

Pending BOE Approval

**Watertown Board of Education
Regular Board of Education Meeting**

Meeting Date: June 8, 2020
Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Place: REMOTE MEETING

Members Present: Ms. Leslie Crotty, Chairman
Ms. Janelle Wilk, Secretary
Mr. Robert Makowski
Ms. Cathie Rinaldi
Ms. Diane Bristol
Ms. Josephine Cavallo-Rosa
Mr. Jason Malagutti

Members Absent: Mr. Tom Lambert, Vice Chairman
Ms. Cindy Eastman

Others Present: Dr. Rydell Harrison –Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Tom DiStasio – 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, 2020 Regular Board of Education Meeting

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

Text of the Motion:	Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the minutes from the May 11 th , 2020 Board of Education meeting as presented by Ms. Davidson.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion passed
Agenda Item:	D.2
Subject:	Minutes of the May 29, 2020 Special Board of Education Meeting
Motion Presented By:	Ms. Wilk
Motion Seconded By:	Ms. Bristol
Text of the Motion:	Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the minutes from the May 29 th , 2020 Special Board of Education meeting as presented.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion passed

E. Recognition of Watertown High School Students entering the Military

The Watertown Board of Education would like to recognize and thank the following three Watertown High School Students, for their commitment to serve our country in the Military.

Rexhep Elshani - U.S. National Guard
 Joseph Maccione - U.S. Marine Corps
 Jake Sheehan - U.S. Marine Corp

F. PTO Recognition

The Watertown Board of Education would like to honor the Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO) for their outstanding services to the school community. In order to support our students, they have created strong working relationships between our parents and our teachers. Their volunteer efforts in planning educational activities, engaging events, fundraisers, and much

more are greatly appreciated. We sincerely thank you for your hard work and your dedication to our schools.

John Trumbull Primary School

Lauren Kellnhauser, President
Carolyn Boynton, Vice President
Allison Demarest, Vice President
Kara Edwards, Vice President

Judson Elementary School

Cindy Phelan, Co-President
Mary Metcalfe, Co-President
Shannon McDonnell, Vice President

Polk Elementary School

Jen Grabel, Co-President
Lauren Hull, Co-President

Swift Middle School

Julie Hayes, President
Becky Zadlo, Vice President

Watertown High School

Robin Guerrero, President
Mindi Davidson, Vice President

G. Retirees Recognition

Ms. Crotty – The Watertown Board of Education would like to thank this year’s retirees for bringing their experience, knowledge, and compassion to each of their roles to the Watertown School District. While you will be missed, your presence will remain with the thousands of students, families, and colleagues that you have influenced collectively over the time span of 226 years, or 40,680 days in the district. As we hear each of your names, the impact and areas of expertise will be evident. While each of your stories may be different, we know the work was hard. We know that there were days when you were so physically and emotionally drained and did not know how you would show up and take care of our students and families and buildings for one more day, but you did. You have been our back bone, our confidants, our problem solvers- you have exemplified passion for your profession during the best of days and the most trying of days. Thank you for all that you have each done during your decades in Watertown Public Schools. In the days to come, as you reflect on the memories you have built, know that for as long as the school bells ring, you will be welcome and honored and cherished here. We remain forever grateful for your service.

Name	Position	School	Years in District
Chryll Beliveau	Teacher/5 th Grade	Judson Elementary School	26
Susan Bohan	Secretary	Watertown High School	35
Jeanne Creem	Secretary	Watertown High School	22
June DiLella	Teacher/Special Education	Swift Middle School	23
Keith Marceski	Science Teacher	Watertown High School	19
Pamela McGuire	Teacher/Coordinator	Watertown Transition Academy	26
Stephen Sorriero	Physical Education Teacher	Polk & Judson Elementary Schools	50
Henry McGough	Custodian	Judson Elementary School	25

Mr. Makowski - Ms. Beliveau started working as a Paraprofessional at Griffin School in 1994 in the computer lab, and in 1996 she began working there as a .5 Developmental Kindergarten Teacher. In 2000 she was hired at John Trumbull Primary School as a Kindergarten Teacher and later transferred to Judson Elementary School in 2005 where she worked as a 5th grade teacher for the past 15 years. Chryll was an involved member of the Judson School community and was always the first to ask how she could help with any school event or committee. Getting to know her students personally and offering support to them and their families has always been a priority for Chryll throughout her career. She will be dearly missed.

Ms. Bristol - Ms. Bohan began working at Watertown High School in 1985, splitting her time as a half time secretary in the nurses' office and in the School Counseling Office. She was hired full-time in the Counseling Office where she has been for the past 35 years. Ms. Bohan's work has always been characterized by a tireless attention to detail and an expert know-how in all aspects of the School Counseling Office. She is responsible for the hundreds of transcript requests WHS gets on a yearly basis. Her efficiency and complete understanding of the School Counseling Office will be sorely missed.

Ms. Rinaldi - Ms. Creem began working in the Watertown School District in 1998 where she began as a substitute secretary working at Baldwin, Polk, Swift, and WHS. She was then hired as a secretary to the Assistant Principals in June of 2000. Ms. Creem's work has always been characterized by a cheerful readiness to assist in all operations in the Main Office. She maintains careful records about student conduct, contributes important data to state reports, understands how to assign daily substitutes in a complicated high school schedule, and interacts with positivity with all members of our community. Her kindness and good nature will be missed by all.

Ms. DiLella began working in Watertown as a Special Education Teacher at Swift Middle School in 1997. She also worked part time at WHS. She has always gone the extra mile to work with her team to find the best resources for her students to succeed. She believed in strong school and family connections - truly a caring and remarkable educator. We will miss her.

Ms. Wilk - Mr. Marceski began working in Watertown in 2001. He has been a member of the WHS Science department for the past 19 years where he has taught Integrated Science, Astronomy, Conservation, Environmental Science and Meteorology. Mr. Marceski is also a musician who has shared his talents with the WHS staff on numerous occasions. He will be missed by all.

Mr. Makowski - Ms. McGuire has been working in Watertown Public Schools since 1994 and during her 26 years here she has been a Transition Teacher, the Transition Coordinator, and a Special Education Department Coordinator. Her years in transition have provided her with

numerous opportunities to create community partnerships with local businesses, where she worked with business owners to develop employment and internship opportunities for transition students. Ms. McGuire developed the initial plans for the Watertown Transition Academy to provide students with real-world experience beyond Watertown High School, and she led the move of the transition program into the Siemon Building, where it has since expanded into additional space. Ms. McGuire firmly believes in the necessity of employment skills for all learners, and she dedicated her career in Watertown to ensuring that our students aged 18-21 were well prepared for competitive employment. We wish her all the best in the years to come.

Ms. Rosa -Mr. Sorriero began working in Watertown in 1970 as a Physical Education Teacher at Swift Middle School. He later transferred to Judson and Baldwin Schools in 1990. In 2010 he continued as a Physical Education Teacher both at Polk and Judson Elementary Schools. Steve's goal was to always involve parents and students in a non-competitive motivational and fun fitness activity. He strongly believes if people stay healthy and physically fit they will maintain healthier lives. Mr. Sorriero is commended for embracing self-assessment techniques and student monitoring. He will be greatly missed by all.

Mr. Malagutti - Mr. McGough began working as a Custodian in Watertown at Judson Elementary School in 1995. He also worked as a part time volunteer fireman and emergency medical technician (EMT). Although he worked second shift, he found joy in interacting with the students. He would often share stories about some of the conversations that he had with students and the encouraging words that he would offer to them. We thank Mr. McGough for his 25 years of service to Watertown Public Schools.

Dr. Harrison – I just want to say how proud I am of all of these retirees and how much we appreciate their service. The last couple of years I have had the opportunity to see everyone on this list in action and none of them approached their work like they were on their way out. They were dedicated and it was something that was motivating and inspiring to me. Even with a couple of them come to me, Sue Bohan in particular, and offered to stay on longer if we needed her, because we are going through this transition. Teachers trying new ideas, embracing distance learning, the teachers on this list and our secretaries, I am so grateful for their service to the district and their service our students and I look forward to having an in person opportunity to express my thanks on behalf of the board, students and staff.

H. Superintendent's Recommendations and Report

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

None

2. **Transfers – (Information Only)**

None

3. **Resignations – (Information Only)**

Ms. Jeanne Creem from the position of Secretary at Watertown High School, effective September 1, 2020 for the purpose of retirement.

Ms. June DiLella from the position of Special Education Teacher at Swift Middle School, effective June 30, 2020 for the purpose of retirement.

Ms. Chryll Beliveau from the position of 5th Grade Teacher at Judson Elementary School, effective June 30, 2020 for the purpose of retirement.

Ms. Pamela McGuire from the position of Teacher/Coordinator at Watertown Transition Academy, effective June 30, 2020 for the purpose of retirement.

Mr. Keith Marceski from the position of Science Teacher at Watertown High School, effective June 30, 2020 for the purpose of retirement.

Mr. Stephen Sorriero from the position of Physical Education Teacher at Polk & Judson Elementary Schools, effective June 30, 2020 for the purpose of retirement.

4. **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Harrison – Thank you. As you can see, listed under resignations are all of the retirees that we just acknowledged. And while we are sad to see them go, we are also excited to welcome some new people to our district and one that I want to point out that is not on the agenda, but that you approved at our last special board meeting is Kristin Raymond, our new principal at Judson Elementary School. She will start with the district on July 1st and we are very excited to have her. You had the opportunity to meet her as part of the interview process and we saw her energy, her passion for her students, we saw her commitment and service to growing students academically, growing relationships with their families, and so I am so excited that she will be joining our leadership team and the family over at Judson to lead them to the great place they are headed.

We are almost at the end of the school year. Having gone through a year of EEE Virus, a virus with our devices, and now the Corona Virus, for some of us, this end could not get here fast enough. We are very proud that we made it to the end and I just want to talk about some of the things our schools are doing as we gear up for the end. In addition to returning student materials, our teachers and administrators have been finding really creative ways to celebrate the end of the school year while also following the social distancing guidelines currently in place. Our elementary schools are planning fun events or special gifts to cap off the end of the year. I've heard plans about t-shirts and yard signs, Surfing into Summer, a virtual field day, flag day, Hawaii day and even a virtual talent show with some surprise guest performers.

At Swift Middle School, they are gearing up for their virtual graduation which is scheduled for June 16th. They have creatively included all of the components of their typical graduation into

a video where every 8th grader will be recognized. I even got to record my own speech and sent in with me sitting here at the dining room table so that was cool to be a part of that. The video will be streamed on our district's YouTube channel for all families to watch. June is always a busy month at the HS and despite distance learning, this year is no different. On June 1st, they held a Scholarship Presentation Evening on Zoom where over 30 of our seniors were awarded with local scholarships. There were over 80 attendees at this event to acknowledge and celebrate students' accomplishments. I was happy to participate in that. On June 5th, the Class of 2020 Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and one of the class officers videotaped their speeches in the high school auditorium for the graduation video that is being created. That video will be shown later in the summer with having a bunch of our students together at the drive in. We are excited about the event and also for them to have the opportunity to have their drive through graduation. On June 13th, there will be a luminary lighting event at Veterans Park to showcase the Senior Photo Signs that were placed at Vets this weekend. I now Ms. Crotty posted some video footage of driving through there and it is a proud moment for us as a community to be able to see our students and celebrate them on this next step that they are taking in their lives. On June 14th, there will be a Class of 2020 car parade through town, led by the Watertown Police Department. We are excited to drive through, not so many neighborhoods, but drive through our community and give our community members an opportunity to ring bells, wave, celebrate, all of the things we know folks will do while maintaining their social distance, to celebrate our students. On June 15th, Senior students will come to the high school to pick up their gift bags and cupcakes. The cupcakes have been generously donated by a senior parent. On June 16th, there will be chalk drawing sessions in the WHS parking lot. Students will decorate parking places with their own chalk designs as a way to commemorate this graduation period. And then the main event, on June 17th, is the Watertown High School graduation which will take place beginning at 1:30. Dr. Parlato and her team sent out lots of information to our families where they will be graduation in clusters of 25 and getting out of the car to get their certificates/diploma, and then also for a photo opportunity. I am excited about all of these events. Then we end that week on June 18th with the Class of 2020 Garden of Honor will be planting at the high school using flowers and shrubs that served as decorations for the graduation that were made for us to continue to think about them and the impact that they made while they were in school and then the impact they will continue to make after graduation.

Speaking of students after graduation, the last thing that I want to share is that today I had the opportunity to participate in the Black Lives Matter rally that was held on the Green. I am so proud of our former students who stepped up and organized this event and it brings a lot of hope to us as a community in seeing our students are invested in creating a world that is more just and more thoughtful. I am always proud of our current students, but also proud of our former students who are continuing to do great work in our communities.

Recommended Budget Cuts:

At the Budget & Finance meeting last week, I shared my proposal and we had some great discussion during that meeting regarding some concerns related to some items that we knew we needed going forward that were time sensitive and we wanted to make sure that we had recommended cuts that addressed some of the uncertainty around what the budget might look like next year. For instance, initially I proposed cutting the health teacher at the high school, deferring that position for a year, but knowing that it is a legislative mandate, even

though we could push it for students until junior year, we had good discussion regarding that it makes more sense to do it now.

These are the recommended cuts and a reminder that our target amount to cut is \$263,000:

Superintendent salary/benefits - \$1,749 – I elected to take a zero percent increase. As a placeholder in the budget, we placed a 1% increase in the budget for all nonaffiliated contracts and you'll see those savings there.

AASA - \$4,162 – Membership for National Superintendent's Association membership. Even though we won't have the national membership, I will remain focused with our statewide networks which will have additional impacts without additional costs.

Field Trips - \$5,000 – Reduced based on the CDC recommendations that field trips won't be allowed next year.

Chromebooks - \$9,788 – Replacing the Chromebooks at Swift & Polk. We want to fund Chromebooks at the music lab at Swift and at Polk for the additional 3rd class at Polk this year. We can do that using our CARES Act funds to move forward with our 1:1 initiative.

Security Guard (HS) - \$45,000 – We talked about the options for this position. There were three positions in the original proposal, one at each of the elementary schools and then one at the high school for the evenings for events. We talked about shifting this to a half year salary, recognizing that there will most likely be a disruption to evening activities at the high school at this point, so we only coming for a half cut to this position initially. You will see now that the recommendation is to defer this position for one year.

Athletics - \$14,200 – A reduction for the athletic department.

HS Math Resources - \$33,629 – Our initial plan was to move forward with the program at the high school, but there were already discussions in delaying this for a year because of needed time for PD on the new resource and completing our decision analysis process to select the right vendor.

.5 Network Coordinator - \$30,254 – This would allow us to defer the hiring for this position to mid-year.

Speech Teacher - \$59,659 – We are not cutting this position as it is absolutely necessary, but we are shifting the position to the IDEA grant. Federal grants are two year grants and what we don't use in year one is shifted into year two. Because of Covid 19, we project to carry over more funding that we initially anticipated.

Maintenance & Supplies - \$60,000 – This is a compilation of cuts to multiple accounts. They are difficult to project; over the course of several years, there can be years where we have significant costs and then years when we have low costs. Generally, we average out the historic costs on these lines to come up with a reasonable projection. When we received this cut, revisited the line and looked back over the years to cut more going forward.

I. Items of Discussion

a) Non-Tenured Teacher Notices

Ms. Crotty – As we do annually, if the budget passes, or if there are cuts, but we are not laying off any teachers, we are able to rescind the notification that went out prior to that that we had approved.

b) Project Puzzle Piece; donation to Unified Sports Program

Ms. Crotty – Project Puzzle Piece, under Sun, Moon and Stars, has been working very hard to bring awareness to Autism and raises funds for the Unified Sports Program at Watertown Public Schools. They have engaged students, faculty, business members and community members to come together to promote Autism Awareness. The timeline of events for Project Puzzle Piece has changed, and you will see more about what they are doing. You will see hand painted signs in front of businesses that Watertown High School students created. They will be out soon and I don't want to share too much about that...you will see them on social media and it will be exciting. We wanted to make sure that we had the funds that they were able to raise, which was \$3400, and is an action item of that later. We are extremely grateful for those funds.

Dr. Harrison – I just want to say thank you to Sun, Moon and Stars, to the students that participated, to our staff that assisted in the process, and also to Leslie who was a part of the committee from beginning to end. This is yet another great example of community partnership, but more than that, it is an example of our students taking ownership of a project and thinking about ways they can have a positive experience in our community. This was more than puzzle pieces, it was about Autism Awareness, this was part of some senior capstone projects and I just love when our students are able to make connections between the lines they are doing in school and the impact they have on their community. It really does epitomize the ideals and characteristics that we set up in our Vision of a Watertown Graduate. I am also proud of our community's commitment to bringing awareness to Autism and thinking about the subtle ways that we provide space for members of our entire community, which includes our students with special needs.

Ms. Crotty – A big, huge thank you to Christine Faessa, of Sun, Moon and Stars. When we first received the phone call from her, it was a huge undertaking, but if anyone could pull it off, she can. She rallied everyone together for a common purpose. We are extremely grateful to her as well.

c) Watertown High School Grading Recommendations

Dr. Harrison – At our meeting on April 27th, the board approved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve a pass/fail protocol which also included a pass + or p+ to recognize students that are working at a high academic level during this extraordinary time of the Corona Virus and to celebrate their efforts. Following the board's approval of the recommendation, the high school administration received concerns regarding the p+ defaulting to a 95. The specific concern was that this takes points away from students unfairly if they earn more than a 95 in a class for quarter 4. After reviewing the calculations for final grades, Dr. Parlato and her team noted that it actually does remove 1 – 1 ½ points from a student if they receive a 96 – 100 and then calculated as a 95. So, to address this issue, my recommendation is to revise the plan to change the numerical grade for a pass + from a 95 to a 97, which makes the default score more fair to higher achieving students. Especially since our first thought with its creation was do no harm first and foremost. So, for students that earn a grade from 89 – 100, a 97 will be used as the numeric score to calculate the final grade. At our last meeting on May 11, board members aired additional concerns regarding the grading, specifically that we had some districts who are not following the state recommendations regarding the pass/fail grading protocol. I did some investigation into that

and I checked in at the state level with the Assistant Director of Superintendent's to see if there was any data regarding local decisions regarding grading practices. There is nothing official that the state has collected, however, she felt that there was an overwhelming number of districts that did use that approach. I also checked with some of my superintendent colleagues in places where they did not adopt pass/fail and continued with grading and asked questions as to their thinking. Their concerns were that if their district shifted to pass/fail, that it would impact student engagement in distance learning, specifically if that students felt that all they needed to do was put forth a small amount of effort just to pass, then it would refuse student engagement. At that point, we had already been tracking our student engagement which was very high, even after we had shifted to pass/fail. I also spoke to the administration regarding the calculation of GPA. As part of the grading policy that we had approved, it said that our GPAs would be frozen after the end of the first semester. We did this before the state recommendations came out. Dr. Parlato and I talked about this idea about freezing grades, where some of the concerns we had initially were some of the things that were cited in the state guidance as to why this was a good approach and that was about recognizing that distance learning can look very different for every student, depending on the amount of resources that they have at home, the support that have at home....and we tried to be conscious of student's who may have sick family members and end up having to be care givers for their families; all things that have potential to impact their ability to work at distance learning compared to some of their peers. Then we talked about if that was a good rational not to lower GPAs, but what if these semester grades have a positive impact on GPAs, could we take a do no harm approach there where if the GPA went down, just freeze where it was at the end of the first semester and then if it went up, then we could add it in and it would be a positive. The challenge there is that GPAs are used to calculate class rank. Raising it for other students could then shift the ranking students. We felt that it would not be equitable and then the wide range of what learning might look like for students across our district. I wanted to share all this information and the rational for moving forward with this proposal of a revision.

d) Bid Waiver Request to renew the Connecticut Business Systems (CBS) Agreement

Mr. DiStasio – Mr. Turner and I have been working with both of these vendors on contract renewal proposals for Frontier who provides our phone services and CBS who provides our copy equipment and servicing. These contracts are set to expire in the next few months. When looking at Frontier, we were provided with a proposal that offers pricing that is consistent with what is awarded through a national competitive soliciting process. They have been our phone provider for the last five years and have been pretty solid. Looking to the fall, we do want to take under consideration that changing our service provider would be a challenging thing to do, especially with so many unknowns that we are looking at this fall. The last thing we want to do is implement a new phone system and have to train everyone on that system. This proposal offers upgraded equipment that allows our teachers and staff to use the current system, but still enjoy some of the upgrades associated with newer phones. Another item proposed was switching to a cloud based system, which would be beneficial with what we learning earlier in the year with our IT virus situation and now where people are working remotely. It allows us to have access to everything we would

need in a cloud based or remotely accessible location. In reviewing that proposal, we felt it was beneficial to renew that contract.

CBS proposed a renewal that also includes upgrades to the equipment and prevents potential interruptions by potentially switching vendors during the year. This renewal pricing adjusts the pricing so that we would project about \$21,000 (annually) in savings on an annual basis, based on the way we are charged on the copies and usage we have throughout the year. When you combine the pricing advantages with the convenience of sticking with the same vendor, we believe it is in the district's best interest to renew these contracts moving forward. In accordance with the policy, we wanted to make sure we requested a bid waiver to make sure we are in accordance with the policy.

e) Bid Waiver Request to renew Frontier Service Agreement

Please see above for the combined information.

J. School Re-Entry Advisory Council (SRAC) Update

Dr. Harrison – As a reminder, the purpose of the Re-entry Advisory Council is to develop a comprehensive plan for reopening Watertown schools in the fall that prioritizes the health and well-being of students and staff, provides solutions to the logistical challenges associated with school operations, and focuses on instructional delivery. You'll recall at the last meeting, I shared we split into three working groups; one around instructional delivery, one around health and well-being, and one around logistics.

Instructional Delivery: On May 29th, the Instructional Delivery working group had its second meeting. During the meeting, the group identified and discussed the 6 most serious issues related to instructional delivery based on their impact on students & staff and they were:

- Ensure that every student is on track for success academically, socially and emotionally when schools reopen
- Make adjustments to our curriculum to ensure that we are positioned to address learning gaps in literacy and math
- Apply the lessons learned during phases 1 and 2 of distance learning plan in preparation for reopening
- Provide multiple learning options so that students who are unable to be physically present are still learning
- Assess students and make data driven decisions
- Balance expectations of staff in delivering instruction in a virtual or hybrid environment

Following the meeting, the group shared additional follow up steps that Ms. Fekete and I are reviewing and will bring back to the group at our follow up discussion.

Health & Well-Being: On June 1st, the Health and Well-Being working group had its first meeting. In addition to Ms. Crotty and myself, the group includes the following School Re-Entry Advisory Council members: Mary Jean Mangione (Swift Admin), Annette Dillon (SPED Admin), Sarah Simmons (Nurse), Dr. Craig Czartsky (Medical Advisor) and Chief Bernegger (WPD). We also had a psychologist, social worker, 3 SPED teachers, an additional school nurse and one of our parochial school principals.

During the meeting, the group identified the most critical issues and concerns related to the health and well-being of students and staff and prioritized them. Those 60+ concerns were grouped into the following themes:

- Processes & Protocols
- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Communication
- Logistics

Following the meeting, the group prioritized the seriousness of each of the concerns based on its impact on students and/or staff, physical safety of students and/or staff, and financial impact.

Logistics: The final group to meet will be the logistics group. Although we are expecting updated guidelines from the state regarding reopening schools in the fall, this group will use the summer school guidelines to guide our planning for the fall. In addition to the SRAC members, we will include representatives from facilities, maintenance, business office, food services, transportation, secretaries, athletics, WPD and Jim O'Rourke from the YMCA.

I want to make sure that we give our families an opportunity to provide input regarding reopening in the fall. Tomorrow, surveys will be sent to families, middle and high school students and our staff. The purpose of the survey is to provide space for people to express their concerns about reopening so that we can work to mitigate those issues as we are planning. In addition to the survey, I will be working with Ms. Crotty to schedule two special Board meetings (one later this month and one in late July) to provide more detailed information regarding our planning, review the survey results, discuss the proposed plans, and answer questions/comments from the public.

K. Committee Reports:

Curriculum and Instruction Committee, Ms. Cathie Rinaldi, Chair - No
Policy and Labor Committee, Ms. Janelle Wilk, Chair – No
Budget and Finance Committee, Ms. Diane Bristol, Chair – Yes

As we discussed this evening, to clarify, on May 26th, the Town Council reviewed the town budget and the Board of Ed budget and they did recommend that the Board of Education budget for next year, 2020/2021, be cut by \$263,000. It did go to vote and it did pass. Dr. Harrison, Ms. Crotty and Mr. DiStasio have been working tirelessly to make that happen without impeding the learning of our students and I thank you for all of your recommendations and hard work.

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

The space at the Municipal Center is in the process of being completed. There is still some finish work to be completed including paint and flooring. Additionally, there is some cleaning of tools and machinery that was used by the contractors. They noted that there is need for some additional desks and shorted cubical walls for our space. They are reviewing the costs of purchasing matching desks and evaluating repurposing what we have at the Munson House in terms of the cubical walls.

The John Trumbull Entry Way project has been completed from the perspective of having the

contractor come in and build the additional wall. Another vendor has been called in to add card access swipes to the new entrance and it is anticipated that this work will be done in the coming weeks.

The first round of interviews for the new facilities manager will begin this week.

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

L. Communications – Secretary

Ms. Wilk – Yes Madam Chair, we received a thank you card that read, “Dear Members of the Board of Education, Thank you so much for the flowers after my recent surgery. Knowing that you were thinking of me made me feel great. They are so beautiful and a pop of joy and color to our living room. Sincerely, Mindi”.

M. Report from the Board Chair

Ms. Crotty – There were no comments or questions sent in.

I want to review some of the things I have been doing behind the scenes. From a meeting standpoint, on May 14th, I participated in a conference with fellow Board Chairs across the state with the Commissioner of Education. On May 15th, I had an additional meeting with Board Chairs across the state in regards to some of the regulations that have been brought up. On May 20th, I participated in the Judson principal interviews and on May 26th, I had the pleasure of being asked to present the School Re-entry Advisory Committee Council framework to Board Chairs across the state through a CABE meeting and I thank Dr. Harrison for allowing me to use a lot of what he has done behind the scenes and I gave him lots of credit as I presented. On the 28th, I participated in another Connecticut Association of Boards of Education meeting in which there were over 40 board chairs from across the state in attendance. On the 29th, I was involved in the School Re-entry Instructional Delivery and on the 1st with Health & Well-being and then Project Puzzle Piece and finally, the Watertown High School scholarship presentation. On the 2nd, Ms. Bristol led us in a Budget & Finance meeting where Dr. Harrison presented us with his first round of recommendations and cuts. On June 4th, I attended a presentation with Board Chairs across the states on the shift to digital learning with the Cooperative Services Office. We discussed what we learned from the quick implantation of distance learning thus far, what boards should be considering, and how to best prepare students for surviving in a fluid educational circumstance. We also discussed what districts should be doing to help parents through it and how to measure a remedy of equities within our own district. That meeting is available through the CABE website and I think it was a very valuable presentation if you are interested in watching it.

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

Agenda Item:	N.1
Subject:	Consideration to Approve and Rescind the Non-Tenured Teacher Notices
Motion Presented By:	Ms. Wilk

Motion Seconded By: Ms. Rinaldi

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board rescind the non-renewal notices of non-tenured teachers, effective immediately.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: N.2

Subject: Consideration of the Approval to Amend the 2020-2021 Board of Education Budget

Motion Presented By: Ms. Bristol

Motion Seconded By: Ms. Rosa

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the amended 2020/2021 Annual Budget of \$46,578,590 inclusive of \$263,000 in budget cuts as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: N.3

Subject: Consideration of the Approval to Amend the Watertown High School Grading Proposal.

Motion Presented By: Ms. Rinaldi

Motion Seconded By: Mr. Malagutti

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the amended Watertown High School grading proposal as presented, effective immediately.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None
 Abstained: None
 Vote: Motion Passes

Agenda Item: N.4
 Subject: Consideration of the Approval of Acceptance of a Gift

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

Text of the Motion: Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve of the generous gift of \$3,400 from Sun, Moon and Stars: Project Puzzle Piece, to the Watertown Public Schools Unified Sports Program and that a letter of appreciation be sent to the donor.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None
 Abstained: None
 Vote: Motion Passes

O. Future Agenda Items and Board Members Comments

Ms. Rinaldi – Has there been any consideration for using distance learning for snow days for the future?

Dr. Harrison – If I am asked from the state what I thought should happen, the answer would absolutely be 100%. We have demonstrated learning can continue and students would have access and we can make that happen and I think we have proven over the last several months that the idea of just seat time is not the only way of learning. There should be more flexibility. When we made the shift to distance learning, there was a lot of information from the state with allowing this to happen that it was not to be extended to the future for snow days, but I don't think there will be much lashing out going forward to not being able to have them and that is something that I will absolutely advocate for.

P. Adjournment

Agenda Item: P.1
 Subject: To adjourn the meeting

Motion Presented By: Ms. Bristol

Motion Seconded By:	Mr. Malagutti
Text of the Motion:	Madame Chair, I move that we adjourn.
Discussion:	None
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Vote:	Motion Passes

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mindi Davidson
Recording Secretary

Janelle Wilk
Secretary of the Board