

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2011- 7:00 PM
Administrative Center – 63 Beaver Brook Road

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Irving Fox, Richard Jannelli, Kathleen Molinaro, Susan Leroy, David Metrena, Robert Taborsak, Drs. Glass and Pascarella, Mr. Longo, Ms. Thompson and J. Emmett from Administration.

Absent: Rachael Austin-James and Michael Fazio

CALL TO ORDER

The chairperson, Irving Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

MINUTES

Special Board Meeting (Exp)	10/11/11
Sites & Facilities Committee Meeting	10/12/11
Board Meeting	10/12/11
Special Board Meeting (Exp)	10/13/11

PERSONNEL

Leaves of Absence: Julie Jimenez

Resignations:	Elio Longo	Kristin Nauheimer
	Mary Alice Anderson	Jeena Pereira

DONATION

Accept \$10,000 anonymous donation to Mill Ridge Primary School

GRANTS

Union Savings Bank Foundation awarded a grant of \$7,500 to Danbury Family Literacy Center.

Mr. Taborsak thanked the Union Savings Bank for their donation. Mr. Fox thanked the anonymous donor and said this is not the first time we have had an anonymous donor to Mill Ridge Primary School. The Board is very appreciative of community donations.

The motion passed at 7:06 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE – Mr. Sam Buck, Vice President of NEA said they have encouraged our teachers to attend the meetings to meet the candidates. Some of the elementary schools, that same night of the meeting, are having parents’ night. He extended his thanks to Elio Longo saying he enjoyed working with him and wanted to wish him luck in Norwalk.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Matt Hanrahan, President of DECA – told the Board that they are having an anti-bullying campaign at Danbury High School to release awareness across the company. He stated that he always felt safe in his school, but we were told by administration that they are being called all the time that bullying is taking place. We want DHS students to feel safe. We wrote a speech that contained a number of statistics and facts. All the students got the information that we wanted to get out there. The Board of Governors set up a board with all the statistics. Danbury High School students are wearing purple ribbons to promote anti-bullying. The girls are wearing them on their purses and the boys are tying them to their backpacks. This senior class effort is being handed over to DECA.

Nick DiNardo, Secretary of DECA – told the Board we chose anti-bullying for our project. Purple ribbons have been distributed to students. We had seminars and advisory meetings; we have not touched any other schools except DHS. Bullying has gone from kindergarten through college. The 8th graders pledged that they would be kind to each other. There is a bulletin board stating “unity month” and displaying all the statistics; over 35% of DHS students admitted that they have been bullying.

AshleyWinch, DHS Representative - said we are having a busy month. Aside from anti-bullying, we are creating a veterans memorial. Each advisory was given a soldier to create a wreath for. Aside from anti- bullying we are creating a veterans’ memorial. We are having a school wide assembly to present those wreaths and then put them on display. We will have present current veterans and also World War II veterans to come in to talk. Once our ceremony is over, the wreaths will be at City Hall on display.

Vanessa Grant - ACE Representative - told the Board that ACE Language Arts teacher, Nancy Berman is doing a workshop class and working jointly on a project with Dr. Darla Shaws at Western Connecticut State University. They are working together to develop a lesson that will be shared with the 4th grade classes at Ellsworth Avenue Elementary School. The lesson is titled, “We all have pilgrims in our family”. The end product will be in the form of a story book. One quarter of our students took the PSAT test at the beginning of the month. We are appreciative of the opportunity to have the chance to take this test. We had a very successful Yankee candle fundraiser for our Language Arts and outdoor program. We sold \$2,600 worth of candles, which means ACE has earned \$1,000 to use towards our programs.

Mr. Fox thanked the students for what they do. It is good to see that you are at the leading edge and trying to do something about bullying. Mr. Jannelli congratulated them on their work and mentioned that to reach out more it might be a good idea to discuss it with the media and interview with them to get the message out to the parents, which would be another way to broaden your net and pass the message on. The representative said Eileen FitzGerald did write an article a week ago.

Ms. Cooper said that George Coleman was the guest speaker at the NAACP Freedom Dinner and Vanessa introduced him to the audience. She did a beautiful job and I commend her.

PRESENTATION – Dr. William Glass, Ms. Lindenmeyer and Martins

Annual Testing/AYP Report

Dr. Glass said this evening we are going to talk about the major items in this report. I would like to remind the Board that anytime you have a question, please let me know. Of all the things we do here as a Board, testing analysis is the most important and complex. We are dealing with over 10,500 students with many variables.

Ann Lindenmeyer and Meghan Martins were available to answer questions. Ms. Lindenmeyer distributed the executive summary, Major Testing Program Analysis.

Dr. Glass stated that the CT State Department of Education has calculated “Vertical Scale Growth Scores” for grades 3 through 8 based upon the CMT and are provided to districts as an additional analysis tool. He continued by saying that the CMT is given to students in grades 3 through 8 and the test measures proficiency of Connecticut Curriculum Frameworks in Reading, Mathematics, Writing and Science. He went on to explain reading in Grades 3 through 8 for years 2006 through 2011. He told the Board that the most significant finding from a six-year trend data analysis of our CMT reading scores is that our students improved their performance in 60 out of the 60 subgroups tested in spite of a 39% mobility and increased poverty levels. Dr. Glass gave the Board many statistics comparing Danbury to the State for 2008-2010 and 2009-2011.

Ms. Martins said they have reclassified students at Danbury High School. 128 ninth graders would not be considered sophomores, but they were promoted even though they did not earn the 5 credits. Every 10th grader had to take the exam. 17% math, 12% reading. 2010-2011 there has been a decrease in performance. She said reading is the concern; math was relatively flat; science decreased from 67% to 64%; writing stagnant with a decrease from 70% to 69%. 22 AP courses this year. 277 students involved in 463 courses last year – 30% were minority. This year we had 441 students involved with 756 courses – 36% were minority.

Some Board members had questions concerning AYP; and why were the students moved along when they were not ready for the next level and did not have the credits; what can we do differently to turn this trend around; what is being done to help the Black and Hispanic students with their low scores. Ms. Martins, Ms. Lindenmeyer, Dr. Glass and Dr. Pascarella responded to their concerns.

Mr. Fox thanked them for the extraordinary effort putting this together. It was very informative. There may be a couple of Board members that want additional information. Dr. Glass said I will be happy to give you additional information, please call my office.

ACTION ITEMS

September 2011 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education accept the September 2011 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

The motion passed at 9:05 pm.

Mr. Longo told the Board that for the month of September 2011, the District expended \$8,400,754.90 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$15,505,765.60.

September 2011 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education accept the September 2011 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

The motion passed at 9:06 pm.

Mr. Longo told the Board that for the month of September 2011, the District expended \$1,058,752.29 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$1,860,666.26.

(Eileen Alberts and Sue Leroy left the meeting)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

University teacher & administrator preparation programs

Dr. Pascarella said Danbury is working with CAPPS and principals group for future educators in terms of their experience and support when they leave and enter in our profession.

AIS Magnet School Revenue

Dr Pascarella said we had an AIS Meeting. We did not have enough people in attendance. The revenue did not meet our expectations. There is a \$120,000 differential. Revenue is \$2.1 million.

Wrap Around Time Support Letter

Dr. Pascarella said that in Teacher negotiations, we worked out with the union some schedules and made some adjustments particularly at the middle and high schools; the teachers have decreased the opportunity for youngsters to hang out and get in trouble with the "Wrap around program".

Technology Refresh Plan

Dr. Pascarella said some years ago the City floated a bond issue for technology. Other than the Apple lease, we have some real aging machines that are not useful to us anymore. We are going to put together a plan on how we can move forward in technology. Do we want to replenish with the same system, or change the system? Sue Rice is going to look at our Tech Plan that we submitted to the State and see how we can develop opportunities.

Partner School Program (PSP)

Dr. Pascarella said we had a meeting on Monday, October 24th at Broadview Middle School to discuss next year's school realignment plan to address increasing enrollments in some elementary schools. The parents and faculty from Great Plain, Hayestown, Mill Ridge Primary, Morris Street and Shelter Rock were invited and it was open to the public. It was well attended. This coming Wednesday, November 2 we will be having a Board Workshop at 7:00 PM here in the Board Room. He told the Board if they had any questions before the November 2nd meeting, please call his office and the questions will be answered at the meeting.

ECS Task Force Update

Dr. Pascarella told the Board that this is a part of the lawsuit in Connecticut. He stated that he has mentioned it to the Board over the years. They have now defined the word "*adequate*" and that defines what the parents should get out our school system. Mayor Mark Boughton and the Mayor of Stamford were suing the State. The ECS formula got tinkered with and is really a broken system. The Task Force is going around the state presently. It will help the City of Danbury and we would receive \$18 million dollars. Basically 20 cents on the dollar. I am going to be very active with this Task Force.

Freshman Sports Update

Dr. Pascarella asked Elio Longo to give a report on Freshman sports. He said the project is remaining and will come in between \$11,000- \$12,000, 98% for the Fall. The \$58,000 and the balance of their fund raiser efforts will go directly to the Freshman Sports Committee. Dr. Pascarella said that Elio will be putting a time schedule together.

TDEC Update

Dr. Pascarella gave a brief update on TDEC.

INFORMATION

7-400 Regulations - Extra Curricular Activities Academic Eligibility – Revised 10/20/11

Mr. Taborsak said having coached for a long time the Danbury requirement compares to many large Cities; 65 is the grade for eligibility. Danbury has been at 70 and I am glad we are sticking with that.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Update on Vocational Technical Schools

Mr. Fox stated that on October 17 he met at a vocational school in Hamden and the sentiment is that the technical high schools are fine where they are and should not be transferred to local districts. Most of the people felt that is the direction they would go. I feel we made a major hurdle. There is a meeting in December. I took a tour of the school, and they are better left in hands where there is expertise.

CABE Delegate Assembly

Mr. Fox said he will be a representative at the convention. CABE represents us as far as lobbying. The Board members received a communication in the mail and Mr. Fox asked that they look it over between now and November 9th.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

<u>Sites and Facilities</u> - K. Molinaro, Chairperson	No Report
<u>Community Relations</u> - R. Jannelli, Chairperson	No Report
<u>Finance</u> - M. Fazio, R. Jannelli, Co-Chairpersons	No Report

Operations/Policy - R. Taborsak, Chairperson

Mr. Taborsak said Ms. Thompson is putting something together. She stated that she is going to convene a meeting with the Policy Committee and that we should be able to submit something January 1st to the State Department. She also stated that before the next meeting we should convene.

Superintendent Evaluation - K. Molinaro, Chairperson

It was recommended by the Board Chairperson that we should wait until after the elections to conduct a meeting.

DHS Adhoc - R. Jannelli

Mr. Jannelli stated that they have had two meetings.

City-Wide PTO - K. Molinaro, Member

Ms. Molinaro stated that the next meeting will be the first Monday in November.

DSABC - R. Jannelli, Member

Mr. Jannelli said they had their annual fundraiser, which was a huge success. At the moment there is nothing to report on that. DSABC has a new web site; I will get that information and give it to the Board.

Education Connection - R. Jannelli, Member

They will be having a meeting in Danbury shortly.

Magnet School - G. Cooper

The principal from the Magnet School gave an overall report and had an open house which was successful.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session to discuss negotiations and strategy for the agreement between NEA-Danbury and the Board of Education, with possible action in public session.

The motion passed at 9:25 pm.

Present: Gladys Cooper, Irving Fox, Richard Jannelli, Kathleen Molinaro, David Metrena, Robert Taborsak and Drs. Glass and Pascarella, Mr. Longo, Ms. Thompson and from Administration.

Absent: Rachael Austin-James, Michael Fazio, Eileen Alberts, Susan Leroy

The Chair convened the meeting at 9:30 pm. He then turned the meeting over to Kim Thompson. Ms Thompson relayed information and strategy regarding NEA Agreement. The consensus of the Board was taken.

Ms. Thompson updated the Board on personnel vacancies. Dr. Pascarella updated the Board on an interim position.

MOTION: G. Cooper moved, seconded by D. Metrena that the Board return to Public Session.

The motion passed at 9:40 pm.

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: R. Jannelli, moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education ratify the agreement between NEA-Danbury and the Board of Education.

The motion passed at 9:41 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

G. Cooper moved, seconded by D. Metrena that the Board of Education adjourn its October 26, 2011 Board meeting and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Kathleen Molinaro, Secretary