

# **DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

***WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012 - 7:00 PM***

**Administrative Center – 63 Beaver Brook Road**

Present: E. Alberts (7:09 p.m.), S. Chilian, G. Cooper, G. Falkenthal, A. Fluskey-Lattin, R. Hawley, R. Jannelli, K. Molinaro, S. Steichen, R. Taborsak, P. Tranzillo, Board Members; Drs. Glass and Pascarella and K. Thompson from Administration

Absent: Ed Arum

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Gladys Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Cooper asked K. Molinaro to do the roll call.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

Ed Robbs, Principal, Broadview Middle School

On January 16<sup>th</sup> at the State Capitol, Mr. Robbs will be honored by the CT Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission with its Humanitarian Award for his work with school children. Dr. Pascarella praised and recognized Mr. Robbs, and he was given a standing ovation. Mr. Robbs said that he is honored and accepts this award on behalf of all the educators and hundreds of volunteers that do things for kids in the Greater Danbury area and across this country. P. Tranzillo expressed her congratulations and S. Chilian expressed her appreciation to Mr. Robbs for all he does. Dr. Glass praised Mr. Robbs and said he is a consummate professional educator and the most kid-advocate based person he knows and reiterated S. Chilian's comments. Chairperson Cooper congratulated Mr. Robbs on behalf of the Danbury Board of Education and hopes he will be with us for a long time.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Bianca Perrone expressed her concern about space issues at Shelter Rock School where her son attends. She feels the lack of space is having a negative impact on her child. She has a concern about her upcoming three-year-old being educated at a different school and being separated from her sibling by having to attend a partner school.

Rick Barton has a kindergarten child at Shelter Rock School. He wants to bring to the Board's attention that there is a lot of confusion as to the role, the progress, and clarity relative to the 2020 Task Force. He is looking to the Board for clarity and progress with the Task Force and ultimately what the result is going to be. He would like to make sure that Shelter Rock, as well as the other schools, have some sort of vote or result to be addressed at the Referendum and praised his daughter's kindergarten teacher, Ms. Frechette, for doing an awesome job.

Matthew Berger has two sons who attend Ellsworth Avenue School. He is here to talk briefly about the state of diminished quality of enrichment programs for elementary students, specifically the Summit Program.

Melinda Scott would like to welcome the new Board members. She is an elementary school teacher at Stadley Rough School and wants to talk about the new Aesop system. She believes there are some glitches in the system as there have been days when some of the classes are not covered by substitutes, and she wants the Board to be aware of this.

Kathleen Johnson is a parent and teacher. She is concerned that kindergarten classes might be housed at a school other than a school within her district.. She is concerned that her child will have a long bus ride, and feels the kindergarteners should be able to be at their home school.

Thomas Saadi, represents the Fourth Ward on the City Council, along with Co-Council Pete Nero. He congratulates everyone on the Board. He would like to focus on two main issues; the first is the 2020 Task Force. The Mayor has appointed a Council Ad Hoc Leadership Committee to receive and review the recommendations from the 2020 Task Force, which they have not received. Also, there is a tight time line if there are any parts of the recommendations that are going to go forward for potential bond questions on the April ballot. Questions have to be certified, the Board of Education has to review them, and the Council Ad Hoc Committee has to review the recommendations. The Council as a whole has to review the recommendations. There are many steps in that process. People are looking for clarification on exactly where the report stands in that process, and when the Board and the Superintendent expect to receive that and be able to then communicate that to the Council. He is looking for a product to review and to be able to adjust or edit it as the Council, as a majority, may deem necessary before going to an April vote. The partnership program is temporary, as the Superintendent has stated, and we look towards this recommendation from the 2020 Task Force and what the Council and the Mayor may do as a long-term solution to address an increase in enrollment. In particular, if the numbers are correct, Shelter Rock School will see the largest increase. The short term solution is partnership busing, but that still has a difficult impact, as we have heard here tonight. The long-term solution is in some brick and mortar issues that need to be addressed. He said that there is a rumor going around that the school that has the largest projected increase is one that is not to potentially be expanded. The second issue he would like to address is the budget. He would like to underscore the reaching out between Council members and Board of Education members and keeping lines of communication open. Finally, he would like to ask that the Board and Superintendent continue to provide information to the public. Lack of communication can breed a lot of misunderstanding.

Barbara Cirella congratulates the new Board members. She has a second grader at Stadley Rough School and a seventh grader at Broadview. She would like the Board to think outside of the box in utilizing the resources that we have to find ways to cut inefficiencies.

Wendy Hess congratulates and welcomes the new Board. She is the founding member of The Gather Group, which is a group of concerned parents who are looking for better educational outcomes for high-achieving students. She feels there are programs for others but nothing or very little for high-achieving students. She would like equity for her children and others like them. She is asking the Board to increase the budget for the Summit Program, and she wants a dialogue to form between The Gather Group and the Board.

Nora Fuentes, parent of a fourth grade student at Shelter Rock School. She distributed a handout concerning the April deadline of the 2020 Task Force.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION** - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended:

MINUTES

Superintendent's Evaluation Committee, 11/22/11  
Sites & Facilities Committee, 11/22/11  
Board Meeting, 11/22/11  
Annual Board Meeting, 12/7/11  
Special Board Meeting (Exp.), 12/5/11  
Special Board Meeting (Exp.), 12/12/11  
Board Workshop Meeting, 1/4/12

PERSONNEL

Accept Leaves of Absence: Lisa Castiglia, Kelly Truchsess  
Accept Resignations: Laura Cormier, Aline Lima, Marin Marcus,  
Deborah Mitchell  
Accept Retirement: Paul DelGardo

**The motion carried unanimously at 7:40 p.m.**

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE

Cindy Mirochine, teacher at King Street Intermediate, and President of NEA, introduced herself to the new members of the Board and talked about what they do and wanted them to know that they will be invited into the classrooms for Read Across America in March.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS: None  
ACE: None

PRESENTATIONS

School Governance Councils, Judy Carson, State Department of Education

Dr. Pascarella spoke about the School Governance Councils and that the three schools, Danbury High School, Alternative Center for Excellence and Stadley Rough School have implemented their governance councils. He introduced Judy Carson, Patti Avallone, and Mike Wasta from the State. Ms. Carson distributed a handout, which can be found on their website, [www.sde.ct.gov/sde/SGC](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/SGC). She is speaking about roles and responsibilities of the SGC and she has asked Ms. Avallone to speak briefly about effective implementation of those roles and responsibilities. Ms. Avallone congratulates the new Board members, and she talked about ways to get started. S. Chilian asked if the committee will be doing a parallel process, sending out its own job descriptions, inviting in the candidates, interviewing them in a parallel process with the administration or are they going to jointly be looking for principals or administrators. J. Carson said the SGC does not take the place of the hiring committee, but they need to participate in the process. That is left fairly open. In some cases, a member of the SGC would also be a member of the committee that is recruiting and selecting the principal. Another instance is the SGC, after the committee had selected their finalists, met with each of the finalists and they made a recommendation that was then considered in the process. It does not remove the traditional committee responsibility that is conducting the recruiting and hiring process. A. Fluskey-Lattin

asked, with regard to the groups of parents, staff, students and community members, if the law provides any guidance as to how many members are in each of those groups and how those members are selected, and is it based on the number of students in the school. She asked if there is a process of how the teachers are picked. J. Carson said all of that is clearly defined. She said the membership of the Councils are seven parents elected (they must have a child in the school) and five teachers are elected by the other teachers, and then once those twelve people are seated, that group elects two community members to serve on the Council. The principal is a non-voting member of the Council. At the high school level, there are two students that are elected by other students, and they are also non-voting members. The size of the Council is uniform across all the schools regardless of the size of the school. S. Steichen thanks all of the SGC members who are here from Danbury High School. She said they are doing a tremendous job, and she encourages everyone here to go to their meetings to spread the word about their meetings and hard work. They have progressed and completed everything that you have talked about. She also encourages everyone on the Board to embrace them and encourage them and take their suggestions and have a collaborative relationship with them. R. Taborsak said he has one concern about the SGCs. He would like to know if there are any requirements that the composition of the SGC reflect the proportions of ethnicity within a school. P. Avallone said she is very passionate about this, but there is nothing in the law that speaks to that. R. Jannelli asked what is being done, from the legislative point of view, to correct the law the way it stands so that if the SGC was put in to serve a purpose, how do additional schools get on to also have that benefit. In addition, he asks what is being done for those schools that are on and should be off because they have achieved their goals. R. Jannelli agrees with R. Taborsak saying there should be something in the law that states that the governance council represents the demographics of that school. J. Carson cannot really respond to it because the law started in the legislature, and she does not know if there is a modification in the upcoming legislature. S. Steichen agrees with R. Jannelli, and states that as Board members they have taken an oath as volunteers to represent everyone, and the same goes without saying for the members on the SGC. They did not run to be on the Council to participate and devote all their time just to represent one segment of the population. K. Molinaro asks if the Council brings its concerns to the principal or to the Board of Education. P. Avallone responded by saying that the Council decides together what the concerns are. This is done in different ways. A Council should come to a consensus and choose two or three goals. Sometimes it is not within the power of the SGC to make certain changes. If it is a contractual or budgetary issue, the Council cannot change it. There will be times when the SGC will come to the Board with a suggestion or recommendation. K. Molinaro stated that their main goal should be as an advisory to the principal. P. Avallone agreed the Council serves as an advisory to the principal and the school.

Dr. Pascarella expressed his thanks for the State Department of Education for being here.

#### Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding (CCJEF), Sal Pascarella

Dr. Pascarella distributed a handout about a court case that has been going on for a number of years. Its mission is to reform Connecticut's school finance system to ensure equal educational opportunity and quality schooling for all children. He told the Board that Danbury's net current expenditures per pupil in 2010 were \$11,812, while CCJEF's estimate of the cost of adequacy per pupil that year was at a minimum of \$16,949. Based on those figures projected from a 2005 education adequacy cost study, Danbury students and their schools were under funded by \$5,138 per pupil for a total of \$52.7 million for the district. Dr. Pascarella said he will be meeting with legislators. He will take questions if anyone has any. S. Steichen asked if a letter could be put on our website that people could just copy and send it to their legislator. Dr. Pascarella said that can be done.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### Update on Rogers Park Middle School Environmental Issues

Dr. Pascarella speaks about Tools for Schools. Due to some illnesses contracted by some of the teachers in the building, an investigation of the building was performed, which Mr. Jalbert, our Director of Sites and Facilities, will explain. R. Jalbert said a TO13 test, which tests for carcinogens, in four different areas was performed. None of the areas detected any carcinogens. There was a follow-up meeting today with the teachers and he invited the CT State Department of Public Health. Two officials were there, and based on the information given to them with regard to the illnesses, and what they saw, there were no red flags as far as environmental issues that would contribute to the illnesses that were mentioned. R. Jalbert contacted CT OSHA for a free consultation. They will do a walkthrough of the building, and if there are any areas that we need to improve on, they will give us sufficient time to work the issues out. He also invited a member of the Public Works Department to join them, and that meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 13. A refresher session is being planned for the Tools for Schools committees probably in February. S. Chilian asked if they found zero or a percentage that is rated as low for a threat. R. Jalbert responded by saying zero. A. Fluskey-Lattin asked what the concerns were at RPMS. R. Jalbert said in the past ten years, they reported 32 teachers that had various forms of cancer. Fifteen out of the 32 of them were breast, brain, or prostate cancer. The benefit of having the State there today was they did, more or less, show that it is not very much out of line with the averages for Fairfield County. The Catch 22 of comparing apples to apples is that all the cancer studies are based on a personal residence, not on their occupation or workplace. Another fact that was brought to our attention is that breast cancer and prostate cancer are probably two of the most prominent cancers. A. Fluskey-Lattin asked if it is out of line with Danbury schools. Out of all the schools in Danbury, she would like to know if we are seeing the same types of numbers. R. Jalbert responded by saying that with the HIPAA restrictions, they do not have that information. Dr. Pascarella said we have a medical advisor, Dr. Fong, and he has been invited to the meetings. His interpretation of the findings is the same. R. Jalbert said a newspaper article reported that three carcinogens were found in the area of the sports fields that were constructed in 2008. In speaking to the State health officials, they said it is an asphalt byproduct which is fairly common to find in this area and there was nothing to worry about. S. Chilian asked of what was being tested, would this be the only cause for this these type of cancers or are there other types of poisons in the environment that could be tested that might, in fact, cause or exacerbate these cancers. R. Jalbert responded by saying that while not being in the medical profession,, he could not be able to list the causes, but we do have an asbestos management plan, and it would not be related to any of the cancers mentioned. Radon is tested every five years. The next test will be performed in 2012. A question was asked if mold would cause a problem with cancer. R. Jalbert responded by saying mold would not cause cancer. It would create health issues, and coinciding with this initiative, they have recently changed 40 cases of ceiling tiles. There have been roof leak issues at Rogers Park in the past. All ceiling tiles that showed evidence of water damage have been replaced to eliminate any chance of mold, and going forward, they are looking out for any new leaks that might occur. A. Fluskey-Lattin asked if the problem was fixed that caused the leaks. R. Jalbert said that the many of these tiles had not been replaced in 1 to 1-1/2 years so he is assuming that the leak is fixed because work orders have been completed for roof leaks. With an older roof, it is possible more leaks may be found that will need our attention. K. Molinaro thanked R. Jalbert for being so prompt in his action to respond to all of these problems and inviting OSHA to investigate.

### Update on 2020 Task Force

Dr. Pascarella recommended and the Mayor formed the 2020 Committee with a timeline to get a plan back to him by December, 2008. Since then there has been numerous reports, and in many of those reports, those have been enrollment projection reports from Peter Prowda, and another one was done about four weeks ago. Dr. Pascarella has met with the Mayor. The Mayor's intent is to do the following: A 2020 Committee

meeting has been set for Thursday, January 19, at 4:30 p.m. at Beaver Brook Administration. In the interim, there was a space utilization report done and someone was brought back for the past few months to redo it and do an affirmation of the numbers and the new usage of the buildings. Dr. Pascarella believes that to be finalized. We are now meeting with the principals on Tuesday, January 17, to update them. There is no intent of building any additions onto Shelter Rock or Morris Street School. Dr. Pascarella said that he does not have the right to do that. The Board has asked the Committee to look at our space. He feels our priorities are a new middle school and a new elementary school. Dr. Pascarella said that when they meet on January 19, a recommendation will be made by their specialist. His recommendation is not to put additions on to schools, but to seriously think about a good site for a middle school and a new elementary school. We do have Mill Ridge Intermediate, and we can turn that into a new elementary school. He talked about the fact that almost every city has full day kindergarten and Danbury does not. Dr. Glass said we have made multiple recommendations or suggestions to the Mayor and Antonio Iadarola, Director of Public Works. What is probably leaking out is that we have put out all possible scenarios that have been used throughout the country as a way of alleviating these kinds of space issues. A 176-page report was submitted to the Board last year listing all the options. As we have brought those forward to the Mayor, one option that has been used in some communities is to have an Early Childhood Center or Centers, where all your kindergarten students would attend. This would free up classroom space in every elementary school. It is not one that we are recommending, but he said it is an idea that was put out there. It is possible that this leaked out. Dr. Glass said the ideas have been put forward. He said the 2020 Task Force is not ours. Dr. Glass said a few of us are serving on it and our thoughts have been given to the City Administration, and the next step is for that Task Force to coalesce those ideas and put forth what they believe is the appropriate educationally responsible, fiscally responsible recommendation to the City Council to go forward to Referendum in April. R. Taborsak asked what the Board's role is with the 2020 Task Force Committee. Dr. Pascarella responded by saying that the report that was submitted was a request for space. We will ask for a middle school. Dr. Pascarella said what was not discussed is that we want modular additions. If the Committee comes back and makes a recommendation, then the Board of Education will look at those recommendations and make a decision to accept their recommendation or request a modification. R. Jannelli asks if the recommendation that may or may not come out of the meeting on January 19 will most likely be a bricks and mortar recommendation. Dr. Pascarella said the recommendation will be for additional space. The Mayor and others have been looking at different alternatives to building. There are buildings in the community they are looking at possibly utilizing. Dr. Pascarella said his best guesstimate is that they will probably recommend a middle school. When they do that, it will open up the elementary school at Mill Ridge Intermediate. It will then be up to the Board to decide what to put in that elementary school and how you want it to be organized. Dr. Pascarella said that Mill Ridge Intermediate was a Grade 3-5 building up until two years ago. Head Start is housed in this building and has about 200 students. The Grade 3 through 5 were moved out. The building is not available to us yet for the utilization of an entire school because Head Start, which is roughly about 12 to 14 classrooms, is using them. They are building a place downtown, and once that happens, they will move out and that building becomes available to us again. We have ten classrooms being used with our programs that we would have to move back into the regular schools. We would have to move them out and then that school of 28 classrooms becomes another elementary school. Dr. Pascarella said the big question is how are we going to use it, and that is a decision that is made by the Board of Education with community input. Dr. Pascarella said he is available at the end of the meeting for questions if anyone did not get a chance to ask.

### Strategic Planning

Dr. Pascarella said we have a five-year plan that has come to an end. He thinks it is important for the Board to consider strategic planning, and he is also a believer in not wasting time. He said when you look at the purpose of the lighthouse training; it does talk about some of this work. He would like to meld something

together in terms of developing a three to five –year plan for our vision and purpose here in Danbury schools. We need to have that discussion as to how you want to handle the training and the strategic planning.

### ConnCAN Education News Roundup

The Board was given a handout in their packet. Connecticut had a summit on education that Governor Malloy called and it got a lot of national attention. Dr. Pascarella said that it is not the same day in Connecticut. Things will change, in his opinion, for the better in Danbury. NCLB, which has been a constraint, but in some respects good because it exposed some problems, but it has been onerous on schools and teachers and testing. Connecticut has asked for a waiver. That waiver will not lessen some of the requirements, but what it will do, is allow us to look at growth over time and allow more flexibility, in terms of how teachers are teaching the curriculum. The reporting system will not be so regimented and not looking at grades episodically, but over time. The application has been submitted to Washington. Race to the Top has been an embarrassment for Connecticut. They have not been able to achieve it. Dr. Pascarella asked the Board to meet with legislators. There will be a legislative breakfast and we will talk about some of these changes. He encouraged everyone from the Board to attend. Senator McLaughlin has asked for a meeting with the administrators and Cabinet about some of the ideas. He encourages the Board to review the material he has given them to familiarize themselves with it. R. Jannelli asked if we are proceeding with the lighthouse training. Chairperson Cooper said that it was decided that we would do it, but we would wait until the elections were over and bring everyone on the Board together to set up a date and time. Dr. Pascarella said the lighthouse training is a yearlong training. The first scheduled meeting is on January 18, at either 5:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m., or 6:30 p.m. There is a survey involved and the Board has to complete the survey before next week. There is also a survey for teachers and administrators. Chairperson Cooper asked for a suggestion of time. A majority of the members cannot make it on January 18. A. Fluskey-Lattin brings up the point that the commitment was made by people sitting on the Board at that time, and many of those people are not presently serving. The two-hour meetings need to be held one Wednesday per month. February 1 was suggested at 6:30 p.m. There is a conflict with a budget workshop that evening E. Alberts asked for a consensus to be taken in favor of committing to the first Wednesday of the month for lighthouse training. A show of hands determined that a majority of Board members would be available for the meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., starting February 1. Chairperson Cooper suggested that if a Board member misses a session, perhaps it could be made up, and Dr. Pascarella suggested that the session be recorded. He will ask if it will be allowed. R. Hawley asked if we should invite SGCs to the lighthouse training sessions. Dr. Pascarella said it is Board training but it is open to the public. He suggested a notice go out to them so they are aware of the training sessions. R. Taborsak said this was made very clear that this is for the Board. Chairperson Cooper said they are welcome to attend and listen in on the discussion but will not participate in any discussion. Dr. Pascarella will make sure that the SGCs get word of the dates and times for the meetings.

### ACTION ITEMS

#### Policy 7-797, Bullying Behavior in the Schools

**MOTION:** K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education accept for second reading and adoption Policy 7-797, Bullying Behavior in the Schools.

S. Steichen asked if there is any form of communication between the giving administration and the inheriting administration of the bullying. K. Thompson said that is one of the things that has changed about the policy. It used to be that the law looked at conduct in the current school year, and now it looks at conduct over time.

She said there will be communication that will go on between one school to the next between administrators, and advised that she is trying to sort out and anticipate certain logistical items, such as how much information goes into Power School? Where do we keep the paperwork? How do we advise everyone about FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and what kinds of things can be discussed? The policy and the regulations that implement it talk about that continuum, and it is left to us as to how we are going to keep the records and communicate them. K. Thompson said it will be part of the inheriting principal to look back to see if there is a pattern of conduct with a student that is involved in a bullying incident. S. Steichen asks how we are insuring that the child that speaks up is not penalized for speaking up. K. Thompson said it is the duty of the administrator. This policy now creates a Safe School Climate Committee, and it designates a School Climate Officer, who will be the principal, and that person is really charged with conducting an investigation and shepherding through an appropriate responsive action for a child. It is not any different than it always has been. She continued by saying it rests with the administrator. But now there is also this School Climate Committee, which in addition to convening to talk about programming and climate, are also charged with looking at the number of instances in their building. R. Jannelli asked who would have access to the confidential information of the student. K. Thompson said she has been working with the IT Department and any documentation that is created will be used by the principal and will be cleansed when it goes to the Committee. When we put in the training, there will be a component of the training that again advises every one of the obligations of FERPA and maintaining confidentiality. More questions were asked of Ms. Thompson and a discussion ensued.

**The motion carried unanimously at 9:01 p.m.**

Education Connection/Access Program School Lunch Agreement

**MOTION:** K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Falkenthal that the Board of Education approve an agreement between the Danbury Public Schools and Education Connection for a food service agreement for the Access Program for the period January 3, 2012 through June 19, 2012. Furthermore, that the Board of Education designates the Superintendent of Schools as the authorized representative and signatory.

R. Taborsak asked if this is the same agreement that is carried on at all other schools. K. Molinaro said it is the exact same thing, and they go by same rules for free and reduced. P. Tranzillo asked what the difference is between the Child Nutrition Program and Healthy Initiative. K. Molinaro said that with Healthy Initiative, we are only to serve certain items. S. Steichen asked if this is a technicality or something we do every year. Ed Connection has done it every year, and J. Emmett confirmed this.

**The motion carried unanimously at 9:10 p.m.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

INFORMATION

Budget Plan Process and Timetable

Magnet School & STEM Application Process and Timetable

Joe Martino, Assistant to Director of Finance and Support Services

High School Course Weighting System



K. Thompson introduced Joe Martino and said how delighted it is to have him with us. He replaced Melanie Schroeder as Assistant to the Director of Finance and Support Services. It is an exempt position, and it was one that was filled at the Human Resource Department level. He started on January 3. Joe talked a little bit about his background. Joe wished the new Board members luck and looks forward to working with them. G. Falkenthal asked at what level does the Board get involved with hiring. K. Thompson replied by saying that when she came on board, there was a very rigorous discussion at the Board level about the policies for hiring and at what level the Board gets involved in hiring. There was a subcommittee formed that Mr. Fazio was involved with where we developed a very clear policy that talks about what levels of administrator that the Board gets involved in, and that is Cabinet level and Principal level. This is an Assistant to the Finance Director, so it is what we would consider a replacement of an existing position, and for that reason, those positions come through the Human Resource Department, at the discretion of the Superintendent Dr. Pascarella said that when it comes to the Director himself, it will go through him and the Board is involved at that level. S. Steichen asked if the Board has the authority to re-evaluate the position for budgetary purposes or for whatever reason put that position on hold. K. Thompson responded by saying that the Director of Finance and Support Services is a Cabinet level appointment, so the Superintendent makes a recommendation to the Board to fill that position. For clarity, Dr. Pascarella said that the Board can hire and fire a Superintendent. Anyone that he recruits and he hires can be done with the Board's authority, but the Board cannot hire anyone that does not go through the Superintendent's recommendation. When it comes to a Cabinet member or a Principal, the Board is involved in the screening process and a recommendation is made to you, and the Board has the authority to accept or deny that recommendation. Also, the Board can evaluate a position and recommend that it be eliminated. The Superintendent cannot do that. He can only make a recommendation to the Board and the Board then acts on it.

## **BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

### **PTO Liaisons**

Chairperson Cooper is passing around the PTO assignments. She said her goal is that the Board work together. If a member is assigned to a school, and they are not comfortable with that assignment or cannot make it, she suggests you call the next person so we can alternate and make sure that all the schools are represented. There are also committee assignments. She said the same for those assignments. She would like all to work together so all meetings are covered. Some committees might have three people on them and some might have five. She said if anyone wants to get off one committee and on to another, the Board is flexible with that decision. She feels everyone should be able to work on this Board and be able to work and learn the ropes of all the committees. Chairperson Cooper told the Board members if they have a question about their assignments to call her and it will be worked out. She thanked the members for filling out the forms for the committees. R. Jannelli asked all PTO assignments be filled. Presently, there are two schools with no names. R. Taborsak said he will switch from Stadley Rough to Hayestown. R. Hawley selected Danbury High School, but with two members already assigned there, he will move to Great Plain School. Chairperson Cooper as the members not to call the schools. Debbie Warner will send your name and information to the school and tell you when they meet. She asked Dr. Pascarella for new badges for the new members on the Board. Dr. Pascarella said that the new members should contact the Human Resource Department to have their photo taken, and it will be coordinated through that office. P. Tranzillo asks her name be crossed off of Park Avenue School and she will go to Pembroke School..

### **2012 Board Meeting Dates**

Committee Board By-Law 4-11

Chairperson Cooper said that information was put together and in the Board's packet.

Committee Guidelines & Responsibilities

Chairperson Cooper said that was discussed at the time of the workshop. She suggests that everyone read it and familiarize themselves with it.

Board Committee Assignments

R. Jannelli reports that there is a DSABC meeting tomorrow morning at BBAC at 8 a.m. Meetings all start at 8:00 a.m. and generally run until about 9:30 a.m.

**BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS**

S. Steichen thanked everyone on the existing Board for their patience.

E. Alberts congratulated Chairperson Cooper on a job well done.

Chairperson Cooper personally thanked each and every one of the members for being here tonight to continue to work together for the students of Danbury.

**ADJOURNMENT**

S. Chilian moved, seconded S. Steichen that the Board of Education adjourn its January 11, 2012 meeting, and the meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

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Richard Hawley, Secretary