

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014 – 7:00 PM

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Alberts asked Ms. Molinaro to do the roll call:

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

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

Absent: Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Jannelli

RECOGNITIONS

Todd Ingersoll, President of Ingersoll Auto of Danbury brought with him 15 laptops. He told the Board that so far he has donated 45 computers for kids that don't have their own to be used at the schools. He hopes to donation another 60 or 70 next year for a total of 200. The students can use them and if for some reason they are broken, we will replace them. Ms. Alberts thanked him for generous donations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 14-210 through 14-216, as recommended

MINUTES:

10-22-14 Board Meeting

10-29-14 Superintendent Evaluation Committee Meeting

11-5-14 Special Board (Exp) Meeting

11-6-14 Special Board (Exp) Meeting

PERSONNEL REPORT:

Accept Leave of Absence: Lisa Erhartic Kylie Shatken

Accept Resignations: Katherine Alberto Amber Alessandro Sophia Diaz
Roxana Dilak Michele Marion Beth Mistriel
Kassandra Gonzalez Tiffany Singleton James Murphy
Christopher Jarvis Amy Marlow

New Hires 10/17/14 – 11/6/14:

Name	Location	Non-Certified Subject
Brian Kelly	Park Ave.	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Kayla Borges	DHS	Literacy Interventionist
Megan Deangelis	Ells	Literacy Interventionist
Kathy Pickle	GRP	Literacy Interventionist
Emily Freundt	Park Ave.	Literacy Interventionist
Indira Diogun	KSI	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Karen Colin	Park Ave.	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Eric Bernabe	Ells	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Sharmein Rodriguez	South St.	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Kaleem Stepherson	KSP	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Soksamnang Moeun	KSP	Custodian
Jeffrey Smith	DHS	Boys' Indoor & Outdoor Ass't Track Coach
Abigail Radzimirski	Ells	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Patricia McCarthy	KSI	CRC Site Facilitator
Timothy Randall	STR	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Ana Ufracia	Osborne St.	CRC Data & Billing Specialist
Veronica Casturani	KSI	School Nurse
Ann DeMoura	Park Ave.	Para Title 1
Sandra Hawthorne	SHR	Para Title 1
Sonja Stokes	Ells	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Barry Mc Shaw	STR	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Jorge Jimenez	GRP/BBAC	Custodian
Joseph Simao	RPMS/Park Ave.	Custodian
T' Arica Perkins	WERACE	Instructional Lead Infant-Toddler
Belsy Solano		Dental Assistant
Wifred Padilla		Sub Custodian
Sonia Velasquez		Interpreter/Translator
Michael Pickering		SUB Teacher
Larry Gillert		SUB Teacher
Jesus Aviles Romero		Sub Custodian
Bhumika Chaturvedi		SUB Teacher
Charnez Perkins, Sr.		Sub Custodian
Aura Zelaya		SUB Teacher
Emily Freundt		SUB Teacher
Briana Clarke		SUB Teacher
Sasha Cordero		SUB Teacher
Tracy Dell'Angelo		Sub Custodian
Jorge Soini		SUB Teacher
Mildred Bigelow		SUB Teacher
Mercedes Czapinski		SUB Teacher

DONATIONS

Accept \$2,000 scholarship to Westside Middle School Academy to fund its Lego Robotics “Mars Landing Rover” Project

Accept donation of 15 laptops from Ingersoll Auto of Danbury

The Chairperson thanked the above for their generous donations.

Motion passed at 7:10 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS: Student Representatives told the Board that the quarter grades closed last week and report cards will be distributed soon. Monday night will be the parent-teacher conferences starting at 2:30 to 8:30 pm. The Boys soccer team made it to the LL Semi-finals. This Friday there will be a football game against Greenwich. The Boys track team also came in 1st at Connecticut championships and 2nd in New England Championships. This Friday we will find out the results for “Celebrate my Drive.” Monday, November 24th at 7:00 pm is the Movement to Music performance put on by the Speech Arts and Acting classes. ESL financial aid night was Monday and it went very well.

Ms. Alberts thanked the students for their report and asked if they knew how they made out with “Celebrate my Drive”. They said they would not know the final results until this Friday.

PRESENTATION

Middle School Learning Opportunities/Technology

Dr. Glass introduced Jessica Battaglia and Valerie Tracey and the three Media Specialists; Mary Fee and Darien Wittko from Broadview Middle School and Charles Duff from Rogers Park Middle School. Dr. Glass said the title of Media Specialist does not accurately portray their positions. They are involved in much more than that.

Dr. Glass gave the Board a slide presentation on PLC (Professional Learning Community) and six goals: Reflect - Inquiry, Research it, Assesses Student Progress, Analyze Data, Examine Instruction, Look at Student Work. He explained that while the Westside Middle School Academy affords students with a greater level of choices, the question is what about the remaining students in the other two middle schools. He stated that while the district has been engaged in the conceptual development of additional academies at Broadview and Rogers Park, it has become increasingly clear that all students want to benefit from increased opportunities to experience exploratory and inquiry-based learning opportunities. The centerpiece of this approach is Project-Based Learning. Dr. Glass told the Board that his proposal to the Board is a more inclusive approach. He is asking that the Board consider an approach that repositions the Media Centers of each of our two comprehensive middle schools as the Exploration Hubs of the schools.

He stated that the Media Centers will be transformed, over time, into Learning Commons that will include Maker Spaces and Media Scape. Maker Spaces are a new concept that is based on the innovation and how things are made and to what end. It is typical that Maker Spaces have stations that include 3 Dimensional Printers, A Robotic Lab and other highly engaging and hands on work stations. A Media Scape is a collaborative technology-based tool that is a table with a large flat screen TV wirelessly attached to multiple laptop computers. Students can work collaboratively on a group project from the initial design through virtual completion.

Mr. Hawley asked if we are adjusting our curriculum. Dr. Glass explained the code of learning in detail. Ms. Alberts thanked Dr. Glass and the Media Specialists for coming to the meeting. Dr. Pascarella added that this is our focus this year.

ACTION ITEMS

Teacher Evaluation Plan Modifications

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve the modifications to the Teacher Evaluation Plan for submission to the State Department of Education

Motion passed at 7:45

Mr. Taborsak asked if we could have a presentation or workshop. Ms. Tranzillo said she didn't understand the modification plan. Dr. Glass explained what the changes were and said they were mainly language issues. Ms. Alberts asked if there were enough questions to have a workshop. Dr. Pascarella asked if we should do a presentation. Discussion followed as to whether it should be a presentation at a regular Board meeting or a workshop before a regular meeting.

Superintendent Evaluation Form

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the form to be used to evaluate the Superintendent, as recommended by the Superintendent Evaluation Committee

Motion passed at 7:55 pm.

Broadview Gym Divider

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved seconded by D. Metrena that the Board of Education approve use of \$2,300 from the Building Rental Fund to replace the electric winch for the divider at Broadview

Motion passed at 7:56 pm.

DHS Gym Floor Repairs

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve use of \$3,000 from the Building Rental Fund to repair two gymnasium floors at DHS

Motion passed at 7:56 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Final ECS Budget

Mr. Martino explained the ECS Grants document that was in the Board packet, Exhibit 14-222.

Mr. Hawley questioned the enrollment in the elementary schools and whether or not we are in our rights to shift certified staff. Ms. Thompson said that she and Dr. Pascarella are part of a group that is attending meetings on human resources and how we hire administrators.

Dr. Pascarella said we are having a full day IDT Retreat on the Assessment Matrix; Jonathan Costa from Education Connection will be here on Tuesday, November 25th from 8:00-3:00.

DISCUSSION - None

INFORMATION

Energy Efficiency Upgrades at Morris Street, South Street, Mill Ridge Primary, Shelter Rock, Park Avenue and Great Plain.

Mr. Martino told the Board that upgrades have been done across the District. He said a survey was done at Great Plain, Mill Ridge Primary, Morris Street, Park Avenue, Shelter Rock and South Street with energy engineers from Honeywell and CL& P. Honeywell's final scope of work includes replacing gas fired water heaters, rebuild steam traps, install high efficiency motors, demand control ventilation, fan speed control from temperature, chilled water reset, exhaust fan control and LED daylight harvesting.

The projected cost is \$1.23 million. Less incentive and rebate, the net projected cost is \$740,662; this will give us an annual energy savings of \$199,886 which includes maintenance cost avoidance for lighting of \$59,280 which we do not take into account for the financing. We will have this on the next agenda for adoption.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

CABE Convention, November 14-15

Ms. Alberts told the Board who had registered for the CABE Convention. She asked Dr. Pascarella if he was doing a presentation this year. He said he wasn't.

Annual Board Meeting, December 3, 2014, DHS, 5:30 photo

Ms. Alberts reminded the Board that the annual meeting this year will be at Danbury High School. She asked that they be on time for the photo at 5:30 pm.

The Chairperson also reminded the Board to watch Dr. Pascarella on the "*Sal's Show*" on TV.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Ms. Cooper thanked the committee for attending the Superintendent's Evaluation meeting. She said that the Superintendent presented his goals.

Mr. Pietrafesa said we visited the Westside Academy. He was happy to take the tour and they were happy that we were there.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Motion passed at 8:20 pm.

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

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

Absent: Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Jannelli

Ms. Alberts turned the meeting over to Kim Thompson. The Board briefly discussed personnel matters.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Motion passed at 8:27 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

D. Metrena moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa that the Board of Education adjourn its November 12, 2014 Board Meeting and the meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Richard Hawley, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)

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