

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT**

Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School-Media Center

Approved 2/26/2019

A. Call of Quorum and Pledge of Allegiance

In attendance from the Board of Education (BOE): Vivian Thumser, Chairperson; John Gentry, Vice-Chairperson; Nancy Duvall, Secretary; Walt Petruniw; Tom Dufort; Bridgett LaBrecque, Leticia Velasquez

Absent:

Others Present: Dr. Lois DaSilva-Knapton, Superintendent; Sarah Cary, Principal CES; Ryan Earley, Principal BMS; Jeff Ferranti, Pupil Service Director

Vivian Thumser called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Special Purpose

1. BMS Students presented the BOE and visitors with presentations on three projects they recently worked on. Mrs. Schafer's class worked on the Egg Drop project, using different materials that were available in class the students were able to put their current curriculum to the test. Mrs. Rizer's class presented the stipling drawings that were made and how the different gradations were achieved. Mr Ziemkowski's class presented the plaque they made for Mr. Brophy's door as well as explaining how it was achieved on the 3D printer.

2. BOE Chair, BOE member Bridgette LaBrecque and Superintendents Commentary:

Vivian Thumser, BOE Chair, presented historical information regarding the Bus RFP; stating that she spoke with the current bus coordinator regarding the RFP and felt that she knew the situation with the RFP.

The new group, Canterbury Parent Advisory Council, was briefly discussed. It's a new group founded by parents and open to parents and caregivers of Canterbury

students. These meetings were presented as another avenue for parents to inform the BOE on the current issues that were raised and the feedback that is requested.

Bridgette LaBreque apologized for her recent absence to do medical reasons and informed the visitors that she was kept abreast on BOE information during the absence. She also mentioned the recent anonymous letters that some BOE members received at their homes and asked that the person responsible step up and bring their issues to the meetings.

Dr. Lois DaSilva-Knapton, Superintendent, presented her timeline on the Bus RFP and how it came to fruition. The handout is titled the Transportation Communication Process and Feasibility Study.

C. Presentations & Actions

- 1 CIP Budget 2023-2024 (action required) - Moved to February Agenda due to information not being available to Board members at meeting time
- 2 Open Forums Bi-Monthly Meetings-January 30th 4:00 pm BMS – a new forum for parents and residents to come and ask questions in an open forum setting with minutes being taken.
- 3 Increase lunch price at CES from \$2.75 to \$3.00

Motion: To approve the lunch price at CES from \$2.75 to \$3.00

By: Walt Petruniw

Second: Tom Dufort

All in favor

Motion passes

- 4 Policies – First Read:
 - a. Policy 3520.13 Student Data Protection & Privacy
 - b. Policy 5113 Attendance – Excuses-Dismissals
 - c. Policy 5141 Student Health Services
 - d. Policy 5141.3 Health Assessments & Immunizations
 - e. Policy 3231 Medical Reimbursement for Special Educations Students
 - f. Policy 5144.1 Physical Restraint/Seclusion
 - g. Policy 5144.2 Use of Exclusionary Time-out Settings
 - h. Policy 6171.3 Placement of Special Education Students (Out-of-district)

Motion: To accept policies a thru h above as a first read as presented

By: Tom Dufort
Second: Walt Petruniw
All in favor
Motion passes

D. Committee Reports / Correspondence to the Board

1. Paraeducator Negotiations update-First meeting held and next meeting is January 22, 2019
2. Transportation Feasibility Study – the RFP responses from DATTCO and EASTCON were discussed and summarized on the handout
3. Facility Committee – BMS Roof is complete, the punch list ready and BOE needs to make motion to move forward with requesting reimbursement from the State.

Motion: To accept the roof as finished with accompanying punch list and direct the Superintendent to move forward with requesting reimbursement from the State.

By: Tom Dufort
Second: John Gentry
All in favor
Motion passes

4. Policy Committee - no meetings scheduled as of yet
5. Building (Roof) Committee - Oil tank project is also under this committee. Documents are being prepared for resolutions to be approved to move forward. Project must be finalized this summer.
6. EASTCONN – information was shared about the per pupil cost by town and how it isn't exactly an apples to apples comparison but gives a good insight.
7. Finance Committee Meeting – will be held after budget presentation. The date will be announced.
8. Curriculum/Pupil Services – February 12th 6:00 pm – open to the public
9. Superintendent's Comments:
 - a. Enrollment – 756 total students (down 1)
 - b. Administrator's Report – reports can be viewed on the websites

- c. 2019-2020 Budget - presentation will February 5th
- d. Additional Comments

E. Consent Agenda

- 1. Special Meeting minutes-December 11, 2018
- 2. Regular Meeting minutes-December 11, 2018
- 3. Policy Committee minutes-December 18, 2018

Motion: To accept the minutes above as presented (E 1 thru 3)

By: John Gentry

Second: Tom Dufort

All in favor

Motion passes

F. Comments from Visitors

Here is the Q and A:

Jamie wanted to express her gratitude to all the Admins and also stated that the Admin reports are the highlights of the BOE meetings.

Q - Jamie asked why the suggestion of a part-time superintendent wasn't explored; Why approve a 3 year contract for the superintendent and why did it have to be executed in December?

A - Vivian Thumser responded that the contract was late and added a cover letter to the contract that if it's found a part-time superintendent is desirable, the contract can be renegotiated. Tom Dufort responded that time constraints required the 3 year contract, it's a standard for all admins and that the survey was completed after the evaluation was done.

Q - Diane P (about the Bus RFP) stated that the drivers have one year left on their contract and that she does not want to work for a large company and prefers to work for the town.

Q - resident – inquired about the commentary statements and how clarity was needed regarding the Bus RFP. Also suggested that the BOE talk to other towns that have switched to DATTCO and/or EASTCON to find out how they are faring in that situation.

Q- Mrs. O'Connor – asked why the first “visitor comment” section was removed; why is the custodian staff stretched so thin (some days there is only one person in each building performing the cleaning services) and why were the survey results not considered in the superintendents evaluation.

A – Response from Vivian Thumser – the results from the survey will be used for the upcoming evaluation that is due in April/May.

Q - Diane D – asks for more clarification on the last year of the bus drivers contract, she needs to know so she can plan financially.

A – Vivian T. – the BOE received the information tonight with the rest of the residents, please allow time to read and digest.

Q – Casey – asked where the \$5500+ funds allotted for phones on the feasibility study came from as no bus drivers have phones, they use their personal cell phones for any communications.

A – Dr Knapton responded – she used the best estimate she could to prepare the study.

Many residents stressed that the BOE should take the time to review the Bus RFP and feasibility study to make the best possible solution for town as a whole and should not rush into any decisions.

Q – Kathy (Driver) – feels that the best way to notify the drivers that the RFP was going out and what it contained would have been a face to face meeting with everyone involved. Who prepared the feasibility study, the interim Finance Director?

A – the study was prepared by Dr. Knapton

Statement by First Selectman Lippke: (regarding Transportation Communication Process) they did meet in October but to say the meeting was detailed is a stretch. The Selectman’s office should have been able to review the RFP before it was sent out due to the town assets mentioned it. The lease pay-down part of the contract is a non-starter for town. Selectman’s from many towns share information and it took another town three years to perform their study and make decision. That town put the funds from bus sales and any other fees or leases into reserve fund incase they needed to revert to another method of transportation in the future. The BOE should make sure to analyze, really dig in and do your due diligence on this RFP.

Motion: To add executive session at beginning of the February 12th meeting to discuss Contract and personnel issues with the Bus Drivers invited to join.

By: Tom Dufort

Second: Leticia Velasquez

All in favor

Motion passes

G. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:52 p.m. By: Tom Dufort 2nd: Bridgette LaBrecque

Respectfully submitted by: Nancy Duvall BOE Secretary