

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, October 5, 2020
The Flanders Room
Mitchell Elementary School
7:00 p.m.
Minutes

Present:

George Bauer, Chairperson
Pam Zmek, Vice Chairperson
Carol Ann Brown
Michael Devine
James Crocker
Jonathan Kapstein
Tikva Rose

Absent

Janet Morgan

Also Present:

Dr. Joseph Olzacki, Superintendent
Wayne McAllister, Director of Finance and Operations
Mark Harutunian, Covid 19 Liaison
William Nemec, Principal, WMS
Suzi Greene, Assistant Principal, WMS
Wendy Yatsenick, Principal, BES
Patricia Paige, Recording Secretary
Pat DiSarro, Communications Specialist

1. Call to Order

Board Chairman, Mr. George Bauer, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Introductions

Mr. Bauer welcomed the audience members to the meeting and the newly renovated, and now designated, Flanders Room. Members of the board were asked to identify themselves; Mr. Bauer indicated, that with the return of in person meetings, he would like to reinstate the Pledge of Allegiance as a meeting formality; the pledge was then recited.

3. Approval of the Minutes

A. Regular Meeting, Monday, September 21, 2020

A motion was made by Mr. Jonathan Kapstein and seconded by Mr. Michael Devine to accept/approve the minutes as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

4. **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Dr. Olzacki reiterated Mr. Bauer's opening sentiments and welcomed everyone to The Flanders Room, stating that most of the restorations were made from either monies or artifacts that were donated.

A. South Africa

Attempts to call South Africa went unanswered due to the time difference; however, Superintendent Dr. Olzacki read a letter in lieu of, in which members of the board and staff members were thanked for the efforts in donating athletic uniforms.

B. Civics and U.S. History Tests

A Naturalization Test from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will be included as supplementary material in Civics classes so that students can further their understanding of the road to citizenship.

C. Woodbury Middle School/Covid19 Learning on Wednesdays

Mr. Nemecek and Ms. Greene clarified misconceptions regarding Wednesday's asynchronous learning in that there are those who are under the impression that Wednesdays are a leisurely day of work, when in fact, it is a rigid day for students. Students must check into their classes for attendance purposes and will then receive an assignment for the day. Students are also offered supplemental time to meet with their teachers to discuss any issues that they may have.

Wednesdays are also used as time to provide students practice of Standardized Testing that will be required in the spring.

Dr. Olzacki asked that Mr. Harutunian provide an update on Covid19 measures in the district. He expressed his gratitude for the support he continues to receive from the administration, teachers, and parents. Everyone has been proactive and wants to do what is right; parents and children are cooperating and in compliance. He speaks with both health districts on a continuous basis.

Dr. Olzacki also thanked Mr. Harutunian for writing a grant whereby the district was the recipient of \$67,000. The funds will be used for the high school Neat TV and were used to purchase a sound system for The Flanders Room.

D. Ruler

An explanation of the Ruler program was provided by Ms. Yatsenick with a handout illustrating actual lessons and activities that are currently being used by teachers with their students. The program is designed to support students and adults in developing their emotional intelligence and to assist in regulating their emotions so they function better in any situation.

E. "Growing Bethlehem" BES Garden Update

Ms. Yatsenick gave a brief update on the "Growing Bethlehem" garden located at the school. She said that they are learning new things along the way that had not been initially anticipated, specifically in regards to soil condition. The students are currently learning about soil science and content, which correlates nicely with the 5th grade earth science curriculum.

5. **Committee Report**

A. Finance Committee Report

Mr. Wayne McAllister noted that year-to-date through September 30th, the district received 22% of its revenue budgeted and expended 21%. Currently on track and going in the right direction.

6. **Board Chair's Comments**

A quick summary of the recently held board workshop was provided by Mr. Bauer. A matter of their of discussions encompassed goals and topics currently challenging the district. Discussions to continue.

He thanked everyone who played a role in making The Flanders Room possible through donations and hard work.

Mr. Bauer received Region 15 Athletics Plan and spoke specifically to fan participation. Questions arose regarding Region 14 parents' ability to attend athletic events.

The following comments were read into record:

Jodie D'Alexander: Requested that the board reconsider their decision in allowing spectators at Region 14 sporting events

Pam Gengenback: asked the board to consider allowing limited spectators at outdoor events, specifically outdoor sporting events.

7. **Privilege of the Floor**

Pat DiSarro

Season is over in 3 weeks, what is the timeframe in addressing fan participation.

8. **Old Business**

None

9. **New Business**

As noted by Carol Ann Brown, The Public Relations Committee meetings will occur the 4th Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m.; plans are to meet in The Flanders Room. An immediate order of business will be the Vision of the Learner.

10. Other Business

None

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Michael Devine; seconded by Mr. Jonathan Kapstein; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Paige". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Patricia Paige, Board Clerk