that averages out to \$333.59 per day. Here is where you need to look a little more closely at the grid, where the total number of students is 2854 at the time this was printed, so if you would averages over all students it would be \$.12 per student, but all students are not buying breakfast so if you average it over the daily average of students, that's 192, so on the average that's about a \$1.74. I broke that down a little bit further, just to put it in another light for you, in K-5 the average cost of breakfast is \$1.55 and the cost of breakfast is \$2.00 from 6-12. So you can see that the cost of \$1.74 falls right in the middle of the two prices for breakfast. Same thing if you go down the lunch column, the yearly sales are \$771,101 and the average daily sales are then \$4283.89. If that is averaged over the entire student population it would be an average of a 1.50 on lunch, however, on average we have 1298 of our students, a little bit less than half, that are buying lunch on a daily basis and that would make our average sales count for lunch time \$3.30. That is actually above the cost at both kindergarten and 6 to 12. The cost of lunch from K-5 is \$.75 and the cost of lunch from 6-12 is \$3.25. À la carte, you see students spent about an average of \$.87 a day. Most à la carte items are between \$.60 and \$.90, they are things like baked chips, and Apple, a container of carrots, etc. I saw some pretty surprising things that students were picking up as an à la carte item, for instance, containers full of little black beans. Very similar to lentils. Not what we might've spent à la carte money on when I was in high school, but we didn't have smart choices back then. An

adult sales, we had \$54,537 and that would make the average, again putting it over all of the adults, it would be \$.87 apiece, keeping in mind that not all adults purchase every day. But still, the adult cells are bringing in a decent overall profit. Our total sales then are \$1,088,799. A couple of other things, I was at the mentor breakfast that Swift held, along with a couple of administrators, and we are looking to bring the program from the middle school through the high school, it was very well attended and we are lucky to have some great partnerships with the local businesses. Thank you for taking time out of your day to come and in some cases meet new students who are just beginning and in some cases to continue on their relationship students that have already begun their mentorship. I saw that we had more mentors there this year, so I know there has been a lot of effort put into reaching further out into the community. I have done some of that also along with some of the administrators, trying to drive up some support for it. Certainly, if you're willing to be a mentor for students, in grades 6 through 12, please contact me or one of our schools. We will take everyone who is interested.

I also visited Swift last week, I also had a very brief visit at John Trumbull, the week before. We had our first full professional development day since August, this past Friday, and it went very well. I want to thank the administrators for doing the majority of the planning that went into that day. So that the board knows, much of what was done at the high school was related to NEASC, which is the point of where they are at and have begun writing and the evidence of reports, and thank you to Mr. Jones and the NEASC advisors who helped put that together.

H. Public Participation

Christopher Arm, 2 Kent Terrace, Watertown – Inquired as to why the first grade teacher at JTPS did not begin her position. **A** - We went through the entire process to hire a teacher, the teacher came in, accepted the job, went home, and had something come up that was unfortunate in her personal life, and call the next day and rescind it. That was the day after the last board meeting. They have quickly gone back through, and I believe it is tomorrow and if not tomorrow it's Thursday, and they're coming in to meet with me. That would be a final candidate coming to me.

Q – The second question asked was regarding the bus route his children are on and how to go about changing it. **A** - That we have to do to the office, so please email me the information tonight and I'll forward it over to the appropriate people tomorrow.

I. Report from the Board Chair

No report this week

J. 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 – No

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

K. Communications – Secretary

No report

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

Agenda Item:	L.1a
Subject:	Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of a Gift

Motion Presented By:	Mr. Orsini
Motion Seconded By:	Ms. Rosa

Text of the Motion:	Mr. Chairman, I move that the board accept a donation from the Watertown Music Boosters Association of a Smart Board, valued at \$1700.00, to be used in the Choral Room at Watertown High School.
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Discussion:	None
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Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion Passes

Agenda Item:	L.1b
Subject:	Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of a Gift

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

Text of the Motion: Mr. Chairman, I move that the board accept a donation from Mr. Charles Brown of a Koehler-Campbell piano, valued at \$1000.00, to be used in the Piano Lab at Swift Middle School.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: L.1c

Subject: Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of a Gift

Motion Presented By: Mr. Gambardella

Motion Seconded By: Mr. Vicenzi

Text of the Motion: Mr. Chairman, I move that the board accept a donation from Ms. Kathy Keating of Orff books and materials, valued at \$500.00, to be used at John Trumbull Primary School and Judson and Polk Elementary Schools.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

M. Future Agenda Items and Board Members' Comments

None

N. Public Participation

Fran Palmer – 220 Middlebury Rd, Watertown – I just wanted to mention that Kathleen Keating is my sister and the reason this happened is because of Anna Jedd. My daughter and I decided to help my sister clean out her garage after teaching for 37 years in Bristol. She bought all of these Orff instruments and they were just sitting there. And he came over to her house,

went through all of these items, and this is why they are now in use. I wanted to get Anna some credit for coming in talking somebody into parting with their memories.

O. Adjourn

Agenda Item:	O.1
Subject:	To Adjourn the Meeting
Motion Presented By:	Mr. Vicenzi
Motion Seconded By:	Mr. Orsini
Text of the Motion:	Mr. Chairman, I move that we adjourn.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion Passes

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindi Davidson
Recording Secretary

Janelle Wilk
Secretary of the Board