

THE W. L. GILBERT SCHOOL CORPORATION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024
THE GILBERT SCHOOL
6:30 PM
Library
MINUTES

(A portion of this meeting may be held in executive session)

1. OPENING OF MEETING

The W. L. Gilbert School Corporation: Scott Beecher, Jared Fritch, Holly Cassaday, Ellen Marino, Shane Centrella, Jonathan Morhardt, Renata Waldron, Theresa Padin, Astrid Robitaille (via phone)

Administration: Greg P. Shugrue Head of School

Student Representatives: Danica Poirier, James Slauta (absent)

- A. Pledge of Allegiance: Holly Cassaday
- B. Vision and Mission Statement: Holly Cassaday

2. PUBLIC FORUM

- A. General Public

Nora Mocarski, WPS BOE Chair speaking on behalf of herself as a town resident. Nora expresses her hope that WPS and the Gilbert School will utilize a “*team effort in the cut*”, in referencing the proposed budget cut(s) for the upcoming Town Meeting scheduled for May 13th.

- B. Student Representatives Report

Danica Poirier reports on various happenings including the senior car wash, AP testing, Prom, the Italy trip, Broadway trip, and a proposed college “Decision Day” for seniors.

3. CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Scott Beecher makes a motion to add 11.A and 11.B for the purpose of a budget cut related vote. Jared Fritch seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting: March 20, 2024

Ellen Marino makes a motion to approve, as amended *, the minutes of March 20, 2024. Shane Centrella seconded the motion, and the motion is unanimously approved.

****Holly “Cassady” should be Holly “Cassaday”***

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Finance

- Monthly Finance Report: Ellen Marino provides a brief update; the impending budget cuts have been a priority. Per Diane Cook: Our Northwest Community Bank account number has been compromised due to false check issuance. For this reason, a new bank account number has been issued to the Gilbert School Corporation and signed off on by the board.

- Next Meeting: May 15, 2024

- B. Policy

- Report on Meeting: April 11, 2024, provided by Ellen Marino.
- Next Meeting: May 2, 2024
- **C. Building & Grounds**
- Report on Meeting: March 20, 2024, provided by Scott Beecher. Roof and solar project of main concern. The roof's scheduled completion date is May 6th.
- Next Meeting: May 15, 2024

6. SECURITY UPDATE

- ASO Update provided by Greg Shugrue. An ASO conversation with new Town Manager Paul Harrington is in the works and a date is to be determined.

7. FIRST READING OF POLICIES

- #5131.6 - Alcohol Use, Drugs, and Tobacco
- #5145.124 - Breathalyzer Testing
- #5145.5 - Exploitation/Sexual Harassment
- #5145.53 - Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth

8. SECOND READING OF POLICIES

- #6146 - Graduation Requirements (Personal Finance) to be voted upon next month.

9. ENHANCEMENT GRANT REQUESTS

- Whole School Read (materials) synopsis provided by Principal Debra Lewis; same book for all students' distribution with subsequent school-wide reflection. Total expenditure \$3455.

Motion to approve Whole School Read enhancement grant in the amount of \$3455 made by Scott Beecher, seconded by Jared Fritch and unanimously approved.

- Hive Time (materials) synopsis provided by Principal Debra Lewis; journaling opportunity and time provided specifically during school hours. Total expenditure \$1600.

Motion made by Jared Fritch to approve Hive Time enhancement funding in the amount of \$1600, seconded by Jonathan Morhardt and unanimously approved by the board.

- Student Incentives (materials) Synopsis provided by Principal Debra Lewis; approximately \$1945 remaining in enhancement grant funding will be utilized for student incentives.

Motion made by Ellen Marino to approve Student Incentive enhancement grant funding in the amount of an approximate \$1945, seconded by Jared Fritch and unanimously approved by the board.

10. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Successful Italy trip over Spring Break, successful and great attendance for incoming 7th grade parent night, AP test prep ongoing in anticipation of upcoming test, Ed Advance funding available for summer counseling services.
- SAT Prep Class Data: Reports/data/graphs along with explanation provided by Debra Lewis. Making positive changes in the classroom in support of SAT readiness.
- March CT SAT Day Preliminary Report: discussion provided by Debra Lewis.

11. HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

- Enrollment data provided by Greg Shugrue: 423 students to date.
- Attendance Data: Daily attendance slowly increased over the past couple of years. School Social Workers and Counselors have been making enrollment a priority as exemplified by an approximate daily attendance rate of 91%.
- Food Services Report: Free breakfast and lunch available to all students. Local farm promoted with various options. Ed Advance funding helps.
- Budget: BOS requesting a \$300,000 cut from the schools; half from WPS/half from Gilbert School. The goal of said cut is to *not* impact programs or student services. Diane Cook reports on the specifics of a \$155,000 proposed cut.

Motion is made to approve the proposed budget cut of \$155,000 made by Theresa Padin, seconded by Jared Fritch, and approved by all board members with the exception of Ellen Marino who opposed.

12. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

- WPS board members Renee Waldron and Shane Centrella provide updates: WPS has approved their half of the cut (\$150,000) for the proposed budget, boiler issues at Pearson School of importance and priority, Superintendent of WPS resignation, solar project in the works for both Hinsdale and Pearson School, Pearson also in need of a new roof.

13. SCHOOL CORPORATION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Holly Cassaday reports: Budget meetings have been a priority. School Corp “happy” for Mel and hopeful as WPS looks to hire a new Superintendent.

14. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jonathan Morhardt, seconded by Ellen Marino and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Jones Dombrowski