

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Frederick Karrat, Ralph Pietrafesa

Also Present: Sal Pascarella, William Glass, Joe Martino, Kim Thompson

RECOGNITIONS - none

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Devang Patel spoke on behalf of The Hatter Foundation and their first charity fundraiser.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - D. Metrena moved, seconded by P. Johnston, that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 16-12 through 16-17, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

1/13/16 Sites & Facilities Committee Meeting
1/13/16 Finance Committee Meeting
1/13/16 Board Meeting
1/14/16 Special Board Meeting (Exp)
1/20/16 Special Board Meeting (Exp)

B. PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence: Brianne Cary, Kelly Truchsess, Heather Stoja
Accept Resignations: Lisa Armstrong, Heather Brosz,
Jasmine Jacobs, Richard Klemenz (Coach Only),
Deborah Mailloux-Petersen
Accept Retirements: Aline Dennison, French, DHS, 42 years, 6 months
Maryann Healey, Reading Specialist, South Street, 17 years
Maria Henriques, Custodian, BMS, 10 years, 2 months
Edward Robbs, Principal BMS, 18 years
New Hires: See Exhibit 16-17

Chairperson Alberts publically thanked Aline Dennison for her 42 years of service.

Motion carried at 7:09 pm

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE

Great Plain School teachers spoke to the Board on behalf of not increasing class size. Several teachers spoke to the point that every year the ELL enrollment increases, and it is becoming more and more challenging to teach an already rigorous curriculum. R. Hawley asked what the current average class size was, which the teachers responded 22-25. P. Johnston asked what the expectation of the future is. Dr. Pascarella said the current grade K -2 enrollment is approximately 900 per grade (was previously 700). R. Jannelli asked teachers how they communicate the challenges to parents. The teachers replied that sometime communication is difficult due to language barriers. Mr. Jannelli stated that this was also a conversation at the Finance Committee meeting, and that they were discussing ideas surrounding how to get more public information out in support for teachers. G. Cooper asked if the PTO sponsors conversations with parents in regard to the budget, and the teachers replied yes.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS: Sophia Pompilio, President BOG; Renee Cuningham, Treasurer: Presented information regarding events and activities at DHS. R. Jannelli commented in support of the Movement to Music event, and encourages everyone to attend and that it was an evening worth seeing.

ACE: Stephanie Hottes: Presented information regarding events and activities at ACE, including new enrollment of 11 new students, and implementation of a new after school program in cooperation with Abbott Tech's culinary and nursing training programs.

State BOE Student Representative: Alexandra Prendergast: Presented information regarding the State of CT student committees. Three committees have been formed to focus on 1) health & wellness, 2) grade reform and graduation requirements, and 3) equity.

PRESENTATION

2016-2017 Budget

J, Martino presented the proposed 2016-2017 budget. Mr. Martino reminded the Board that the budget is due to the Mayor on February 15th, and that it would be an action item at the next Board of Education meeting on February 12th.

R. Hawley stated that the Finance Committee will be making a recommendation to the Board later in the meeting, and that he would like to thank Mr. Martino and his team for their hard work in preparing the budget and presentation.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Danbury High School Roof Replacement

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 the Danbury High School Roof Replacement - Phase 1 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.

K. Molinaro asked if this would impact graduation. Dr. Pascarella replied that this year no, but yes in the next two years.

Motion carried at 7:59 pm

B. December 2015 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education accept the December 2015 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

R. Hawley asked for clarification if current budget is sustainable through the end of the year. J. Martino replied yes, although they are watching the long term sub line, which is high. R. Jannelli asked what was contributing to this higher expenditure. K. Thompson replied that there were more employees out on maternity leaves, surgery leaves, and long term illnesses. Mr. Jannelli also asked if the sub system (AESOP) was working well. Ms. Thompson stated it helped immensely, and that the district was considering extending it's use to include the attendance and applicant processes that the software offers. R. Hawley asked if there was any benefit to considering retirement packages to employees affected by long term absences, and Ms. Thompson stated that may be a conversation to consider for a smaller forum.

Motion carried at 8:03 pm

C. December 2015 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by H. Robinson that the Board of Education accept the December 2015 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

Motion carried at 8:04 pm

D. General Improvement Grant

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

Motion carried at 8:08 pm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Magnet School Funding: possible cuts; more information due from state February 3rd
- B. ROTC Program: DHS lost one of their ROTC officers in August and position has not yet been filled. The second officer is now resigning this year. Finding two replacements have been problematic, partially due to low enrollment in the program. There is a deadline of April 7th to find an instructor, or the program may have to be eliminated. R. Hawley asked about

consolidating the program with another district, and if DPS has been in contact with the local recruiting office. Ms. Thompson stated she has been in constant communication with the recruiting office, and has exhausted all options to find qualified applicants.

- C. Central Registration: K. Thompson communicated that the central registration process system was finalized. The task force has worked for 5 months, and took the work of the ESL center and expanded it for general registration for all students new to DPS. Ms. Thompson recognized Gina Jasmine for her hard work in implementing this initiative. The center would be opening at Osborne St. next week. Brochures, lawn signs and marketing materials were out across the City.
- D. TEVAL: Dr. Pascarella stated that the new ESSA includes standards on student assessment and teacher evaluation. The new regulations allow more autonomy at the state level to make decisions. The TEVAL committee is meeting on February 4th to begin discussions on how to make this more of a professional dialogue across the district.

DISCUSSION - none

INFORMATION

AIS Sibling Preference Approved Motion from the September 9, 2015 BOE Meeting: Dr. Pascarella clarified that the new sibling policy is not effective in two years, but next year.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - none

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

P. Johnston reported the science fair at WSMS was excellent and very well done; he also received a letter from Morris Street School reminding the Board that Read Across America day is March 2nd and schools are looking for readers from 8:30 – 11:00 am, and 12:15 – 2:00 pm.

H. Robinson reported that last week the Family Learning Center celebrated its 5th anniversary. She commented on the impressive growth of the program, and recognized Anne Mead for her dedication and hard work.

G. Cooper reported that she attended the King Street 4th grade concert which was a wonderful performance, and the students seemed to really enjoy. Dr. Pascarella reminded the Board that this was the school that was integrated with Mill Ridge Intermediate a few years ago, and that it was great to see how the schools became one. G. Cooper also thanked the DPS band for their performance on Martin Luther King Day, which was an annual church event. G. Cooper also asked that the minutes from the Sites and Facilities meeting on 1/13/16 (exhibit 16-12) be amended to include her attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded H. Robinson, that the Board of Education adjourn its January 27, 2016 meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Michael Ferguson, Secretary