

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2010 - 7:00 PM

Administrative Center - 63 Beaver Brook Road

Attendance: E. Alberts, R. Austin-James, G. Cooper (7:12 pm), I. Fox, K. Gailliard, R. Jannelli, K. Molinaro, J. Scozzafava, R. Taborsak and Dr. Glass, Pascarella and Mr. Longo, Ms. Thompson and Ms. Emmett from Administration

Absent: M. Fazio, S. Podhajski-LeRoy, Dr. Dylewski

CALL TO ORDER

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

RECOGNITIONS

DHS students who achieved at the Advanced level on all of the CAPT subtests:

Nicholas Ciliberto, Alexander Coco, James Gieger, Jessica Hong (*not present*), Alexis Koukos (*not present*), Michael Lau (*not present*), Evan Lunt, Haile Lutz, Jinesh Mehta, Sidharth Modha, Thomas Moore, Allison Vas (*not present*).

Dr. Rossi congratulated the Danbury High School students who achieved the Advanced level on all of the CAPT subtests and presented them with an award certificate. Dr. Glass photographed the students individually and also took a group picture.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. & Mrs. Amalfitano, parents of students at Stadley Rough said they are addressing the Board for a second time. Mr. Amalfitano mentioned that he was surprised to see the overall awareness or lack of awareness of the Board regarding the scores. Dr. Glass said that they would have a revised plan for this school year – the question was: has that plan been submitted? What can we expect to see from the school, administration and the Superintendent's office? The Superintendent's office is responsible for the education of all students, but if we are in a problem of density population, at what point does the Superintendent get additional staff and when does the Board step in with their influence. We are a little in the dark as to who to address for these issues. We are here to support staff for the school and students. We are looking for guidance. Thanked the board for their time. Mrs. Amalfitano said she and her husband compiled information they got from the internet and passed it out to the Board.

PRESENTATION

Annual Testing Report: CMT, CAPT, SAT, AP Assessment Results

Dr. William Glass and Ann Lindenmeyer

Dr. Glass outlined the Executive Summary of Major Testing Program and told the Board that an analysis of the various assessments given to our students provides valuable insight into our instructional improvement efforts. Although we make a point of reviewing all available data on an annual basis, research has shown that “trend data”, the data that reflects student outcomes over many years, is far more relevant with regard to determining the overall increase in student achievement and the efficacy of the instructional program. A trend analysis also reveals long standing learning deficits, which can then be addressed with greater focus over multiple years in order to build district-wide capacity for sustaining improvement initiatives.

Vertical Scale Growth Scores have been calculated by CSDE for grades 3 through 8 based on the CMT and provided to districts as an additional analysis tool. Vertical scales enable the district to follow match groups of students over years to determine their rate of growth and Levels of Understanding. These data points are different than the CMT Proficiency rates and should not be compared. It is too early to determine expected amount of growth however, further analysis is being completed now and additional information will be made available in the future. Baseline vertical scale scores will be examined in this document.

Dr. Glass outlined the reason why participation in AP testing: get a head start on college-level work; improve writing skills and sharpen problem-solving techniques; develop study habits necessary for tackling rigorous course work; demonstrate maturity and readiness for college; emphasize commitment to academic excellence; study subjects in greater depth and detail; and assume the responsibilities of reasoning, analyzing, and understanding for yourself.

Dr. Glass then called attention to the Primary Recommendations. He stated that he would be happy to take any questions the Board may have this evening or can be addressed at the next Board meeting. He told the Board that they can call him or e-mail him with the questions.

Some Board members had comments on the analysis data; in some cases they felt the scores were unacceptable; AYP for Spring for all our students; recommends that we have a Board workshop since this is so much information to digest in one night; data collection and how it is used; target areas. Dr. Glass promised AYP report card for each school in alpha order in a couple of days. It was decided to have a workshop on the 17th of November; the material to be distributed on November 10th for the Workshop on the 17th.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Resource Advisory Committee

Dr. Pascarella said we had a meeting on October 18th. Anne Mead introduced the Adopt-A-School Model and its benefits at the meeting; the Superintendent spoke about corporation commitments to partnering in education. The next meeting of this Committee will be on

December 10th. He stated that the meeting was videotaped and will air on Comcast, Channel 23 on October 30th at 7:00 PM and November 2nd at 11:00 AM.

Solar Energy Projects

Mr. Longo told the Board that they have hired a company for the solar panels for two of schools, Ellsworth and Park – we got a final report and the recommendation is the roof at both schools can address the additional workload for solar power. The documents have been sent to Mr. Palanzo for incorporation in his final requirements to the sub-committee. We need an appointment to meet with the Common Council to get approval. The solar project vendor of choice is American Carrera Teck the bidding process is one of a couple of dozen to install solar panels for private and public; we secured them for the final application for the project. American Carrera Teck will serve as project manager and will hire out all other parts of the project.

ACTION ITEMS

September 2010 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education accept the September 2010 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Mr. Longo told the Board that during the month of September 2010, the District expended \$7,418,268.33, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$11,870,579.87.

The motion carried at 8:23 pm.

September 2010 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education accept the September 2010 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

Mr. Longo told the Board that during the month of September 2010, the District expended \$1,301,789.59, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$2,148,010.62.

The motion carried at 8:27 pm.

New Policy: 4-303 Employee Social Networking

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by K. Gailliard that the Board of Education accept for 1st reading a new policy, 4-303, Employee Social Networking, as recommended by the Policy Committee

Mr. Taborsak said they had a good discussion and Mr. Fox brought up somethings that we should look at. The policy is self-explanatory. Dr. Pascarella said this is a law so we didn't have a choice. Mr. Mooney, our attorney, spelled out the policy and it makes sense to adopt the policy developed by our law firm.

The motion carried at 8:29 pm.

INFORMATION

Employment Regulations 4-100(a)

Ms. Thompson said these regulations came out of the initial meeting. What is contained in these pages is an attempt to clarify some of the policy. Mr. Fox said we should discuss the difference by the Ad Hoc Committee. Ms. Thompson said the difference is the role of the full Board at the final process; the following was omitted “Superintendent will recommend a candidate for hire to the full Board of Education who may choose to conduct an interview or informal meeting with the applicant before approving his or her hire”.

Board Level Grievance Procedures

Ms. Thompson told the Board that the Procedures for Board Level Grievances Hearing is in your packet it is procedural for hearing grievances in Public Session. These procedures are not regulations just administratively how the procedures will be conducted. These procedures are for staff class action or group grievances. All other grievances shall be heard in Executive Session.

AIS Magnet School tuition recommendation for 2011-2012 school year

Dr. Pascarella said he had a meeting with the Trustees and they expressed their concerns. They would rather see the tuition over time rather than over small percentages. We have to look at the one time assessment again. He said he would bring this back to the Board. They are not objecting to a reasonable amount. Mr. Fox thought that they would be informed this evening about the tuition that was agreed upon since it states “tuition recommendation for 2011-2012 school year.” Dr. Pascarella said he would get that information to the Board once it has been established. He then turned the subject to Mr. Longo who shared with the Board an analysis of the sending district’s contribution rate for the year 2010-2011. He told the Board for the year 2009-2010 the enrollment was 383 and for 2010-2011 the enrollment was 387. He stated that the tuition for 2009-2010 was \$1,500 with a one-time assessment of \$284; total each student \$1,784.

Theory of Action – Danbury Public Schools

Dr. Glass told the Board that in their packet there is a document called “Theory of Action” – at their place there is a document by the same name with “DRAFT” written on it. That is the document that he would like to discuss with them this evening. He went on to say; A Theory of Action is a collection of statements that serve as the philosophical foundation for all actions taken in an organization. For the Danbury School system it guides our continuing efforts to enhance all aspects of our education programs, from infancy through adulthood with the final expectation that all students will realize increased levels of educational success in academic, social, emotional and behavioral domains. It encompasses culture, parent and community partnerships, leadership, learning and teaching and continuous improvements and resources.

He told the Board that there will be posters in all offices and classrooms with the Theory of Action and that the draft form will go to the PTO, then to the Board for adoption.

Boiler installation update

Mr. Longo said the City has entered into a new phase for Honeywell in of our buildings. He was told that last week the Honeywell phase is on hold or perhaps pulled at this time and that we will continue to operate with our current boilers. The City will hire a boiler company to provide an on-site replacement and provide heat until the boilers can be repaired. Mr. Scozzafava said this is the first he is hearing about it. Mr. Longo stated that he spoke with Mr. Palanzo about a week ago. Mr. Fox said the Sites and Facility Committee needs to take this up. Mr. Scozzafava said especially at the high school it is a serious problem. Mr. Taborsak wondered if we should alert the PTO – Dr. Pascarella said yes, Ms. Molinaro stated that we are meeting on Monday night with the PTO. Mr. Scozzafava said he wants to look into who made the decision and added that Mr. Iadarola was talking about it at a meeting.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Fox said he attended the PTO meeting at King Street last week and there were a lot of new parents there. From the participation we got from parents I am happy to report that there were several teachers and very well balanced group of about 50 people showed up. It was a very good atmosphere; very impress and most people are very happy now. Commend everyone involved with that meeting.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Sites and Facilities – *Joseph Scozzafava, Chairperson*

Mr. Scozzafava said it looks as though we need to have an emergency meeting as soon as possible to discuss the hold on the Honeywell phase.

Community Relations – *Richard Jannelli, Chairperson*

Mr. Jannelli told the Board that they are going to utilize facebook to get information to the community as well as the newspaper. They are hoping that with the combined efforts they will be able to disseminate information across the Community.

Operations/Policy – *Robert Taborsak, Chairperson*

Mr. Taborsak thanked everyone for their suggestions for the New Policy: 4-303 Employee Social Networking that is in the Board packet for first reading.

Superintendent Evaluation – *Kathleen Molinaro and Eileen Alberts, Co-Chairpersons*

Ms. Molinaro said we had a meeting, but did not have a quorum. Ms. Cooper and Mr. Taborsak came attended. We discussed some changes to the goals and action items and the Superintendent will do the changes and bring it back to the Committee.

City-wide PTO – Kathleen Molinaro, *Member*

Ms. Molinaro said the City-wide PTO meeting will be held on Monday evening.

DSABC – Richard Jannelli, *Member*

Mr. Jannelli stated that they had a fund raiser last Thursday which was very successful. He said all proceeds will go to the scholarship fund.

Magnet School Trustee – Gladys Cooper, *Trustee*

Ms. Cooper said she was unable to attend the meeting and asked if there will be another meeting this year. Dr. Pascarella gave a report on the sending districts' concerns.

20/20 Task Force

Mr. Taborsak said it is his understanding that this committee will be put into operation. Mr. Fox reminded the Board that the annual meeting will be coming up in December and asked the Board if they wished to have another pot luck dinner after the meeting as we did last year. Ms. Cooper said she just wanted to have the meeting and go home – does not want dinner. Mr. Taborsak asked if we could have cookies and hors d'oeuvres. Since there was not a vote on dinner or snacks, the recording secretary asked the Chairperson for clarity. It was decided that there will be a meeting followed by cookies and hors d'oeuvres in the Board Room at 63 Beaver Brook Road.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by K. Gailliard that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a confidential personnel matter and update on negotiations/arbitration.

The motion carried at 9:07 pm.

Attendance: R. Austin-James, G. Cooper, I. Fox, K. Gailliard,
R. Jannelli, K. Molinaro, J. Scozzafava, R. Taborsak
and Dr. Glass, Pascarella and Ms. Thompson from
Administration and Attorney Thomas Mooney.

Absent: E. Alberts, M. Fazio, S. Podhajski-LeRoy, Dr. Dylewski

Mr. Fox called the meeting to order at 9:15 pm.

Ms. Thompson was asked to update the Board on current negotiations. Also, to discussed Reach, Endeavor and Special Education in terms of filling administration and leadership positions.

Ms. Thompson asked Mr. Mooney to further explain arbitration as it pertains to Teachers and Administrators' contract negotiations.

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by K. Gailliard, that the Board of Education
return to Public Session.

The motion carried at 10:00 pm.

Note: The November 10th Board meeting to be cancelled and rescheduled for Monday, November 15th with an agenda to be announced.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Gailliard moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, that the Board of Education adjourn its October 27, 2010 meeting and the meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Kathleen Molinaro, Secretary

(meeting was videotaped)