

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2015
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:01 and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson,
Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro,
Robert Taborsak,

Absent: Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Ralph Pietrafesa, Phyllis Tranzillo

Also present: Dr. Sal Pascarella, Joseph Martino, Ann Adrianni

RECOGNITIONS

Richard Hawley recognized the hard work of the Public Works department to get schools open following the blizzard.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Nancy Troll, Co President of City Wide PTO, was joined by a representative of NEA-Danbury, and they extended their appreciation to the many members of the Danbury Public Schools community who contributed to the success of the “Meet the Candidates” event of October 2014. In particular, they thanked the following for their support:

Board of Education Chair, Eileen Alberts; Member of the Danbury Board of Education; Dr. Sal Pascarella; Sterling Miller and the students of the DHS student video team; Brian Turner, Diane Arifian, and the students of the DHS Culinary program; Anne Mead, Administrator of Early Childhood Education and the Extended Learning Program; Mr. Ed Robbs, Principal Broadview Middle School; the custodial staff of Broadview Middle School; Danbury teachers and NEA-Danbury; Danbury parents and member of the City Wide PTO; the staff of the Connecticut Education Association.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS: None

ACE: Eavyn Fernandez

Students at the Alternative Center for Excellence participated in their annual Breakfast with Santa event on December 20th. Students conducted community service in assisting customers with serving breakfast, taking pictures with Santa and decorating the school for the event. They were pleased to announce the fundraiser helped to raise approximately \$ 700 for the student activity account. Students were pleased to have a guest presenter on December 19th. Ms. Terry Small came to ACE to talk

about after school activities in the areas of vocal, dance and drama. Ms. Small has much experience in these areas, and is willing to come in after schools to offer these opportunities to students at ACE for no cost. Students at ACE will be participating in the annual STARS event again this spring. This is where students from alternative schools around Connecticut meet to showcase talents, and present to others on a variety of topics. Students enrolled in the Senior Seminar class will be completing their application this Wednesday to NVCC. NVCC will also host an on site acceptance day scheduled for early February.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 15-19 through 15-21, as recommended:

G. Cooper requested correction a be made to item 15-19, as her name was not included in the list of those present. She requested correction be made and a new copy presented at the next meeting.

A. MINUTES

1/14/15 Policy Committee Meeting
1/14/15 Board Meeting

B. PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Resignations: Valeria Fable Linda Harris
Adrienne Magliaro Alexandra Pacheco
Amanda Sheldon

New Hires 1/9/15 – 1/22/15:

		CERTIFIED
Name	Location	Subject
Alexandra Pacheco	Ells & RPMS	.4 Ells - Added .6 RPMS

		Non-Certified
Name	Location	Subject
Shannon Henggler	STR	CRC Site Facilitator
Jessica Jimenez	Park Ave	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Scott Conetta	KSI	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
James Garron, Jr.	KSI & KSP	Custodian

Mary Coroneos		SUB Teacher
Robert Karrat		SUB Teacher
Lynda Zamolsky		SUB Teacher
Daniel Savo		SUB Teacher
Constance Russell		SUB Teacher

Motion carried at 7:07 pm

PRESENTATION – Budget presentation, joined by Warren Levy, John Priola , Andrew Wetmore of City Council

J. Martino thanked City Council for attending presentation of 2015-2016 fiscal budget. Mr. Martino reviewed the Danbury Public Schools mission statement, district goals, and coherence plan, and discussed the common alignment of those goals. He then discussed the budget development process, considerations, and key elements.

J. Martino reviewed the enrollment study that was recently completed. He discussed the trend line of Danbury in comparison to the state growth. Current enrollment is 10, 924 students; projected enrollment for 2020 is 11,150. Growth is at high school. Currently there are 2,983 students at DHS. Projection for 2020 is 3,457, which does not include enrollment of approximately 100 students at ACE. Growth at high school level is alarming. Mr. Martino presented data regarding the current landscape of the Danbury student population. He presented a comparison of current to 2010 data. In 2010 the ELL population was 18.5%, and currently is 22%. The Special Education population was 10.9% and currently is 12.2%. Current enrollment is approximately 185 students. Mr. Martino further explained that the cost per pupil for Special Education can be up to 2-3 times the net per pupil expenditure of a regular education student, which could be \$ 20,000 - \$ 30,000 per Special Education student. This is a significant increase. In addition, the current percentage of students that receive free and reduced lunch is 55% in comparison to 43% in 2010. Additionally, due to growth, square footage has increased approximately 75,000 square feet. However, due to cost containment measures, we have not seen a large increase in energy use.

Mr. Martino then reviewed the Alliance/ECS funding originally in the 2012-2013 year. He reviewed the breakdown of funding and expenditures for years 1, 2, and 3. Next years grant draft is due to the state April 15th.

Mr. Martino proceeded to review the budget classifications, and concluded with the total budget request.

Eileen Alberts thanked Mr. Martino and asked for questions.

R. Jannelli asked if the West Side library was fully functional, and J. Martino replied that it was, and that additions have been made to all school library lines.

A. Wetmore asked for clarification on the roles of an Early College Director, and asked if salary of \$ 65,000 could be a full time position. Dr. Pascarella explained the program, and further explained the Director position it was a part time as it would be a 40% release person. Mr. Wetmore asked for clarification of the role of an instructional coach. Dr. Pascarella explained that the district was building off the model currently at West Side, which is centered around project based learning and exploration activities. Coaches are people working in each of the clusters in the middle schools to allow for all students to work through the exploration model through the regular curriculum. Mr. Wetmore also asked for clarification of increased costs in diesel fuel, and asked if it was due to an increase in number of busses. Mr. Martino explained requirement of contractual budgeting for gallons of fuel.

W. Levy asked for clarification on the increase in utility costs, and asked if the buildings with solar panels have yielded any savings. Mr. Martino explained that the utility line was flat in the budget, and the increase in the 600 accounts are related to custodial supplies. Mr. Martino further stated that utility demand charges are significant, and they are not projected forward yet. Mr. Martino will get some trend information on school utility use over to the City Council. Mr. Levy also asked how the meetings with Bloom Shapiro were coming along. Mr. Martino stated there were no new additional developments to date, and conversations were ongoing.

E. Alberts asked for clarification on the budgeted salary line. Mr. Martino stated that the typical salary increase trend is approximately 2.4 million. Mr. Martino explained that some re-districting projections presented some challenges. This line also includes offset for prior budgeted salaries at step 1 that came in higher, an additional teacher at West Side, as well as elementary ESL and Special Education teachers. This line includes some components of balancing the health insurance account and West Side account. Salary line looks a little higher, but health insurance line is lower.

R. Jannelli asked for clarification regarding the 300 line Special Education. Mr. Martino explained that when students come from other district with an active IEP that requires a 1:1 aide, we are required by law to provide a 1:1 aide to that student for one year until a new PPT is in place. That aide is full time and also comes with a benefit package. This has had a significant impact, and has been an ongoing challenge. Mr. Martino further explained that outplacements present the same challenges. Dr. Pascarella stated that our rates of identification are within the normal range, and we have been able to keep most of our own students in Danbury. This allows Danbury to provide more services on site. However, it takes time to put this process in place for incoming students. One of the challenges is that the mobility rate is unanticipated, and we don't know who is going to move in. Further discussion and explanation continued.

R. Jannelli asked for clarification that the budget does not include the Alliance grant funds. Mr. Martino confirmed that it does not, and that the draft is due to the state in April. R. Jannelli asked for clarification on the longevity of the grant. Dr. Pascarella provided further clarification of what is happening at the state level.

E. Alberts asked for clarification of the components of SIOP. Dr. Pascarella explained the highest population growing is the ELL students. SIOP provides focused services to these students who are integrated into the main stream programs in our schools. Teachers need to differentiate learning and the SIOP training allows coaches to work with teachers in order to achieve this goal to work with our changing population. Dr. Pascarella stated that research shows this is the most effective way to work with these ELL students.

Mr. Martino reminded the Board of the budget process. He stated that the next meeting agenda will include adoption of the budget, and the budget is due to the mayor February 16th. E. Alberts stated that any further questions need to be given to Mr. Martino prior to the next meeting on February 11th. The finance committee will present the budget as an action item at the next meeting.

Chairperson Alberts thank City Council member for attending, and thanked Joe Martino and Ann Adriana for the budget presentation.

ACTION ITEMS

A. December 2014 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Hawley, that the Board of Education accept the December 2014 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund) in accordance with

Mr. Martino briefly reminded the Board that the tuition lines are an ongoing area of concern, which he is monitoring closely. Of particular concern is Special Education and Transportation.

Motion carried at 7:51 pm

B. December 2014 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION : K. Molinaro moved, seconded by D. Metrena, that the Board of Education accept the December 2014 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

Mr. Martino stated that all grants were good. K. Molinaro asked if there were new grants. Mr. Martino stated there was one new technology grant due February 13th. Dr. Pascarella stated that the district is also working on some local grants with some area businesses, as well as to continue with Nellie Mae.

Motion carried at 7:55 pm

C. Shepaug Regional Agriscience Program

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, that the Board of Education approve the agreement with the Shepaug Agriscience STEM Academy beginning in the fall of 2018

R. Taborsak stated it was nice to see this opportunity for students. Dr. Pascarella commented that the district is meeting with the Superintendent of the vocational schools, and is looking at potential additional opportunities to create for similar programs with other schools.

Motion carried at 7:59 pm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DHS - NEASC Pre-Self Study Report – update provided

CAUS Meeting with Governor, January 30, 2015 – meeting was postponed to March. Hoping new Commissioner will be in placed. Discussion of Alliance grant is on the agenda.

Danbury Early College Opportunity (DECO) Update - Governor Visit, March 16, 2015

Reform Bilingual Education Programs to Improve Outcomes – task force being developed, and Dr. Pascarella and Mr. Augusto Gomes will be participating.

Update on AIS & WMSA Applications - WCAIS lottery is closed; West Side lottery is still open and had 1100 applicants by 2nd day. Dr. Pascarella reminded the Board that the core curriculum is the same is all middle schools, but it is important to implement the exploration components that are at West Side to the other schools as well. Dr. Frank LaBanca, Principal at West Side, is working on incorporating Broadview and Rogers Park students into West Side activities.

Update on Student Trips Out of Country – all approved trips are in place to happen, and the list was reviewed. The trip to Paris has been cancelled due to lack of student interest.

Technology – Dr. Pascarella asked Joe Martino to tell the board about the recent technology purchase. Mr. Martino stated that due to the Smarter Balanced testing, 19 chrome books carts have been purchased. This will be an excellent long term resource for elementary schools.

DISCUSSION - None

INFORMATION - None

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Reminder to attend February 13th breakfast meeting in Newtown. We need to show a united force to legislatures.

Reminder of policy meeting prior to next Board meeting.

February is National Parent Leadership month. There is a proclamation that Chairperson Alberts has been asked to sign. It is recognizing parents for working with their children. She will forward the information to everyone via email tonight, and asks everyone to review so that she can sign on behalf of Danbury.

E. Alberts thanked Board members for stepping up to the plate and joining committees. Asked if there were any chair reports. R. Jannelli stated the need date for a Community Relations meeting date to be set, and that the Finance committee met last week.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Committee Reports

Operations, Sites & Facilities;
City Building

Community Relations

Finance

Policy

Superintendent Evaluation

District Committees

City-Wide PTO

DSABC

Education Connection

Magnet School Trustees

Oral Health Initiative

School Based Health

Chair:

Molinaro

Jannelli

Hawley, Jannelli

Molinaro

Cooper

Members:

Pietrafesa

Ferguson

Jannelli

Metrena, Taborsak

Tranzillo

Tranzillo

Members:

Jannelli, Pietrafesa, Taborsak, Tranzillo

Cooper, Metrena, Molinaro, Tranzillo

Cooper, Metrena, Molinaro

Ferguson, Fluskey-Lattin, Hawley, Pietrafesa

Ferguson, Fluskey-Lattin, Jannelli, Taborsak

TDEC/Teacher Eval.

Taborsak, Tranzillo

Other Committees

Negotiations – Administrators

Metrena, Tranzillo

Negotiations - Non Teaching

Pietrafesa, Taborsak, Tranzillo

Negotiations – Teachers

Tranzillo

EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

PUBLIC SESSION - NONE

ADJOURNMENT - M. Ferguson moved, seconded by K. Molinaro, that the Board of Education adjourn its January 29, 2015 meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Michael Ferguson, Secretary

(meeting was videotaped)