

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
Broad Brook Elementary School, Room A5 - 7:30 p.m.**

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chair R. Reichle called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair R. Reichle led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ATTENDANCE

In attendance: Chair R. Reichle, Vice Chair K. Carey-Trull, Secretary H. Spencer, F. Neill C. Sevarino, L. Sinsigallo, D. Menard, N. Farmer, E. LeBorious, P. Tudryn

Also in attendance: D. Rouillard, L. Foxx, M. Ryan, E. Johnson

IV. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

None

V. COMMENDATIONS

1. Superintendent's Community Service Recognition Award – Dr. Tudryn and Mrs. Foxx recognized the following students and their families for the students' community service work from their lemonade stand fundraiser that raised \$253.25 donated to the Broad Brook School library. Mrs. Foxx shared that the students have also worked with the Broad Brook School Media Specialist to select the books that will be added to the library.

- Bavaneetha Bhagavathy – Grade 5
- Sahana Vijayakumar – Grade 5
- Shreenitha Senthilkumar – Grade 5
- Varshitha Sivakumar – Grade 4
- Malliga Malligarjunan – Grade 3
- Vengha Balachander – Grade 3

2. Teacher of the Year – Mr. Rouillard introduced Michelle Wylie, Broad Brook School, as the district's Teacher of the Year. Mr. Rouillard shared that Mrs. Wylie was recommended based on her dedication, professionalism, relationships with families and students, leadership, and strong pedagogy. Mrs. Wylie has met the qualifications for consideration for the State of CT Teacher of Year recognition. Mrs. Wylie provided an inspirational speech to her colleagues at the district's back to school convocation. Mrs. Foxx shared that Mrs. Wylie is a teacher of teachers with supporting the teacher residency program as the mentoring teacher.

Mrs. Wylie provided a synopsis of her convocation speech. She thanked the Board of Education, administrators, and her colleagues for their support and recognition. Mrs. Wylie shared her reflections on her teaching career and experiences. She shared that she loves the work with the kids, the relationships with the kids and families, and her love to make a difference. Mrs. Wylie shared a video on the positive power that adults have in kids when they believe in them (the kids) and alignment to the work in progress in EWPS.

R. Reichle thanked Mrs. Wylie on behalf of the Board for all of her work that she does for our kids in East Windsor. She shared that she heard positive reviews on her speech.

VI. MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – August 23, 2023 – N. Farmer commented that the minutes were well-written and expressed her continued appreciation of the clarity. F. Neill identified a correction in the minutes related to the spelling of E. LeBorious’s name in the Attendance section. On a motion by F. Neill, 2nd by K. Carey-Trull, the Board approved the minutes with the recommended correction. The vote was 8-0-1 (E. LeBorious abstained).
2. Special Meeting/Executive Session Minutes – August 23, 2023 - On a motion by C. Sevarino, 2nd by L. Sinsigallo, the Board approved the minutes as presented. The vote was 8-0-1 (E. LeBorious abstained).

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Aubrey Nordell, Middle School student and resident of 7 Grandview Terrace, expressed concerns related to limited access to school lockers and bathroom due to the Middle School locker schedule and bathroom procedures. She expressed that the locker schedule presents challenges to coming to class on time and prepared. Ms. Nordell requested changes that include more frequent access to lockers and greater allowance of time for restroom use.

The Board thanked Ms. Nordell for her courage to speak on a sensitive topic along with acknowledging the great job she did presenting and speaking to the Board.

VIII. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

The following meeting and event dates were reviewed. In addition, the board reviewed the 2023 calendar of subcommittee dates available on the Board of Education page of the website. Going forward, the upcoming meetings/events will be placed on the second meeting agenda for each month.

1. September 13, 2023 - Finance Subcommittee at 6 p.m.
2. September 13, 2023 - Broad Brook School Mural Reveal at 7 p.m.
3. September 14, 2023 - PTO Meeting at 7 p.m.
4. September 18, 2023 - High School CIP building tour at 5:30 p.m.
5. September 20, 2023 - Board Policy Review Subcommittee at 5:30 p.m.
6. September 20, 2023 - Town Board of Finance Meeting at 7 p.m.
7. September 27, 2023 - Curriculum Council subcommittee at 6 p.m.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

1. Convocation & Back to School Updates – Dr. Tudryn provided an overview of convocation and professional development week. Convocation was highlighted by the teacher of the year speech by Michelle Wylie. New teachers were introduced. There are almost 30 new teachers in the district. Teachers that obtained tenure status and longevity milestones were also recognized during convocation. Dr. Tudryn shared remarks with staff regarding expectations for the year. The rest of the week was dedicated to professional development, mandated trainings, building based activities, and setting up classrooms. All certified staff had to complete a 3-hour training on PowerSchool due to the switch to a more capable and parent friendly student information system. The previous system was antiquated.

Dr. Tudryn and Mr. Rouillard are scheduled to visit staff at each of the buildings during a faculty meeting to review the progress towards the district’s strategic plan. They have

already visited Broad Brook and the progress was well received by the staff. Staff feedback included gratitude towards the Board that conversations with staff did not take place last year during budget season on potential staff reductions.

Dr. Tudryn shared that kindergarten and orientation for families and students went very well and were well-attended. Building administrators and teachers hosted and were very accommodating by assisting families with becoming familiar with the Broad Brook School.

Dr. Tudryn stated that the openings of schools have demonstrated a sense of optimism and positivity through his interactions with students, parents, and staff. Dr. Tudryn also stated that the new programs of full-day preschool, the Middle School Talented and Gifted program, Middle School cross country, and Broad Brook band program have all started off well. There is currently a wait-list for all preschool programs. The Middle School TAG program identified 6 percent of students that qualified, which is above the state minimum average. Cross country started its first practice with 25 students with another 15 students that have expressed interest this week. The Broad Brook band program currently has 22 students enrolled and transportation before school is working out well.

Dr. Tudryn highlighted that all schools were successful opening being fully staffed at the certified teaching levels despite some surrounding districts having numerous vacancies.

E. LeBoriosis inquired if parents were trained in PowerSchool. F. Neill and N. Farmer shared that the platform is intuitive and parent friendly and only requires log-in information for accessibility. Dr. Tudryn shared that he has not received any feedback with challenges to accessing the parent resources.

X. BROAD BROOK SCHOOL REPORT

Mrs. Foxx and Mr. Ryan shared progress on two new programs that started this year – Broad Brook band and the DARE. Both programs are aligned with the Strategic Plan and Portrait of the Graduate.

The Band Program is available for grade 4 students. It takes place before school. Students attend twice a week - once as an entire band and once with their instrumental group. Parent night took place this past Monday. Students continue to sign-up. Current enrollment is 22 students. Transportation is offered and most students arrive by bus. There is a concert schedule with the first concert scheduled for December 12.

N. Farmer inquired if students could switch instruments. F. Neill shared her experiences with her child at parent night – students do have the opportunity to try different instruments during the trial phase. Students can switch to a new instrument the following year as well. F. Neill shared that it has been a great program thus far.

The DARE program is a police officer led series that provides knowledge and tools that students need to resist drugs, alcohol and other high risk behaviors. The DARE program is supported by our School Resource Officer, Lindsey Valencia. Officer Valencia was trained in the program during the summer which consisted of 30 hours of training and passed exam. Officer Valencia is teaching the lessons to fourth grade to those students whose parents grant permission. Lessons take place on Wednesdays. The curriculum consists of 10 lessons with one lesson a week. The curriculum supports the Portrait of Graduate to help students become self-aware individuals and responsible to the community.

E. LeBoriosis inquired about the length of time for each lesson. Mr. Ryan shared that each lesson is 40 minutes.

F. Neill requested that the SRO provide a synopsis of the program to the Board at a future meeting. Mrs. Foxx shared that the SRO was invited today but was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. Dr. Tudryn suggested inviting the SRO and the positive school climate coordinator to a future meeting once the youth service bureau is running, and updates can be provided related to their work. F. Neill stated she would appreciate the coordination of that meeting, and is pleased with the work taking place in the district.

XI. NEW BUSINESS: VOTE

1. Surplus Instructional Materials

On a motion by D. Menard, 2nd by N. Farmer, the Board unanimously approved to donate or discard the surplus instructional materials at Broad Brook School as listed in the Board packet.

XII. LIAISONS' REPORTS

H. Spencer stated that the town had their first CIP meeting. They are in the process of scheduling meetings. D. Menard inquired on the status of the school district's CIP inventory list. Dr. Tudryn shared that the list of needs was submitted along with some supporting documentation including quotes, pictures, and parent emails highlighting the needs of the district related to capital improvement.

F. Neill shared that the Booster Club held their first meeting. The Booster Club is accepting new members.

N. Farmer shared that the PTO is scheduled to hold their first meeting tomorrow.

N. Farmer also shared that the last Board of Finance meeting was brief and the primary purpose was to approve a transfer.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

XIV. MISCELLANEOUS

D. Menard inquired about the recent correspondence from CABA on the annual convention. Dr. Tudryn shared that he and Mr. Rouillard are scheduled to attend the two days, and R. Reichle is scheduled to attend on Saturday for Board Chairs. Dr. Tudryn shared that he along with several current members have attended CABA sessions in the past. Dr. Tudryn requested that Board members email him if there is interest in attending any specific session workshop offered. Dr. Tudryn shared that Nick Caruso from CABA is scheduled to present to the Board on January 31. The topics can be determined following the November elections and the Board members are confirmed.

F. Neill stated the Broad Brook band program is outstanding at this point with the teacher, the high school students at the parent informational night, and transportation. Dr. Tudryn stated that he emailed correspondence earlier in the day to the Board that provided a synopsis of the Broad Brook School Band informational night along with some pictures highlighting the success of the evening.

N. Farmer inquired how students obtain instruments. It was shared that most students rent instruments. E. LeBorious inquired if the district assists high needs families. Dr. Tudryn stated that the district would support a family in need.

F. Neill asked about the potential to add solar panels to the high school when the roof is replaced. Dr. Tudryn stated he will inquire and will provide a follow-up upon receiving more information. He shared that it may be too late in the process. N. Farmer shared that a student along with a teacher gave a very good presentation on the feasibility of solar panels a few years ago.

R. Reichle stated that she has been very impressed during the school facility tours with the job that Willie Quinones and his staff have done with the cleanliness and appearance of schools.

XV. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Educators Rising Mini Grant Application - East Windsor Public Schools

Dr. Tudryn shared that correspondence was just received on notification of the grant award. Cheryl Gustafson wrote the grant. It is a \$10,000 grant dedicated to create a pipeline to teaching through activities that promote high school students' leadership opportunities.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by N. Farmer, 2nd by C. Sevarino, the Board voted to enter into executive session to: discuss the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, dismissal or the health of a public officer or employee, provided such individual may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting – Superintendent's Evaluation; to discuss contract negotiations; and, discuss pending claims/litigation. The vote was unanimous.

The Board came out of the session at 9:13 p.m.

On a motion by D. Menard, 2nd by E. LeBorious, the Board approved the written agreement between the East Windsor Board of Education and East Windsor Cafeteria Personnel Association as presented. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by F. Neill, 2nd by L. Sinsigallo moved that the Board of Education present the document prepared with assistance of Board Counsel, as amended by the Board at this meeting, to the Superintendent as his evaluation for the 2022-2023 school year. The vote was unanimous. The Board thanked Dr. Tudryn for all his positive work, progress and for the direction the district is headed.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by N. Farmer, 2nd by C. Sevarino, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Spencer, BOE Secretary

Approved: