

## Agenda

### WATERTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

#### Watertown High School

324 French Street, Watertown

#### Lecture Hall

**Monday, November 25, 2013 – 7:30 PM**

**A. Convene Regular Meeting - 7:30 PM**

**B. Salute to the Flag**

**C. Roll Call**

**D. Award Recognition**

1. The Watertown Board of Education would like to recognize the following former Board Members for their Dedication and Service to the Watertown Public Schools.
  - Mary Colangelo - 9 Years and two months of Service
  - Sean Butterly - 4 Years of Service
  - Richard Beland - 4 Years of Service
  - Susan McCabe - 4 Years of Service
2. The Watertown Board of Education would like to recognize Michael Cerrato, Watertown's Teacher of the Year for 2013-2014. He has been teaching Social Studies at Watertown High school for his entire twelve-year career. Coming from a family of educators, Michael knew by the time he went to college that he wanted to make teaching his life's work and can think of no other profession where he can make such a positive difference for so many young people, and on a daily basis.

Michael is a native to Connecticut and graduate of Trumbull High School. He holds a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary Social Science and secondary education from James Madison University and a master's degree in educational technology from Fairfield University. His wife, Jennifer, works as a special education teacher in Trumbull, and his children are enrolled in the Monroe Public Schools.

Currently, Michael teaches ninth grade Global Issues, eleventh grade American Studies, and twelfth grade Economics. "I always like teaching an array of courses," said Mr. Cerrato. I like seeing how much my students grow personally and academically over the course of four years. It is rewarding to know that I have helped them become better prepared to enter the job market or higher education. Teaching important skills through what is happening in the world today makes a significant difference in how students are able to apply what they have learned."

In addition to teaching, Michael has served as the advisor to the Interact Community Service Club for the past nine years. Activities of the club include volunteering at local events, raising money for charities, donating needed items to people facing hard times, and attending leadership conferences. During his time as advisor, the Interact Club has raised about \$30,000 for local, national, and worldwide charitable foundations like Relay for Life, UNICEF, and more. He has led this group of students to donate warm clothing and canned food to local citizens, provide basic necessities to countless disaster victims, and volunteer thousands upon thousands of hours of time for the purpose of helping others.

Michael is always striving to perfect his teaching strategies, improve the quality of instruction, and help students give back to the community; additionally, he is an advocate for his fellow teachers. He currently serves as a building representative for the Watertown Education Association, working to create a positive climate both at the high school and throughout the district. "Fostering a community of trust and respect makes everyone feel better about the directions in which we decide to go as a district and as a community," says Cerrato. "I am glad that I can be a part of it."

Michael received a plaque from the State Board of Education at the 2014 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Award Ceremony, on November 19, 2013 at the Bushnell in Hartford, Connecticut and was also selected as a State semifinalist.

**3. Recognition of Nominees for 2013-2014 Teacher of the Year are:**

- Elisha Gesseck – Grade 6 Language Arts Teacher at Swift Middle School
- Alyssa Buzzelli - Grade 8 Language Arts Teacher at Swift Middle School
- Kathy Sklanka – Grade 7 Language Arts Teacher at Swift Middle School
- Sherri Marquardt - Grade 5 Teacher at Judson School
- Judy White - Grade 1 Classroom Teacher at John Trumbull Primary School
- Gary Pflomm - Grade 5 Teacher at Polk Elementary School

**E. Report from Student Council Representative – Andrew Terzigni**

**F. Public Participation (Please state name, address and topic of discussion)**

**G. Budget Status – (Information Only)**

**H. Committee Reports:**

Curriculum and Instruction Committee, Mr. Ray Nardella, Chair

Policy and Labor Committee, Mr. Eric Berthel, Chair

Budget and Finance Committee, Mr. Eric Berthel, Chair

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

Governance and Community Engagement Committee, Mr. Ray Nardella, Chair

**I. Communications - Secretary**

**J. Minutes**

1. Board of Education Regular Meeting – November 12, 2013

**K. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report**

1. Appointments – (Information Only)

- a. Mr. Warren Campbell to the positions of Career Education Coordinator and K-12 Coordinator/Department Head for Computer Education, at Watertown High School for the 2013-2014 school year at the contractual stipend of \$2,723.00 for each position.
- b. Ms. Nicole Knott-Lewis to the position of System-wide Professional Development Coordinator at Watertown High School for the 2013-2014 school year at the contractual stipend of \$3,276.00.
- c. Mr. Roberto Rinaldi to the positions of High School Mathematics Coordinator and System-wide Mathematics Coordinator at Watertown High School with a contractual stipend of \$2,723.00 for each position.
- d. Ms. Amanda Valunas to the position of Cheerleading Coach at Swift Middle School for the 2013-2014 school year at the contractual stipend of \$1,979.00, payable at the end of the season.
- e. Mr. Joseph Giannelli to the position of Girls' Basketball Coach at Swift Middle School for the 2013-2014 school year at the contractual stipend of \$2,406.00, payable at the end of the season.
- f. Mr. Keith Borkowski to the position of Boys' Basketball Coach at Swift Middle School for the 2013-2014 school year at the contractual stipend of \$2,406.00, payable at the end of the season.
- g. Ms. Cassandra Mineo to the position of Paraprofessional, Category #1 at Judson School, effective December 2, 2013 for 30 hours per week at the hourly rate of \$13.37.

2. Transfer – (Information Only)

Ms. Dorothy Stransky, has been transferred from the position of part time .5 Nurse to full time 1.0 Nurse for Watertown Public Schools, effective November 7, 2013.

3. Resignation – Information Only

1. Ms. Kristina Wallace from the position of Guidance Counselor at Watertown High school, effective January 1, 2014, for personal reasons.

4. Presentation - (Information Only)

Instructional Best Practice

Dr. Bridget Carnemolla, Principal of Watertown High School, will present a program overview about: "The Truth about Hate is" - Hate happens here in Connecticut and the seeds of hate can be found in every high school. Stereotyping, jokes, name-calling, and rumors are all seeds that can blossom into prejudice, discrimination and hate. The key to combating hate is to address these issues before they grow into major problems. This program is designed to help students understand how these issues affect their daily lives and the role they can play in challenging prejudice and hate.

Event: The team will come to Watertown High School and present to large groups. They will also train staff and students to moderate small group discussions. The event was last held at Watertown High School in September of 2009.

**L. Report from the Chairman****M. Action Items – Adoption of items to be Approved by Consent****1. Consideration of the Approval of a Family Medical Leave of Absence**

Mr. Neal Skelton, Music Teacher at John Trumbull Primary School, is requesting a Medical leave of absence under the Family Medical Leave Act commencing December 17, 2013 for approximately six weeks with the use of accumulated sick time and a doctor's note to return.

It is recommended that the Board approve the request for a Family Medical Leave of Absence for Mr. Neal Skelton, Music Teacher at John Trumbull Primary School, under the Family Medical Leave Act commencing, December 17, 2013 for approximately six weeks with the use of accumulated sick time and a doctor's note to return.

**2. Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of Gifts**

Ms. Mindi Davidson donated books to the Judson Elementary School Library at an estimated value of \$50.00.

The Gordon Family donated books to the Judson Elementary School Library and Summer Reading Program at an estimated value of \$100.00.

It is recommended that the Board approve of these generous donations and letters of thanks to be sent to the donors.

**N. Future Agenda Items and Board Members' Comments****O. Public Participation (Please state name, address and topic of discussion)****P. Adjourn**