

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DRAMA/LECTURE ROOM  
MARK T. SHEEHAN HIGH SCHOOL  
142 HOPE HILL ROAD, WALLINGFORD  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2008**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Michael Votto called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**FORD, HAYDEN, LAFFIN, REYNOLDS, VOTTO**

**ABSENT –** CASTELLI – energy training  
CEI – away on business  
HENNESSEY – out of state  
MCKAY – out due to an emergency

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

**WILSON, TAYLOR, NAPOLITANO**

**STUDENT-BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tonishia Signore, Student Board representative from Lyman Hall**, was not available.  
Drew Puig came before the Board and gave a report.

- Lyman Hall had an excellent opening of school
- There was a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Vo-Ag Building
- Fall sports have started
- FFA was awarded the 3 Star Chapter – it is the highest ranking award
- Two LHHS students have been awarded the American Chapter Farmers award which is the highest individual ranking award
- The open house will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup>
- The marching band competition is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>
- LHHS is hosting the SATs on October 4<sup>th</sup>
- The Freshman Leadership conference is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> while the sophomores and juniors take the PSATs
- LHHS will be holding the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Haunted Hallways on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Diana Strzepek, Student Board representative from Mark T. Sheehan High School**, was unavailable to give a report.

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

**QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

Bill Comerford, Broadview Drive, Wallingford came before the Board with some concerns about the purchase of the copiers, the pre-buy process, the use of oil at Sheehan High School and the purchase of the backhoe by the maintenance department.

Mr. Wilson reported that he would get the information from Linda Winters about the bids and cost of the copiers. He also explained that during the course of the year there are sometimes savings or surplus generated and that money is used to offset the cuts that were made. Mr. Wilson requested that Mr. Comerford bring the documentation to the Superintendent's office so that he can see what Mr. Comerford was talking about.

**MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATES FOR TEACHING POSITIONS AT 8:00 P.M.**

**MOTION: FORD, SECOND BY HAYDEN**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATES FOR TEACHING POSITIONS AT 8:00 P.M.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**FORD, HAYDEN, LAFFIN, REYNOLDS, VOTTO**

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**WILSON, TAYLOR, MIKULSKI, GLASS**

**MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:04 P.M.**

**MOTION: FORD, SECOND BY HAYDEN**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:04 P.M.**

*Meeting reconvened at 8:05 p.m.*

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: FORD, SECOND BY HAYDEN**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF ITEMS 7.1 – 7.4 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA AS LISTED BELOW**

Approval to Accept **Minutes** Dated August 18, 2008  
Approval to Accept **Financial Report** for June 2008 and July 2008  
Approval to Accept **Cafeteria Financial Report** for June 2008 and July 2008  
Approval of Graduation Candidates from MTS upon Completion of All Graduation Requirements from Wallingford Summer School Program.

### **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs. Ford reported thank you notes were received from Kathy Sarog, Joe Paul and family, Lisa Williams & family, Diane Daconto, and Gail Kolton.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **A.C.E.S. Representative**

Mr. Hennessey was not available to give a report.

#### **Wintergreen Magnet School Steering Committee**

Mr. Wilson reported that the Steering Committee meeting will take place next week.

#### **Building Committee Representative for Vo-Ag Building Project**

Mrs. Ford reported that the groundbreaking ceremony took place last Friday. In attendance were our state representatives Mary Fritz and Mary Mushinsky, and the Lyman Hall Marching Band played. She said while the groundbreaking was taking place the barn was also being moved and is now in place. She said the Vo-Ag Project is now in full-swing.

#### **School to Career Representative**

Mrs. Hayden reported that this was the first meeting and she will report on that meeting at the next Board meeting.

#### **Diversity in Action Committee Representative**

Mr. Wilson reported that the first meeting of the year will take place on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 in the Board Conference room where the goals for the year will be discussed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE**

**APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF CANDIDATES TO TEACHING POSITIONS**

**MOTION: LAFFIN, SECOND BY FORD**

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the named individuals on the list to teaching positions for the 2008-2009 school year, contingent upon proper Connecticut certification, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. I further move that the above-referenced list be included as a part of the minutes of this Board of Education meeting:

**Elementary Level**

Valerie Centone - Compensatory Education

**Pond Hill School**

Erin Michelson - Half-time Kindergarten

**APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR KRISTINA KIELY FROM NOVEMBER 20 TO DECEMBER 23, 2008**

**MOTION: LAFFIN, SECOND BY FORD**

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval that a \*leave of absence for **Kristina Kiely** from November 20 to December 23, 2008 be approved, without pay and benefits, and in accordance with the provisions of the current teachers' contract.

\*The leave of absence is personal and confidential. (**Kristina Kiely** is a family medical leave until November 19, 2008 and is requesting a leave of absence from November 20 to December 23, 2008.)

**APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR DANIELLE MCMANUS FROM NOVEMBER 20 TO DECEMBER 23, 2008**

**MOTION: LAFFIN, SECOND BY FORD**

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval that a \*leave of absence for **Danielle McManus** from November 20 to December 23, 2008 be approved, without pay and benefits, and in accordance with the provisions of the current teachers' contract.

\*The leave of absence is personal and confidential. (**Danielle McManus** is a family medical leave until November 19, 2008 and is requesting a leave of absence from November 20 to December 23, 2008.)

**APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION, WITH REGRET, OF JENNIFER LACOSS, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2008**

**MOTION:** LAFFIN, SECOND BY FORD

**VOTE:** **Unanimous approval** that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of **Jennifer LaCoss**, effective June 30, 2008.

**Jennifer LaCoss** was an elementary classroom teacher and a compensatory education at the elementary school level since September, 1992.

**APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION, WITH REGRET, OF DEBRA MANZI EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2008**

**MOTION:** LAFFIN, SECOND BY FORD

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of **Debra Manzi**, effective June 30, 2008.

**Debra Manzi** was a special education teacher at E.C. Stevens School since August, 2007.

**APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT OF CAROL MIKULSKI, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2008**

**MOTION:** LAFFIN, SECOND BY FORD

**VOTE:** **Unanimous approval** that the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of **Carol Mikulski**, effective December 31, 2008.

**Carol Mikulski** has been with the Wallingford Public Schools since 1970. From September, 1970 to June, 1990, she was a third grade teacher at Rock Hill School and from July, 1990 to the present, she has been a principal at Highland and Yalesville Schools for a total of **thirty-eight and one-half years** of service in the Wallingford Public Schools.

Mr. Wilson said Mrs. Mikulski has had an outstanding career in this school system. He said she is well-liked by the students and parents. He went on to say that she is a team player and can always be counted on. He said she has done a remarkable job.

Mr. Votto added that he met Carol in 1990 at Southern Connecticut when she received the call from Wallingford to become Principal. He said you can always count on her to do the job right.

**Presentation of Proposed Revisions to Regulation JED-R – Attendance: Absences and Tardies**

Mr. Taylor explained that there are certain absences that are observed such as religious holidays and these have been considered excused absences. He said language is being proposed to be added to the Attendance policy to reflect that observance of religious holidays be excused absences.

**Presentation of Proposed Revisions to Policy IKB – Homework**

Mr. Taylor reported that it has long been a practice to assign summer reading at the high school level to be done from the end of June to the beginning of the school year. He said the language that would be added to the Homework policy would reflect the fact that assignments may be permitted during the summer break. He said this would put the policy in alignment with the practice.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Administrative Report**

Mr. Wilson reported that there would be an official report on the enrollment figures that go to the state in October. He said we have approximately 150 classes in the elementary schools. He said out of those there are two classes at 24 students and two at 23. He said the benchmarks are at 25 and 20 but our classes are all small class sizes and below the 25. He said he would give a report at the October meeting on the size of all the classes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Monday, 10/6/08  
Tuesday, 10/14/08

Instructional Committee  
Operations Committee

**Board Conference Room**

7:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 10/20/08

Board of Education

**Drama/Lecture Room**

7:30 p.m.

**MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION AND DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS AT 8:20 P.M.**

**MOTION: FORD, SECOND BY HAYDEN**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION AND DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS AT 8:20 P.M.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**FORD, HAYDEN, LAFFIN, REYNOLDS, VOTTO**

**MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:15 P.M.**

**MOTION: FORD, SECOND BY REYNOLDS**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:15 P.M.**

***Regular meeting reconvened at 9:16 p.m.***

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Mike Votto adjourned the regular Board meeting at 9:17 p.m.

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**Kathy Castelli** Secretary