

Regional District #4 Board of Education

Regular Meeting

2 May 2019

These minutes are subject to board approval at an upcoming meeting

Minutes

Attendance: Trisha Brookhart, Jane Cavanaugh, Dr Jennifer Clark, Lori Ann Clymas, Dr Rick Daniels, DG Fitton, Mario Gioco (arrived later), Michelle Grow and Kate Sandmann.

Administration: Dr Ruth Levy, Dr Kristina Martineau, Leigh Rankin and Mike Barile

This regular meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Dr. Jennifer Clark

Agenda Addition

A motion was made by Michelle Grow and seconded by DG Fitton to add discussion and action on the proposed sale of the Falls Landing Property to the agenda. APPROVED 7-0.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Jane Cavanaugh and seconded by Lori Ann Clymas to approve the following:

Minutes – Budget Workshop 3/6/2019

Minutes – Regular Meeting 3/7/2019

Accounts Payable Report

APPROVED 6-0-1 (Grow).

Recognition of Top 10% of Class of 2019

Kim Berardis – Valedictorian

Lauren Salbinski – Salutatorian

Emily Hutchinson – Class Essayist

Connor Riordan

Tori Adamczyk

Daniel Hearn

Max D’Amico

Chance Barclay

Michael Ryan

Silvia Gopalakrishnan

Rachel Dona

Carolyn White

Mia D’Agostino

Abigail Johnson

Each student present discussed their post-graduation plans.

Recognition of Early Graduate – Lydia Wiernik – Partenio

Recognition of Scholar Athletes – Emily Hutchinson and Michael Ryan

High School Art Awards – Silvia Gopalikrishnan and Abigail Johnson

Mike Barile recognized Tina Stoddard and Mark Foster for their support of the VRHS musical.

He also recognized Laura Hilton for the recent success of the Valley Band and Choir at the Chicago Music Festival. Both groups won several awards.

Francesca Pisanzio and VRHS teacher John Corbett highlighted the recent work that Francesca undertook in her Capstone project. With the support of Wesleyan University, she expanded on her work in AP Biology to extract and analyze human DNA.

Kate Wheaton, Rachel Casella and several students that recently traveled to France, over the April vacation, provided a recap of the trip.

2019 – 2020 Proposed Trips

Kate Wheaton made a request that the board approve the Student Exchange Trip to France in November 2019 and the Quebec Winter Carnival in February 2020.

Rachel Cassella made a request that the board approve the Student Exchange Trip to Spain In the Spring of 2020.

A motion was made by Rick Daniels and seconded by DG Fitton to approve all three requests.
APPROVED 7-0.

Region 4 Student Representatives

Kate Farrell and Cooper McCormick presented their last report to the board. Highlights from VRHS include the successes of the sports teams and end of year activities which include: National Honor Society inductions and upcoming. AP Testing. Other upcoming events are:

- Spring Concert on May 15th
- Warriors in the Community on May 17th
- Junior Prom on May 17th, at Latitude 41.
- Senior Reception on June 1st, at Water's Edge.
- Senior Awards Night on June 5th.
- Graduation on June 14th.

Jennifer Clark thanked Kate and Cooper and provided them with a token of appreciation, from the board. Caroline Baldwin and Evan Benson will be the 2019 – 2020 representatives.

Charlie Herman and Onno Knoop presented the report for JWMS. The students highlighted the results in the current sports season. In academics they discussed the multi-school debate competition, the recent NGSS Science testing and the upcoming SBAC testing. Progress reports will come out on May 14. Upcoming events include:

- 6th grade orientation on May 7th.
- Spring Concert, Project Fair and Art Show on May 21st
- 7th grade trip to Mystic Seaport on May 23rd
- Memorial Day Service on May 24th
- 8th grade trip to Lake Compounce on May 30th

8th grade dance on May 31st
8th grade night on June 12th.
8th grade picnic at Camp Ingersoll on June 13th.
Last day of school June 14th.

2017 – 2018 Audit

Michael VanDeventer of Mahoney Sabol presented the results of the recently completed audit of the district's accounts. He highlighted several recommended procedures that have been implemented to improve accounting processes. He also highlighted deficits in three accounts, that must be addressed and corrected by the board. The accounts are the capital sinking fund, the cafeteria fund and a grant fund. A special meeting will be held on May 22, 2019 to address these issues.

Principal Updates

In addition to his previous comments, Mike Barile also recognized Maria Ehrhardt and Dr Carolyn Gbundlee for their contributions to IB implementation. They also highlighted initiatives in relation to scheduling.

There was no additional information for JWMS.

There was no report from Leigh Rankin, Director of Facilities.

Videotaping of Meetings

Rick Daniels highlighted the discussions he had with the crew that tapes the meetings in Deep River and with Dr. Gbundlee, at Valley. Dr. Gbundlee, in consultation with Chris LeQuire, indicated that she felt that recording the meetings for livestreaming was possible. With the board's agreement, the goal will be to begin broadcasting the meetings in the Fall. The resources of Valley Community Television will be used as a backup.

Financial Reports

The reports were postponed to the next meeting due to the absence of the business manager, due to illness.

Disposition of Records

It is required that the board authorize the disposition of past records, in accordance with CGS section 7-109.

A motion was made by DG Fitton and seconded by Lori Ann Clymas to authorize the chairperson to sign the request on behalf of the board. APPROVED 8-0.

Committee Reports

Policy – business and financial reports are being reviewed.
Finance – meeting canceled.
Curriculum – no report.
Supervision – the superintendent search continues.
Security Advisory Committee – security review processes continue.

Superintendent's Report

Ongoing budget processes were reviewed.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ongoing testing at the schools was discussed.

Falls Landing Property

Michelle Grow presented information from a local realtor. She stated that this agent had a party interested in purchasing the property. It was noted that, for the sale of a public asset, that a formal process to select an agent and to accept offers was necessary.

A motion was made by DG Fitton and seconded by Jane Cavanaugh to issue an RFP for a realtor to market the Falls Landing Property. Approved 8-0.

Executive Session

At 9:20, a motion was made by DG Fitton and seconded by Lori Ann Clymas to go in to executive session for the superintendent's evaluation and exit interview. APPROVED 8-0.

There being no further business, a motion was made by DG Fitton and seconded by Jane Cavanaugh to adjourn this meeting. APPROVED 7-0. (Daniels departed prior to Executive Session).

This regular meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.

Richard R. Daniels, Jr

Secretary BOE