

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2016 – 7:00 PM**  
**Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL**

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Richard Hawley,  
Patrick Johnston, Frederick Karrat, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa,  
Holly Robinson  
Absent: Richard Jannelli and David Metrena  
Also Present: Drs. Glass, Pascarella and K. Thompson, K. Truchsess and J. Martino

**RECOGNITIONS** – *Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Program*

Dr. Pascarella asked Dr. Glass to say a few words about the Program. He said he is the District’s Facilitator. He told the Board that the State of Connecticut started this program in October 2009 for the establishment of a “teacher education and mentoring (TEAM) program” that included guided teacher support and coaching and the completion of instructional modules’ for beginning teachers. He said he served on that Task Force. Dr. Glass asked Sue Morris and Pam Dalton to stand to be recognized. He thanked Ms. Morris for her support. She told the Board that we have wonderful teachers and the mentors are outstanding. The TEAM Program is a two-year induction program for new teachers.

Ms. Alberts asked the following staff who are in the audience and serve on this TEAM Program to stand and be recognized: Deborah Froehlich, Benjamin Garner, Lauren Gillingham, Elizabeth Walker, Joseph DiGuseppi, Kenny Pierresaint, Soraya Bilboa and Daniela Esposito. The Board applauded the TEAM staff.

The Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Program is designed around five professional growth modules. These five modules provide a learning process focused on the following domains of the Common Core of Teaching (CCT): classroom environment, planning, instruction, assessment and professional responsibility. Teachers who have completed TEAM have submitted four reflection papers, which are evaluated and deemed successful by trained reviewers in the regional scoring process. In addition, they have participated in two facilitated conversations around professional responsibility, and have had the support of a district mentor. This accomplishment allows a beginning teacher to move to a provisional teaching certificate in the State of Connecticut. **Congratulations to the following teachers for completing the TEAM Program:**

**Elementary Schools**

Kelly Bates, Mill Ridge Primary  
Sara-Beth Brehant, Park Avenue  
Jessica Breschard, South Street  
Michelle Broad, Shelter Rock  
Nicole Brothers, South Street  
Nicole Chalk, King Street Primary  
Michele Donaty, Hayestown Avenue  
Phoenix Dudley, Stadley Rough  
Deborah Froehlich, Park Avenue  
Benjamin Garner, Park Avenue  
Joshua Giannone, Shelter Rock  
Lauren Gillingham, Stadley Rough  
Emily Goulart, South Street  
Hans Guardado, Pembroke  
Chester Lucas, Park Avenue  
Melinda Maher, Stadley Rough  
Lindsey Marocchini, Shelter Rock  
Katherine Meerman, Park Avenue  
Jacqueline Moros, Park Avenue  
Jenna Newsome, Stadley Rough  
Lisa Tagliavento, King Street Primary  
Meghan Viola, Stadley Rough  
Hannah Zoeller, Ellsworth Avenue  
Elizabeth Walker, Park Avenue

**Broadview Middle School**

Michael Curley, Social Studies  
Daniel Gilbert, Math  
Carissa Kerpen, English  
Roger Mendez, Spanish

**Rogers Park Middle School**

Dana Ketterl, English  
Christopher Purdy, Science

**Westside Middle School**

Melissa Augustyn, Social Studies  
Elizabeth Dandeneau, Music  
Joseph DiGuseppi, Art  
Kenny Pierresaint, English  
Victoria LaSalander, SPED

**Danbury High School**

Juliane Armentano, English  
Soraya Bilboa, ESL I Year L/T SUB  
Maria Bolanos, English  
Andrea De Lotto, English  
Christopher Dufel, SPED  
Alena Eckstein, Spanish  
Ray Hage, Biology  
Todd Harris, Math  
Amanda Lefebvre, English  
Sarah Lyon, SPED  
Jude Pascarelli, Math  
Ted Adams, Music  
Danielle Costello, English

**Alternative Center for Excellence**

Daniela Esposito, English

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Christine Rosenberg – A parent of twin girls who rides Bus 9 did not come home from school until 4:10 pm when they normally arrive at the bus stop at 3:30 pm. She said her husband was waiting at the bus stop and the bus never came at 3:30. He never received a call saying that the bus would be late. She said she phoned the school and spoke to the Secretary; left message with the transportation department with no success. The next day she phoned the school again and still did not get a response of why the bus was so late and parents were not notified. The only thing everyone told her that it was a miscommunication. I also called the Superintendent and was also told that it was a miscommunication. By that time I had been dealing with this all day. I want to know if this happens again how the parents’ are going to be notified.

Mr. Rosenberg said he was very close to calling the Police. I get calls from the school about everything else, but wasn't notified that the bus was going to be late and why. I needed to know where my children were. There needs to be a mechanism in-place that every parents gets a call.

Christina Lopez said we are the neighbors of the Rosenberg’s and were in the same situation. I called the school and was told there was an issue with the bus and they would be home soon. Last year my daughter was forced to get off a bus, not even close to home; she and another child had to walk or run all the way to home. When I spoke to the Principal, she said we are going to handle it. They never explain anything to us. I still don’t know. This is the second time something has happened to my children in regard to bus transportation.

Kecia McCarkle spoke about hiring minorities. She said this would help to close the achievement gap. Every child should be set up for success. I have twin sons that graduated DHS, I have to give the credit to the teachers. All children are not going to learn the lesson the same. The teachers gave them the tools to let elevate them to their peers; tools to help them succeed. Consider giving our children the tools they need for success. Help our minority children. I like to thank you for implementing the hiring of minorities.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION -** M. Ferguson moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 16-141 through 16-143, as recommended:

MINUTES

10/13/16 Superintendent Evaluation Committee  
10/13/16 Board Meeting

PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence: Kenneth Vasquez

Accept Resignations: Linda Gonzalez                      Pinky Goyal                      Gulnar Jeffereis  
   Brian Kelly                      Jeanne Mello                      Tammy Sawan

New Hires:                      See Exhibit 16-143

**Motion carried at 7:21 pm.**

**EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE** - None

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

DHS Representative Samantha Mortara told the Board that last week freshman, sophomores and juniors took the PSAT; 2,200 students took part in this successful testing day. While this was taking place, seniors took their class pictures. Last weekend was the Band Jamboree although they had to move it inside due to weather conditions; they had a great turnout of 9 bands. This weekend the Band team will participate in New England State Champions and Band Nationals next Saturday. Additionally, sports team are gearing up for post season. This week is Danbury High Spirit Week. So far students have shown their school spirit by dressing up for American Day, Tacky Tourist Day and Character Day followed by Twin Day tomorrow and Orange and Blue Day on Friday. Our Homecoming Football Game will be Friday November 4<sup>th</sup>. Our Danbury Day will also be on Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> – it will be a carnival theme and we plan on having cotton candy, popcorn and even fried dough. We invite the Board to attend. Our bog twitter account with 800 followers has been holding a contest for students who share their Spirit Week pictures with the #DHS Pride, one winner is selected each day and will awarded a Bagel Man gift card.

ACE Representative - None

**PRESENTATION**

Danbury Early College Opportunity (DECO) Update, Dan Donovan & Sarah Roy

Dr. Sandra Roy gave the Board members a power point presentation on DECO. She explained that DECO was part of Connecticut state-wide Early College Opportunity program for developing tomorrow’s workforce for Connecticut complete with “career-ready” skills. Danbury Public Schools is in partnership with Naugatuck Valley Community College, NewOak and Pitney Bowes with CT Board of Regents oversight. There are two Cohorts: Dr. Roy shows a chart detailing what students are in each Cohort. There are 5 DHS Teachers and 4 College Professors. DECO scholars are taking up to 15 credits this year and working with mentors through Mentorplace on-line. Tomorrow at WCSU from 11:30-1:00 there will be a Freshman Meet and Greet Experience. Over the summer, 60 DECO sophomores took accelerated high school courses in Geometry or Chemistry with a pass rate of 100%; 60 Freshman had a summer experience orientation at Westside Academy for 3 days.

Cohort 1 Stats

Cohort 2 Stats

Females/Males	32
Males	55
Free or reduced lunch	37%
With IEP	8%
Students 3.2 GPA or higher	39%
Students 3.4 GPA or higher	30%
Honors 3.0 or higher	17%
Speaks a language other than English at home	45%
Average daily attendance	98%

Females/Males	37
Males	38
Free or reduced Lunch	36%
With IEP	7%
Speaks a language other than English at home	47%
Average daily attendance	97%

Dr. Roy ended the presentation with telling the Board for their plans for the future. She said we are planning more college courses and preparation for internships, creative scheduling so students leave DHS at noon to attend courses at the Main Street Campus of Naugatuck Valley Community College and internships in local businesses to develop career skills.

Two students who are in the program addressed the Board saying how they learned to use power point and learned writing reports for the workplace. They felt they can now present reports and keep the audience's attention; it has also been helpful in our other classes. One student said she had quite the work load. She worked with her group and it is a lot of team work. You can't be lazy in this program – you have a lot of responsibility. It taught me a lot about time management.

Dr. Pascarella said that this program started with seed money from the Governor. He told the Board that he was pleased that Dr. Roy came tonight with the presentation. He wanted to let the Board know what great things are going on at Danbury High School with this program. He said that those industries that partner with us are looking long range. Dr. Roy said these students will be the first in line for interviews and will possibly get an internship.

Two teachers' spoke about the program. They told the Board that they were happy to hear that the Board still champions the Program. We have a lot of great students. The cohorts have grown together and a relationship has developed. I applaud the students that stick to the program. Thanks for helping make this program successful to our students and our community.

Ms. Alberts, on behalf of the Board, thanked Dr. Roy for her presentation.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **September 2016 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)**

MOTION: M. Ferguson moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa that the Board of Education accept the September 2016 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Mr. Martino told the Board that during the month of September 2016, the District expended \$7,173,008 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$19,963,729 which represents an FYTD expenditure of 15.85% of the General Fund total budget. He said it is going to be challenging year. There are some teacher slots that are open.

**Motion carried at 7:59 pm.**

#### **September 2016 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)**

MOTION: M. Ferguson moved, seconded by P. Johnston that the Board of Education accept the September 2016 Operating Results Analysis (Grant/Projects)

Mr. Martino told the Board that during the month of September 2016, the District expended \$1,775,956 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$3,162,080 which represents FYTD expenditure of 12.6% of the Grants budget.

**Motion carried at 8:01 pm.**

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Goal Status Calendar**

Dr. Pascarella said you will notice on the top of the Board Agenda right after the District's Mission Statement, are my 2016-2017 Goals. These goals will be listed in that place on every agenda going forward.

### TDEC Report

Dr. Pascarella said the report states some of the activities that are going on. To name a couple, at the elementary level they are trying to organize their time better; there were gaps in phonics and vocabulary. We also put together a schedule which should close some of the other gaps.

### Title 1 – ESSA

Dr. Pascarella mentioned that staff have been trained under this program. Dr. Glass shared some additional information about Title 1.

### Update on Meet the Candidates Night

Dr. Pascarella said the Candidates Night went very well with over 100 people attending. A Board member said we should be proud of our Board member, Michael Ferguson. The Board applauded Michael for his involvement that evening.

### Danbury’s Youth Matter Community Forum, December 5, 6:30 pm, Danbury Police Department Community Room

The Superintendent said he is going to be there to speak. Ms. Cooper asked where the youth are coming from. Dr. Pascarella said they are our students at Danbury High School. Ms. Robinson said they will be sharing with the community the survey on “*Stand Together and Make a Difference.*” We wanted a forum to share the results with parents and the general community. With felt the survey is going to be a way to help our kids. They are going to advertise it at this Forum. It is going to be a conversation with the parents and I will be there.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### Faculty Recruitment, Kim Thompson

Ms. Thompson told the Board that with the budget this year there isn’t much recruiting we can do. There are big mandates that are stressing out the time; finger printing audits by the State Police and then by the FBI. In my department we need to have some part time extra help. A Board member asked if the Danbury district attends job fairs. Ms. Thompson said that we do and have had pretty good success.

### **INFORMATION**

Dr. Pascarella mentioned to the Board that the bus that was mentioned this evening had broken down on its first stop. Unfortunately there was a miscommunication problem. Mr. Martino said that another bus had to come to that stop and transfer the students, which lead to the delay in the students arriving at home at their regular bus stop times.

### **BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, told the Board that she and Dr. Pascarella attended the Band Jamboree. It was well attended in spite of the inclement weather. She also said that people mentioned how pleased they were to see that the Superintendent was there to support the activity.

Ms. Alberts said she attended “Meet the Candidates Night.” The candidates were asked questions and Michael Ferguson did a great job. He answered questions about the education budget and was very well informed on the subject.

### **BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS**

Mr. Johnston said he attended, together with Drs. Glass and Pascarella, “Build a Globe” program at Morris Street School. We had a very nice time and the kids enjoyed it. It was building a globe from a tennis ball. I then went to a class where they were having a spelling bee.

Ms. Cooper said that we have a Workshop planned for November 16<sup>th</sup> and was wondering if that date can be changed. Ms. Alberts said she would look into it. Dr. Pascarella told the Board they could set aside a particular night to have the Workshop or they could take 45 minutes before a Board Meeting to conduct one and not have a separate night.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

**PUBLIC SESSION** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

R. Pietrafesa moved, seconded by P. Johnston that the Board of Education adjourn its October 26, 2016 meeting and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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Michael Ferguson, Secretary

(meeting was video recorded)