

# DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

## WESTSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY

6:30 pm – Reception for New tenured teachers and teachers who completed TEAM Program

7:00 pm – Board Meeting

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### ROLL CALL

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

Also Present: Drs. Glass, Pascarella, Kim Thompson and Joe Martino

### RECOGNITIONS

DHS Student, Alexandra Prendergast, selected for the 2016 United States Senate Youth Program

Ms. Alberts asked Alexandra to tell the Board about her being selected for this very important program. Alexandra explained the process and was happy that she was selected. Ms. Alberts told her that the Board is very proud of her and her accomplishments.

### TEAM & Tenure Teachers

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.

Ms. Alberts asked that the Team teachers that are here tonight to stand up: Maria Krafty, Health and Physical Education Teacher at Westside Middle Academy, was congratulated by Ms. Alberts.

#### **Congratulations to the following teachers for completing the TEAM Program:**

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>School</u>
Altieri	Thomas	Danbury High
Archambault	Jessica	Morris Street
Baran	Lauren	Rogers Park Middle
Brown	Lauren	Pembroke
Burrows	Samantha	Stadley Rough

Camera	Christopher	Ellsworth Avenue
Costello	Danielle	Danbury High
Crisostomo-Lenz, Carmen		Danbury High
De la Vega	Alessandra	Westside Middle Academy
Duffy	Casey	Danbury High
Fiore	Michelle	Western CT Academy of International Studies
Grant	Richard	Danbury High
Handberry	Derek	Danbury High
Hoyt	Alexandra	Ellsworth Avenue
Kamens	Lindsay	Danbury High
Kelly	Ashley	King Street Intermediate
Kinscherf	Meredith	Westside Middle Academy
Krafty	Maria	Westside Middle Academy
Lambo	Andrew	Pembroke
Lane	Ashley	Hayestown Avenue
Leto	Elizabeth	Hayestown Avenue
Macey	Kelly	Danbury High
Manning	Keith	Broadview Middle
Murphy	Christine	Danbury High
Newman	Rebecca	Park Avenue
O'Leary	Carissa	Pembroke
Obre	Peter	King Street Intermediate
Palinkas	Caitlin	Ellsworth Avenue
Paredes	Naara	Danbury High
Perreault	Mariya	Westside Middle Academy
Petrini	Amy	Park Avenue
Pires	Joy	Broadview Middle
Radachowsky	Melissa	Hayestown Avenue
Reiske	Cara	King Street Primary
Rossi	Crystal	Rogers Park Middle
Rosten	Laurel	Park Avenue
Spiridon	Stephanie	Danbury High
Stoja	Heather	Danbury High
Timmel	Julia	King Street Primary
Tracey	Olivia	Stadley Rough
Trasacco	Alex	Danbury High
Tripp	William	Broadview Middle
Turner	Shannon	Pembroke
Walter	Prospere	Rogers Park Middle
Zupperoli	Robert	Shelter Rock

Dr. Pascarella gave a brief explanation on what is involved in becoming a tenure teacher. He said it is an honor for us to have this reception tonight to congratulate you.

Ms. Alberts asked the four tenure teachers that were present to stand: Vincent Fiddner, Michelle Figueiredo, Natalie Locke and Catherine Raniolo. She congratulated them on their service to the Danbury students.

**FALL 2015 TEACHER TENURE LIST**

ABBOTT, CYNTHIA F.	RPMS
BURNETT, MICHAEL V	DHS
COLE, DEBORAH A.	SHR
DEL GOBBO, JOSEPH	DHS
DEVAUX, KRYSTA L.	RPMS
EIDE, CHRISTOPHER	WSMSA
FIDDNER, VINCENT V.	MRP
FIGUEIREDO, MICHELLE D.	MRP

FRISCH, STEVEN J	R/END
GATTO, LINDSEY	PEM
LITTLE-HALL, TAI P	PEM
LOCKE, NATALIE	WSMSA
MILLER, KYMBERLY R	DHS
MONROY, TALIA C	RPMS
PARKER-KNIGHT, PATRICIA A	RPMS
PICO, KATHARINE	STR
PUGLIESE, LUCIA	DHS
RANIOLO, CATHERINE M	MRP
REUTHER, SHEILA A.	KS
SEDER, KENNETH E	BVMS
STROHMEYER, JENNIFER S.	MSS
TOBIN, ELISE M	DHS
TRACEY, JOHN E	DHS
WARD, KRISTIN E	MATH SP
ARROYO, CESAR	SSS
VAN KEUREN, JENNIFER	STR
TONIC, DONALD	DHS
CAPUTO, EVA	MRP

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Several parents spoke to the Board about their concerns with the AIS sibling Lottery and the Middle School Lottery. Both lotteries they feel are unfair to students in Danbury. They would like the old plan for siblings put back. As far as the middle school lottery, there is still some confusion about the four different lotteries and the application itself is not clear.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION** - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 15-165 through 15-166, as recommended:

**MINUTES**

October 14, 2015 Board Meeting

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

Accept Leave of Absence: Rene Santos

Accept Resignations: Jeffrey Smith Amy D’Orio

New Hires 10/9/15-10/22/15:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>CERTIFIED Subject</b>
Lesley Hankin-Williams	DHS	TESOL
Bryan Luchsinger	DHS	SPED
Luke Rosequist	South St.	1 YR L/T Sub Grade 3
<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Non-Certified Subject</b>

Christina Girouard	BVMS	Literacy Interventionist
Suzanne Perry	Morris Street	Literacy Interventionist
Laura Schechter	SHR	Literacy Interventionist
Jawon Gant	Pembroke	Tutor
Maximo Veiga	STR	Custodian
Sean Griffin	Ells	CRC Enrichment Associate
Jason Champagne	SHR	CRC Enrichment Associate
Tannia Cavajani	DHS	Literacy Interventionist
Frank Oleksuik	DHS	Literacy Interventionist
Lynne Hamilton-Lukasik	DHS	Literacy Interventionist
Kathy Pickle	KSP	Literacy Interventionist
Linda Akin	MRP	CRC Enrichment Associate
Brittany Bartek	South St.	CRC Enrichment Associate
Kayla Borges	DHS	Literacy Interventionist
Anthony Baiad	DHS	Literacy Interventionist
Casey Trasacco	DHS	Literacy Interventionist
Cynthia Rollins	RPMS	L/T Sub SPED Teacher
Theresa Tumminia	DHS	Literacy Interventionist
Travis Gebing	South St.	Safety Advocate
Joanne Ames	Reach/Endeavor	Ass't. Teacher
Juleidi Leon	DHS	Literacy Interventionist
Emmanuel Rijo Pilier	Ells	CRC Enrichment Associate
Karina Hernandez	South St.	CRC Enrichment Associate
Shruti Yedave	DHS	Literacy Interventionist
Cynthia Rigby	WSMSA	17 HR 46 WK Secretary
Alisa Vinci		Sub Psychologist
Gretchen Davis		Sub Sec'y & Sub School Readiness

**Motion carried at 7:10 pm.**

**EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE**

Heather Ali, Youth Development Coordinator, Family Resource Center at Morris Street School we are there for a support systems to the staff and the families. She told the Board that 85% of the families in her school are low income families. We have a parent educator in our school, Ms. Chelso, who provides home care. The program has made 115 home visits by staff and 56 play groups have been set up at the school. We ask the staff to pinpoint what the families need and then work to put those resources in place. Adult literacy workshops, not an ESL Program, for parents of students in our school is one of the programs we offer. She thanked the Board for letting her speak tonight to update them on her school's activities.

Michelle Figueiredo - A staff member said that she is speaking on behalf of the teachers and the Alliance grant that they are going for. She is part of the K-1 team and attends meetings every month. The push is for biological awareness in oral language, especially for our Kindergarten students.

Karen Flannery said she wants to share a few more things that they are doing at Mill Ridge Primary. We are going to hold parent meetings to get our parents up to speed and more involved in the change in the curriculum for the common core so we will be having math and language arts focus meetings. We are having a Harvest Festival on Friday night from 6:00-8:00 pm we have been doing this for many years; activities for the children, parents and siblings. Also involved in a book and clothing drive which we are doing for the community. We are using our new field.

Ms. Alberts thanked them for coming and giving the Board an update. She said it is difficult for the Board members to get to every school and this is great that they were able to come here tonight. She said she now knows more about the two schools than she knew before.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

DHS: Sophia Pompilio, President of BOG introduced herself to the Board, and Caroline Missouri, told the Board that she is secretary of BOG. Sophia told the Board that they had a great beginning at DHS. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> students took the PSA Tests on Wednesday. Spirit Week was a huge success. We had America Day, Twin Day, Orange and Blue Day and Character Day, which brightened the week of October 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. We had the Home Coming Dance and game. The dance was a fun-filled night, with 600 students attending this year. We had our annual Band Jamboree this past weekend. The College Fair was this past Monday at the Danbury Fair Mall.

State BOE Student Representative: Alexandra Prendergast

Alexandra told the Board that she brought the graduation requirements issue to Statewide Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE). Most students seemed to understand raising the graduation requirements from 21-24 is problematic, but there are questions as to what we can do about it at the moment.

SSACE had impact on the decision to use SAT as the statewide standardized test, but influence occurred during the decision-making process, not after the fact. This mandate has already been passed, so there are questions as to what the SSACE can do to have an impactful solution on this solution.

We have resolved to look into the efforts of the committee that has been created to research graduation requirements for high school seniors. We might be able to make a case with this committee

## **PRESENTATION**

DHS Peer Leadership - Sandy Hook Promise Programs, "Start with Hello and Say Something"

Natalia Szurawski, DHS Senior and Peer Leader who adopted this organization, told the Board to help build our community she made a Twitter and Instagram page for students to explore and post their pledges. Lizzy Newbold, DHS senior and Isabel Gustems, DHS senior also spoke.

*October 19-23, it was declared as the official Say Something Week by Governor Malloy.*

*Monday/Tuesday:* Set up a Say Something photo booth during lunch periods where students could post their pictures pledging on social media using the hashtag (#saysomething).

*Wednesday:* we had a poetry contest for those who felt uncomfortable speaking out.

*Thursday:* Spoke with Mayor Mark, Mark Bardon, Governor Malloy, and Dr. Sal P. Was interviewed and broadcasted by multiple news stations. This was an assembly for the 700 sophomore students.

*Friday:* Wear green day! DHS students wore green to show their support in ending school violence and chronic social isolation.

Start with Hello: Future initiative in which students will be branching off to school and discussing our programs in hopes to reach younger ages. The Call to Action week for Start with Hello is in January, 2016.

Ms. Alberts thanked the students for their great reports.

Mr. Jannelli said it would be good if these students and their committee could share their program to the individual schools. Possibly go to the PTO meetings to present their program to the parents. Danbury could get a lot of good press in doing something for a worthwhile cause not only for Danbury but other districts. What I would like to do, which I mentioned to Dr. Pascarella, is part of the Community Relations Committee have this as sort of a standing agenda item in that Committee so it will continue for whomever is in charge of that Committee.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **September 2015 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)**

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education accept the September 2015 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Mr. Martino told the Board for the month of September, the District expended \$14,712,940 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$20,643,261; which represents 16.68% of the General Fund total budget.

**Motion carried at 7:25 pm.**

#### **September 2015 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)**

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by M. Ferguson that the Board of Education accept the September 2015 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

Mr. Martino told the Board for the month of September, the District expended \$2,303,461 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$3,216,068; which represents 14.0% of the Grant budget.

Mr. Jannelli asked Mr. Martino since the Alliance Grant (004) is about one-third of the budget, could we have a separate presentation so that we have an understanding of the \$8 million and what it is going toward? If it could be broken out by salaries, programs, etc. at least the Board and the general public could see how the month is being spent. Mr. Martino said certainly we can break that out.

**Motion carried at 7:45 pm.**

#### **Head Start School Food Service Agreement**

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve the 2015-2016 School Food Service Agreement with Head Start

**Motion carried at 7:46 pm.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### Statewide Emergency Preparedness Exercise, October 21

The Superintendent said he will ask Kim Thompson to speak about the Statewide Emergency Preparedness Exercise on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Thompson told the Board they participated in the Governor's statewide safety and security event. It was a mock-up of a weather tornado drill that was to hit town at 9:00 am in the morning so it would affect schools that were in session, transportation of children and a variety of issues. Dr. Pascarella and several of our team went down into the bunker at City Hall and did a simulated exercise. Paul Estefan was running the drill and he would receive by fax from central command in Hartford a list of questions that were part of a scenario so the first hour of a certain event. Then was a series of questions that were designed to test our preparedness. In response, not just from the Board of Education, also from other City agencies.

The work that Michael Doran did, in the district, several years ago put us in excellent stead. Ms. Thompson said she felt the folks we had around the table had plans and protocols in-place. They were able to respond so when we got to the district's Education questions, we were able to respond on what we do. We started from an excellent place. I think the discussion was good for us because it pointed out a few things that we still need to tweak. When this was over, we had a conference call with the Governor at the Armory and with others that participated for a wrap up. We now need to discuss this with the Administrative Council and do an update in all our schools to be sure that they are following Michael Doran's plan.

### Lottery Update (middle school enrollment)

The Superintendent said from the discussions at the last Board meeting, balances and procedures are working for the middle schools and it has been decided to leave it alone.

Mr. Martino said there will be another review once we bring in the 8<sup>th</sup> graders next year, the global studies, we can review where we are. He said that the gap is pretty well closed. Ms. Fluskey-Lattin asked the Superintendent if the only reason for the 50/50 split is the balance in the middle schools. He responded that yes it is; the goal was to go 50/50, we didn't achieve it. When the principal started counting student seats there are more from Rogers Park here in the STEM. As they leave and we go to parity that is when the numbers start drawing down. So, we will get 50 more out of Broadview theoretically, then the delta will be added back to Rogers Park and that is why the numbers are going to be that much better.

### Registration Task Force Update

Ms. Thompson advised the Board that one of the things we have been looking closely at is Kindergarten registration. Each year we try to centralize registration and it has not worked so this year Dr. Pascarella created a Registration Task Force. A couple of weeks ago we had our first meeting and I am the Chairperson of the Task Force. We are scheduled to meet again next week. The Task Force consists of elementary principals, representatives from the ELL and ESL center, Kathy O'Dowd for health, and Debbie Peterson for special needs students. We want to create a location so we can centrally register students. This will benefit the parents that are new to the district. They will be able to bring all the documents with them to register their child and it will be determined whether or not assessments need to

be done based on their English language status and Kindergarten skill assessment. Our hope is that when we start advertising for registration in Kindergarten in December/January, we will have a better system that is more centralized. We hope to have for you something more concrete in December advising time line, protocol, flow chart and where people actually have to go and when and how we are doing with that.

Meet the Candidates Night, October 20<sup>th</sup> – No comments, no discussion.

### Central Office Review of Roles & Responsibilities

The Superintendent said we are challenged with our teacher’s evaluation process and rather than for us to do it since I think, we are frankly too close to it, we have contracted through the State the Connecticut Center for Educational Reform to give us some help. We applied for a study on our Central Office Review of Roles and Responsibilities and they accepted us last week. We will have a consultant come in to work with us to review our roles and responsibilities. At this point we are not getting the evaluations done correctly or in a timely fashion; they have created a lot of challenges. The curriculum was written by paying people over the summer. So I charged them to come in and look at our roles and responsibilities for our Central Office only.

**DISCUSSION** - None

**INFORMATION** - None

### **BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

Annual Meeting, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30 DHS Media Center; 6:00 dinner Hatter’s Café. Ms. Alberts reminded the Board that the annual meeting, with election of Board of Education officers, will be on Wednesday, December 2, 2015.

The Chairperson also said remember Election Day is November 3<sup>rd</sup> - be sure to get out and vote.

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

The Chairperson asked if there were any Committee Meetings that the Board members would like to comment on. It was mentioned that a Sites and Facilities meeting should be held to discuss all the projects that were done in the summer and the allocation of the funds. It was decided that a meeting would take place on Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.

Ms. Alberts said we need a meeting of the Community Relations Committee. Mr. Jannelli said he would like to coordinate a meeting in November to discuss two topics: ESC funding issue and the “Hello” Program. (One group doesn’t have anything to do with the other and could be separate meetings.) No date has been set.

Mr. Jannelli said he would like to also set up a Finance Committee meeting sometime in November to basically start discussions relative to long range projection and other topics for next year’s budget. No date has been set.

Mr. Jannelli told the Board that the Danbury Youth Service, is having an Ice Cream Social on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00 pm, at the Westside Academy for the benefit of introducing parents to the different resources available to them in Danbury. Many new families coming to town do not know the resources that the City of Danbury has to offer. There will be 18 different agencies here to tell the parents about all the resources that are available in our school system. I would like to discuss with Dr. Pascarella if there is a way to get this notice to the schools and hopefully it could be put on our website. The group that is putting this together is called Local Interagency Service Team.

Ms. Alberts thanked the principal for having us at Westside Academy for this meeting. She also thanked the audience for coming out tonight for this meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a confidential personnel matter

**Motion carried at 8:25 pm.**

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

Also Present: Drs. Glass, Pascarella, Kim Thompson, Joe Martino and Debbie Peterson

Ms. Alberts called the Executive Session to order at 8:30 pm and turned the meeting over to Ms. Thompson.

After a brief discussion the Board returned to Public Session.

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

**MOTION:** R. Hawley moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education return to Public Session

**Motion carried at 8:57 pm.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education adjourn its October 28, 2015 Board Meeting and the meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

---

Michael Ferguson, Secretary

(meeting was videotaped)

