

THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 19, 2018

Mrs. Marshall apologized for the confusion with the time change of the meeting. She made a statement to the public regarding the Board's dedication to the students of the Woodland Park School District and all the progress they have made over the last 5 years and that the students are their number one priority. She asked everyone to be respectful when speaking.

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 Herald News

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

Members Present – Jo-Anne Mitchell, Maria Flynn, Tom Bolen, Mark Salemi, Maryann Perro, Jairo Rodriguez, Laura Vargas, Lisa Marshall

Members Absent –Dina Bargiel (arrived at 8:15)

Also Present - Michele Pillari, Tom DiFluri, Jeff Merlino

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.

Scott Nayda – 7 Valley Dr.

Mr. Nayda commented on the uniform policy. He feels that if the Board and parents come together, they can come to an agreement on a dress code. He suggested that if we tweak the current policy and enforce it, it would work better for everyone. He encouraged the Board not to vote on the uniform at this time.

Allison Caratozzollo – 24 Cedarhurst Ave

Mrs. Caratozzollo stated that she was here when the dress code first came about. She said at the time it was stated that it would cut down on bullying and increase test scores, which she said hasn't helped either.

Maria Billson – 43 Rockland Ave.

Ms. Billson stated she looked up NJ School law on dress code policy. It states that a dress code can be implemented at the request of principal, parents, etc. She asked for documentation of such requests and also documentation of the studies that show wearing a uniform will increase test scores. She also asked if there will be a committee to pick out the uniforms and where she can sign up to be on it.

Jason Snyder – 36 Garden Ave.

Mr. Snyder again stated his opposition to the uniform policy. He feels that the current policy would work if enforced. He also stated that putting a logo on the shirt we're geo-locating our kids, not making it more secure.

Krista Price – 697 Riflecamp Rd.

Ms. Price, a student at Memorial, stated that the students thought they were referring to the current dress code when they filled out the survey. She thinks the policy should remain the same.

Ava Mania – 67 Highview Dr.

Ms. Mania, student council secretary, said the students were confused between the dress code and uniform. They thought it was the same. She feels the policy should not change to uniforms.

Angelina Ricci – 60 Overmount Ave.

Mrs. Ricci stated she felt that there was confusion with the survey. She feels if they do go they should have a choice of a few different vendors for financial reasons. She feels it would be more cost effective to wear lanyards, like the high school does.

Giuseppe Ricci – 60 Overmount Ave.

Mr. Ricci commended Mr. DiFluri on being a good business administrator. He noted the facilities improvements and updated security. He is opposed to the uniform policy.

Leanne Barbieri – 14 Mulrooney Cir.

Ms. Barbieri noted that uniforms will be a financial burden on the parents. She agrees the lanyards would be a better option.

Tammy – 194 Bergen Blvd.

She feels that if the communication were better between the parents and BOE this uniform issue would not be such a big thing. The survey was misleading and uniforms would be a financial burden.

Hailey Shafer – 49 Vetrone Dr.

Ms. Shafer, a student at Memorial, said that the students thought the survey was referring to the current dress code. She also feels that the gym clothes they currently wear is suitable for gym class.

Lou Graziano – 39 Zambrano Dr.

Mr. Graziano feels the Board already made up their minds on the uniforms. He also asked if students who get free or reduced lunch will also get free or reduced uniforms. He also feels that if the students have to wear uniforms the teachers should too.

Jazmin Rivera – 9 Rose Pl

Ms. Rivera stated that uniforms will be a big financial burden for her and many families. She feels the Board is alienating the parents and volunteers in the community and should listen to their voices.

Scott Natasch – 87 Newby Ave

Mr. Natasch said if the board wants to talk about safety, they should look into the traffic jams while dropping and picking the kids up from school. He is opposed to the uniforms.

Angela Shafer – 49 Vetrone Dr.

Mrs. Shafer stated that she is opposed to the uniform policy. She stated that the survey was misleading. She noted that there are many safety issues in schools and a uniform will not make it any safer. She suggests to enforce the current policy and asked the Board to vote no on the resolution.

Maria Makos – 697 Riflecamp Rd.

Ms. Makos asked what the vetting procedure to hire a clothing vendor is. She asked if and where the results of the survey were/are posted. She asked what the statistics are since 2011, when the dress code was put in place that shows the grades have improved.

Denise Selmon – 38 Highview Dr

Ms. Selmon felt the survey was confusing. She feels there is no issue with the dress code as it is. She noted it will be a financial burden as well.

Maria Fernandez – 42 Bush Ave.

Ms. Fernandez reiterated the confusion over the survey. She feels if the students need a logo on their shirts for safety, we have a bigger problem in this town.

Rhonda Mallek – 32 Winding Way

Ms. Mallek thanked the Board for everything they do. She stated that uniforms would be a financial burden to the parents and also could be hard to find the right sizes for students who need extended sizes.

Samantha & Ronan Feuss – 15 Whippany Ave.

Ronan stated that his mom might not be able to afford the uniform clothing. Ms. Feuss stated that her son did attend a private school and knows how much it costs. She is against the uniform policy.

Jamie Gillert – 5 Casson Lane.

Ms. Gillert has worked in urban and disadvantaged areas, also with the DEA and stated that a logo will not fix a security issue. If security is the issue she stated that you need cameras, security officers and to educate the staff, students and parents on safety procedures.

Richie Owens – 70 Passaic Ave.

Mr. Owens asked that the Board vote no on the uniforms.

Amanda, Parent of a 3rd Grader –

This parent of a special needs child said that some kids have sensory issues and can't wear the dress code clothing. She is concerned about bullying of the children who cannot abide by the uniform code.

Dr. Pillari responded to some of the questions and concerns of the parents. She said she was not here in 2011 when it was said that uniforms would stop bullying and increase test scores, so she does not know where that information came from. She stated that nothing stops bullying except educating the students, teachers, parents, community, etc., which they do every day. She addressed the comments of financial burden to the parents. She noted that there would be a financial assistance component that will be available to those in need. She said there was no indication that there would only be one vendor. In regard to the safety and security component, she stated that the lanyards were discussed as an option. She stated that the logo is only one component to security and noted other security measures the district has taken; updated cameras, additional security officer. She again addressed the difference between the dress code and uniforms. In regards to the parking lot situation at CO the security officers are doing the best they can with pick up and drop off. As far as elections being held in the school, Dr. Pillari said it's not an easy fix, that it is a procedure that involves many entities. The gym dress code came to Dr. Pillari from the elementary school principals. On gym days, K-4 currently wear gym clothes, which does not comply with the dress code. That is why they requested looking into a gym uniform. The policy does address provisions for students with IEP's that have sensory issues with clothing. Dr. Pillari said it would be optional for the teacher's wear uniforms. She also clarified that our district is not a State controlled district and that we have been increasing over the years. Dr. Pillari addressed the pricing of uniforms. We only gave approximate pricing since no commitment has been made to any vendor.

219-104 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by FLYNN Seconded by VARGAS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2018 regular meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the October 15, 2018 regular meeting.

Roll Call: 9 YES

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 MITCHELL Seconded by VARGAS to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following consent agenda numbers 219-105 through 219-113.

Roll Call: 9 YES

219-105 - APPROVAL OF REGISTER REPORT

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the October 2018 Register Report.

219-106 - SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORTS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, receives and accepts the attached reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the month of September 2018 “Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6: 20-2.12©, we certify that as of September 30, 2018 the Board Secretary’s monthly financial reports (appropriations section) did not reflect any over expenditure in any of the major accounts or funds, and based on the appropriation balances reflected on this report and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that the district has sufficient funds available to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year”

219-107 - 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 \$326,553.85, approved by finance committee chairperson, Jairo Rodriguez.

<u>Bill List No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
#65	\$254,019.50
L28	\$ 72,534.35

219-108 - TRANSFERS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the attached list of transfers for the months of September 2018.

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Acct. Description</u>	<u>Old Amount</u>	<u>Adjustment</u>	<u>New Balance</u>
11-000-221-500-00-00-060	Other Purch Services	\$ 2,600.00	\$1,000.00	\$ 3,600.00
11-000-230-331-00	Legal Services	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 50,300.00
11-000-262-520-00	Insurance	\$100,600.00	(\$300.00)	\$100,300.00
11-190-100-640-10-00-060	Textbooks	\$ 5,000.00	(\$1,000.00)	\$ 4,000.00
11-190-100-640-20-00-065	Textbooks	\$ 5,000.00	(\$100.00)	\$ 4,900.00
11-215-100-610-20-00-065	PK Disab-General Supplies	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 3,500.00

219-109 - APPROVAL OF NEW SUBSTITUTES

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the new substitute teacher list for November of the 2018-2019 school year, per the Northern Regional Educational Services Commission.

219-110 - APPROVAL OF 2019-2020 BUDGET CALENDAR

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the 2019-2020 Budget Calendar as follows:

November 1, 2018	Superintendent, Business Administrator begin 2019-2020 budget process
November 30, 2018	Superintendent finalizes staffing needs & major textbook & computer purchases with principals and CST Director
February 1, 2019	All administrators submit their school supply budgets to Superintendent and Business Administrator for review
February 1, 2019	Business Administrator merges all subsidiary budgets into one budget document and submits draft to Superintendent
February 5, 2019	Budget Committee finalizes budget for submission to full Board pending receipt of State Aid figures
February 22, 2019	Release of State Aid figures (tentative)
March 18, 2019	Full Board to adopt 2019-2020 Preliminary Budget
March 20, 2019	Budget submitted to Executive County Superintendent
April 29, 2019	Budget Hearing

219-111 - ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to accept an anonymous donation of \$150, for 2 students in financial need and in good academic standing and/or a role model to others, to attend the 6th grade field trip to see Phantom of the Opera.

219-112 - ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION – M. O'BRIEN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to accept the resignation of Molly O'Brien, secretary at Memorial School, effective November 30, 2018.

219-113 - APPROVAL OF EQUIPMENT DISPOSAL

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve disposal of a 2007 ACE Auto Floor Scrubber. Scrubber is inoperable and not cost effective to repair.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Pillari thanked everyone who participated in the Thanksgiving food drive. She also thanked everyone for their work on the PD days held in November. Dr. Pillari noted many activities going on in all three schools. Construction of outdoor classroom at CO has started. We are working on updating the website with a fresh new look. We are also in the process of finishing up our bandwidth upgrade. Dr. Pillari thanked the Tech dept. for their work with this.

BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. DiFluri stated that we are in the process of hiring a company to scope the drain pipe at CO. The sign at BG has been repaired. The installation of the outdoor classroom has started. The generator at CO that the municipality has been involved in is in place and ready for wiring.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

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

Education:

219-114 - WORKSHOP/TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Motion by BARGIEL Seconded by PERRO

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the following travel reimbursements for the 2018-2019 school year:

Name	Activity	Date	Fee	Travel
Daniela Skibinski	Wilson Training (Level I Instructor)	Web Based Training	\$2,300	NA
Danielle Indri	I&RS Training	12/4-12/6 2018	\$250	\$39.73

Roll Call: 9 YES

219-18A-APPOINTMENT OF HIRE – MATERNITY LEAVE REPLACEMENT-R. CAKL

Motion by VARGAS Seconded by SALEMI

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Rachel Cakl, as a maternity leave replacement at CO, effective pending clearance of paperwork - April 5, 2019, at a rate of \$150 per diem.

Roll Call: 9 YES

219-19A – APPROVAL OF HOME INSTRUCTION

Motion by MARSHALL Seconded by BARGIEL

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve home instruction for student ID#32641, to be determined when needed.

Roll Call: 9 YES

219-20A- APPROVAL OF CALENDAR CHANGE

Motion by MARSHALL Seconded by VARGAS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, under the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve change in school calendar as follows:

December 4, 2018 – One Session Day for Students

Memorial School Parent/Teacher Conferences – (rescheduled from 11/15/19 due to snow)

Professional Development for CO & BG Staff

Roll Call: 9 YES

219-21A - WORKSHOP/TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Motion by BOLEN Seconded by PERRO

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the following travel reimbursements for the 2018-2019 school year:

Name	Activity	Date	Fee	Travel
Donna Farraye	I&RS Training	12/4-12/6 2018	\$250	\$39.73

Roll Call: 9 YES

Policy:

219-115 - APPROVAL OF EXISTING POLICIES & REGULATIONS REVISIONS

Motion by PERRO Seconded by SALEMI

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION, to approve the 1st reading of the revision of the following existing policies & regulations:

POLICY/REGULATION #	POLICY/REGULATION	MANDATED/RECOMMENDED
5511	Dress and Grooming	Board Recommended

Mrs. Mitchell asked, as per a parent's question pertaining to 18A:11-8, what is the public hearing and has it been advertised as a public hearing for uniforms. She brought up the fact that a meeting was held after the workshop meeting ended with a quorum of Board members. She also stated that the time change of tonight's meeting was made after the fact and the Board never voted on it. She asked Mr. DiFluri if a time change was in the minutes of last week's meeting. He said it was not. Mrs. Perro stated that the Board members were there as community members and did not speak at the meeting. The parent's had concerns with the time of the meeting conflicting with CO's conferences and Dr. Pillari said she would talk to the Board about changing the meeting to 7:30 to accommodate these parents. Mr. Merlino stated that as long as you have a public board meeting that is advertised in advance, that constitutes a public hearing on the issue. Mrs. Mitchell wanted to know since we have a 40% free and reduced lunch population, were the taxpayers made aware of this survey since the burden of financial support could fall on them? Were the taxpayers afforded the opportunity to take the survey? She also, as a parent, brought up the fact that her child was targeted because his IEP had accommodations to the dress code and had concerns for the student's currently in the same position. She also wanted to know, why, in this society, does this policy have to be gender specific. Dr. Pillari responded that hopefully we can get clothing donated by the vendors to help those in financial need. She said the survey was not open to the public. As far as a child being targeted for not having to wear the required uniform, she hopes that would never happen but that if it did, the building principals would handle any matter that arises pertaining to that. Dr. Pillari said that the policy is not gender specific that the rules apply to all.

Mrs. Vargas stated that her child, who has an IEP with clothing accommodations has never been targeted. She also said she would like to get pricing out to the parent's as soon as possible.

Mr. Rodriguez addressed the audience. He stated why he ran for the Board, having a 1 year old, who will eventually be going to our schools. He wanted to help make for a better district. He stated the Board's goals are curriculum, budget, safety and test scores. The uniform policy is a small piece of the puzzle of what the Board wants as a whole for the district. He noted we are a very inclusive district and the test scores of our special education students are included in the overall testing results. Many other districts do not include them. He stated to the parent's that their participation is needed at the meetings and hopes they continue to attend and voice their concerns.

Mrs. Perro reiterated that the Board has two meetings a month and that the parent's participation is needed. She encouraged parents to keep coming to the meetings.

Mr. Bolen made a motion to table Resolution 219-115, Ms. Flynn seconded it.

Roll Call: 9 YES

Mrs. Marshall stated that they will set up a meeting with the policy committee, parents, students and teachers to discuss a policy that will incorporate everyone's input. Dr. Pillari assured everyone that they will have an opportunity to speak when the revised policy is put forth for approval. She asked again that parents be respectful when on social media. She asked that the negativity stop. Dr. Salemi encouraged parents to come out to other meetings when budgets, curriculum, security, etc., are discussed. He said they would have a better knowledge of exactly what is going on in the district.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Perro asked if the Board could get a calendar of events going on in the district. The calendar will be put in the packets and discussed at the meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel: Mr. Bolen said that there was a negotiations meeting prior to the regular meeting and that they have a tentative agreement with the Principals. It will be shown to the whole Board once the attorney reviews it.

PUBLIC HEARING

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.

Jason Snyder – 36 Garden Ave.

Mr. Snyder addressed the parent who said their child was released to an unauthorized person. He feels this is a huge security issue. He also thanked the Board for tabling the policy resolution.

Rhonda Mallek – 32 Winding Way

Mrs. Mallek wanted to know why the Board is still looking into the uniform policy after hearing from concerned parents.

Maria Carnamolla – 67 Highview Dr.

Ms. Carnamolla feels there's a clear disconnect between the Board and the parents.

Deyanira Pena – 24 Bush Ave.

Ms. Pena suggested that there be open forums, outside the meetings, for parents to discuss their concerns and talk about what is going on in the schools.

Scott Nayda – 7 Valley Dr.

Mr. Nayda stated that the policy is poorly written. He suggested that the attorney look it over and not put it back on the agenda until it is done properly.

Maria Billson –

Mrs. Billson said that the Board needs to send the parents the minutes of meetings. This is where there's a disconnect. She wants to see the request from the Principal and teachers requesting the uniforms/

Cheryl Generalli – 174 Overmount Ave.

Ms. Generalli feels that the security is a little lax, as to who a child is released to when leaving school.

Ms. Flynn reminded the parent's that the agenda and minutes are posted on our website for viewing.

Dr. Pillari addressed why the Board is still continuing to examine uniform policy. The current policy is not tight enough and it's difficult to implement on a day to day basis. She stated we are trying to streamline it. She also said another component is the security issue. She reiterated that parent's attend board meetings as to know their concerns. She pointed out that the policy does address cleanliness and hygiene. She noted that a medical excuse not in there but a student's IEP or 504 supersedes the policy. Dr. Pillari stated that our student system does have a list of who and who not can pick up a student. She will check with the building principals tomorrow to ensure all safety and security measures are being practiced.

Mr. Merlino stated that the law says the principals, parents or teachers can request but their identity does not have to be revealed for their privacy.

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 9:55 p.m. by SALEMI, seconded by RODRIGUEZ
Voice Vote: 9 YES

Motion to return to Regular Session at 10:20 p.m. by MARSHALL, seconded by BOLEN
Voice Vote: 9 YES

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:20 p.m. by MARSHALL, Seconded by BOLEN
Voice Vote: 9 YES

WOODLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION **EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Dr. Pillari discussed HIB Investigations #2019-02 and 2019-03.
- Mr. Merlino updated the Board on WPPSA negotiations.