

WEST BOYLSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Wednesday, February 11, 2015
Middle/High School Library-Media Center

Ms. Breen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Breen
Richard Shaw
Erin Palumbo
James Morrissey

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

James Pedone, Jr.

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Elizabeth Schaper, Superintendent
Lawrence Murphy, Principal Middle/High School
Christopher LaBreck, Associate Middle School Principal
Roger E. Pontbriand, Jr., Business Administrator
Sherri Traina, Special Education Administrator

ADMINISTRATORS ABSENT

Richard Meagher, Elementary Principal

ALSO PRESENT

Molly O'Connor and Anthony Himmelberger – Student Advisory Council members, faculty, audience and press.

1. MINUTES

Mr. Shaw moved, seconded by Ms. Palumbo, to accept the minutes of the January 14, 2015 regular meeting.

VOTE: 4-0-0

2. STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS

Students from the Elementary and Middle/High Schools were recognized for their achievements – Colin Ryder, Abbey O'Brien and Natalie Phelps.

3. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Advisory council members reported on the NHS - Have a Heart Food Drive, NHS induction, play comps to be held on March 27th, Student Council Blood Drive and the Student Council meeting in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

4. HIGHLIGHT ON SCHOOLS - Middle High School Literacy

Teachers from the Middle/High School - Nancy Abbott, William Gibbs and Jennifer Kunz gave a presentation on Literacy and work that teachers are doing with consultants from the Teaching and Learning Alliance to improve classroom literacy practices in the middle/high school.

5. COMMUNITY INPUT - None

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Budget - Mr. Shaw indicated a meeting took place today and discussions were held pertaining to:
- Maintaining all programs including full day kindergarten
 - Adding another science teacher who will teach Physics and STEAM classes
 - Upgrading science materials in grades 4-12
 - Possibly moving utility costs back into the general fund
 - Moving athletic stipends into the school choice line
- b. Communications - Mr. Morrissey indicated Dr. Schaper's previous blog entry contained the top ten reasons why you should look into West Boylston High School. He stated that there are tremendous opportunities in the West Boylston District to obtain a quality education.

Ms. Palumbo stated that there was some discussion on the Town's Facebook page about the schools in general, of a complimentary nature. She stated that it might be a good idea to take a look at what our social media approach is at this time.

- c. Policy - The School Committee took a first reading of the following policies - JH - Student Absences and Excuses, JII - Student Complaints and Grievances, JK - Student Conduct, JIC - Student Discipline and IJNDD - Policy on Facebook and Social Networking Web Sites.

Dr. Schaper stated that the text of these policies come from the Massachusetts' Association of School Committees.

Mr. Shaw moved, seconded by Ms. Palumbo to approve the first reading of policy JH - Student Absences and Excuses.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Mr. Shaw moved, seconded by Ms. Palumbo to approve the first reading of policy JII - Student Complaints and Grievances.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Mr. Morrissey moved, seconded by Mr. Shaw to approve the first reading of policy JK - Student Conduct.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Mr. Shaw moved, seconded by Ms. Palumbo to approve the first reading of policy JIC - Student Discipline.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Ms. Palumbo moved, seconded by Mr. Morrissey to approve the first reading of policy IJNDD - Policy on Facebook and Social Networking Web Sites.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Dr. Schaper indicated that policy IJNDD - Policy on Facebook and Social Networking Web Sites is necessary so that there is some guidance for teachers as to what is acceptable and what is not acceptable with regards to social media.

Mr. Morrissey suggested additional attention might need to be paid to IJNDD and Dr. Schaper suggested that the policy subcommittee make additional revisions before bringing it for a second reading.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

- a. Edwards Elementary Principal - Mr. Meagher was absent from the School Committee meeting, however, his report is included in the School Committee packet.
- b. Associate Middle School Principal - Mr. LaBreck stated the NAEP testing was rescheduled to March 6, 2015 due to the snowy weather, the TLA consultant would be coming to the school on March 3rd and April 14th and the latest advisory was cancelled due to snow, but that it would focus on the importance of homework completion.
- c. Secondary Principal - Mr. Murphy also indicated advisory meeting were cancelled because of the snow, on March 12th the first semester awards would be given out and the Student Council and the NHS would be holding a lip sync competition.
- d. Director of Special Education - Ms. Traina indicated she had nothing to report at this time.
- e. Business Administrator - Mr. Pontbriand indicated he had brought a warrant to be signed by the School Committee, new staff had been hired in the Central Office, work on the budget continues, updates on the ESCO project were given and the financial report was included in the School Committee packet.
- f. Superintendent of Schools - Dr. Schaper reported on:
 - Budget Public Hearing to take place on 3/11/15
 - Budget would be available for public viewing in the Central Office on Monday, March 9, 2015 and Tuesday, March 10, 2015
 - District Education District Review would be held on 3/16 - 3/20/15
 - Science curriculum in the district is in the process of review
 - The addition of a year-long research course that will be required of all STEAM students
 - District in association with Teachers' Association will determine survey items that will be used in this year's teacher evaluation per DESE guidelines for evaluation.
 - An overview of the ALICE safety approach was provide to teachers at both schools by Officer Jay Dugan.
 - Principal search panel had been meeting
 - Todd Salmonsens was selected as one of three members of the College Board of Trustees
 - Richard Murphy from FLLAC will be coming to next month's School Committee Meeting

- g. School Committee - Mr. Shaw wanted to make the community aware of 4 scholarships offered by the Wachusett Area Rotary in the amount of \$2,000 each and Ms. Breen indicated the West Boylston Little League also offers scholarships.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shaw moved, seconded by Ms. Palumbo to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Marie K. Johnson, Recording Secretary