

THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

N.J. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act the Woodland Park Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on the door of the Woodland Park Board of Education Administration Building and was provided to the North Jersey Record & Herald News

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

Members Present – Glen Grimes, Shannon Marren, Laura Vargas, Jairo Rodriguez, MaryAnn Perro, Gina McQuin, David Amanullah, Mark Salemi, Joe Giammarella

Also Present - Michele Pillari, Paul Murphy, Aaron Mandel

PUBLIC HEARING-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Please remember that this is a public meeting. Anything you say will be public record. As a result, pursuant to law, the Board Members cannot respond to you publicly concerning certain matters, such as those regarding an individual student. If there is a matter that you wish to remain private concerning personnel or students, please contact the Superintendent's office. In accordance with Bylaw 0167, statements will be limited to 3 minutes in duration.

Maisoun Muhammed –

Ms. Muhammed was very concerned about the amount of teachers who are resigning mid-year, especially at CO. She stated she hopes the Board is taking this seriously and that in order to have happy, well-adjusted students; you need to have happy teachers. Ms. Muhammed thanked all of the teachers that have helped her 5 children throughout the years. *Dr. Pillari responded that people leave for different reasons and it's not always salary based. Right now there is a teacher shortage which expands opportunities for teachers. She stated people are doing what is best for their families and themselves.*

223-222 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by VARGAS Seconded by PERRO

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2023 reorganization and the January 30, 2023 regular meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the January 30, 2023 regular meeting.

Roll Call: 9 YES

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

PreSchool

Our Preschool students participated in the 100th Day of School on February 9th. CO Teachers, Classroom Aides, and students walked a fashion runway set up on the hallway, complete with red carpet, to show off their 100-day shirt featuring 100 items or to show how they had "aged" to 100 years old. Students at School 1 walked the building as their fashion runway. Teachers also had activities in the classroom to celebrate the day. Thank you to the HSA along with our parents for their help with getting the students ready for this special day. This week, besides spreading love during Valentine's Day, our Preschool students will participate in activities to celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Week. Students will build community by creating a Kindness Tree Bulletin Board featuring every student's name as a culmination of the week's classroom lessons. Let's celebrate all the ways we can be a positive influence in each other's lives! The Preschool students and families also participated in the Souper Bowl, inspired by BG's participation in this important service project in order to Tackle Hunger. Thank you to all who participated. 100% of the collection will be donated to a local soup kitchen/pantry in need. Reminders for Kindergarten

registration were sent out. Kindergarten Registration will begin on Tuesday, February 21st, and will continue to run until Friday, February 24th. To qualify for Kindergarten, your child must be the age of 5 by October 1st. Registration is to be completed online. A re-enrollment survey was emailed to all PK3 families. This survey will help us plan for students returning next school year. Please join us for our PreSchool Open House on Saturday 3/18/2023 from 10:00am-12:00pm. Tell a friend and come see our classrooms and program! Flyers will be shared by the end of this week.

CO

Students in grades K-2 participated in an all-school event entitled NED's Mindset Mission which promotes the importance of positive mindset for learning and life! Resources were shared with families at home via the Mindset Mission website. Parent/Teacher Conferences scheduled for Charles Olbon this week on Wednesday, February 15th. Please ensure you meet with your child's teacher in order to get the most up to date information regarding your child's performance in school. To date, we have raised \$2,215.58 for Our Kids Heart Challenge. This is 44% of our goal! We currently have 40 students registered. Donations are due on April 6th. Kindergarten students celebrated the 100th day of school in a "berry" special way. Each student decorated a bear with 100 objects. First grade students decorated tee shirts and participated in a red-carpet runway fashion show. Second grade students organized and presented mystery bags of 100 objects. Teachers participated in a special professional development session with members from the Healing Center Engagement from which we received a grant. More information to follow.

BG

Thank you to Mrs. Seavy who spearheaded the SouperBowl of Caring. BG teamed up against Hunger and collected an additional 1,349 cans of food for St. Agnes Food Pantry in just one week! Thank you to Ms. Roehrich who helped coordinate and to the entire custodial staff for their assistance and support! All third graders had a visit from Dr. Mary Sayefh as part of Give a Kid a Smile Month. Thank you, Ms. Roehrich, for coordinating. A huge thank you to the BG HSA for bringing back the Scholastic Book Fair! Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to make this a huge success. In March, all third and fourth grade students will participate in a "hands on" marine science program through Oceans to Go! This program is sponsored by the NJ Sea Grant Consortium. Thank you, Ms. Brunini, for securing these grant programs to come to Beatrice Gilmore! This week we highlight Kindness Week. Mrs. Farraye has coordinated multiple events and activities including how students can be the "I" in KIND. BG Influencers will participate in the Intergenerational Bingo game with WP's Seniors this week with the Mayor, Council and Alfred Baumann Library. The BG Influencers also had the opportunity to meet with the Operational Manager from Pomptonian Food Services to provide valuable feedback and suggestions. Students really felt heard and are already seeing their suggestions being implemented. Prior to this meeting, Influencers reached out to their classmates to gather their suggestions as well. Next week the 4th grade students will begin the LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) program under the direction of Officer Carino, Detective Panicci and Officer Morrison. Students in BG and Memorial Schools participated in the official Scripps Bee Contest at the school level after winning at the ELA classroom level. Congratulations to first place winner is Jacob Parkerton and the BG Winner is Mehmet Aybar. The winners have been registered for the regional contest and will participate in the 3rd Annual Diamond City Regional Spelling Bee on March 12 at Wilkes Barre HS. They will compete with other qualifying spellers from schools in Northeastern and Lehigh Valley areas of PA and parts of NJ. A special Thank you is extended to the coordinators at BG School, Mrs. Yesenosky and Mrs. DiBona, and the coordinators at Memorial School, Mrs. Ficarra and Ms. Mangine. We also thank the administration, parents, teachers and students for your overall support of the Spelling Bee. We also thank Ms. Socha for organizing the event. We are excited to be able to bring back positive and fun academic competition to the schools and look forward to more opportunities for the students this spring. It was wonderful to see academic competition that was positive and fun.

Memorial

This week is Kindness Week. Mrs. Williams, Guidance Counselor at Memorial School, has coordinated multiple events and activities including how students can be the "I" in KIND. The next House Event is on Feb. 16th. Best of Luck to all of the students and staff participating in the event.

ELA

This month, Grades K-8 teachers begin Phase 2 of our Data to Instructional Implementation. Teachers are organizing students into functional groups based on skill deficits and mastery. ELA teachers are responsible for identifying

instructional strategies, materials, and time protocols for each group of students with the goal of accelerating progress in targeted areas. In March, ELA teachers alongside our public library will assist in the planning of our districtwide One District, One Book Summer Reading Initiative. Our students will also participate in a summer reading assignment as well.

Extra-Curricular Program

Great success housing Bear's Den and Mustang Academy in Memorial school. Session III, which starts in 2 weeks, will also be housed in Memorial school.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following items have been deemed to be non-controversial in a matter of routine business and will be voted on by one motion.

Motion by SALEMI Seconded by PERRO to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following consent agenda numbers 223-223 through 223-230.

Roll Call: 9 YES

223-223 - APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$496,439.92, approved by finance committee chairperson, Jairo Rodriguez.

| <u>Bill List No.</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|
| #68 | \$353,280.34 |
| #69 | \$ 30,975.00 |
| #L74 | \$112,184.58 |

223-224- ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION – A CANDUSSO

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to accept the resignation of Alison Candusso, teacher at CO, effective March 31, 2023.

223-225-APPROVAL OF MATERNITY/FAMILY LEAVE – S. BRINK

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve maternity/family leave for Savannah Brink, under the Federal Family Leave Act, from May 22, 2023 – June 22, 2023, using 23 accumulated sick days. Starting on or about September 4, 2023 – November 24, 2023, leave will be taken under the NJ Family Leave Act. Extended leave of absence is requested from November 25, 2023-January 1, 2024, with no pay or benefits. Expected return to work, January 2, 2024.

223-226-APPROVAL OF MATERNITY/FAMILY LEAVE – J. PARTRIDGE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve maternity/family leave for Jaimie Partridge, under the Federal Family Leave Act, from April 17, 2023 – June 16, 2023, using accumulated sick days. Starting on or about June 19, 2023 – September 4, 2023, leave will be taken under the NJ Family Leave Act. Expected return to work, September 5, 2023.

223-227-HIB DECISION

BE IT RESOLVED THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation 2023-04, 2023-05, 2023-06, 2023-08, 2023-09, 2023-10, 2023-11, 2023-13, & 2023-16., for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's decision to the student's parents.

223-228-RESIGNATION OF STIPEND POSITION

BE IT RESOLVED THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to accept the resignation of Morning Duty stipend at School 1, from Kimberly Leary, effective 2/9/2023.

223-229-ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION

BE IT RESOLVED THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to accept donation from Lee To, Regional Director of Wise Foods, of 20 cases of potato chips, to be used during the afterschool programs.

223-230-APPROVAL OF HEART CHALLENGE FUNDRAISER

BE IT RESOLVED THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve district fundraiser, The Kid's Heart Challenge, coordinated by Physical Education teacher, Michael Volpe.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

The following personnel items have been deemed to be non-controversial in a matter of routine business and will be voted on by one motion.

Motion by VARGAS Seconded by PERRO to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following personnel agenda item numbers 223-231 through 223-235 and addendum items 223-30A-223-33A

Roll Call: 9 YES ON 223-231-223-235 & 223-30A, 223-31A, 223-33A

7 YES, 2 ABSTENSTIONS-VARGAS, PERRO ON 223-32A

PERSONNEL:**223-231- APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – PART TIME AIDE – J. JIMENEZ**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Juan Jimenez, as a part time aide, for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year, at a rate of \$25/hr., not to exceed 27.5 hours per week.

223-232-WORKSHOP/TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT APPROVAL

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the attendance of and costs of attendance including registration fees and statutorily authorized travel expenditures for the following listed district employees for the 2022-2023 school year.

| Name | Activity | Date | Fee | Travel | Total |
|-------------------|---|-----------|-------|---------|----------|
| Stacy Facciollio | Developing and Using Models in the NGSS Classroom | 3/31/2023 | \$175 | \$4.88 | \$179.88 |
| Lorraine Altomare | Embracing the Whole Child - Promoting Social Emotional Learning | 3/13/2023 | \$160 | \$21.06 | \$181.06 |
| Ileana Gutierrez | Rutgers Center for Literacy Development on-site Speaker Series | 2/23/23 | \$175 | \$51.98 | \$226.98 |
| Suzanne Socha | Act on It: Using Your Data to Drive Reading Interventions (Virtual) | 3/7/23 | \$75 | NA | \$75 |

223-233- REVISION OF RESOLUTION 223-209

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to revise resolution 223-209 to reflect an end date of 2/27/23, for Christina McGarrity, as advisor for the Character Building Club.

223-234-APPROVAL OF MEMORIAL SCHOOL'S MUSTANG ACADEMY STIPENDS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve staff to run Memorial School's Mustang Academies, at \$40/hr., as follows:

| ACTIVITY | ADVISOR | HOURS PER WEEK | DATES OF PROGRAM |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|------------------|
| Facts & Snacks | Samantha Ament & Chelsea Petrecca | 4 | 2/28/23-3/30/23 |
| Weight Training/Nutrition | Christina McGarrity & Terri Carbonelli | 4 | 2/28/23-3/30/23 |
| Berkeley Experience | Katie Williams | 1.5 | 2/28/23-3/30/23 |
| Basketball Clinic | Kimberlee Maier & Alyxx Manginge | 4 | 2/28/23-3/30/23 |
| Character Building Club | Christina Scillieri | 4 | 2/28/23-6/2/23 |

223-235-APPROVAL OF BEATRICE GILMORE SCHOOL'S BEAR DEN ACADEMY STIPENDS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve staff to run Beatrice Gilmore School's Bear Den Academies, at \$40/hr., as follows:

| ACTIVITY | ADVISOR | HOURS PER WEEK | DATES OF PROGRAM |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Brain Games | Gateano Pomante & MaryRose Scarpa | 4 | 2/28/23-3/30/23 |
| Be Crafty | Chris Melton & Charlene Nyehnius | 4 | 2/28/23-3/30/23 |
| Be Smart I | Erin Wilson & Kimberlee Bertino | 4 | 2/28/23-3/30/23 |
| Be Smart II | Jenna Moore & Tina Masefield | 4 | 2/28/23-3/30/23 |
| Coding Club | William Krakower & Dustin Walters | 4 | 2/28/23-3/30/23 |
| Be Musical | Danielle Maldonado | 1 | 2/28/23-3/30/23 |

223-30A- ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION – K. COLLAZO

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to accept the resignation of Katherine Collazo, lunch aide at School #1, effective February 11, 2023.

223-31A-APPOINTMENT OF HIRE LUNCH AIDE– M. RIOS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Margarita Rios as a Pre-K lunch aide for the 2022-2023 school year, \$18.00/hr., 2 hrs. per day not to exceed 10/hr. per week, no benefits, effective receipt of proper paperwork.

223-32A- APPROVAL OF SEPARATION AGREEMENT & RELEASE OF CLAIMS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve separation agreement & release of claims, for employee ID#4612, as set forth in the attached agreement.

223-33A-APPROVAL OF HOME INSTRUCTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve home instruction for student ID #34281, 2 hours per week, in Social Studies. Instruction to be provided by Lori McCluskey, at a rate of \$40/hr., as per current WPEA agreement. Effective 2/14/23-TBD.

The following items will be voted on by separate motion for each item.

FINANCE:**223-236 -NRESC –TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT – 2022-2023**

Motion by VARGAS Seconded by PERRO

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the transportation contract with NRESC for the following 2022-2023 bus routes:

| Route# | School (s) | Contractor | # of Students | Estimated Cost per Route (+ surcharge) | Starting Date |
|--------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|--|---------------|
| 2652 | South Bergen Jointure Comm | Omar Transport | 1 | 13,950.00+558.00 | 1/17/23-6/23 |

Roll Call: 9 YES

POLICY:**223-237- APPROVAL OF NEW POLICIES & REGULATIONS – 2ND READING & ADOPTION**

Motion by MARREN Seconded by RODRIGUEZ

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the 2ND reading and adoption of the following new policies & regulations:

| POLICY/REGULATION # | POLICY/REGULATION | MANDATED/RECOMMENDED |
|---------------------|---|----------------------|
| R2425 | Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program | Mandated |
| R8140 | Student Enrollments | Mandated |
| R8467 | Weapons | Mandated |

Roll Call: 9 YES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: Mrs. McQuin stated the committee met to discuss the implementation of the new health standards. It will take place in the late Spring and there will be an opt out form for parents who don't want their child to participate. *Dr. Pillari added this was the first meeting to discuss this. Families will have the option to opt out and lessons will only be conducted in 2nd, 5th & 8th grades. They are still in the preliminary stages and will report out to the full Board once everything is in place. There will also be a presentation so the public can see it prior to the form going home.*

Community Relations: Ms. Marren stated the committee met and discussed having workshop meetings in the school buildings and are recommending doing so. She also stated as the liaison to the rec department, baseball and softball registration is now open.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Perro asked why we changed the voting procedure on personnel items, grouping them and voting on in one motion. Dr. Giammarella responded that due to the lengthy personnel agenda at the last few meetings, the attorney said it was legal to vote on them as one, as not to have the repetition of voting on each individual item. Mrs. Perro stated that she would prefer to vote on personnel items individually, as it can get confusing if someone wanted to abstain or vote no on an item. Mrs. Perro stated she had asked to be put on the Community Relations and Buildings & Grounds committees, as to better volunteer her time. Dr. Giammarella stated that he has not done anything with the committees since they spoke last. Mrs. Perro questioned the district's part in the aftercare program. She asked if our administrators were overseeing the program and if so, why, since it is run by the borough's recreation department. Dr. Pillari explained when setting up the partnership with the borough between the rec department and our Supervisor of Student Activities, the Student Activities Supervisor's hours would be 9am-6pm, overseeing our afterschool activities until 4:00pm then from 4:00pm-6:00pm would be a supervisory point of contact should a situation arise. Mrs. Perro stated that the supervision should come from the program who runs it. She feels the Supervisor would be of more use to the district during our school day. Dr. Pillari said they are not there to supervise it's for emergency basis and to handle anything onsite. Mrs. Perro stated that if we are not responsible for the students in this program then our employee should not be supervising them. Dr. Pillari stated its not direct supervision that she is there as a point of contact. Mrs. Perro stated that she would like to have the staffing of the program looked into. She feels that the rec director should be there onsite supervising during the aftercare hours. They will schedule a personnel committee meeting to discuss this. Dr. Pillari stated this is how the job description was originally set up and has been working since September, but the committee will discuss it.

PUBLIC HEARING

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No one wished to be heard.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

The Open Public Meeting Act, authorizes a public body to meet in Executive or Private Session under limited circumstances and WHEREAS said law requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such Executive or Private Session. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK THAT:

- 1) It does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in Executive Session to discuss a personnel and/or litigation matter or contract matter.
- 2) The matter(s) discussed will be made public when confidentiality is no longer required.
- 3) Meeting will be resumed at conclusion of Executive Session.
- 4) The board does/does not expect to take action after Executive Session.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 7:38 p.m. by RODRIGUEZ, seconded by VARGAS
Voice Vote: 9 YES

Motion to return to Regular Session at 7:58 p.m. by VARGAS, seconded by RODRIGUEZ
Voice Vote: 9 YES

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. by VARGAS, Seconded by RODRIGUEZ
Voice Vote: 9 YES

WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE SESSION

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Superintendent discussed HIB cases #'s 2023-17, 2023-18, 2023-19
- Attorney/client privilege was discussed