

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
DRAMA/LECTURE ROOM
MARK T. SHEEHAN HIGH SCHOOL
142 HOPE HILL ROAD, WALLINGFORD
OCTOBER 15, 2007**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tom Hennessey called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

The Clerk of the Board, Elizabeth Napolitano, called the roll.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

**ECONOMOPOULOS, HENNESSEY, LAFFIN, PERONE, CEI
VOTTO** entered at 7:47 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

HLAVAC – away on family business, **CORSETTI** – illness, **MCKAY** – not feeling well

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

WILSON, TAYLOR, NAPOLITANO

STUDENT-BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Jillian Correa, Student Board representative from Lyman Hall High School, came before the Board to give her report.

- First Open House took place on September 26th
- SATs were administered on October 6th
- The band competition was very successful on October 6th with 15 bands participating from all over southern Connecticut
- On October 11th guidance met with the parents of seniors to guide them through the college search process
- On October 17th the freshmen leadership conference will take place while sophomores and juniors takes the PSATs
- On October 26th the humanities class will host Haunted Hallways for preschool and early elementary grades
- On November 1st the second marking period begins
- The beginning stages of getting the Powderpuff together has started
- Fall sports are well underway

Cate Blair, replacing Student Board representative Elayna Roberts from Mark T. Sheehan High School, came before the Board to give her report also.

- On October 4th a PTAC meeting was held
- On October 6th SATs were hosted by Lyman Hall
- On October 16th evening conferences will be held
- On Wednesday, October 17th the PSATs will be administered to students in grades 10 and 11

- The girl's soccer team plays at Lyman Hall on October 17th at 5:30 p.m. followed by the boy's game against Lyman Hall at 7:00 p.m.
- The 100 yard butterfly record was broken at a swim meet Friday by junior Kaela Bjornberg. The new record is 1:01:20.
- The girl's swim team plays Lyman Hall on October 23rd.
- The marking period ends on November 1st and there is a PTAC meeting that night at 6:30 p.m.

- On November 3rd at 7:45 a.m. there will be SAT exams
- School will be closed on November 5th and 6th for teachers in-service days
- On November 8th there is an Understanding Teen Life Forum scheduled for 6:30 p.m.
- On November 12th school will be closed for Veterans Day. The student council will unite to rake leaves for elderly citizens on this day
- The week of November 13th to the 16th will celebrate American Education Week.
- On November 15th report cards will be mailed home
- In preparation for the Samaha Bowl hosted at Lyman Hall on November 21st at 1:30 and the Carini Bowl on November 22nd at 10:00 a.m. Sheehan will be participating in Spirit Week. The Pep Rally for these events is scheduled for November 21st.
- The Homecoming Dance will be hosted on November 17th at 7:00 p.m.
- The NEML Contest will be held on November 20th at 8:20 p.m.
- School will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday on November 23rd and the 24th.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

There were no awards presented

Mr. Hennessey explained that he is going to read, for the record, the letter that he sent to Mr. Lube in response to his concerns expressed at the last Board meeting. He read:

“Dear Mr. Lube: This is in response to your recent inquiry regarding the above subject matter. As I stated to you at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, September 17th, our attorney has advised us that the Board's policy BBB, dealing with conflicts of interest and nepotism, is more stringent than the provisions of the Town of Wallingford Charter and Code of Ethics. This is due to the fact that the Board of Education is prevented from hiring anyone from the “immediate family” (as defined in Policy BBB) of a Board member. This is contrasted with the Town's Code of Ethics and Charter, which would merely require that a Town officer “disqualify himself or herself from voting or acting on such matter.” The relative of the Town officer could still be hired by vote of the remaining members of the particular agency, commission or board of the Town. You have also brought up concerns that the Board's policies in certain respects are not as stringent as the Town Charter and Code of Ethics. I believe you may have stated that the Board's Code of Ethics “ought to be in harmony with that of the town.” Our policies already are in “harmony” with the Town's charter on this subject.

I refer you to Policy BBF, *School Board Member Ethics*, which states the following at the ending portion of the policy: Each Board member will also comply with the "Ethics and Conflicts of Interest" section of the *Charter of the Town of Wallingford, Connecticut*. Our Policy BBB also cites as a legal reference the Town Charter, Chapter XVII, Ethics and Conflicts of Interests. In summary, I certainly appreciate your concerns regarding the ethical standards applicable to the Board of Education members. I hope you now understand the full scope of our policies and the standards by which I and my fellow Board members are bound. Contrary to what you suggest, we believe that there is no need for revision of the Board policies since they reflect the Board's own pronouncement on the matter of ethical conduct and they incorporate the Town's standards as well. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions."

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Ann Verrone- Lederle, 85 Montowese Trail, came before the Board to express concerns that the master calendar has not been distributed to parents for a couple of years ahead.

Mr. Wilson reported that the calendar has been approved for two years at a time, this year and next year. He said that sometimes the calendar is held up due to negotiations.

Mr. Votto asked how many WEA representatives there are on the calendar committee.

Mr. Harkawik reported that there are three WEA representatives plus himself.

Pat and Dave McClary, 36 Johnson Road, came before the Board with their concerns about the students driving using the back gate at Sheehan. He had a petition signed by neighbors. He reported that they have contacted the police about the situation. They requested that a gate be put up at the end of the property.

Greg Colonese, 33 Johnson Road, came before the Board to say that he has two young children and fears for them because the cars speed down the road in front of his house.

Mr. Wilson reported that he spoke to Mrs. McClary about a week ago. He also spoke to the police and they will have an officer at the driveway at 2:00 every day starting on Tuesday, October 16th. He said the security guard will also be patrolling and will take license plate numbers and the students will lose their parking privileges. He also spoke to Mr. Novak who will have the speed bumps built up to slow the cars down.

Mrs. McClary said she has spoken to the police department, the principal, and Mayor Dickinson and nothing has been done.

Mr. Wilson expressed a concern that if a gate is installed it would be vandalized as all the others have been.

Mr. Laffin suggested that he look into grading as they do in Florida.

Mr. Hennessy said this is the first time that the Board is hearing about this situation. Mr. Hennessy suggested that Mr. Wilson check with the police and fire department to see what could be done with a gate and invited the McClarys back to the next Board meeting for an update.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: LAFFIN, SECOND BY PERONE

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF ITEMS 7.1 – 7.17 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Approval to Accept **Minutes** Dated September 17, 2007

Approval of **Graduation Candidates** from Lyman Hall School Summer School Program *Pursuant to Completion of All Graduation Requirements*

Approval of:

Proposed Revision to Regulation JGD-R – Suspension and Expulsion

Proposed Adoption of New H.S. Courses:

Agricultural Mechanics/Turf Management 1

Agricultural Mechanics/Turf Management 2

Agricultural Mechanics/Turf Management 3

Agricultural Mechanics/Turf Management 4

Proposed Adoption of New H.S. Courses:

Animal Science/Equine Science 1

Animal Science/Equine Science 2

Animal Science/Equine Science 3

Animal Science/Equine Science 4

Proposed Adoption of New H.S. Courses:

Animal Technology/Food Science 1

Animal Technology/Food Science 2

Animal Technology/Food Science 3

Animal Technology/Food Science 4

Proposed Adoption of New H.S. Courses:

Plant Science 1

Plant Science 2

Plant Science 3

Plant Science 4

Proposed Adoption of New H.S. Courses:

Wildlife Biology 1

Wildlife Biology 2

Wildlife Biology 3

Wildlife Biology 4

Proposed Deletion of H.S. Courses:

Agriculture 1

Agriculture 2

Agriculture 3

Agriculture 4

Proposed Adoption of New H.S. Course Outlines:

Agricultural Mechanics/Turf Management 1

Agricultural Mechanics/Turf Management 2

Agricultural Mechanics/Turf Management 3

Agricultural Mechanics/Turf Management 4

Proposed Adoption of New H.S. Course Outlines:

Animal Science/Equine Science 1

Animal Science/Equine Science 2

Animal Science/Equine Science 3

Animal Science/Equine Science 4

Proposed Adoption of New H.S. Course Outlines:

Animal Technology/Food Science 1
Animal Technology/Food Science 2
Animal Technology/Food Science 3
Animal Technology/Food Science 4

Proposed Adoption of New H.S. Course Outlines:

Plant Science 1
Plant Science 2
Plant Science 3
Plant Science 4

Proposed Adoption of New H.S. Course Outlines:

Wildlife Biology 1
Wildlife Biology 2
Wildlife Biology 3
Wildlife Biology 4

Approval of Transfer from Account #100B – Contingency to Account #730A –
Instructional Equipment for \$3,475

Approval to Accept **Financial Report** for September, 2007

Approval to Accept **Cafeteria Financial Reports** for August and September 2007

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Laffin reported that correspondence was received from the McGreen family and Kerry Hatch.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A.C.E.S. Representative

Mrs. Perone reported that she attended the meeting on October 11th. She said there were two visitors – Bob Rader from CAFE and Bob Bordeaux, the auditor for ACES who reviewed their fiscal financial report. She explained that the Little Theatre is being refurbished for the high school program and there is work being done on Capital Drive. She explained that Mr. Edmondson and a group of administrators went for extensive training for their strategic planning. She said ACES is meeting with other towns to offer their services. She reported that on November 6th there will be a systemwide professional development day at The Edison Magnet School in Meriden. She also announced that there will be a Student Reading Summit on November 29th.

Wintergreen Magnet School Steering Committee

Mr. Wilson reported that he attended the first meeting for Wintergreen and their theme for this year is “Soaring into the New Year”. He reported that WIMS met their AYP as a school but not in the three subgroups. He also said that ACES will be working with the teachers at WIMS for the new language arts curriculum this school year.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Economopoulos left the meeting.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE
APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR SARAH SIGEL

MOTION: LAFFIN, SECOND BY PERONE

VOTE: Unanimous approval that a *leave of absence for Sarah Sigel, from December 3 to December 21, 2007 be approved, without pay and benefits, and in accordance with the current teachers' contract.

*The leave of absence is persona and confidential. (Sarah Sigel will be on a family medical leave until November 30, 2007 and is requesting a leave of absence from December 3 to December 21, 2007.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION, WITH REGRET, OF BRENDA WATERHOUSE
EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 19, 2007

MOTION: LAFFIN, SECOND BY PERONE

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board accept, with regret, the resignation of Brenda Waterhouse, effective November 19, 2007.

Brenda Waterhouse has been a school psychologist at Dag Hammarskjold Middle School and Lyman Hall High School since August, 2001.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
BUILDING COMMITTEE FOR SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT

Mr. Votto reported that the Committee has not met. Mr. Wilson said that the project is about ready to be closed out in the next 2-3 months.

APPROVAL OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE STAFF/STUDENT RATIO

MOTION: LAFFIN, SECOND BY PERONE

Mr. Laffin read the motion into the minutes. "The Wallingford Board of Education in recognition of the current and continued interest of students from the surrounding districts to participate in the Regional Vocational Agricultural Center at Lyman Hall High School and in recognition of providing the necessary space to accommodate those students hereby agrees to support the enrollment of that Center over the next 8 years to a level of up to 340 students.

The increased enrollment will commence in the school year 2009-10, be it further agreed that the Wallingford Board of Education is committed to increase proportionately, certified, vocational agriculture staff to a 35 to 1 student to teacher ratio as student enrollment continues to increase."

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE MOTION AS READ INTO THE MINUTES

ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Report

Mr. Wilson reported that he met with the PTO presidents a few weeks ago and a consultant who works for the town on insurances to discuss whether the PTOs need to have insurance. He explained that he and Marty did some research and found that the insurance cost between \$160. and \$350. depending on the type of insurance and the company. He said that the PTOs are having a fundraiser selling energy efficient light bulbs and this should help defray the cost of the insurance.

Mr. Economopoulos returned to the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, 11/13/07

Instructional Committee
Operations Committee

Board Conference Room

6:00 p.m.
immediately following

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 11/19/07

Board of Education

Drama/Lecture Room

7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hennessey adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Secretary

Tom Laffin