

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 22, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Broadview Middle School Auditorium, 72 Hospital Avenue

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo, Board Members; Dr. Sal Pascarella, J. Martino, Administration

Absent: Dr. William Glass, Atty. K. Thompson

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson E. Alberts called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Alberts asked K. Molinaro to do the roll call.

RECOGNITIONS

DECA Direct Magazine – Dan Maffucci, Nick Goetz, Nick Mortara

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A person approached the Board to comment on the calendar. She is against the early dismissal days for professional development because it is disruptive to parents' schedules. She is not in favor of the two different early dismissal times, one for a planned half days and the other for the weather/emergency early dismissal. She feels one is sufficient.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

A. MINUTES

Special Board Meeting (Exp), 1/7/14

Board Meeting, 1/8/14

B. PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Resignations: Philip Cioppa, Gretchen Guendelsberger,
Ann Lindenmeyer, Jennifer Selino,
Dan Donovan (DHS Head Football Coach Only)

Accept Retirement: Joan Nash (23 years, 6 months)

New Hires- January 2-16, 2014:

CERTIFIED

Name	Location	Subject
Lisa Morlock	MRP	LA Specialist
Bernadette Parisi	Pembroke	Grade 1
Frank LaBanca	MRP	Principal - Exploration Academies
Stephanie Spiridon	DHS	L/T SUB Bal. of YR. - Bus. ED

Name	Location	Non-Certified Subject
Cara Caputo	Hayestown	.6 Speech Language Path. - SUB
Brittney Rozum	Ellsworth	CRC Enrichment Associate
Laura Reel	WERACE	Asst Inst. Spec. Infant-Toddler
Magaly Macaluso	Osborne St.	Admin. Ass't./Bookkeeper
Shawn Sander	BBAC	IT Data Technician
Skylar Pertilla	Hayestown	CRC Enrichment Associate
Marjorie Acosta	South St.	CRC Enrichment Associate
TaNesha Barnes	BVMS	Literacy Interventionist
Tiana Cintron	Ellsworth	CRC Enrichment Associate
Eric Mogor	South St.	CRC Enrichment Associate
Sherrie Blount	DECEC	Tutor
Hannah Zoeller		SUB Teach
Emily Japs		SUB Teach
Nicole Chalk		SUB Teach
Julia Tracey	South St.	Literacy Cadre Sub
Amanda Moscarella Gomez		SUB Teach
Sandra Capriotti		SUB Teach
Jeffrey Zahara	Endeavor	L/T SUB

The motion carried unanimously at 7:18 p.m.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES - None

PRESENTATION – Will be rescheduled.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Redistricting Recommendations

MOTION: R. Taborsak moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education adopt Option 1 of the Redistricting Plan.

Clarifying questions were raised and a discussion ensued. K. Molinaro addressed one of the concerns about Option 1 and why Option 2 and 3 were created. She said the Board did hear concerns from other parents, and the Board wanted to be sure that it considered all the possibilities in order to make an informed decision. Chairperson Alberts said that Option 1 disrupted the least number of students and families. R. Taborsak thanked all the parents.

The motion carried unanimously at 7:23 p.m.

B. December 2013 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education accept the December 2013 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund).

J. Martino reports that during the month of December, 2013, the District expended \$8,770,301, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$42,926,999, which represents 36.29 % of the General Fund total budget.

R. Hawley thanked J. Martino for his efforts in providing the Board with all the necessary information.

The motion carried unanimously at 7:25 p.m.

C. December 2013 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION : K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education accept the December 2013 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

J. Martino reports that during the month of December, 2013, the District expended \$1,458,542, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$7,842,015, which represents 32.3% of the Grants budget.

The motion carried unanimously at 7:25 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Naugatuck Valley Community College Pilot Program/ETA Grant

Dr. Pascarella said this is an employment grant, and as part of the program last year, we did hire a grant writer to see if that person can help us sustain the programs that we have had in our operating budget. We have been looking at maintaining the comprehensiveness at the high school by looking at different clusters of academies. The Board will enter into a planning process with someone we have coming in, and we do need to look at the next phase of growth, which is the secondary school. We settled the middle schools. We made some modifications to the elementary schools. We still have a very large high school which is growing. The idea of creating academies is something that we have been building on. We have an existing academy there, although it is very small. It is with the allied arts. It is one of the career clusters that the State of Connecticut is promoting. What this will do for our students that are in the allied program, the nursing program, is allow the program to grow into an internship and they can take college level courses while they attend high school. The students would leave with credit and certification. If they choose to pursue their Associate's Degree, they may, or they may enter WCSU into one of the finest nursing programs around. This will start with our class of sixty that we have right now. The goal is to build to 220 students. When it gets to that number, one of the challenges we have is to look for space to accommodate these academies. The college president and the new provost are very interested in working with us and Waterbury. They are supporting the grant along with the hospital and some of the surrounding nursing homes. The grant is close to \$1,000,000. R. Jannelli asked about the \$270,000, which is our share of the cost. He asked if we reached out to some of the area corporations for their help. He asked if they provided rooms or seminars, would the cost of those services would be included as an in-kind service to be incorporated

into the total of the \$270,000? Dr. Pascarella confirmed. Dr. Pascarella said we currently have teachers' and administrators' salaries and transportation salaries included. We have also included rental of space in the grant. R. Jannelli asked Dr. Pascarella to give some thought as to what type of services would the hospital, Boehringer, or any other type of company that would fall into this category, be able to provide for our students. Dr. Pascarella said that currently the students go to the hospital, and we have a certified nurse, who happens to be a teacher as well, who does rounds with them. They spend time in the lab, in patient intake, and physical therapy. We would continue with those sites. The only difference in the sites, administratively, when they looked at their liabilities is they have limited it to where there needs to be one teacher for every ten students. That impacts us greatly in terms of the numbers. We have reached out to the pharmaceutical companies and the nursing homes to look for more sites that are not predicated on the one to ten ratio. The rationale is to put students in positions so they have a marketable skill. We have the STEM Academy which will grow out of it as well. We have Automotive that we are looking at. There are five career clusters that Naugatuck and WCSU will work with us on. This will take numbers out of DHS while we provide these academy certifications for our students.

Building Projects Update

J. Martino has been meeting with construction people. He said the current status on Mill Ridge is that the project is on time. The City and contractor are working closely together. We do not expect any delay on the opening. We are getting good feedback from them. The other three projects are moving along as well.

SMARTGOV Visit by Blum Shapiro

J. Martino said the City hired Blum Shapiro to oversee operations across the City and Board of Education. They came in and met with various people at the Cabinet level and Sites and Facilities. We are in the early stages. We hopefully will find out ways to work together and come together as a City. Dr. Pascarella said it will take about a few months. He said we are working with a group that is working with alliance schools who have a contract with the State, and for gratis, they will come in and look at our data processing needs.

Legislative Update and CCJEF Update

CCJEF is moving forward. Danbury should be realizing \$60 to \$70 million dollars per year, and we are in the \$22 million dollar range. Governor Malloy and Mayor Boughton were part of the original lawsuit that was brought to the State. The ECS that we talked about tonight was part of the equalization in terms of trying to equalize some of the needs that the City has. The lawsuit is still pursuing the Governor's office, and they have been trying to stall the hearing, but as per the ruling in your packet, it is actually going to happen in early September.

Food Allergy and Wellness Policies

Dr. Pascarella said that these are the food wars. We had this about six years ago. A lot of it was based on policy from the State in terms of our lunch program and healthy snacks. Nurses are having some challenges. They are concerned that students are being exposed to allergens that they should not be.

Parents are not going through the nurse when bringing in snacks for celebrations at school. We are looking at the food celebration part of it, and it will come to the Policy Committee for their input. Chairperson Alberts asked how the parents are circumventing the nurse. Dr. Pascarella said it is not intentional or malicious but out of kindness, but will have to be addressed.

DISCUSSION

2014-2015 Budget

J. Martino reported that the Finance Committee met prior to this meeting, and it reviewed the Superintendent's preliminary request for operating budget for 2014-2015. Our hope was to get the Committee information for the full Board, but we are a little behind because of the storm. The current proposed budget for 2014-2015 is \$122, 989,696 or an increase of 3.97%. Included in this increase is the opening of the Exploration Academy at Mill Ridge which impacts our budget by \$2.9 million dollars or 2.57%. The operating base budget is an increase of \$1.7 million dollars or 1.45%. We are also making accommodations for additional teachers at the elementary school level because of redistricting. We have programmed in six additional teachers at the elementary level for special areas, plus additional classroom teachers. We do think there is going to be some shifting of staff because of redistricting numbers. As well, we have also made provisions to increase supply accounts at the elementary level and the impacted schools. We are also looking at increased custodial coverage for Park Avenue, which has a 20,000 sq. ft. addition, including Shelter Rock and Stadley Rough with a part-time custodian. The Finance Committee will meet next week. R. Jannelli wants to clarify that the current incremental costs to open up the new Academy is specifically for one grade. J. Martino confirms that the opening of Mill Ridge will house the STEM Academy for Grades 6, 7, and 8 and the Global Studies Academy which will house sixth grade only. J. Martino said the health insurance increase for next year is .7% overall. R. Jannelli further clarified that in the near future the Academy would house approximately 300 students. There would be 600 students total with 300 from the STEM Academy and 300 from the Global Studies Academy. Approximate cost for opening up the additional Grade 7 and 8 for the Global Studies Academy would be another \$1.4 million dollars.

Calendar/Early Dismissal Update

Dr. Pascarella said that we will have a regional calendar next year. The State is pushing for regionalization. As the parent indicated before, he agrees that all half days should be eliminated. He speaks to the handout that was given to the Board. He would like the Board to consider eliminating half days by dismissing the students one hour twice per month. By giving the teachers that time, it will give them what they need to make a difference. He spoke about how the professional development days will be scheduled.

Annrose Fluskey-Lattin asked for clarification of the calendar. Dr. Pascarella said the parents would prefer to have a one-hour dismissal twice per month and eliminate half day dismissals. Dr. Pascarella will be meeting with the principals and the Superintendent's Advisory Group. M. Ferguson asked if the early release days (two hours per month), would be part of the regional calendar. Dr. Pascarella said the only district that currently does that is W. Hartford. He also asked what the cost would be for transportation. J. Martino said we are having the owners of the bus company come down to talk about it. The elimination of midday kindergarten runs will offset the costs for the additional transportation. R. Hawley asked with the recent teacher negotiations where we picked up some additional hours, he clarifies that that comes more into play with professional development and curriculum rather than instructional hours. Dr. Pascarella said that is purely after school, and the thinking is that to make it worthwhile time, they would attach some of their time to the one-hour dismissals so that we would have some contiguous time for the teacher to do the work. They would do grade level meetings, curriculum revisions, etc. R. Hawley asked if it would be more advantageous to keep it as is and eliminate the early release times. Dr. Pascarella said it is not

sufficient. Five years ago, we almost eliminated half days. We started putting them back in because of all the revisions and work that we are doing. Board members asked clarifying questions and a discussion ensued. Dr. Pascarella said that no matter what, the two professional days will be moved within the school year. When the State makes a recommendation to us about regionalizing the calendar, Dr. Pascarella will make the Board aware.

INFORMATION

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Board Committee/PTO Lists

Chairperson Alberts asked if the assignments are correct. P. Tranzillo said she is on Sites and Facilities chart but not on the Committees list. Her name will be added to the Committees list for Sites and Facilities. R. Pietrafesa said his name is on the Operations Committee, but he does not remember signing up for it. Since he is on three other committees, he would like to be taken off. She asked that members get in touch with PTOs and principals of the schools to introduce themselves. She asked that Board members stay in contact with their schools so we can celebrate what everyone is doing. Newsletter will be going out this week. E. Alberts said the website holds very useful information. She expressed her thanks to Dr. Pascarella and the team that is maintaining the website.

ADJOURNMENT

R. Taborsak moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education adjourn the January 22, 2014 Meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Richard Hawley, Secretary