

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2015 – 7:00 PM**  
**Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road**

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***MINUTES***

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:04 and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Jannelli, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

Absent: Richard Hawley

Also Present: Dr. Pascarella, Joseph Martino, and Kim Thompson

**RECOGNITIONS**

Shelter Rock School – ConnCAN’s Success Story School

E. Alberts welcomed Principal Julia Horne, parents and students. E. Alberts read the ConnCAN “Announcement of Shelter Rock School as one of 33 Success Story Schools in CT”. J. Horne, and the students and parents of Shelter Rock school, received a standing ovation from the Board of Education. E. Alberts stated the applause was not only for the school and the students, but for the parents also. Ms. Horne was invited to speak, and thanked the Board of Education for the recognition. She asked staff, students and parents to stand, and recognized the hard working and dedicated staff. Ms. Horne explained that Dr. Pascarella has asked her to participate in a meeting with other administrators to share strategies. Dr. Pascarella also asked Ms. Horne to share that 100% of parents have attended conferences for the last 20 years. Ms. Horne was presented with an honorary plaque, and thanked the Board of Education for the banner that was made and hanging in the Board Room. Chairperson Alberts thanked the staff, parents and students for attending.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION -** K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper seconded, that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 15-02 through 15-06, as recommended:

**A. MINUTES**

11/21/14 Legislative Meeting

11/25/14 Board Meeting  
12/2/14 Annual Meeting

**B. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Accept Leave of Absence: Casey Clarkson, Amy Cabral  
Accept Resignations: Valeria Fabel, Lori Hillman,  
Evan Jones, Eric Mogor,  
Amanda Pirri, Mary Clare Orloff,  
Gessika Al Hayek, Erika Behringer,  
Alice Dexter, Julie Jimenez,  
Susan Leroy, Michael Russotti, Mavina Lim

Accept Retirement: Ramon Almonte (7 years, 8 months)

New Hires November 21, 2014 through January 8, 2015:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>CERTIFIED Subject</b>
Sasha Santiago	DHS	Bilingual Guidance Counselor
Amy Sykes	BVMS	French
<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Non-Certified Subject</b>
Fatima Aviles	South St.	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Jessica Rosso	Morris	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Leah Lepere	Park Ave.	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Elizabeth Chiappetta	DECEC	SPED Tutor
Wendy Devine	KSP	SPED Tutor
Jerry Touch	BVMS	SPED Tutor
Sara Iorio	Park Ave.	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Tara Sally	South St.	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Tanisha Hutchins	GRP	SPED Tutor
Jennifer Smith	BVMS	SPED Tutor
Gessika Al Hayek	Hayestown	CRC Site Facilitator
Monette Hamilton	FRC - MRP/ DECEC	Youth Development Coord. & CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Megan McCauley	WSCU	Western Connection
Kariny Silva	Ells	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Jacquelyn Monteavaro	SHR	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Chantel Comerford	RPMS	CUSTODIAN
Rodney Amable	ACE	Literacy Interventionist
Jennifer Netter	RPMS	SPED Tutor
Samantha Carroll	Hayestown	SPED Tutor
Joanne Carcare	STR	P/T Para
Jessica Arconti	Hayestown	Literacy Interventionist
Timothy Nott	AIS	CRC Site Facilitator
Ann Salinger	Adult Ed	ESL Teacher
Lori Amann-Chetcuti	Adult Ed	ESL Teacher
Palma Healy		Spec. Designated Sub
Anastasia Damalas		SUB Teach

Mary Ellen Pacific	SUB Teach
John McNellis	SUB Teach
Lisa Corbelle	SUB Teach
Linda Siciliano	SUB Speech Lang. Pathologist
Elizabeth Lyons	SUB Teach
Kimberly Andrews	12 week L/T SUB Teach
Tinothy Nott	SUB Teach
Russell Moore	SUB Custodian
Natalie Huey	SUB Teach
Helayna Herschkorn	12 week L/T SUB Psychologist
Marta Forman	SUB Teach
Colleen Romano	12 week L/T SUB Teach
Ashley Grenier	8 week L/T SUB Teach
Morqtika Andrews	SUB ELP
Paul Degener	9 week L/T SUB Teach

**C. DONATION**

Accept donation of 25 tennis racquets to DHS Physical Education Department from Grassroots Tennis Program.

**Motion carried at 7:13 pm**

**EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - NONE**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES - NONE**

**PRESENTATION - NONE**

**ACTION ITEMS**

2015-2016 School Calendar

**MOTION:** K. Molinaro moved, seconded by M. Ferguson, that the Board of Education accept the 2015-2016 School Calendar

R. Jannelli asked for clarification regarding the early release days. S. Pascarella stated that more information was being collected and there would be more discussion in February or March. A. Fluskey-Lattin asked for clarification if the teacher evaluation days are contractual. K. Thompson stated she would research. A. Fluskey-Lattin also asked for consideration to be given to removing instructional time for the purpose of continuing the practice of PD for teacher evaluation. Discussion ensued. R. Pietrafesa asked for confirmation that there will be an additional vote once the early release days are confirmed. S. Pascarella confirmed.

**Motion carried at 7:34 pm**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### Budget Process/Timeline:

J. Martino stated projections for enrollment, staffing and insurance were being compiled and plan would be presented to Finance meeting on January 20, 2015 at 8 am, in preparation for full presentation to the Board on January 28, 2015. R. Jannelli asked J. Martino to present information in same manner as he has in the past. E. Alberts asked if City Council should attend on January 20. J. Martino stated they would be invited to full presentation on January 28. R. Jannelli disagreed and asked to invite City Council on January 20. J. Martino agreed but stated that the presentation on January 20 would only be a line item budget. Discussion ensued regarding 8:00 am start time, and R. Jannelli stated that they would consider other times for additional meetings.

### Enrollment Projections:

J. Martino stated district has received certified projections from Peter Prowda. Shows growth at secondary level, and particularly at DHS.

### Special Education Tuition:

D. Mailloux-Petersen is not present, but J. Martino stated that out of district tuition is rising. Private tuitions are significantly higher than the budget, primarily due to an increase in DCF interventions.

### Danbury Early College Opportunity (DECO):

S. Pascarella stated that Danbury is one of the districts that has committed to the program. Currently funding is being discussed in the legislature. S. Pascarella stated that an organizational meeting is needed, and that plans were to work with NVCC, who are enthusiastic about the partnership. Goal of the program is for students to graduate with a diploma and an Associates degree. DHS is hoping to enroll 100 students next year.

### Mayor's 2020 Task Force:

S. Pascarella stated that he and J. Martino have only had conversations about design, but no one has seen anything yet. Currently there are still conceptual questions. Process is that architects will present to the Mayor, then the Board of Education will set specifications. S. Pascarella stated that the intent is for a referendum in May 2015.

### SMARTGov Update:

K. Thomson stated that a committee has been convened to work with Bloom Shapiro consultants, and that she and J. Martino have been attending monthly meetings regarding creating "the city of the future". She states only a draft report has been produced, which includes discussion of sharing Finance and HR departments with the city. K. Thomson stated that there is still much work to be done.

## **DISCUSSION**

### Middle School Programming 2017:

S. Pascarella stated that discussions are being had surrounding how to infuse the Westside Exploration Program. Also looking at the literacy programs. These programs have been planned for in the upcoming budget. S. Pascarella stated W. Glass is overseeing the discussion; however he is absent from tonight's meeting. More specificity will be forthcoming.

Shepaug Regional Agriscience Program:

J. Martino stated that the program is shifting from Nonnewaug to Shepaug. He stated the schools are only 7 miles apart so there is minimal impact on transportation costs. S. Pascarella stated this was a good opportunity for Danbury kids, and he was hopeful this would be on agenda for next meeting for a vote. E. Alberts shared that she was surprised to learn that agriculture is the nations largest employer.

**INFORMATION**

SBAC schedule

Practice and testing schedules have been determined. Process has been led by Terence Cunningham and Jody Huzina. Finance has purchased equipment.

Academy of International Studies Elementary Lottery Information:

Lottery opened 1/1/15. Newtown enrollment is dropping as Newtown has asked for 7 less seats. The law permits parents to apply directly if a district does not participate; however, the parent must then provide transportation.

Westside Middle School Academy Lottery Information:

Lottery opens 1/21/15. Principal Frank LaBanca is talking to students and parents across the district.

Family Learning Center Programs:

See exhibits

Western CT State University Strategic Planning Conference:

Danbury participated in this

Interim Commissioner of Education:

Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell: New commissioner will be appointed in March.

Excise/Cadillac Tax:

K. Thompson explained that this is a result of the Affordable Care Act which sets a threshold on the value of a family plan. A tax of approximately 40% is then applied to the excess. This raises many questions on who is responsible to pay the tax. She states this does not impact us yet, but it is on the horizon, once a final determination is made. K. Thompson further states that this requires many reporting obligations. HR is currently working with Steve Rinaldi, insurance consultant, to ensure district is meeting required obligations.

**BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Board Committee Assignments:

Discussion ensued regarding assignments. It was determined that there is no minimum on number of members, but a maximum of 5. Finalized assignments will be forwarded and reviewed.

K. Thomson further stated that there are currently two Principal positions posted. Interview committees are being formed, and 2 Board of Education members are needed for interviews. Interview are traditionally Monday – Friday during business hours. R. Jannelli asked about the status of G. Boccacio at DHS. K. Thompson stated he is contracted thru 2015-2016, and that she and Dr. Pascarella are beginning pre-planning discussions.

PTO Board Liaisons:

Finalized assignments will be forwarded and reviewed.

**BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS**

E. Alberts spoke of Legislative Breakfast on Friday February 13 at 7:30 am in Newtown. She will be Attending with Dr. Sal and asked for other participants.

E. Alberts stated there was a very successful meeting held today at Park Ave. with Praxair in regard to a mentor program.

E. Alberts and R. Jannelli shared information about Stand Together Makes A Difference. The organization deals with issues of drug abuse and suicide. R. Jannelli stated these are issue that communities need to face together. Chairperson Alberts and R. Jannelli want to duplicate program they saw in Brookfield. Would like to invite Stand Together Makes A Difference to present at a future Board of Education meeting. They are looking for a representative from the Board of Education to be on the board of Stand Together Makes A Difference to reinforce the relationship, and have community buy in to the program. Chairperson Alberts and R. Jannelli have agreed to sit on their board temporarily. R. Pietrafesa stated that the City Wide PTO has also worked with this group in the past. Dr. Pascarella stated that he is also familiar with the group, and that they have presented in schools in the past. Dr. Pascarella raised the concern of ensuring that what this group reports is in alignment with other reporting requirements.

K. Molinaro provided summary of policy committee meeting. Sterling Miller chaired the meeting held today. Parent notification and permission slips were discussed. Those forms need to be revised and brought to policy committee meeting on January 28, 2015 before they can be presented to the Board of Education. K. Molinaro stated that the issue of electronic participation needs further discussion.

K. Molinaro stated concern about students traveling out of the country, specifically to France. Dr. Pascarella stated he needed to look into the trip more, and would bring back information to discuss at the next meeting.

E. Alberts stated that a Sites & Facilities meeting was needed, and asked J. Martino to set a date.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE**

**PUBLIC SESSION - NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT** – R. Pietrafesa moved, seconded by D. Metrena, that the Board of Education adjourn its January 14, 2015 meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

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Michael Ferguson, Secretary

(meeting was videotaped)