

**Westport Central School District
Budget & Regular Board of Education Meeting**

Place: Library

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Time: 5:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

at: 5:06 PM

by: President LaRock

A. Roll Call

√ Alice LaRock

√ Kathleen carterMartinez

√ David Goldwasser

√ Dwayne Stevens

√ Jim Carroll (arrived 5:16 pm)

B. Introduction of Attendees

Also Present: John W. Gallagher, Ed. D., Interim Supt.

Jana Atwell, District Clerk

Michele Friedman, Principal

Cindy Moody, District Treasurer (absent)

Visitors: Ulrich Hoffmann

Theresa Lindsay

Cathy Brankman

Alvin Reiner

Bridgette Blemel

Holly Mitchell

Rick Swanston, FEHB

Craig King, District Supt.

Louise Jackstadt

C. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Oath of Office – Dr. John Gallagher, Interim Superintendent

District Clerk administered the Oath of Office to John W. Gallagher as Interim Superintendent of Westport Central School.

3. Public Comment (5 minutes)

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 5 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.

Floor was opened for public comment, none voiced.

4. Budget Discussion

Dr. Gallagher provided a powerpoint presentation "*First Blush Budget for WCS*". Discussion included current instructional program (Dr. Gallagher stated his hope is to preserve programs as they currently exist.), program projections for next year, and revenue sources (December State Aid run). He also advised that he will be meeting next week with FEH BOCES for a budget planning session.

Dr. Gallagher suggested reviewing the questions listed on the comparison sheet provided by Superintendent Tromblee for the next meeting. Board member Goldwasser also suggested involvement from all groups if cuts need to be made.

Faculty and staff have been advised that WCS will be using the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES cooperative bids and that their allocations were cut by ten percent for the 2009-2010 school year.

In the absence of Cindy Moody, Rick Swanston distributed copies of a financial update report and balance report.

5. Financial

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

- Warrant Report 6A
- Warrant Report 6B
- Warrant Report 6C

Motion: David Goldwasser

Seconded: Dwayne Stevens

Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Accept

RECESS 6:11 PM – 6:40 PM

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

- General Ledger Report From 7/1/08 To 12/10/08

Motion: Kathleen carterMartinez Seconded: David Goldwasser Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

6. Superintendent Search Discussion

Mr. King distributed a District Superintendent Search Agenda for this evening. The superintendent search timeline, brochure, application and advertisements were reviewed. Any changes to these documents should be submitted to President LaRock by January 15th. Discussion continued regarding an interview committee and its structure. The board members were in agreement to form one committee with representatives from different groups. One contact person will be needed from each group. A superintendent selection survey was distributed for review. Any changes to this document should be submitted to President LaRock by January 25th. Further discussion included compiling District information to be sent to candidates and formulating a contract for the new superintendent.

Executive Session

(#6)The medial, 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: 7:11 PM Motion: Kathleen carterMartinez Seconded: David Goldwasser Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0
Accept

Out: 7:26 PM Motion: Jim Carroll Seconded: Kathleen carterMartinez Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0
Accept

No action taken.

7. 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 004-08-09. (Recommendation attached.)

Motion: Dwayne Stevens Seconded: David Goldwasser Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

8. Reports/Presentations

A. Superintendent's Report

- As explained earlier in the meeting, all faculty and staff will be using cooperative bids for purchasing materials and supplies this year. Although the allocations were cut by ten percent they should be able to make up this difference by using the bid process.
- Principal Friedman gave a report on the recent vandalism of approximately 50 name and/or title plaques (costing approximately \$16 a piece) that were removed from classroom and office doors sometime during the holiday break. The NYS Police have been contacted and a report has been filed. The investigation is open and active.

B. Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds Report

- We are still waiting receipt of the boiler quote from Staants and chimney repair quote from Conroy & Conroy.
- Bus #42 is currently out for repair however the work will be covered under warranty.

C. Board Committee Reports

Youth Commission (January 5, 2009) – Meeting discussion included the WCS Board approved donation of WCS bus and mileage for the ski program and plans for the summer youth program. Upon prior request from the Board Holly Mitchell and Bridgette Blemel, as representatives from the Youth Commission, were in attendance to maintain open lines of communication between organizations. Concerns regarding the continued donation of a bus and mileage and budgeting issues were discussed. The representatives explained that they were not aware of these issues but would discuss ways to aid in funding or contributing greater amounts to the ski program. Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Blemel thanked the Board for their support.

9. Minutes

Resolved that the Board of Education does hereby approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education held on
- **December 11, 2008** (Budget & Regular Meeting) with the addition of D. Goldwasser absent 5:20 PM – 6:30 PM.

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

10. Unfinished Business

A. **Twenty Day Emergency Fingerprint Clearance**

Resolved that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the approval of a twenty day emergency conditional fingerprint clearance for the following:

- Kathleen Desjardins
- John Gallagher

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

B. **Substitute Cleaner Pay Rate** - Discussion

Resolved that the Board of Education recommends and approves setting the substitute rate for substitute cleaner at an hourly rate of \$9.20 for the 2008-2009 school year effective January 1, 2009.

Motion: Jim Carroll Seconded: Kathleen carterMartinez Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

11. New Business

A. **Personnel**

1. Appointment (none at this time)
2. Extracurricular Appointment (none at this time)
3. Intent to Retire (none at this time)
4. Tenure (none at this time)
5. Child Rearing Leave (none at this time)
6. Leave of Absence Request (none at this time)
7. Termination (none at this time)
8. Elimination of Position (none at this time)
9. Request to End Employment (none at this time)

B. **Miscellaneous**

1. Aged Exemption Allowance

Resolved that the Board of Education hereby agrees to increase the Aged Exemption Allowance for Essex County Taxpayers from \$22,000 to \$25,000 effective January 6, 2009 to match the County and Town of Westport allowance.

Motion: Jim Carroll Seconded: David Goldwasser Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

2. NYSSBA 2009 State Issues Conference and rally: "Fighting for Our Future" - Discussion
Dwayne Stevens will attend this conference as WCS representative.

3. Board Member Recognition, James Carroll

President LaRock presented a certificate of *Developmental Achievement Citation* to Jim Carroll for his participation in New York State School Boards Association leadership development opportunities totaling 40 credits. This program was designed to recognize the extensive time and effort required of school board members who strive to continually expand their governance knowledge and skills.

C. **Policy**

1. Family and Medical Leave Act (Policy #6551) – Revision

Resolved that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the revision of policy #6551 as recommended by Erie I BOCES Policy Services. (See attached current and revised policies.)

Motion: David Goldwasser Seconded: Kathleen carterMartinez Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

2. Sports and the Athletic Program (Policy #7420) – Revision

Resolved that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the revision of policy #7420 as recommended by Erie I BOCES Policy Services. (See attached current and revised policies.)

Motion: Jim Carroll Seconded: David Goldwasser Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain: 0 **Accept**

12. Additional Items to Discuss

None at this time.

13. Public Comment (5 minutes)

Mr. Hoffman addressed the Board regarding his continued concern of the impact the school budget will have on taxes. He also suggested the possibility of exploring shared services between districts (i.e. superintendent).

14. Executive Session

(#6)The medial, 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:	Motion:	Seconded:	Yes:	No:	Abstain:	Accept	Reject	Table
Out:	Motion:	Seconded:	Yes:	No:	Abstain:	Accept	Reject	Table

The Board did not enter into executive session.

15. Adjournment

Time: 8:10 PM Motion: Dwayne Stevens Seconded: Kathleen carterMartinez

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 12, 2009 Budget Meeting 5 PM & Regular Meeting 6:30 PM Library
Thursday, February 26, 2009 Special Meeting (Superintendent Search) 6:30 PM Library

Date approved by the Board of Education: February 12, 2009

Jana Atwell, District Clerk