

Westport Central School District

Regular Board of Education Meeting & Public Hearing

Place: Cafeteria

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Time: 6:30 PM

MINUTES (amended 7/8/10)

1. Call to Order

at: 6:33 PM

by: President LaRock

A. Roll Call

√ Alice LaRock

√ Tom Kohler

√ Dwayne Stevens

√ Jim Carroll

√ Sue Russell – entered 6:55 PM

B. Introduction of Attendees

Also Present: John W. Gallagher, Ed.D., Superintendent

Jana Atwell, District Clerk

Cindy Moody, District Treasurer

Michele Friedman, Principal

Robert King, Supt. of Buildings & Grounds

Visitors: Mallory Sudduth

Megan Sudduth

Nicole Sudduth

Adam Facteau

Wayne Napper

Kathryn Cramer

Nancy Boyle

Herb Clark

Kathy Bedore

Karen Kearns

Cheryl Phillips

Mary Mandy

Paul Mudie

Barbara Breyette

Matthew Jason

Rick Hoffmann

Scott Gibbs

Nancy Page

Barbara White

Theresa Lindsay

Erica Loher

Simone Stephens

Jan Herrmann

Bob Rice

Susan Satloff

Marilyn Trienens

Gwen Sherman

David Goldwasser

Kim Matthews

Walter Huchro

C. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Financial

Resolved that the Board of Education accepts and approves the following financial reports:

- Warrant Report 8C

- Warrant Report 9E

- Warrant Report 10A

- Warrant Report 10B

- Treasurer's Report for Multi-Fund Month of March 2010

- Cafeteria Profit & Loss Statement 2009-2010

- Multi-Fund Bank Account Reconciliation as of 3/31/10
- Payroll Bank Account Reconciliation as of 3/31/10

Motion: Dwayne Stevens Seconded: Tom Kohler Yes: 4 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

3. Public Comment (15 minutes) ***item was moved to the end of the Public Budget Hearing***

Our agenda offers two Public Comment sections, one at the beginning of the meeting and the other at the end. At this time we have set aside a 15 minute period giving anyone in the audience time to share their thoughts with us. Your opinions, ideas and concerns will be considered and taken under advisement. Questions or concerns needing an explanation or further information will be addressed at our next regular meeting.

4. CSE Recommendations

Resolved that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the approval of the CSE recommendation for the following student number 504-04-10, 504-04-08, 504-05-07, 504-04-02, 504-05-09, 504-01-04, 504-04-99, 504-07-99, 504-02-09, 003-06-07, 003-08-09, 002-08-09, 011-06-07, 007-06-07, 001-05-06, 504-06-10 x2, 504-05-10, 504-01-10, 504-04-05, 504-02-03, 504-03-09, 504-03-07, 504-01-09, 001-02-03, 006-08-09, 002-06-07, 008-05-06, 001-04-05, 004-05-06, 005-09-10, 006-09-10, 004-08-09, 003-09-10 and 003-02-03. (Recommendations attached.)

Motion: Dwayne Stevens Seconded: Tom Kohler Yes: 4 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

5. Reports/Presentations

a. **Superintendent's Report**

- The Board previously approved \$15,000 to be used from the Repair Reserve Fund to replace the dishwasher in the cafeteria. The installation has occurred complete with rewiring and plumbing under budget at \$13,479.

b. **Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds Report**

- Repair of the fence along Sisco Street is underway.
- Bus #38 requires the replacement of a leaking oil pan.
- Upkeep of the grounds has occupied several hours!
- A great amount of work was completed during the Spring Break by the custodial staff including several items recommended by our insurance inspector.

c. **Board Committee Reports**

- Youth Commission – May 3, 2010

The committee is working towards getting the Summer Youth Program ready. They are in the process of hiring for the counselor positions. Bidby baseball is now underway with practices being held at the fairgrounds on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Games will start June 1st.

- Character Education – May 3, 2010

The Character Education Committee has been working in conjunction with the Shared Decision Making Committee to plan for a family involvement night which is required under Title I regulations. The WCS Family Involvement Night is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 6 PM in the auditorium. The evening will include an expansion of the "How Full Is Your Bucket?" initiative to our families and community members. Several community organizations have committed to attend this evening as well as our 9th Grade Ambassadors with a special presentation. The evening provides an opportunity to connect the community and the school.

6. Long Range Planning

- Administrative Structure
 - Superintendent Position 1/14/10
- Non-Resident Students

- Tuition 7/6/09, 8/13/09
- Shared Services
 - Funding Assistance 7/6/09
- Facility
 - Generator Project 8/17/09, 10/15/09, 11/12/09, 1/14/10, 4/8/10
 - The Wall 8/17/09, 1/14/10
 - Solar Power & Energy Use Reduction 11/12/09, 1/14/10, **5/11/10**
 We are continuing to pursue grants for this purpose. Currently, we are investigating an opportunity to join with New York Power Authority (NYPA) in a partnership to save energy and reduce annual utility costs. NYPA will supervise all phases of an energy conservation project beginning with an audit to identify opportunities to save energy and reduce costs and continuing through installation of features such as efficient lighting, lighting sensors, etc. NYPA offers financing of all up-front costs with low-interest loans that will be repaid using the energy cost savings. The members of the Board agreed that Dr. Gallagher should pursue this opportunity.

7. Minutes

Resolved that the Board of Education does hereby approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education held on:

- **April 8, 2010** (Budget & Regular Meeting) as presented
- **April 22, 2010** (Special Meeting) as presented

Motion: Jim Carroll Seconded: Tom Kohler Yes: 4 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

8. New Business

A. Personnel

1. Appointments - Magill

Resolved that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the appointment of Meagan Magill as a substitute teacher at a rate of \$60 (non-certified) per day effective May 12, 2010 (fingerprint clearance on file).

Motion: Dwayne Stevens Seconded: Jim Carroll Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

2. Intent to Retire (none at this time)

3. Tenure – Demetros

a) Resolved that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the tenure appointment of Kathleen Demetros in the tenure area of Teacher Assistant commencing September 8, 2009.

Motion: Jim Carroll Seconded: Dwayne Stevens Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

4. Child Rearing Leave (none at this time)

5. Unpaid Leave (none at this time)

6. Termination (none at this time)

7. Elimination of Position (none at this time)

8. Resignation (none at this time)

7:00 PM – 8:05 PM PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

Superintendent Gallagher provided a powerpoint presentation of the proposed 2010-2011 school budget. The floor was then opened for public questions and comments. The following questions were posed with responses provided at the end of the question period.

Questions:

1. Nancy Page stated the Superintendent is currently working half time and has done so for over a year, and we are continuing with the shared business office. Is there a change reflected in the budget for next year as neither of these items are a change from last year?
2. Kathryn Cramer requested the Board elaborate on the use of the facility by ACAP Afterschool Program and the Youth Commission.
3. Rick Hoffman presented a list of questions which were raised at the April 27, 2010 Westport Town Meeting:
 1. One of the Councilmen asked why the budget includes no staff reductions or adjustments while numerous other school district budgets propose such action?
 2. Another Councilman asked whether accepting out-of-district students without charge is a gift of public funds?
 3. The retired treasurer of WCS questioned the wisdom of using \$130,000 of reserve funds to reduce the tax levy?
 4. A Counselor from another school district questioned the need for three (3) counselors for the size of the WCS student body and stated that in her experience it is excessive?
4. Sam Sherman questioned whether the school was overstaffed as a result of graduation requirements. Does WCS require more than the mandatory State graduation requirements? Mr. Sherman suggested the Superintendent provide an analytical report regarding this matter.
5. David Goldwasser questioned what the financial impact would be if WCS did not accept out-of-district students?
6. Sam Sherman questioned if there was a formula to determine if an out-of-district student created a cost to the District and whether FEH (business office) is a BOCES or WCS employee?
7. Simone Stephens questioned with the teacher's current contract expiring, how do you budget for next year? Has the District considered including insurance contributions in teacher negotiations?

Responses:

1a) The 2010-2011 spending plan does indicate a year-over-year budget change. By the Superintendent working half time, there is an approximate \$40,000 difference in salary. The shared business office was a long range commitment made by the Board of Education to keep ~~savings~~ **costs (amended 7/8/10)** down. If a treasurer was placed within the school now, there would be the additional cost of software, benefits and costs necessary to maintain an office.

2a) Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions information sheet available this evening regarding additional contingency budget information. Per School Law, under limited circumstances: youth bureaus, recreation and youth service projects, and other youth programs are considered an ordinary contingent expenditure specifically authorized by statute. It is permissible for the District to charge for facility use.

3a1) Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions information sheet available this evening question #6 **Why have no positions been eliminated?** We have reduced the Superintendent's position to half-time. We have not cut any teaching positions, since doing so will have a direct impact on program. The Board of Education has made the decision to keep the program intact and to reduce areas of expenditure to ensure that the education of the student body is not compromised. This year and next, the school was awarded approximately \$107,000 in ARRA (federal stimulus) money. This money was used to keep our current instructional staff in place. Other schools are able to downsize due to additional staffing.

3a2) Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions information sheet available this evening question #2 **What is the impact of non-resident students on the budget?** WCS accepts non-resident students when the enrollment will have no additional financial impact on the school. We will not accept students when classes or programs are full. In the past, our State Foundation Aid has increased because non-resident applications to the school have risen. Based on this additional enrollment, the District has realized an increase in state aid. The new Foundation Aid model is a “share” or “foundational” approach, wherein each student does indeed generate an allocation. This approach is a result of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit which yielded the decision that the state must provide fiscal support for each student. This can be calculated by dividing Westport’s total Foundation Aid by the number of students enrolled. This will give an approximate amount of aid per student including the non-resident students. When the Foundation Aid System is operating correctly, there will be an increase of additional state aid generated by our rising enrollment. The 2010-2011 foundation aid will be calculated using the 2008-2009 data. Non-resident students have generated significant aid in the past. Enrollment has remained constant over the past several years, while acceptance is based on classroom availability and size.

3a3) The District is “tapping into” two (2) different reserves to reduce the levy, the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Fund (currently overfunded) and the unrestricted fund balance. We are currently awaiting results of State Legislation to determine the amount that can be drawn from each fund.

3a4) WCS currently employees one (1) full-time guidance counselor and one (1) 0.6 elementary counselor. In addition, Special Education and 504 students requiring counseling on their service plans are assigned to our counseling personnel.

5a) Based upon the current population of out-of-district students if they were not enrolled in our school, there would be an approximate decrease of \$230,000 in State Aid.

6a) The decision to accept out-of-district students is determined by Board Policy #7132 Admission of Non-resident Students and WEA contractual obligations. FEH is a BOCES employee.

7a) Negotiations are currently underway. Anticipated salary adjustments have been included in the proposed budget. Teachers currently contribute towards their health insurance.

Comments:

President LaRock read a letter on behalf of Ken White. Letter attached.

Further comments included the WCS report card indicates our per student cost is much higher than other districts, an accounting of out-of-district students requested at a previous Board meeting that has not been presented to date, regret in the process the Board assumed in composing the proposed budget, lack of discussion and ability to make suggestions during the current budget process, lack of response by the Board to questions posed, an opportunity for the community to be involved by forming a budget committee, suggest participants not leave after public comment section but should stay and listen to the remainder of the Board meeting, and belief that the Board does attempt to be inclusive and receptive but respect must run both ways.

B. Miscellaneous

1. Installment Plan for School Taxes - Discussion
Tabled to June Board meeting.
2. Facility Use Request by Community Organization
Resolved that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the approval of the *Facility Use Request* as submitted by Elizabeth Lee on behalf of the

Westport Youth Commission for the use of the girls' softball field for the purpose of hosting T-ball and baseball from 6 PM to 8:30 PM on June 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22 & 24.

Motion: Jim Carroll Seconded: Sue Russell Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

3. Inspector and Clerk List for Annual Meeting, Budget & Election Vote

Resolved that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the approval of the Chairperson, Inspector and Clerk List as presented for the Annual Meeting, Budget & Election Vote to be held on May 18, 2010. (List attached.)

Motion: Tom Kohler Seconded: Jim Carroll Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

4. Inspector Rate of Pay for Annual Meeting, Budget & Election Vote

Resolved that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education to compensate each inspector (see attached list) at a rate of \$80 for the Annual Meeting, Budget & Election Vote being held on May 18, 2010 from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM (prorated if covering less than the full shift).

Motion: Dwayne Stevens Seconded: Sue Russell Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

9. Additional Items to Discuss

The June Board of Education meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 10th has been rescheduled to Thursday, June 17, 2010.

10. Public Comment (15 minutes)

Floor opened for public comment, none voiced.

11. Executive Session

(#6)The medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

In: 8:15 PM Motion: Dwayne Stevens Seconded: Jim Carroll Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0
Accept

Out: 8:40 PM Motion: Tom Kohler Seconded: Jim Carroll Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0
Accept

No action taken.

12. Adjournment

Time: 8:41 PM Motion: Sue Russell Seconded: Dwayne Stevens

Next Meeting: -Annual Meeting, Election and Budget Vote 12 PM – 9 PM Tuesday, May 18, 2010
Lobby outside Bulles Auditorium

- Regular Meeting Thursday, June 17, 2010 6:30 PM in the Library (note date changed from 6/10 to 6/17)

Date Approved by the BOE: June 17, 2010

Jana Atwell, District Clerk