

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
November 14, 2006
Evergreen School All Purpose Room
7:00 P.M.

1. OPENING STATEMENT

The meeting of the Board of Education, City of Woodbury, was held on the above date. Mr. Gwalthney called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, and read the opening statements.

2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Public notice of this meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meeting’s Act has been given by the Board Secretary in the following manner:

Faxing notice to the Gloucester County Times and to the Courier Post, and filing written notice with the Clerk of the City of Woodbury on November 1, 2006.

3. ROLL CALL

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. Chiesa | Present | Mrs. Dennen | Present |
| Mr. Ferraino | Present | Mr. Goodrich | Present (entered 7:06pm) |
| Mr. Gwalthney | Present | Mr. Haase | Present |
| Ms. Hill | Present | Mr. Lonabaugh | Absent |
| Ms. Moore | Present | | |

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

5. MISSION STATEMENT

6. GUIDELINES FOR A PUBLIC HEARING - Mr. Gwalthney

- This is an opportunity for the Board of Education to gather information from the public. This is not a time for a debate with the public.
- Each speaker will have 5 minutes to speak. If they have a prepared statement, I will ask for a copy so that everything can be entered into the minutes. This way, all of us will have complete notes from which to refer, to confer and to infer.
- No speaker will be able to address the Board of Education again that night until all others have had a chance to speak. Thus, no “yielding of time” should be necessary.

7. PRESENTATION

Elementary Grade Reconfiguration – Mr. Jones

8. MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENT

MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENT:

Motion: Mr. Chiesa

Second: Mrs. Dennen

Voice Vote: Yes: 8

No: 0

1. Mike Ellis – 216 Holloyd Place, Woodbury – stated he has a 4th grade student that attends Evergreen Avenue School. Mr. Ellis stated that Walnut Street parents are very impassioned speaking on behalf of their schools. He referred to Mr. McIllvaine’s letter and stated that the closing of Walnut Street School would greatly impact Woodbury residence’s property values. Mr. Ellis referred to the previous closing of two (2) schools and the impact it had on those neighborhoods. He stated that small schools are better than large schools and the larger schools are looking to replicate the smaller schools. Mr. Ellis referred to the approval of the bond referendum and how the decision to keep Walnut open was made already. He stated that the District needs to give the citizens the opportunity to vote on this.
2. Justine Haddon Sexton – 78 Hess Avenue, Woodbury – stated she has grandchildren who live with her and that closing Walnut Street School would be a hardship on them. She stated that there is no parking available at Evergreen and no place to put a parking lot. Ms. Sexton questioned whether or not the District could buy the property next door. Ms. Sexton stated that the main issue is safety of the students in regards to crossing the streets. Ms. Sexton stated if the school closes she will sell her house.
3. Tom Gassner – 110 S. Davis Street, Woodbury – stated he has two (2) children at the High School and one child at the Junior High School. Mr. Gassner stated that his daughters have wonderful memories of reading to 1st and 2nd graders at Walnut. He stated that if all Kindergarten through 1st grade are moved to Evergreen and all 2nd – 5th grade are moved to West End there would be no interaction between them which would eliminate some of the bullying. He stated that if all grades were together the District would be able to streamline. Due to our small schools and the ability of email, it is easy to get everyone on the same page.
4. Karen Merriell – 306 King Street, Woodbury – stated she has two children at the Junior/Senior High School. She stated that the walking distance for one child she knows is 2.2 miles because that students lives at 143 Hessian Avenue. Ms. Merriell stated that this is mandatory bussing not courtesy bussing. Ms. Merriell stated that there are nine (9) sex offenders that live in Woodbury.
5. Mike French – 222 Burkholme Avenue, Woodbury – stated that the plan to close Walnut Street School should go out for public vote. Mr. French stated that the distance of walking is a safety concern and bussing reduces savings. He stated that there were discussions of the possibility of making Broad Street a one-way to reduce traffic. Mr. French stated that the HVAC money is already allocated and therefore it can be used in that manner.

6. Tracy Davis – 143 Hessian Avenue, Woodbury – stated that the referenced \$14.00 per month savings does not compare to the safety of her child. Ms. Davis stated that no child is worth \$14.00.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENT:

Motion: Mr. Chiesa
Voice Vote: Yes: 8

Second: Mrs. Dennen
No: 0

9. ADJOURNMENT TO END BOARD MEETING

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE BOARD MEETING:

Motion: Mr. Chiesa
Voice Vote: Yes: 8
Time: 7:51pm

Second: Mrs. Dennen
No: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Esther R. Pennell,
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary