

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2012
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

DRAFT --- MISSION STATEMENT (revised 10/13/12)

Our mission is to develop in all children the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values which will enable them to live a productive and self-fulfilling life and engage in responsible citizenship in a global society.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 P.M.

MOTION: S. Steichen moved, seconded by G. Falkenthal that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing confidential personnel matters.

In attendance: Eileen Alberts, Shirley Chilian, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Kathleen Molinaro, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo, Drs. Glass and Pascarella and Ms. Thompson from Administration

Ms. Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and then turned the meeting over to Ms. Thompson.

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: S. Steichen moved, seconded by S. Chilian that the Board of Education convene in Public Session.

Motion carried at 7:40 pm

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Gladys Cooper, called the meeting to order at 7:41 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Cooper asked Kathleen Molinaro to do the Roll Call.

ROLL CALL

In attendance: Eileen Alberts, Shirley Chilian, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Kathleen Molinaro, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

Also in Attendance: Superintendent Dr. Pascarella, Dr. Glass, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Martino from Administration

Ms. Cooper apologized for the meeting to start so late, and then asked the DECA students to give their presentation on the Breakfast that will be held tomorrow. Due to the time, Ms. Cooper moved the DECA presentation to the beginning of the Agenda.

PRESENTATION - DHS- DECA Students – Presentation for Realtor Meeting October 25th

Maddy Huber thanked the Board for giving DECA their time to present their project. She then introduced her classmates who are all seniors and who have been working on this project: Jacob Shuster, Jessica Cundari, Samantha Steichen and Nicole Reiss. She told the Board that positive changes have been made regarding our open door course enrollment, AP classes and CAPT scores.

Jacob told the Board that they have invited local brokers and realtors to DHS for an informational breakfast which will be held tomorrow morning and they will answer questions that the public and realtors may have.

Nicole said they are providing tools for the realtors to take back to their offices to help their clients experience the Danbury schools. We have distributed to you a media kit for your information. Think of this kit as a snapshot of Danbury Public Schools. From interviews with realtors and parents we found they were interested in our Mission Statement, our goals and school environment.

Samantha said the media kit is composed of 4 major sections. We felt the curriculum plays a prominent role in why parents should choose Danbury Public Schools. We will give the realtors the exit requirements (which consist of the skills and knowledge students must develop) for each school, whether it be elementary, middle or high school. The second section consists of extracurricular activities and school sponsored clubs. Our third tab to help the client identify specific resources i.e. social workers and other pupil services. The last tab “contact” us is a list of school contacts. We want to encourage parents to come and visit our various schools and talk to the students and teachers.

Jessica explained the left hand side of the media kit. We have included three pamphlets focusing on the elementary schools, middle schools and the high school. We also included statistical information about the honor courses and advanced placement enrollment as well as a list of colleges and universities that DHS alumni are attending. In a world where technology is key, we felt we had to develop a video production showcasing the best of DHS. We wanted the video to be timeless and chose to interview students, rather than faculty. Thank you for letting us present this to you. We are excited about tomorrow’s presentation. This video will be on the Danbury website.

Jacob encouraged everyone on the Board to come tomorrow. Ms. Calafiore said they spent a lot of time putting this together and it was all their own ideas. If you have questions please let them know. They made a lot of phone calls and spoke to a lot of realtors. They expect 20-30 realtors and some who cannot attend will be getting a kit sent to them.

The Board applauded. Ms Cooper said thank you on behalf of the Board and I also thank Mr. Falkenthal and Mr. Jannelli for their support. The students did a fabulous presentation and we thank them for all their hard work and effort to get the word out to the public on Danbury Public Schools.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Danbury High School: Nick DiNardo, DHS representative, told the Board that DHS had Spirit Week last week and also Home Coming last Saturday – it was a huge success with over 400 in attendance. They will be hosting a Veteran’s Project on November 8th and will have a school-wide assembly. We

adopted a platoon and are putting together 150 care packages. We will be having a speaker, Milton Creagh, who will be talking about teenagers taking responsibility for their own actions. The day after that we will be doing our pledge against drugs and alcohol.

RECOGNITIONS - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

MINUTES

Special Board Meeting (Exp)	10/4/12
Special Board Meeting (Exp)	10/4/12
Board Meeting	10/10/12
Board Retreat	10/13/12

PERSONNEL

Accept Leave of Absence: Kathryn Rose Orié

Accept Resignations: Denise Brough (Coach position only)
Chananporn Liontonia
Scarlet Rodriguez

Accept Retirements: Nancy DeMunnik - 26 years of service
Joyce Schwetz - 24 years, 11 months of service

New Hires:

		CERTIFIED
Name	Location	Subject
Amaral, Elizabeth	DHS	SLOP Coach
Brogis, Joanne	WERACE	Interim Dir. Adult Ed
Carla Huck	DHS	SLOP Coach
		Non-Certified
Name	Location	Subject
Ariniello, Matthew	DHS	Tutor
Bello, Patricia	RPMS	Literacy Interventionist
Casey, Kathleen	Morris	Literacy Interventionist
DiMauro, Kristen	SHR	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Donofrio, Allison	BVMS	Tutor
Fairchild, Robert E	Morris St.	Literacy Interventionist
Guardado, Hans	Pembroke	Tutor
Guzman, Denisse	Morris	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Italiano, Kathryn	BVMS	Literacy Interventionist
Jacobs, Stacy	BVMS	Literacy Interventionist
Morgan, Jacqueline	DHS	Tutor
Moy, Tiffany	South St.	CRC Enrich. Assoc.

Newman, Rebecca	Morris	Literacy Interventionist
Osdranus, Evdukia	BVMS	Tutor
Pachniuk, Matthew	DHS	Literacy Interventionist
Russotti, Michael	South St.	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Wahlbrink, Caryn	South St.	Literacy Interventionist
Young, Ellen	Morris	Literacy Interventionist
Aaron, Lesley		SUB Para, Tutor
Beeman, Gina		SUB Head Start
Burgess, William		SUB Teach
Cefaloni, Jennifer		SUB Para, Tutor
Cordeiro, Alaina		SUB Teach
Felix, Carmen		SUB Para, Tutor
Grant, Mark		SUB Teach
Herrera, Olga		SUB Teach
Howard, Jason		SUB Teach
Maldonado, Norma		SUB School Readiness
McGee, Loraine		SUB Teach
Mello, Erin		SUB Teach
Mitchell, Caitlin		L/T SUB Teach
Morin, Marissa		SUB Teach
O'Rourke, Dana		SUB Sec'y, Para, Tutor, Teach
Pena, Edwin		SUB Teach
Salcedo, Heidi		ESL Translator/Interpreter
Scott, Melissa		SUB Teach
Snyder, Kurt		SUB Teach
Stubbs, Timothy		SUB Teach
Telesco, Melissa		SUB Teach
Thayer, Eileen		SUB Para, Tutor
Zamolsky, Lynda		SUB Teach

DONATIONS

Accept \$7,500 donation from Sodexo

GRANTS

Governor Dannel Malloy announced 14 grant applications throughout the State, totaling more than \$2.5 million, have been approved as part of the U.S. Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center Initiative, which supports programs that help children in high-need schools succeed academically by increasing access to extended learning programs. **Park Avenue School awarded \$153,674**

Motion carried at 8:10 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

ACTION ITEMS

September 2012 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education accept the September 2012 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

The \$1.7 was approved and we have a good chunk of money moving and out of the general fund. The alliance funding will be in the general budget it will be a line.

Mr. Hawley asked about some figure on the statement – Mr. Martino responded that the \$25 million are untouched funds. As we get further on I will make some hard budget projections.

During the month of September 2012, the District expended \$3,231,577; expenditure represents 14% of the General Fund total budget.

Motion carried at 8:13 pm.

September 2012 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education accept the September 2012 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

Motion carried at 8:15 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

2020 Expansion Presentation 10/17/12

Dr. Pascarella stated that 75-100 people attended the Expansion Presentation. We talked about the next steps in planning. Ms. Cooper thanked administration and said the presentation was wonderful. The parents learned something about it and it was a very interesting, positive meeting. We will continue to give out information to our parents. It was a great opportunity to get the information to the public.

CAUS Meeting with Commissioner 10/26/12

The Commissioner has been invited to the CAUS meeting on Friday. We will be discussing the sustainability on the \$1.7 million. We are also looking to plan for some visits, which are being called “Schools in Review”. CAUS has been focusing on teacher evaluation. They have moved up the submission date to February, originally it was March. The Superintendent said he will keep the Board up to date on the discussions.

Alliance Grant Update

On Monday, the Commissioner phoned and said we were awarded the \$1.7 on the plan that we committed to. There was an article in the newspaper summarizing the award. The Superintendent said many people worked hard on getting the grant, Dr. Glass, teachers and other staff. The district must show specific progress annually to have the grants renewed for up to five years. If we don’t spend it, we can keep it and put it somewhere else. Dr. Pascarella said he was told that one strong aspect of the City’s plan was how it demonstrated that the additional money would combine with the district’s Nellie Mae grant and City funds to fulfill the plan’s objectives over time.

Future facility development opportunities

The Superintendent told the Board that we have had a number of people look at our facilities. There is a group that wants to work through our Athletic Director, Chip Salvestrini. They are interested in including another field and the Facilities Committee will be looking into this. The Mayor said he

would like to have a Field House. The group, if they use our gyms, they would be happy to donate to our schools. Mr. Martino said the fees for our gyms are in line with other schools.

Principal at Danbury High School

Dr. Pascarella announced that Gary Bocaccio will stay at Danbury High School for another two years. This has been in the works for a few months. Gary has a real passion for that school and he accepted another two years as the Principal.

DISCUSSION

Draft of Board of Education Goals, Beliefs, Superintendent Goals

Ms. Cooper said we had a discussion of the Board's goals and the Superintendent's goals at the Retreat on October 13th. The Retreat was from 8:00-Noon and we had a good discussion with the facilitator. The Superintendent said there are basically four goals: Growth in Achievement for all students and college and career readiness; Parent and Community Engagement; Fiscal Responsibility and Planning for Growth and Professionalism and Accountability. These are the same goals and going forward next year the alignment of my goals will be with the administration program. We may have different categories. Dr. Pascarella explained each of the goals in detail. He spoke about the aspects of the TDEC District Enhancement Plan and conditional funding of the Alliance District Plan. He then told the Board that effective parent school partnerships are important to meet the needs of children. He said he plans to seek additional opportunities for funding of programs through grants and district/business partnerships. To ensure that all the professional staff is fully aware and engaged in the mission of meeting the needs of students and the Danbury community, he plans to expand opportunities for all professionals to be involved in the school improvement process. He concluded by stating "these are my plans – at every Cabinet meeting we go over these plans and when we meet with the principals we go over them as well to see how we are doing". There were a few questions from the Board that Dr. Pascarella responded to. A discussion ensued about text books vs. computer on line text books.

INFORMATION

Interim Adult Education Director

The Superintendent said the Adult Education program has changed. All Directors now have to be certified and be supervised by someone with a 92 certificate therefore we may have to change that whole position. Ms. Chilian asked if they would be part of the bargaining unit. Dr. Pascarella said yes and Kim Thompson said that NEA Danbury is already working on that.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Cooper said that we need to choose a date for a Board Self-evaluation Meeting. She stated that October 30, November 1, 5, 7, 12, 14, 21, 22, 23, 28 are not available; we need to come up with a date between those dates. The facilitator stressed that it is important to do this since some members did not attend the Retreat. I don't want to set a date that someone already has plans for, but I have to let the facilitator know. She stated that the meeting will be about 2 hours. After some discussion, and polling the Board, the meeting date will be on Monday, November 19th at 5:30 pm.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Committee Reports

CHAIR

MEMBERS

Operations/Policy

B. Taborsak

R. Hawley, S. Steichen, E. Alberts,
K.Molinaro

Mr. Taborsak said he had a policy meeting and all members were there and DHS administration. We reviewed the regulations at DHS and actually added to what was there. Everyone took part and I came out with a much better understanding; the Superintendent said he would inquire about a few things and get back to us. We covered a lot which I had been taking for granted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION - S. Steichen moved, second by P. Tranzillo that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigations and negotiations updates.

Motion carried at 9:05 pm.

In attendance: Eileen Alberts, Shirley Chilian, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Kathleen Molinaro, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo, Drs. Glass and Pascarella and Mr. Martino and Ms. Thompson from Administration

Ms. Cooper turned the meeting over to Ms. Thompson to discuss on-going negotiations and pending litigations.

ADJOURNMENT

S. Steichen moved seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education adjourn its October 24, 2012 meeting and the meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm.

Richard Hawley, Secretary