

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Thursday, February 26, 2026

BRS South Assembly Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Lawrence, called the meeting to order (5:38 PM).

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steven Lawrence, Chair; Lynn Piascyk, Vice Chair; Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary (5:56 PM); Jackie Cappiello (5:41 PM remote); Megan Conaster; Jeff Hughes (6:15 PM); Saurabh Vilekar (5:41 PM); and Erin Williamson.

**STAFF:** Christopher Montini, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Matthew Madruga, Cheryl Tafel, Assistant Principals; Carrie Borcharding, Special Services Director; Donna Coonan, Director of Business Services/ Operations and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – an email was received regarding inclusion of Three Kings Day in the student calendar.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**MOTION #1 – CONSENT AGENDA** Move that we approve the consent agenda as presented. (Piascyk/Conaster **Unanimous**)

Ms. Cappiello (remote) and Mr. Sabuar (in person) arrived (5:41 PM).

*Superintendent Report* – Superintendent Montini provided an update on the budget process as the BOS have made a recommendation to reduce the WBOE 2026/27 budget to a 3.76% increase. It is anticipated that based on this recommendation, the purchase/lease of laptops for staff will be delayed for one year. Also, based on review of recent data, medical insurance rates continue to be favorable and it is hoped the rate increase will be in the range of 10% instead of the 15% currently budgeted. Enrollment remains steady with one additional student from last month and the same number of students as in February 2025. Currently, we have had four snow days, which places the last day of school as June 17. Jeanne Ciarleglio has been appointed as the Director of the 2026 SEP program. The brochure will be published on February 27 with registration commencing on either March 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*STEAM Presentation* – Ms. Bucko provided an overview of the STEAM program which incorporates Science (understanding the natural world), Technology (using tools, materials, digital resources), Engineering (design process), Arts (design principles, aesthetics, creative thinking) and Math (applying measurement, logic, data analysis). This combination fosters curiosity and innovation in preparing students for academic success and development of real life problem solving skills. STEAM is not a cookie-cutter approach. It is integrated learning by combining two or more disciplines together to complete an activity. It is also standards based through the connection of Science NGSS (*Next Generation of Science Standards*) and Engineering. Through project-based learning activities, with limited material and time constraints, students learn to solve real life problems through creative, resourceful thinking and authentic assessment to attain innovative solutions. STEAM empowers students to analyze information, evaluate options and make informed decisions. Students are stimulated to explore and develop collaboration, experimentation skills that are essential for applying their practical knowledge to navigate today's complex challenges and provide a foundation for their future opportunities.

Sarah Beth Del Prete arrived (5:56 PM). *It is noted for the record Ms. Del Prete was remote and in attendance from the beginning of the meeting prior to her in-person arrival.*

Jeff Hughes arrived (6:15 PM)

*BRS Update* – Ms. Sherman noted several in-house field trips including Mad Science (sponsored by the PTO), Energy Conservation with Brian Dwyer with Grade 2 students, and Meteorologist Steve Glazier with Grade 3 students who built a forecast for the evening news. Kindergarten students celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day with string beans, fruit loop necklaces and decorated ice cream cones with 100 sprinkles. February also included the celebration of Black History. The top classes from the PTO Read-a-Thon were Robbins (Grade 5), Ramia (Grade 2) and Thompson (Grade 3).

BIUBC Committee – Mr. Hughes noted this committee met on January 21 and February 12 and will be meeting following this meeting to make a recommendation on space utilization and planning.

Curriculum Committee – No Report

Finance Committee – Mr. Lawrence noted with seven months expended there is a current projected surplus of \$85,000 with minimal changes occurring from last month.

CABE Liaison Report – Ms. Del Prete noted she is unable to attend *CABE Day on the Hill* on March 11 and extended an invitation for other Board members to attend. Also noted was an upcoming webinar on March 19 *Best Practices for Financial Oversight*.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations – Policy, March 2 at 4:00 PM, Facilities, March 5 at 7:30 AM and Finance, March 9 at 4:30 PM all in the Superintendent’s Conference Room. The regular WBOE meeting is March 16 at Town Hall at 7:00 PM.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

Executive Session – The Board entered Executive Session in accordance with State statute to discuss the Superintendent mid-year evaluation process.

**MOTION #2 – EXECUTIVE SESSION** Move that we enter Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent mid-year evaluation process and invite the Superintendent to join the Executive Session (6:30 PM). (Piascyk/Del Prete **Unanimous**)

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steven Lawrence, Chair; Lynn Piascyk, Vice Chair; Sarah Beth Del Prete, Secretary; Megan Conaster; Jeff Hughes; Saurabh Vilekar; and Erin Williamson.

**STAFF:** Christopher Montini, Superintendent.

The Board reviewed the mid-year evaluation process with the Superintendent.

**RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION** (7:02 PM)

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** 7:03 PM (Piascyk/Williamson **Unanimous**)

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.