

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 11, 2018**

In accordance with the State’s Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending a notice of the time, date, location, and, to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting on January 3, 2018, and on September 7, 2018, to *The Princeton Packet*, *The Times*, *The Home News Tribune*, and West Windsor and Plainsboro Public Libraries. Copies of the notice also have been placed in the Board Office and in each of the district schools on January 3, 2018, and on September 7, 2018, and sent to Plainsboro and West Windsor township clerks on January 3, 2018, and on September 7, 2018.

The meeting of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education was called to order by Board President Fleres at 7:36 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at the District Administration Building. The following Board members were present:

Mr. Anthony Fleres	Ms. Louisa Ho	Ms. Dana Krug
Mr. Isaac Cheng	Ms. Rachel Juliana	Mr. Martin Whitfield
Ms. Carol Herts	Ms. Michele Kaish	Mr. Yu “Taylor” Zhong

No Board members were absent. Present also were: Dr. David Aderhold, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Christopher Russo, Assistant Superintendent for Finance/Board Secretary; Mr. James Earle, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services/Planning; Mr. Martin Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; and, Ms. Charity Fues, Director of Human Resources. Also present was board attorney, Mark Toscano, Esq.

**BOARD PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS**

Mr. Fleres thanked everyone for coming out. He asked the High School Students to give their report.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS**

Alexandra Vena, High School South, expressed her excitement at serving as the Board of Education Representative for High School South again. Alex updated the audience on three renovations at the school: the bathrooms, the track, and the turf. The renovations have been finished and now South’s bathrooms include fully functional automatic toilets, soap dispensers, sinks, and hand driers. The track and turf renovations look great and were shown off this past Friday at the first combined district-wide football team’s game against Trenton. Although it was raining, the turnout was awesome and truly unified both school’s student bodies and our community. The Student Council had its first meeting of the year tonight and is already working on plans for the Homecoming game and dance, which are the weekend of October 19. This Thursday during lunch is South’s Club Fair, where students will have the chance to get involved in the school community and join clubs of their choosing. This week, the WW-P cheerleaders are selling shirts during lunch to raise money for ovarian cancer and breast cancer awareness, leading up to the Teal Out football game this Friday night. Ms. Vena thanked everyone for their time.

Olivia Browndorf and Saniya Mandloi, High School North, reported the following: The first football game was held on 9/7; WW-P lost, but it was great to see the stands packed, even in the rain. All fall sports have had their kickoff games. Upcoming events include a Club Fair on 9/18, Homecoming Game vs. Hightstown on 9/28, and a Homecoming Dance on 9/29 with a ‘decades’ theme (Freshman:

90's, Sophomores: 80's, Juniors: 70's, Seniors: 60's). Throughout the summer, student council has been coming in to make decorations for display during SPIRIT WEEK! Spirit Week Days: Monday- Pajama Day, Tuesday- Preppy Day, Wednesday- Meme Day, Thursday- Decades Day, Friday- Class Shirt Day. Spirit Week and a pep rally will be homecoming week.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Dr. Aderhold reported that Governor Murphy ordered the U.S. and New Jersey flags be flown at half-staff today in remembrance of the tragic events on September 11, 2001 and asked all present to observe a moment of silence. The Superintendent welcomed back the school community, including approximately 9,700 students and 1,200 staff members. He reported that there were a few bumps to the start of school, as is to be expected, and appreciated everyone's patience as the district works through the concerns. Dr. Aderhold welcomed 26 new security officers for the district's "Eyes on the Door" program, explaining that those welcoming students and guests at the door are now district employees. He reported that the Public Information Officer launched our twitter account yesterday, @WWP\_schools, which you can follow for information such as student activities and other information, messages and announcements. This account is in addition to the @WWP\_Notices account for emergency messages. In regards to the Maurice Hawk construction, the driveway was completed prior to the opening of school and police and administration are present this week to ensure a safe environment as parents and buses learn new traffic patterns. Back-to-School nights start tomorrow and will run through the beginning of October.

### **REFERENDUM PRESENTATION**

Dr. Aderhold presented information in regards to the upcoming referendum vote on November 6, 2018. There is a mailer going out in September that gives an overview of all of the referendum projects planned throughout the district. There are 12 videos available for viewing on the website: one financial video, one overview, and one video for each of the ten schools. There is a reminder postcard being mailed in October. Six presentations to the PTA/PTSAs are scheduled, as well as several evening presentations for the public. Dr. Aderhold outlined the tax impact of the referendum in relation to the additional debt on the taxpayer, explaining there is no planned additional tax impact for taxpayers. He explained the dynamics of how that can happen given declining debt service and prudent use of capital reserve. If the district keeps the current debt service spending and draws down capital reserve, the district could maintain a zero tax impact for the debt on the bonds. Tax increases will continue to take place, but they would be to fund increases in operating expenses, not to fund the debt service. The form of the question for public vote in November includes two paragraphs - paragraph one explains the projects and paragraph two explains the funding (including eligible costs and ineligible costs). Although the question includes total costs, eligible and ineligible costs, it leaves out the excess costs, which is the difference between the NJ State estimated cost per square foot (the FES model) compared to the actual cost per square foot. There is \$64,425,210 of eligible costs, \$9,468,745 of ineligible costs, and \$40,981,045 of excess costs, for a total of \$114,875,000. The total state share is \$25,770,084 and the total local share is \$89,104,916.

### **TESTING REPORT & REPORT OF STUDENT GRADUATION RATES**

Mr. Smith, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, began the Fall 2018 Testing Report presentation by noting that this presentation would focus on the following assessments: last school year's Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exams, Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SATs), and, Advanced Placement (AP) exams. The first portion of the report compared the percentage of students scoring level 4 and 5 for the District to the NJ Average and the overall PARCC average for grades 3-8 in Language Arts, grades 3-8 Mathematics, Grades 9-11 Language Arts, and Grades 7-11 Mathematics. Overall, the district's PARCC 2018 test results outperformed the New Jersey

and PARCC benchmarks. These results indicate that our students are on track for college and career readiness. The next portion of the report reviewed SAT results which are typically administered to juniors and seniors in high school. The district is measured against the State of New Jersey average as well as national comparative data benchmarks. The SAT was redesigned 2 years ago, therefore data comparisons can only be made for two years. The district is outperforming the NJ mean as well as the national benchmarks. The final portion of the presentation reported on the district's Advanced Placement (AP) testing. The number of AP tests administered by the district has increased each year. The number of tests taken at each of the high schools tends to vary in accordance with the fluctuation in enrollment. Over 90% of High School students score a 3 or better on their exams. District-wide, by the time they graduate, 75% of juniors and seniors have taken at least one AP course and 94.5% of them have scored a 3 or higher on at least 1 AP exam.

Mr. Smith outlined the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) graduation requirements, reporting on the set of statewide assessment graduation requirements for the 2018 graduating class, including PARCC assessment requirements, alternative assessments, and the portfolio appeals process.

Mr. Smith reported the following information in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-7* and *18A:7E-3*, which requires the district to report student graduation rates annually to the Board of Education at a public meeting no later than September 30, and to the Commissioner of Education:

Graduation Path	W	AA	H/L	A	AI	PI	Two or More	Total	IEP/504	ED	ELL
Meets both Math and ELA Requirements	207	47	38	449	0	1	4	746	57	36	2
Fails to meet both Math and ELA (not denied)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Denied Graduation	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	0

Mr. Smith discussed the pathways to graduation used by the students who graduated, including the ELA pathway, the alternative assessment, portfolio appeal, or alternative math, determined by specifications in student IEPs.

Mr. Fleres commented about the remarkability of the district's data and thanked Mr. Smith for the presentation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments at this time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administration & Facilities Committee**

Ms. Kaish reported that the Committee met on September 4, 2018 and reviewed the first draft of the 2020 – 2021 Academic Calendar. Committee members discussed the highlights, noting the following: