

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2016 – 7:00 PM**  
**Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and those assembled recited the pledge of allegiance.

**BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL**

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson,  
Richard Jannelli, Frederick Karrat, David Metrena,  
Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa and Holly Robinson

Absent: Richard Hawley, Patrick Johnston

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

**RECOGNITIONS** - None

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION** - D. Metrena moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 16-154 through 16-155:

MINUTES  
11/9/16 Board Meeting

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

Accept Leave of Absence:	Blenda Prak	Jennifer Peralta
Accept Resignations:	Robert Guerrero	Lindsay Hausmann    Lauren King
New Hires:	See Exhibit 16-155	

**Motion passed at 7:12 pm.**

**EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE** - None

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES** - None

**PRESENTATION** - Data Presentation by Kara Wanzer and Dr. Meghan Martins

Dr. Pascarella asked Dr. Glass to give the Board a summary of the data. He said there are three parts to the presentation: Ms. Kara Wanzer is going to start the presentation and Dr. Meghan Martins will go over the graphs on Danbury High School. He also stated that he will do a summary at the end of the presentation.

Ms. Wanzer gave the Board a Power Point presentation on Danbury Public Schools data analysis for the 2015-2016 school year. The presentation included bar charts for free and reduce lunch (FRL) students;

English language learners (ELL) students and special education students (SPED) for grades K-12, individually by school. For the year 2015, the data covered 5,891 FRL, 2,578 ELL and 1,277 SPED, 5,019 Hispanic, 823 Black, 714 Asian, 4,058 White, 7 Pacific Island, 10 Native American, 280 Multi-Racial for a total of 10,911 students. Ms. Wanzer and Dr. Martins explained to the Board the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) detailing what the English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) tests measure and what the Mathematic tests measure for grades. The STAR overview showed that in Early Literacy there were 30 questions for 900 points; Reading 34 questions for 1,400 points and Math 34 questions for 1,400 points. In the 2015-2016 school year, Danbury assessed students across the district enrolled in Kindergarten through 9<sup>th</sup> grade; some pilots were conducted at specific schools to inform decision making for the 2016-2017 school year. An overview of SAT was also presented by Dr. Martins. She said the SAT is different this year. The test is broken into three portions and an essay is now optional; colleges really don't care about that portion of the test. SAT results are in reading and math with a perfect score of 1600. We have 24 advance placement classes and minority students are availing themselves for the program.

Dr. Glass asked the Board to turn to the Conclusion and Considerations page in the presentation. He asked that they circle several important topics such as student outcomes, increases or decreases, poverty and English Language and he spoke in detail about each topic. He said he is happy with the progress we have made but we can always do better.

Dr. Pascarella commented on the data and said this is the first year's results according to our assessments. A few members had questions regarding the graphs. Ms. Molinaro specifically asked about a Freshman Academy and could we do something like that for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Dr. Pascarella said that they are looking into a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade transition to middle school.

Ms. Alberts thanked Ms. Wanzer and Dr. Martins for their presentation.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### October 2016 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education accepts the October 2016 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Mr. Martino told the Board that during the month of October 2016, the district expended \$8,339,202 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$29,911,908 which represents 23.74% of the General Fund total budget. He mentioned that they are monitoring the budget very closely.

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

### October 2016 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by M Ferguson that the Board of Education accepts the October 2016 Operating Results Analysis (Grant/Projects)

Mr. Martino told the Board that during the month of October 2016, the district expended \$1,684,759 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$4,847,919, which represents 18.2% of the Grants budget. He stated that there was a 6% reduction in the Magnet School.

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

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **CABE Convention Report**

Dr. Pascarella said the CABE Convention was very informative. He felt the Board members that attended did get some good information and he thanked them for their participation.

### **Modular Classroom Update**

Mr. Martino said that they expect delivery on November 30<sup>th</sup> and the project is still under budget. The students would be probably moving in before Christmas.

**DISCUSSION** - None

**INFORMATION** - None

## **BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Ms. Alberts reminded the Board that the Annual Board Meeting is on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. at Westside Middle School Media Center. Group photo will be taken for the year book followed by election of officers.

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

Mr. Karrat said he attended a Leadership Institute meeting which was a great experience and similar to the CABE Convention, but much smaller. There were 20-25 people in attendance, two to three per district. Sessions had presenters that were at the CABE Convention. This meeting was in Wethersfield. There are two more planned; one in the spring and one in the summer. If you are interested let me know I will be happy to go with you. They offer some type of a certification program to collect credits.

Mr. Jannelli spoke about the School Funding Coalition. He said that they had a meeting a couple of months ago that was attended by 10-15 people and a committee was formed. At that meeting they gave a brief financial update. There are three meeting dates coming up; November 28, December 1 and December 7 at Danbury High School. It is important to have an understanding why we need the money. In our district we have a diverse and population growth and the funds will be used towards those needs. We are trying to engage more people to put together a group of stakeholders in Danbury within the business community; students; elected officials; parents, etc.

Ms. Alberts said on December 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a Community Forum at the Danbury Police Station at 6:30 pm.

Ms. Cooper thanked the members of the Evaluation Committee for attending the meeting. She said we looked at two of the evaluation documents; one that we used in 2016 and one for 2017. We will have another meeting. She said the CABE Convention was a great experience and after listening to what some districts are doing, we are so advanced which I believe is due to the great leadership and great teachers. It was very educational.

Mr. Pietrafesa said our team did a great job. Danbury is unique. He said he sat in on 5 workshops. It is tough to compare us to anyone. It was good to meet with Board members from other districts. I realized from meeting with them that our Danbury Board actually works very well together. It gives some insight on things that are going on in other districts.

Ms. Alberts said she attended the ACE Thanksgiving Luncheon today and the staff and students did a wonderful job, as usual. Each and every year they put forth a lot of effort to feed the community.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

G. Cooper moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education adjourn its November 22, 2016 meeting and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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Michael Ferguson, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)