

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013- 7:00 P.M.
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

CALL TO ORDER

Sandy Steichen, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm, and those assembled recited the Pledge Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Eileen Alberts, Shirley Chilian, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal,
Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli,
Kathleen Molinaro, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

Also Present: Drs. Glass and Pascarella, K. Thompson and J. Martino from Administration

RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Pascarella introduced Mr. Ingersoll, President of Ingersoll Automotive. Mr. Ingersoll said that his company donated the 15 laptops that you see here to the Danbury Board Public Schools. He then told the story of donating a laptop to a student. The student received a scholarship to a prominent college. The student told him that if it was okay, he would go to the library and find someone that spends a lot of time there doing research for school and give it to that person. By doing that, the second recipient was able to spend more time doing other things rather than spend that time just writing research at the library. He thought it was honorable for a person to do that and that is why he is going to be donating laptops. He has done this in the past to some of the schools in the surrounding town. Next year he plans to give more laptops. It will keep increasing. The Board thanked Mr. Ingersoll for his generosity.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - S. Chilian moved, seconded by Taborsak that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended, Exhibits 13-203 through 13-209:

MINUTES

Redistricting Committee	10/15/13
Redistricting Committee	10/23/13
Board of Education Meeting	10/23/13
Special Board Meeting (Exp)	10/28/13
Special Board Meeting (Exp)	10/28/13
Special Board Meeting (Board Self-Evaluation)	11/6/13

PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence:

Veronica Gerhardt

Alyson Powers

Accept Resignations:

Tyrone Elliott

Kara Gabriel

Janet Groves

Denise Guzman

Margaret Montinieri

Doug Mattola (Coach Only)

New Hires: 10/18/13-11/7/13

Name	Location	CERTIFIED Subject
Sarah Kisielewski	DHS	SPED Teach

Name	Location	NON-CERTIFIED Subject
Travis Gebing	Pembroke	SPED Tutor
Lori Luis	Pembroke	SPED Tutor
Kimberly Melillo	Ells	.4 Title I Para
Judith Kreiger	GRP	Literacy Interventionist
Emily Patton	Ells	CRC Enrichment Associate
Jennifer Moy	Hayes	CRC Enrichment Associate
Haley Ahrstrom	ACE	Math Interventionist
Janet Albanesi	Hayes	CRC Enrichment Associate
Melissa Curran	Ells	Literacy Interventionist
Matthew Hughes	BVMS & Hayes	SPED Tutor & CRC Enrich. Associate
Samantha Clarke	South St.	CRC Enrichment Associate
Kori Krafick	Ells	Literacy Interventionist
Christine Schmied	Morris	Literacy Interventionist
Margaret Forster	RPMS	SPED Tutor
Alfred Hulse, Jr.	SHR	Safety Advocate
Justin Carretta		SUB Teacher
Elke Cilia		SUB Teacher
Danielle Norris		SUB Teacher
Melissa Squiciari		SUB Speech Lang. Pathologist
Dorothy Lourenco		SUB Nurse
Profe Data		Translator/Interpreter
Mary McCormack		SUB Teacher
Ryann McCabe		SUB Teacher
Jennifer Ondek		SUB Guidance Counselor
Jamie Kalliomaki		SUB Teacher
Katherine Peterson		SUB Teacher
Kara Gardiner		SUB Teacher
Gina Romano		SUB Teacher
Anne Soltes-Foscato		SUB Teacher & SUB Sec'y
Christina Bugnits-Perun		SUB Teacher
June Hartel		SUB Teacher - Building Sub
Dier Dealmcida		SUB Custodian
Carol Ann Wilk Lutz		SUB Teacher
Christine Cruz-Ireland		Literacy Cadre Sub

Daniel Quilty
Margaret Montinieri
Nicole Brothers

SUB Safety Advocate
SUB Teacher
SUB Teacher

Motion passed at 7:10 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS Representative thanked the Board for their support during their drive. The winners will be announced at a later date. On December 9 we will have an assembly with the Junior and Senior classes on the dangers of driving and texting. The Board of Governors and freshmen attended Key Leaders Forum at WCSU.

ACE Representative, Ashley Donahue told the Board that on November 8th, eight students attended the Kiwanis Key Leader Forum held at WCSU. Students from surrounding towns participated in a variety of leadership workshops and how students can become positively involved in their communities; last Thursday ACE participated in taking the DRP reading test, developing reading skills is a school-wide goal this year at ACE; On November 14th at 6:30 pm, we will be hosting a parent night.

This year, we have been identified as a Title I School. We will be increasing parental engagement activities as outlined in the grant. In addition we will be purchasing two mobile computer labs which will help to enrich instruction in numerous classrooms.

Please mark your calendar for our annual Thanksgiving community celebration on Tuesday, Nov. 26th at ACE from 11:00 – 1:30. We look forward to serving hundreds of people. This is our way of saying thank you to our community for many years of support.

This year ACE is celebrating its 35th anniversary. A newly organized Alumni Association has been formed. We look forward to celebrating our anniversary with a huge event in May. In addition, it is our hope to gather as many alumni as possible to provide support to ACE students as mentors, provide job shadowing and act as guest speakers.

PRESENTATION

Carlyn Mueller, Grant Writer

Dr. Pascarella introduced Carlyn Mueller to the Board. Ms. Mueller told the Board of her graduate and undergraduate degrees for Colombia and also from UCONN. She gave a brief synopsis of her employment history in business development, health care, marketing and advertising. She stated that she still feels like an undergraduate in an environment like this. She told the Board that she hopes to move forward in getting more funding for the District.

Dr. Pascarella stated that we are currently working on 501c; it enables the IRS to let us function as a charity. He said that Mr. Martino knows more about that. If we get the 501c status it will be for the whole system, not just the literacy center. Some Board members had a few questions on what she is currently working on. It was also asked, now that she is on board, does that mean Mr. Martino won't

have to write grants. He stated that he will always help if he needs to. Dr. Pascarella said since she is a high tech person she is also going to do some media work for us as well.

CMT, CAPT, AP and SAT Assessment Results

Dr. Pascarella said that we don't have all the data in yet. But when we do, we will update you. Dr. Glass stated that we have to thank Ann Lindermeier for the data work she has done. Ms. Martin spoke about the CAPT test. She said the teachers have done a yeoman's job. Our math scores are up across the board for the first time since the generation of CAPT has been issued. The numbers of ESL's remain fairly consistent. Our science teachers are doing a great job. On the SAT tests, math, reading and writing went up as well. We are proud of the work we have done and of our teachers. She gave the Board some statistics, and a few Board members had questions which she answered.

ACTION ITEMS - None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Update on facility projects

Mr. Martino stated that Mill Ridge is under discussion, but on target for May 5th completion date. We are on the timeline, but there are some issues that have to be resolved, but none that will delay the project.

Commissioner's Superintendents Roundtable

Dr. Pascarella said that he went to the Roundtable meeting. He is happy that the Superintendents are invited to join in on these meetings. It is very worthwhile. At this meeting we discussed common core plans and partnerships, graduation requirements, Secondary School Reform and mastery-based systems, also feedback on educator evaluation and support implementation. There was a questions and answer session.

Legislative Requirement – State Testing Review

Dr. Pascarella spoke briefly about the State Testing Review. Ms. Steichen asked when the students come to us do we screen them to be sure they are placed right. The Superintendent said we do some screening. Basically, we do chronological placement. We used to do an entrance exam, but no longer do that.

Safety Task Force Meeting, December 11th, 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Pascarella said we will have the meeting on December 11th, here at Beaver Brook Administration.

State Visit 11/8/13 - School Readiness Program

The Superintendent said we are working well with the parish at the Cottage Street School. The State visit went well. The program is moving in the right direction. The teachers have done a great job. We did hire a safety advocate.

Middle School Lease Update

Mr. Martino said a picture is worth 1,000 words. We have three new computer labs in each of the middle schools. We partnered with the City to bundle the copiers to save some money. The kids are definitely using them. We got 500 chrome books. The technology grant will be announced next week. We have to pick up \$100,000, I applied for \$300,000. Dr. Pascarella said our grant writer, Carlyn Mueller, has attended some of the cabinet meetings.

DISCUSSION

Redistricting Recommendations

Dr. Pascarella said we need to get closure on the budget for the new academy at Mill Ridge. When we opened up STEM we phased-in and we have to look at a phase-in for Mill Ridge; the cost of operation, what it will cost us. Depending on how many students we open with, we will have to phase it in. I will put it on the agenda next time for a conversation. The Board needs to think about that. Mr. Martino said he is meeting with the lottery person for the academy. A conversation ensued about the budget addition which depends on how many kids will be in the academy.

On redistricting, Mr. Martino said we have had our third or fourth meeting. At Morris Street we had only one viable option. We had a conversation about preserving walkers. Some Ellsworth students could move to Stadley, but there are some walkers there. If we want to take care of the walkers, the upper class students would move to Great Plain. Some South Street students would have to move to Shelter Rock. My goal would be to decrease South Street numbers. We have flipped the map all around and looked at all different ways. We talked about bus issues. We are going to have to add buses for the new Middle School. Dr. Pascarella said we are going to have some meetings at the schools. The sooner we get out to the parents and talk to them about redistricting, the better we are. Ms Steichen asked if we are comfortable with the scenarios. Dr. Pascarella said we need to get in to the schools that are affected, unless you want me to go into a different direction.

Ms. Fluskey-Lattin asked if it would be better if all affected parents attend one meeting; everyone hearing the same message at the same time. There will be too much misinformation out there if you do more than one meeting. She stated that it needs to be communicated to those parents that this information meeting is happening district-wide however, it is going to affect this school for sure. Ms. Steichen agreed and said that is a great suggestion. The Superintendent then asked how about break-out sessions? Some people won't ask questions in a big group. Mr. Martino said we are looking at about 310 kids. The Superintendent said that may work. Mr. Taborsak said he likes the idea of break-out groups. Some timid people won't ask questions and they would in break-out sessions. The Superintendent said, he thinks that is a good suggestion.

INFORMATION - None

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Board of Education Annual Meeting, December 4, 2013, 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Steichen then congratulated the new elected Board members who were in the audience: Michael Ferguson and Ralph Pietrafesa.

Ms. Steichen reminded the Board that the Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 4th. Photos for the yearbook will be at 5:30 pm and at 5:45 pm will be the election of officers, followed by dinner.

Ms. Steichen said, "I have here a letter of resignation from Shirley, the Vice-Chair of her position from the Board of Education and member of the Board of Education, effective at this meeting at the close of business; and I also have my resignation as Chair of the Board of Education and member of the Board of Education, I will be leaving as well. I will hand these over to the Secretary."

Ms. Steichen then handed Shirley Chilian's letter and her letter to the Secretary of the Board, Richard Hawley.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

Sandy Steichen moved, seconded by Robert Taborsak that the Board of Education adjourn its November 13, 2013 Board Meeting and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Richard Hawley, Secretary

(meeting was video-taped)