

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to develop in all children the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values which will enable them to live a productive and self-fulfilling life and engage in responsible citizenship in a global society.

A G E N D A

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Patrick Johnston, Frederick Karrat, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa, Holly Robinson

IV. RECOGNITIONS

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Board welcomes Public Participation and asks that speakers please limit their comments to 3 minutes. Speakers may offer objective comments of school operations and programs that concern them. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Education personnel and students, or against any person connected with the Danbury Public School System.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

EXHIBIT

MOTION - that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 16-56 through 16-60, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

3/23/16 Sites & Facilities Committee Meeting.....	16-56(pg.4)
3/23/16 Board Meeting.....	16-57(pg.5)
3/28/16 Special Board Meeting (Exp).....	16-58(pg.10)
4/6/16 Superintendent Evaluation Committee Meeting.....	16-59(pg.11)

B. PERSONNEL REPORT..... 16-60(pg.12)

Accept Leave of Absence: Sherrie Blount, Sarah DosSantos, Michelle Tremonte
Accept Resignations: Brian Betesh (Coach Only), Jennifer Donovan,
Amanda Lollie, Jennifer Netter, Shirley Rodriguez,
Nicholas Tarsi

Accept Retirements: Catherine Baker, 16 years
Lisa Carriero, 29 years
Norma Fearn, 23 years
Ellen Shea, 17 years
Stan Watkins, 21 years

VII. EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE

Danbury High School

VIII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS: Sophia Pompilio, President BOG; Han Duong, Vice President;
Renee Cuningham, Treasurer; Caroline Messouri, Secretary

ACE: Stephanie Hottes

State BOE Student Representative: Alexandra Prendergast

IX. PRESENTATION

Anne Mead – Update on Programs/Activities at the Danbury Family Learning Center including Gifted & Talented Program

X. ACTION ITEMS

XI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Budget Update

B. Legislative Delegation Meeting, April 7th

C. Meeting with Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, March 31st

D. CT School Finance Project Update

E. Grant Update

F. High School Project

G. Administrative Study

XII. DISCUSSION

XIII. INFORMATION

A. Last day of school – June 9, 2016

B. Graduation Dates:

ACE - June 7th at 5:00 pm at WCSU

RPMS – June 8th at 12:30 pm at DHS Auditorium

WSMS – June 8th at 2:30 pm at DHS Auditorium

BMS – June 8th at 4:30 pm at DHS Auditorium

DHS – June 9th at 5:00 pm at DHS Stadium

Adult Education, June 14th at 7:00 pm at WCSU Performing Arts Center

XIV. BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

A. Memorial Day Parade, May 30th

B. June Meetings (change to June 1st and June 15th)

XV. BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and personnel matters.

XVII. PUBLIC SESSION

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETINGS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

April 9	Family University, 8:30 a.m. at RPMS
April 13	Sites & Facilities Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm
April 13	Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 pm
April 18-22	Spring Recess – Schools Closed
April 27	Superintendent Evaluation Committee, 6:00 pm
April 27	Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 pm
May 2	Citywide PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm
May 3	One hour early release for students – PD
May 11	Superintendent Evaluation Committee, 5:30 pm
May 11	Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 pm
May 13	Professional Development, Early Dismissal
May 17	One hour early release for students – PD
May 25	Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 pm
May 27	Professional Development – Schools Closed\
May 30	Memorial Day – Schools & Offices Closed

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SITES & FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 23, 2016**

Present: Kathy Molinaro, Chair; Patrick Johnston, Ralph Pietrafesa

Also Present: Gladys Cooper, Holly Robinson, Sal Pascarella, Joe Martino, Rich Jalbert

Mrs. Molinaro called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and introduced new board member in attendance to Rich Jalbert, Director of Sites & Facilities.

Update on facilities project (see attached). Discussion ensued. Signs donated by Vision Design for Ellsworth Avenue and South Street Schools. Dr. Pascarella will publically thank Vision Design. Every school now has security cameras.

High School Project: High School graduation costs are approximately \$80,000. Dr. Pascarella and Mr. Martino will be meeting with the City officials and WCSU officials to discuss. No ACE update at this time. Project budget was discussed. Bids are out.

Shelter Rock overcrowding: Modulars under discussion, 62% reimbursement from State. Mr. Martino cannot ask State for funding until City budget is passed.

Demographic Study: Dr. Pascarella advocated for a more comprehensive study. Received a proposal from Milone & MacBroom. It will include a more indepth study that will include housing foreclosures and sales, employment, building permits, etc.

Grant for Alliance Districts: Mr. Martino discussed grant expenditures.

Signage for transgender bathrooms for Danbury High and Middle Schools introduced.

Mr. Pietrafesa moved, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to adjourn the March 23, 2016 Sites & Facilities Committee Meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Kathleen Molinaro, Chair

Exhibit # 16-56

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Richard Jannelli, Patrick Johnston, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa, Holly Robinson

Absent: Frederick Karrat, Richard Hawley

Also Present: Sal Pascarella, William Glass, Joe Martino

RECOGNITIONS

- Jericho Partnership & South Street School
Carrie Amos and Heather Pellicone, Principal spoke on behalf of the new joint effort to support students of South Street School. They invited the Board to the ribbon cutting event for the new outdoor garden happening in the next few weeks. Ms. Pellicone will notify everyone of the date.
- 2016 DELTA Aspirants: John Webber, ACE; Jill Russell-Benner, BMS; Matt Calvanese, AIS - Dr. Glass spoke on behalf of the program, recognizing previous administrative leaders that have completed the program. Each of the aspirants briefly spoke, and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - D. Metrena moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 16-49 through 16-52, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

3/1/16 Community Relations Committee Meeting

3/9/16 Board of Education Meeting

B. PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence: Amy Kotach

Accept Resignations: Monette Hamilton, Tara Sally, Matthew Kimmel (Coach Only)

Accept Retirements: Kathy Sabbagh, 17 years, 6 months

Janet Smith, 33 years

New Hires: See Exhibit 16-51

C. DONATION

Accept \$13,007 donation from Praxair's Global Giving Program to the Danbury Family Learning Center to pay for the books for the REAL Program at Park Avenue and King Street Primary

Exhibit # 16-57

Chairperson Alberts publically thanked Kathy Sabbagh for her 17 years of service, and Janet Smith for her 33 years of service.

Motion carried at 7:33 pm

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE

Hayestown Avenue School – Meghan Smith spoke on behalf of the staff at Hayestown Avenue School. She informed the Board about the class size population, as well as recent activities including Read Across America, Start With Hello, Invention Convention, “Pi” eating contest, and fundraising efforts to enhance their Kindergarten playground.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS: Emily Barese - spoke on behalf of events happening at DHS, including the Save a Life presentation, mural painting to raise money for Ann’s Place, and graduation on June 9th.

State BOE Student Representative: Alexandra Prendergast- spoke on behalf on ongoing events at the State meetings. She is continuing her work on the ECS committee.

PRESENTATION - None

ACTION ITEMS

A. February 2016 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa, that the Board of Education accept the February 2016 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Motion carried at 7:42 pm

B. February 2016 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education accept the February 2016 Operating Results Analysis (Grant/Projects)

Motion carried at 7:43 pm

C. General Improvement Grant

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by K. Molinaro, that the Board of Education approve the filing of the general improvements grant application as presented by the Superintendent.

J. Martino referred the Board to the memo provided detailing what is being done.

Motion carried at 7:44 pm

D. Phase 3 of Additions & Alterations at Danbury High School

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by M. Ferguson that the Board of Education authorizes the Chairperson of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to approve the final plans, contract specifications, and cost estimate for Phase 3 of the Additions and Alterations with Safety Improvements at the Danbury High School Complex project, and sign the SCG-042 form and submit it to the State of Connecticut for approval. Phase 3 work includes: a cafeteria addition, new parking lot, new fire alarm throughout existing building, fire sprinklers in Buildings 'A', 'B', and 'E', new above ground oil tank, and installation of a fats, oils, and grease separator.

Motion carried at 7:45 pm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) at Middle Schools

This has been started at Westside, and it is now being introduced to Rogers Park and Broadview. It has already been successful at DHS.

R. Jannelli asked about the no cell phone policy that the Board implemented previously, and if this was a contradiction. Dr. Pascarella clarified that no cell phones was a regulation, not a policy, and stated that he would double check the regulations.

B. March 10th School Funding Meeting

J. Martino reported a summary of the meeting. Dr. Pascarella stated that more meetings with the lobbyists will continue for additional funding to Danbury's municipal budget.

C. Health Insurance Reserve Funds

J. Martino provided a summation of all the surpluses in the health insurance accounts, which is currently \$ 5.7 million, which has been through the audit process. In order to be considered fully funded the reserve needs to reach \$ 7.0 million.

R. Jannelli asked for clarification as to when this fund would be used. J. Martino explained that it is used in the event of high claim years. R. Jannelli asked if this fund could be used or borrowed against for other expenses. J. Martino explained this fund is only for health insurance reserve. He further explained the same type of reserve fund is in place for Workers Comp.

D. Graduation

Tentatively Friday June 9th, and Moving Up ceremonies for the 3 middle schools will be Wednesday June 8th. All events are being held at DHS.

DISCUSSION

A. Standard Based Report Cards

Stephanie Furman, Principal at Hayestown has been running point on this project. This evolved from conversation with teachers stating that the report card are not reflective of what they want to be sharing with parent's. The district has been working on this initiative and collecting information for several months. Hayestown and South Street School will be piloting a standards based report card next year. This is an important step in moving parents ahead. G. Cooper asked if the Board will be

able to review the prototype. Dr. Glass provided two handouts, and Dr. Pascarella stated there would be a future workshop.

INFORMATION

Family University - Saturday, April 9th at RPMS 8:30 am. Chairperson Alberts asked all Board members to attend.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Invention Convention – Chairperson Alberts recognized and thanked Dr. Harry Rosvally for his exceptional work once again with the Invention Convention. She reminded the Board that judges are need for tomorrow's event at 3:30.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Metrena reported that the annual DSABC breakfast is May 19th at the Amber Room.

Ms. Cooper stated that she is concerned that every Board meeting has public speakers in regard to the sibling issue. She asked if there will ever type of formal closure to this topic. Chairperson Alberts stated that there is no response protocol; however, the item can go back on the agenda for the Board. Dr. Pascarella stated the Board always has the right the reverse a decision. If that is the case, someone should contact the Chairperson to put it back on the agenda. This would need to be done by the end of the school year so that the parent handbook for next year can be edited appropriately. K. Molinaro stated that she believed that three Board members need to make the request to put it back on the agenda. The bylaw 4-2 was read by D. Metrena, and he stated that, it can be brought up tonight, agreed upon by 3 people, and then can be on the next agenda for discussion.

K. Molinaro provided a Sites & Facilities Committee update.

G. Cooper asked for clarification on the initiative at South Street School, and when it will be done. Dr. Pascarella clarified that it will be a breakfast event happening before the normal school day begins.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by H. Robinson, that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues.

Motion carried at 8:27 pm

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Richard Jannelli, Patrick Johnston, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa, Holly Robinson

Absent: Frederick Karrat, Richard Hawley

Also Present: Sal Pascarella, William Glass, Joe Martino

Ms. Alberts called the Executive Session to order at 8:31 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Mr. Martino.

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by P. Johnston, that the Board of Education return to Public Session.

Motion carried at 8:33 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of March 23, 2016. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Michael Ferguson, Secretary

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
63 Beaver Brook Road

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2016

The Chair of the Meeting, Richard Hawley, called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other board members attending were Patrick Johnston and David Metrena.

P. Johnston moved, seconded by D. Metrena, to convene in Executive Session to discuss a confidential student matter and invite others as appropriate. **The motion carried unanimously.**

PRESENT: Kelly Truchsess, Expulsion Officer; and Domitilia Pereira, Assistant Principal at Danbury High School; Board Member Holly Robinson and Paula Grayson, Coordinator of Pupil Services observed.

ALSO PRESENT: Student A, Student A's Parents

The Board of Education commenced Part 1 of the expulsion hearing. After all testimony was heard, invitees were excused and the Board of Education deliberated on the charges. Upon return of the invitees, P. Johnston moved, seconded by D. Metrena, that the Board enter into Public Session. **The motion carried unanimously.**

P. Johnston moved, seconded by D. Metrena, that the Danbury Board of Education finds that the student who is the subject of this hearing did on March 14, 2016, engage in conduct which is a violation of school policy, and/or dangerous to persons or property, and seriously disrupted the educational process, further, that such conduct is an expellable offense. **The motion carried unanimously.**

P. Johnston moved, seconded by D. Metrena, to return to executive session for Part 2 of the hearing and invite others as appropriate. **The motion carried unanimously.** The Board of Education commenced with Part 2 of the hearing and listened to testimony and reviewed evidence. After testimony, invitees were excused and the Board of Education deliberated on the penalty. Upon return of the invitees, P. Johnston moved, seconded by D. Metrena, to enter into Public Session. **The motion carried unanimously.**

P. Johnston moved, seconded by D. Metrena, that the Board of Education expel the student who is the subject of this hearing from Danbury High School for one calendar year and that an alternative educational placement and program be determined by the Administration of the Danbury Public School System. The expulsion may be modified to the end of the first semester, January 2017, providing there are no more suspendable/expellable behaviors. If the conditions are not met the full calendar year expulsion will be imposed.

During this period of expulsion, the student will not be allowed on any Danbury Public School property or attend events (such as: dances, graduation ceremonies, athletic competitions, etc.) except for the alternative educational opportunity.

P. Johnston moved, seconded by D. Metrena, to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Education, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Patrick Johnston, Secretary of the Meeting

Exhibit # 16-58

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 6, 2016**

Present: Gladys Cooper, Chair; Michael Ferguson, Richard Jannelli, Fred Karrat

Absent: Patrick Johnston

Also Present: Kathy Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa, Richard Hawley, Sal Pascarella

Ms. Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

MOTION: M. Ferguson moved, seconded by F. Karrat, to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Evaluation. The motion passed at 6:06 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chair explained the purpose of the Committee and turned the meeting over to Dr. Pascarella to share his educational goals with Committee. Committee members were allowed to ask clarifying questions of materials presented.

PUBLIC SESSION

R. Jannelli moved, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, to return to public session. The motion passed at 7:35 p.m.

Ms. Cooper asked for dates for the next meeting:
April 27th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. for approval of process
May 11th, 5:30 p.m. with full Board for final evaluation

R. Jannelli moved, seconded by M. Ferguson, to adjourn the April 6, 2016 Superintendent Evaluation Committee Meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Kathy Molinaro, Secretary

Exhibit # 16-59

DANBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Danbury, Connecticut
PERSONNEL
April 13, 2016

ACTION ITEMS:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Time in Danbury</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Sherrie Blount	Tutor GRP	2 years 3 months	4/1/16 - 4/30/16	Personal
Sarah Dos Santos	Kindergarten AIS	10 years 4 months	4/14/16 - 5/31/16	Child Rearing
Michelle Tremonte	Grade 3 KSP	14 years 7 months	5/2/16 - 6/30/16	Child Rearing

RESIGNATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Time in Danbury</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Brian Betesh	Freshman Boys' Soccer Coach – DHS (ONLY)	8 years 7 months	3/21/16	Personal
Jennifer D. Donovan	CRC Site Facilitator SHR	4 years 5 months	3/25/16	Personal
Amanda Lollie	Tutor Pembroke	2 months	4/15/16	Personal
Jennifer Netter	Tutor RPMS	1 year 2 months	3/11/16	Personal
Shirley Rodriguez	CRC Enrich. Assoc. South St.	1 year 2 months	4/5/16	Personal

Nicholas Tarsi	CRC Enrich Assoc. Morris St.	3 years 2 months	3/29/16	Personal
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RETIREMENTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Time in Danbury</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Catherine Baker	Media Specialist Ells	16 years	6/30/16	
Lisa Carriero	SPED DHS	29 years	8/1/16	
Norma Fearn	Grade 3 Park Ave.	23 years	6/30/16	
Ellen Shea	Grade 2 South St.	17 years	6/30/16	
Stan Watkins	Social Worker Crisis Intervention DHS	21 years	6/30/16	

