

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 10, 2012 – 7:00 pm
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Kathleen Molinaro, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo and Dr. Pascarella, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Martino from Administration

Absent: S. Chilian, R. Jannelli and Dr. Glass from Administration

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Gladys Cooper, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Cooper asked Kathleen Molinaro to do the Roll Call.

RECOGNITION – None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION – K. Molinaro moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended, Exhibits 12-153 through 12-157:

MINTUES

Board Meeting	9/24/12
Board Workshop Meeting	10/3/12

PEROSNNEL

Accept Leave of Absence: Adriane Ballaudo

Accept Resignations:	Sherrie Blount	Corinne Hagerman	Jeffrey Smith
	Shantay Primus (CRC Only)		Emily Sikarda
	Mary Beth Grandmaison (Immanuel Lutheran Only)		

NEW HIRES

	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CERTIFIED - SUBJECT</u>
Given, Lynne	MREC	Nurse
John, Jana	DHS	English
Pastore, Laurie	Park Avenue	SPED Teach
Sullivan, Valery	Morris & AIS	Speech Lang, Pathologist
Watson, David	Science	BVMS

	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NON-CERTIFIED - SUBJECT</u>
Amann, Chetcuti	DHS	Literacy Interventionist
Chance, Danielle	RPMS	SPED Tutor
Davis, Amy	South Street	Literacy Interventionist
Doyle, Lenore	KSI	Tech PARA
Forbes, Sophia	GRP	TEMP Reading PARA
Holmes, Kevin	DHS	SPED Tutor
Johnson, Dionne	GRP	TEMP Reading PARA
Kuti, Kingham	BVMS	SPED Tutor
Martinez, Diego	DHS	SPED Tutor
Roberson, Betty	South Street	Literacy Interventionist
Trindade, Erica	RPMS	Bilingual PARA
Zuncan, Shellie	DHS	SPED Tutor
Cooney, Caitlin		Sub Teacher
Cuminsky, Arleen		CRC ELP Assoc.
Maher, Taylor		WIA Intern
Martins, Mery		SUB Para – Head Start
Rodriguez, Jacqueline		CRD ELP Assoc.
Trofa, Jacqueline		CRC ELP Assoc.

DONATIONS

Accept \$27,001 donation from the Hatter’s Athletics Booster Club earmarked for use (equipment, uniforms, and designated needs) by the following freshmen sports: Boys/Girls Soccer, Field Hockey, Girls Volleyball, Boys/Girls Basketball, Softball, and Lacrosse.

Accept \$500 donation to the Alternative Center for Excellence from Lorena King

Motion carried at 7:08 pm.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Danbury High School: Shiny Patel

She told the Board that the students at DHS are focusing on Spirit Week which will be Monday through Friday and Home Coming which is next week. On one of those days the students will be wearing purple to show that they stand against drugs and alcohol use and will have pledges in the cafeteria for students to sign and those pledges will be displayed on a wall. The Home Coming Dance will be next Saturday in the cafeteria. I came up with the ticket design.

Alternative Center for Excellence: Vanessa Grant

She told the Board Joanne Tolles, the English teacher at ACE, earned a grant for CT Writing Project from Fairfield University. This is a literacy enhancement grant for using 21st Century

skills and common core rubrics through all the disciplines at ACE. Whale watching trip leaves next Tuesday. The student will be accompanied by our Science and World History Teacher.

PRESENTATION

College Fair, October 15th, Valerie DeRubertis

Ms. DeRubertis handed out information sheets on the College Fair which will be held on Monday, October 15th at the Danbury Fair Mall. Danbury has sponsored the College Fair each year and it is one of the largest and best attended Fairs in New England, which is approved by the New England Association for College Admission Counseling. Each year it raises scholarship money for DHS students, last year we raised \$6,000. There is no cost to the school system for the Fair. The College Fair offers an opportunity for students to have face-to-face contact with representatives who may be reviewing the student's application. Students may also find new schools of interest. Parents also benefit by having the time to speak with schools regarding admission, campus safety, financial aid, scholarships, etc. Danbury Public School is recognized for holding such a prestigious Fair and is fully supported by Administration.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE

Spoke about the new teacher orientation. She also stated that teacher evaluation is up in the air and that they have a meeting in two weeks with CEA.

ACTION ITEMS – None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mill Ridge School Readiness Accreditation

Dr. Pascarella said that NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) have very vigorous standards. We are proud that Mill Ridge School Readiness have met these standards and have an accreditation for their program. This is a five year term of NAEYC Accreditation beginning on August 8, 2012 and it valid until December 1, 2017.

October 1st Enrollment

Dr. Pascarella said this October 1st is the official enrollment report. He then asked Joe Martino to sum up the report. Mr. Martino said we are up 93 students from last year. We had to add a new first grade teacher at Ellsworth. We have 24 students in our first grade classes. The Magnet School has 42 students and now filled to capacity of Danbury and out of town students. There is a difference of 55 in the elementary schools, but we are still looking at growth at Rogers Park.

Ms. Steichen asked if Rogers Park went up because of the STEM Program. Dr. Pascarella said yes and Broadview went down. Mr. Martino said we had to add an additional bus. Ms. Fluskey-Lattin asked about Rogers Park's 1,188 vs. Broadview's 1,084. Did those numbers fill the schools to capacity? Dr. Pascarella said we have been full for a number of years. The larger

classrooms were cut in half to make more classrooms. We used to have approximately 900 at each of the middle schools. Mr. Hawley asked about the report that shows the number students in each class. Ms. Cooper asked Mr. Martino if he would e-mail that report to all Board members. Mr. Martino said he would ask Dr. Glass' office to send it out. Dr. Pascarella said his only concern at the moment is South Street School.

School Expansion Presentation, October 17th, 7:00 pm – Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

Dr. Pascarella said there will be a school Expansion Presentation at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church on Clapboard Ridge Road, October 17th at 7:00 PM. I have been invited and I also think the Mayor will be there. This presentation, Project 2020 School Expansion, is a community meeting being sponsored by City-Wide PTO and Danbury Children First. Major expansion plans and the upcoming referendum will be discussed. There will be a question and answer session.

Realtor Breakfast at DHS, October 25th

Dr. Pascarella said the students at Danbury High School have taken on this project. They organized it and produced a lot of the literature. They are also working on a video. Please see if you can attend. Mr. Falkenthal said the kids are working very hard on this program. We got our first response today and mailed out invitations. We are collecting questions for the student panel to answer. The breakfast starts at 8:45-9:15 am; questions will be from 10:00-11:00 am; a tour of Danbury High School will be at 11:00 am.

Superintendent's Revised 2012-2013 Goals and Objectives

Dr. Pascarella said that he distributed his goals at the last meeting and there have been some changes to the draft. We will be talking about these goals and objectives for 2012-2013 at the Board Retreat on Saturday, October 13th.

Ms. Steichen said she feels the goals should be multi-cultural. We need to be able to understand the goals and objectives. I have written some suggestions which I can pass out to the Board with simple explanations on how you can get to that. Ms. Cooper asked that she please leave them on the table and Ms. Steichen said she wanted them included in the minutes.

DISCUSSION – None

INFORMATION

Revision to High School Regulations

Ms. Steichen said she has some questions about the regulations. Dr. Pascarella said this is on the agenda for information purposes as regulations are not approved by the Board. The regulations are how administration carries out the policy and these particular regulations came about because of changing to the new system of accountability. The goals that you set up are the goals that these regulations go with. Ms. Cooper stated that maybe we need a workshop to discuss this.

Ms. Steichen said if there are regulations and changes it is affecting our children and how they relate with other schools in our area. She said she has put together some questions and asked to distribute them to the Board. Ms. Cooper asked that she leave them on the table. Ms. Steichen stated that not all teachers are doing the same; one class may be helping students with essays for college and another will not be doing that. Dr. Pascarella said the BEST practice is what we follow. Maybe you should make an appointment with Gary Boccaccio and he can go through it with you. He also stated we have a Policy Committee you can talk to about it. Ms. Cooper said the best bet is to meet with the Policy Committee. She then asked Mr. Taborsak, Chairperson of the Policy Committee, to make a date for the Committee to meet

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Board Retreat, October 13, 2012, 8:00-12:00 at BBAC

Ms. Cooper said she wants to remind the Board that the Retreat will be this coming Saturday. If you haven't sent in your goals for this meeting, please see if you can get them to Debbie Warner before Saturday.

Board Self-Evaluation

Ms. Cooper said in your package is the Board self-evaluation form which we should do one a year. We will need the form completed and then come up with a date to sit down as a Board and discuss it. I would like to meet before Thanksgiving for this self-evaluation. It is always done in Executive Session. At the next meeting everyone can look at their calendars and we will be able to come up with a date.

Information

Ms. Cooper said she attended the City-wide PTO and they talked about the School Expansion. Dr. Pascarella was there and he was very clear on how to disseminate that information. They have to be careful on how they do this regarding the referendum. They are having a meeting on October 17th and I have the flyer that they made up. Ms. Fluskey-Lattin asked is there a rule or a law about this. Dr. Pascarella said the Board cannot sponsor it, but they could answer questions. Ms. Tranzillo said she had questions about the rules and inquired about it and was sent the information, but she could not find it for tonight's meeting. She said she is very concerned and the election is weeks away and not everyone know about the referendum. Ms. Cooper said there are four separate questions on the referendum, so you have to read them carefully.

BOARD REPORT, COMMUNICATION AND COMMENTS

Operations/Policy Committee *R. Taborsak, Chair*

Mr. Taborsak said the Committee may be able to come up with a date to get together.

Ms. Cooper told the Board they would be taking a 5 minute recess

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by P. Tranzillo that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a legal strategy regarding pending claims and Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Danbury Schools Administrators Association (DSAA) with possible action in Public Session.

Motion carried at 7:50 pm.

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Kathleen Molinaro, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo and Dr. Pascarella, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Martino from Administration

Absent: S. Chilian, R. Jannelli and Dr. Glass from Administration

Ms. Cooper called the Executive Session to order at 8:00 pm and turned the meeting over to Ms. Thompson.

The Board discussed legal strategy regarding pending claims and Collective Bargaining Agreement with DSAA.

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, that the Board of Education return to Public Session for the purpose of voting on ratification on the Collective Bargaining Agreement with DSAA.

In favor: E. Alberts G. Cooper A. Fluskey-Lattin
R. Hawley K. Molinaro S. Steichen
R. Taborsak P. Tranzillo

Opposed: G. Falkenthal

Motion carried at 8:17 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Falkenthal that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of October 210, 2012 and the meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Richard Hawley, Secretary

(Meeting was video recorded)