

# **WEATHERSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD**

## **March 9, 2021**

### **Approved Meeting Minutes**

Present at the Meeting:

**Board:** Jacqui Antonovich, Mark Yuengling, Kristen Bruso, Annemarie Redmond, Jaimie Turner

**Admin:** David Baker, Jeanmarie Oakman, Angie Ladeau, Katie Ahern

**Staff:** BJ Esty, Kristen Huebner, Barbara Martin, Kirsten McNamara, Jennifer Durhamn, Zach Shambro, Kelly O'Brien, Laura Berry, Lora Powers, Lori Small, Candy Fuller, Brooke Breit, Carrie Jewel

**Other:** Susan Hindinger, Mavis Shand, Jaime Richardson

#### **I. Call to Order / Introductions / Pledge**

David Baker, Superintendent, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The flag was pledged.

Reorganization of the Board

Nomination and election of **Chairperson** (D. Baker presiding)

Nomination of **Annemarie Redmond** by Mark Yuengling. NFD.

Vote 3-0-1 Nomination approved.

AnneMarie Redmond took over the meeting as Chairperson of the Board (Jacqui Antonovich hasn't been sworn in and will abstain from voting for this meeting)

Nomination and election of **Vice Chairperson**

Nomination of **Mark Yuengling** by Annemarie Redmond. NFD.

Vote 3-0-1 Nomination approved.

Nomination and election for **Clerk of the Board**

Nomination of **Kristen Bruso** by Annemarie Redmond. NFD.

Vote 3-0-1 Nomination approved.

Nomination and election of **Signer of the Manifest**

Nomination of **Kristen Bruso** by Mark Yuengling. NFD.

Vote 3-0-1 Nomination approved.

Nomination of three **(3) WSESU Board Representatives**

Nomination of **Annemarie Redmond**, **Jaimie Turner** and **Mark Yuengling** by Kristen Bruso. NFD.

Vote 4-0 Nominations approved.

Nomination of **Representative to the SU Bargaining Council Member**

Nomination of **Jacqui Antonovich** by Mark Yuengling. NFD

Vote 4-0 Nomination approved.

Designation of **Truant Officer (Chief Daniels)**

Nomination by Mark Yuengling. NFD

4-0 This motion was approved.

NOTE: David Baker will send a letter or e.mail to Chief Daniels.

Designation of **Official Newspapers**

Nomination of **Valley News** and **Eagle Times** by Kristen Bruso. NFD

4-0 This motion was approved.

**Establishment of regular time, place and date of monthly meeting**

A motion was made by Annemarie Redmond to keep the meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. via Google Meets.  
4-0 This motion was approved.

**II. Changes / Addition to the Agenda: None.**

**III. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

- a) February 9, 2021
- b) February 17, 2021

Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion concerning the minutes of the previous meetings. Jacqui Antonovich made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/9/21 with changes and 02/17/21. NFD.  
4-0 These minutes were approved.

**IV. Public Participation: None**

**V. Principal's Report: JeanMarie Oakman**

JeanMarie Oakman said the SU will be receiving funds from the funds related to costs related to the pandemic that are being distributed. BJ Esty and JeanMarie Oakman will write a recovery grant. So far, they have come up with \$250,000 in costs related to the pandemic.

The state has said students have to take the SBAC in Reading and Math and the Science Assessment.

There are no set graduation plans or a date at this time. We want to keep everyone safe so there is no decision about in person graduation at this time.

JeanMarie is proud of all that has happened this year and the resiliency being displayed by students, families, staff and the whole community during this pandemic.

**VI. Superintendent's Report: David Baker**

David Baker said that some things that have been done this year due to the pandemic have been better for students and behavior issues have gone down. It is believed that outdoor classrooms, pods and fewer transitions have all been beneficial to students. We are looking to continue some of these practices next year.

David thanked the Town of Weathersfield for passing the budget in such a hard year and showing support for the school.

David suggested having a Budget Review from Ed Connors at the next Board meeting if that would be helpful.

There is nothing new coming out of the legislature right now but our Representatives are doing a good job.

Katie Ahern has put together a robust summer school program. This will be at a central location and busses will be provided. There will be academics from 8:30-11:30 and a recreational component in the afternoon. The program will partner with the Hartford and Windsor recreation programs.

Brian Martes, the recently hired principal, checks in weekly. He is looking for housing in our SU. David thought it would be good to plan a few meet and greets with Brian. We could have one at a Board Meeting and a few other meet and greets. Annemarie Redmond thought this would be a good idea.

## **VII. Items for Discussion**

### a) Budget

Annemarie Redmond thanked the Town of Weathersfield for passing the Budget.

### b) Covid 19 Updates

Weathersfield School and the SU have been practicing great safety precautions. We need to continue to be careful as regulations are decreased. David Baker appreciates the way our staff handles this.

### c) Update on Covid Stress - Angie Ledeau

Angie Ledeau went over the statistics from the latest survey of staff and teachers. It seems that last week wasn't an easy week for those who responded.

### d) School Choice Options

There was discussion about the state statute for districts that don't operate a high school and having school choice or designation of 1-3 high schools. The Board could designate 1-3 high schools and negotiate a rate. This change would require a town vote since we now have school choice. The pros and cons of designation were discussed. In the end, the Board didn't feel good about school designation and the burden that would be put on parents that felt a school other than the designated ones would be better for their child. The Board will not pursue changing school choice at this time. The Board will be looking at other ways to cut costs.

## **VIII. Items for Action: None**

## **IX. Setting the Next Agenda**

- a) Financials
- b) Covid 19 Updates
- c) Covid Stres
- d) End of Year Activities
- e) Spring Sports
- f) Recovery Plan

## **X. Executive Session: TSA11 Section 313 - Personnel**

Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion to go into the Executive Session.

Mark Yuengling made a motion to enter into Executive Session.

Kristen Bruso seconded. NFD. 4-0.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session.

Kristen Bruso made a motion to come out of Executive Session.

Mark Yuengling seconded. NFD. 4-0.

The Board came out of the Executive Session at 8:04 p.m.

## **XI. Adjournment**

Annemarie Redmond asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Kristen Bruso made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mark Yuengling seconded. Passed 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Chrisinger