

**WATERTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WATERTOWN, MA**

**RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
149 MAIN STREET**

**MONDAY
JUNE 19, 2017
6:15 P.M.**

MINUTES

I. Roll Call

Mr. John Portz, Chairman, called the June 19, 2017 meeting to order at 6:15 PM. Present were School Committee members Ms. Kendra Foley, Ms. Eileen Hsü-Balzer, Dr. Candace Miller, Mr. Mark Sideris, and Ms. Elizabeth Yusem. School Committee member Dr. Guido Guidotti was not in attendance.

II. Executive Session: 6:15 PM

The School Committee adjourned to an Executive Session for discussion of strategy with respect to non-union contracts and WEA contract negotiations as an open meeting may have had a detrimental effect on the WPS' bargaining position.

III. Return to Open Session – 7:00 PM

The School Committee returned to open session at 7:00 PM. Also present were Interim Superintendent Dr. John R. Brackett, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Theresa B. McGuinness, Director of Human Resources Mr. Craig Hardimon, Director of Business Services Ms. Mary C. DeLai, Director of Student Services Ms. Kathleen Desmarais, and various members of the public.

IV. Robotics Club Presentation

Mr. James Salvas, with the help of three students, [reported](#) on Watertown High School's Robotics Team, the Quarks. Various School Committee members thanked Mr. Salvas and the student members of the team for their commitment to the sciences and to their school.

V. Public Forum – Session I

A member of the public said she had attended one of the Quarks' events and loved seeing the variety of students who are involved in robotics.

VI. Presentation and Discussion

A. Report of the School Start Times Task Force

Dr. James Kimo Carter presented to the School Committee the [Report of the School Start Times Task Force](#). School Committee members thanked Dr. Carter and the School Start Times Task Force for their months of time spent researching the options and implications of moving the secondary schools in Watertown to a later start time.

A School Committee member said that the District must weigh the pros and cons of proposed elementary school start times, either 7:50 AM or 8:15 AM.

A School Committee member suggested the community be included in the process as much as possible going forward. The Chairman agreed it would be important to gather community input. He said he expected a decision to be made by October or November of 2017. The Superintendent agreed with Mr. Portz's idea of timeline for finalizing school times for the coming year.

B. Hosmer School Improvement Plan

Mr. Robert LaRoche, Principal of Hosmer Elementary School, presented the [school improvement plan](#) (SIP) for his school and gave a [presentation](#) on the state of the school. Recent accomplishments at Hosmer were said to include an expanded co-teaching model, the establishment of common planning time thrice weekly, training in PowerSchool, and improved home-and-school connections.

C. Cunniff School Improvement Plan

Ms. Mena Ciarlone, Principal of Cunniff Elementary School, presented the [SIP](#) for her school and gave a [presentation](#) on the state of the school. Recent accomplishments at Cunniff were said to include the launch of Math RTI (tier time) in each grade level, STEAM project-based learning, and the Cunniff International Fair.

D. Lowell School Improvement Plan

Mr. Philip Oates, Interim Principal of J.R. Lowell Elementary School, presented the [SIP](#) for his school and gave a [presentation](#) on the state of the school. Recent accomplishments at Lowell were said to include increased communication with parents, narrowing the achievement gap, and evening community events like Science Night, Literacy Night, and International Night.

Various School Committee members thanked Mr. Oates for his dedication and energy while serving as Interim Principal

A motion was made to accept the three schools' improvement plans.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Action Items – Discussion and Vote

A. WEA Unit A Contract Amendments

The Chairman delayed this vote until the August 2017 meeting.

B. Compensation for Non-Aligned Employees

A motion was made to approve compensation for non-aligned employees of Watertown Public Schools.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Second Reading of Updated Policy ADF: Wellness

A motion was made to approve [amendments](#) to Policy ADF: Wellness.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Second Reading of Updated Policy BDB: Election and Duties of Officers

A motion was made to approve [amendments](#) to Policy BDB: Election and Duties of Officers.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Fiscal Year [2017 Budget Transfers](#)

A motion was made to authorize the transfer of \$600,000 from various salary and non-salary accounts to non-salary, districtwide special education.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to authorize the transfer of \$410,000 from the FY17 facilities budget to the ESCO Stabilization Fund.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to authorize the transfer of \$20,404 from various FY17 Capital Project accounts to the District – Additional Cameras and Security Audit account.
The motion was seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

F. Creation of Technology Revolving Fund

A motion was made to approve the creation of a [Technology Revolving Fund](#).
The motion was seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

G. Approval of Overnight Field Trip – WHS Students to Italy, February 16 – 25, 2018

A motion was made to approve an overnight field trip for Watertown High School students to visit Italy from February 16-25, 2018.
The motion was seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

H. Approval of Gifts:

1. Anonymous Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of the Boston Foundation

A motion was made to accept a gift of \$8,400.00 from an anonymous donor for STEM initiatives from the Anonymous Fund, a donor-advised fund of the Boston Foundation.
The motion was seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

2. Hosmer Elementary School PTO

A motion was made to accept a gift of \$3,350.00 from the Hosmer Elementary School PTO for a new Maker Space at Hosmer Elementary School.
The motion was seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Reports

A. Mascot Screening Committee

Ms. Kendra Foley, Chair of the Mascot Screening Committee, reported that new mascot options would be presented to the School Committee for a vote in the early fall of 2017.

B. Building for the Future

Ms. Elizabeth Yusem, Chair of the Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee, said she and various District leaders had recently met with the architects from Ai3 to begin to develop plans for the future of the school facilities.

C. Athletics Subcommittee

A motion was made to approve the [minutes](#) of the June 8, 2017 Athletics Subcommittee.
The motion was seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

D. Warrants

Ms. Mary DeLai presented a report on warrants recently approved for payment.

IX. Public Forum – Session II

A member of the public suggested the creation of a community stakeholders group for the District's Building for the Future initiative.

X. Reports

A. Chairman's

Mr. John Portz thanked Dr. Brackett for his work as Interim Superintendent; he said Dr. Brackett was "the gold standard" who brought a breadth of experience to Watertown's schools. Various School Committee members thanked Dr. Brackett for his leadership.

B. Superintendent's

Dr. John Brackett said it had been an honor to serve as Watertown's Interim Superintendent. He thanked staff, community members, Town government officials, and School Committee members for their support and hard work. He indicated his support of Superintendent-elect Dr. Deanne Galdston.

XI. Next Meetings

The Chairman announced the next scheduled School Committee meetings would occur on June 29, 2017 and August 14, 2017.

XII. New Business

No new business was discussed.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 PM.

Meeting Documents:

[Robotics Team Presentation](#)

[Memo: School Start Times](#)

[Report on the School Start Times Task Force](#)

[Hosmer Elementary School SIP 2015-2018](#)

[Hosmer Elementary School SIP 2017-2018](#)

[Hosmer State of the School Presentation](#)

[Cunniff Elementary School SIP 2017-2019](#)

[Cunniff State of the School Presentation](#)

[Lowell Elementary School SIP 2017-2018](#)

[Lowell State of the School Presentation](#)

[WEA Unit A MOA Amendments \(Draft\)](#)

[Updated Policy ADF: Wellness \(Draft\)](#)

[Updated Policy BDB: Election and Duties of Officers \(Draft\)](#)

[Memo: FY17 Budget Transfers](#)

[Memo: Creation of Technology Revolving Fund](#)