

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2021

Present: Jamie Doucette (President), Bill Bloethe (Vice President), (Member), Matthew Edwards (Member), Chatherine Edwards (Member), Christian Arsenault (Superintendent/Principal), Jim Eagan (Business Manager) and Public.

1. Community Session:

1.1 Call to Order- President Jamie Doucette called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Mrs. Doucette also held a moment of silence for a previous Board member, Mary Horn, who recently passed away.

1.2 Public Participation- Mrs. Carol Giles requested to speak to the Board regarding a public comment she had made at the last Board meeting. At the last Board meeting, Mrs. Giles spoke on the importance of faculty housing and wanted to go on record to clarify that she feels as though the district has a very hard working professional high-quality staff, which includes both island and non-island residents. She expressed that the tuition program requires more supervision than a typical school day and believes that faculty housing makes it easier on staff members to provide coverage for the atypical length of required supervision.

1.3 Celebrations:

A. Start of 2021-2022 School Year- Mr. Arsenault informed the Board that there have been eight days of school and both students and staff are doing well. He also thanked the staff for everything they had done in preparation to start the school year off in a positive direction.

1.4 Additions to Agenda-

4.6 Motion to Approve the Resignation of Board Member, Robin Toldo

2. Business Reports

2.1 Warrants Approved by Claims Auditor- No questions or comments.

A. Warrant Pending- September 9, 2021- Unpaid

2.2 Business Manager Reports- No questions or comments.

A. Revenue-Expense Status Report (August)- No questions or comments.

B. Treasurer Report (August)- No questions or comments.

2.3 2020-2021 Budget Transfers- No questions or comments.

3. Board Committee Reports

3.1 Faculty Housing Committee (FHC)- Mr. Eagan reviewed the highlights from the FHC meeting with that Board. There were no questions or comments.

3.2 Safety Committee- The Safety Committee met last week to review the start of the school year. There is a new NY mandate to require non-vaccinated employees to test on a weekly basis and provide a negative test result to Mr. Arsenault. The committee agreed that if a student or employee contracts COVID-19, the school will continue to fully close for a cleaning period depending on the impact of student learning.

3.3 Personnel Committee- No updates.

4. Action Items

4.1 Approval of the Minutes of the August 18, 2021 Board of Education Meeting-

Motion made by Matthew Edwards, seconded by Bill Bloethe. All in favor/none opposed.

4.2 Approval of Dress Code Policy #5300 (Second Reading)- This revision to the dress

code policy seems to be favorable to staff and students and is easy to enforce. The

students seem to appreciate the gender neutrality of the policy. Motion made by Bill

Bloethe, seconded by Matthew Edwards. All in favor/none opposed.

4.3 Approval of the Resolution for the Donation of the District's Dodge 3500 Van to the Fishers Island Fire Department- The van has not been working for several years

and has been sitting in the back of the playground. Donating the van to the Fire

Department would benefit the school by removing it from the property. Mr. Arsenault

thanked community members Chris Dollar and Jeff Edwards for working on this potential

donation. The donation was reviewed and approved by the Board's attorney. Motion

made by All in favor/none opposed.

4.4 Approval of the Internal Posting Positions- Motion made by Matthew Edwards,

seconded by Catherine Edwards. All in favor/none opposed.

4.5 Approval of the 2021-2022 Committees – Mr. Arsenault reviewed the committee

with Board members and Board members selected which committees they are on for the

2021-2022 school year. Motion made by Bill Bloethe, seconded by Matthew Edwards.

All in favor/none opposed.

4.6 Accepting the Resignation of Board Member, Robin Toldo- Mrs. Toldo has begun

the transition of moving to Connecticut and submitted a resignation letter to the Board.

The Board and Mr. Arsenault thanked Mrs. Toldo for her dedicated service to the Board.

Mrs. Toldo's position will become vacant the day after the resignation is accepted and the

Board has 90 days to fill the vacant seat. The person who takes the vacant seat will hold

the seat until the next election in May. The Board has several options for filling the seat.

The Board may hold a special election, abiding by all election rules and regulations. The

Board may also choose to appoint a community member by majority vote or elect the

community member with the second highest votes at the last election. The Board

questioned how long a person needs to be a resident of New York before being eligible to

become a Board member. Mr. Arsenault indicated that he would check with the district's

attorney to verification. The Board agreed to think about the options and discuss at the

next meeting in October. Motion to accept the resignation made by Matthew Edwards,

seconded by Catherine Edwards. All in favor/none opposed.

favor/none opposed.

5. Administrative Report

5.1 Capital Improvement Project- No updates. The architects are still in the final

design phase and gaining approval from the State Department. This process should wrap

up by January 2022. Mr. Arsenault reminded the Board that alternates will need to be

prioritized before sending out to Bid.

5.2 NEASC Accreditation- Faculty meetings are being geared towards NEASC.

5.3 Reimbursement for Generator Grant Project- No updates.

5.4 Walsh Park/FIS Land Sale (Winthrop Drive)- The planning board approved the plans for the subdivision but that is the first of three steps. The LOI may need to be re-drafted with new dates, but progress is being made.

5.5 Reservoir Road Potential Land Sale- Mr. Arsenault has signed a contract for appraisal and will report back to the Board with that information once it is completed.

6. Information Packet

6.1 ELC School Re-Opening Program- No comments.

7. Public Participation- Matthew Edwards indicated that the first week of October is fire prevention week and he is happy to provide information to the students at school.

Catherine Edwards questioned if sports would happen this year with COVID and if students would need to be vaccinated or tested. Mr. Arsenault indicated that he would investigate CT and NY school guidelines and discuss with the Safety Committee as well as the Athletic Director and report back to the Board with additional information.

8. Adjournment- Motion to adjourn made by Matthew Edwards, seconded by at Bill Bloethe at 6:36pm .