

LWV OBSERVER REPORT FORM

Board or Commission: West Hartford Board of Education

Date of Meeting: March 16, 2010

Members present: All

Nature of meeting Routine X

Special _____

Called to order (time): 7:03 p.m.

Adjourned (time): 8:40 p.m.

Action taken:

The main items on the agenda were adoption of a calendar for the 2011-12 school year, a working draft of the Mission Framework, and non-renewal of non-tenured personnel.

The board adopted 5-2 a calendar for 2011-12 that begins school before Labor Day, includes a full week vacation in February, and ends school on June 15. Four options had been presented for consideration at the board's February 25 meeting, the variables being pre- or post-Labor Day starts and 4-day or week-long February vacations. The board conducted an on-line survey to which it received 2,606 responses, with a plurality favoring the option adopted. To view the adopted calendar, see page 1 of

<http://www.whps.org/board/agenda-documents/20100225/2011-2012%20final%20large%20calendars.pdf>.

The board unanimously accepted as a first reading a working draft of the Mission Framework, which seeks to define the mission and core values of the district for the 21st century. It includes the broad mission statement, "To inspire and prepare all students to realize their potential and enhance our global community," and embodies that mission within a circular graphic that emphasizes the dynamic and interrelated elements that go into accomplishing it. The Framework also specifies the core values that inform the mission and the key characteristics of each interrelated element. The board seeks community input on the Mission Framework and will refine it over the next few weeks with a goal of adopting a final version at the April 15 meeting. To see the complete working draft, go to

<http://www.whps.org/board/agenda-documents/20100316/Mission%20Framework%20IV.%20A.pdf>.

The board accepted unanimously the administration's recommendation for the non-renewal of non-tenured teachers' contracts, which authorizes it to proceed with written notification to the individuals involved, legally required by April 1. Since this is a personnel matter, specific cases were not disclosed, but Human Resources Director Rick Ledwith stated that 53 people are affected, the majority currently employed through interim contracts of one to two years' duration. Also included are non-tenured World Language teachers, who may be laid off due to proposed elimination of the elementary World Language program in the 2010-11 budget.

In routine matters, the board unanimously approved the Financial Statement for the period ending January 31, 2010, which projects an end of year general fund balance of \$27,000, .02% of the \$121.4 million total budget.

The next board meeting will be a public hearing on the proposed education budget and will take place March 25 at 7:00 p.m. in room 314 at Town Hall.

Observer name: Kathy Wilson