

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2010 - 7:00 PM

Administrative Center - 63 Beaver Brook Road

Attendance: M. Fazio, I. Fox, K. Gailliard, R. Jannelli, K. Molinaro,
S. Podhajski-LeRoy (7:09 pm), J. Scozzafava, R. Taborsak,
Drs. Dylewski, Glass and Pascarella and Mr. Longo from
Administration

Absent: E. Alberts, R. Austin-James, G. Cooper
Ms. Thompson and Ms. Emmett from Administration

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Irving Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

Mr. Fox said he attended the ACE Thanksgiving Luncheon today and it was very well organized and the staff and students at ACE are to be commended.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended:

MINUTES

Superintendent Evaluation Committee Minutes	11-15-10
Special Board Meeting Minutes	11-15-10
Special Board Meeting Minutes (Exp)	11-16-10
Special Board Meeting Minutes (Exp)	11-17-10

PERSONNEL

Accept Retirement: Donnasue Tucciarone

Motion carried at 7:06 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The DHS Representatives spoke about the Homecoming Dance and that the Board of Governors had a collection of 750 cans of food for a food bank.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

TDEC Update

Dr. Pascarella said we gave our report and the only difference is they want to see more evidence. We had a meeting with them another day and behaviors of the adults are the changes; we are working on that. There is a smaller group of people and hard to keep the energy going, the work is getting harder – we met with the IT group and they are developing a plan and will bring it to TDEC.

Mayor's Budget Message

Dr. Pascarella said the Mayor's budget was nothing; resources are not forthcoming, the State wants to pull back the ECS money. He told all departments that they are not to expect to get what you got last year, you will probably get less. Same message we got in the last two years. He did say that he has no intentions of raising taxes – his collections are up but many of their large property owners are contesting the re-evaluation. Not realizing as much money as he had hoped. He moved the budget calendar up to December to have more time to deal with the budget.

Mr. Scozzafava said he had a personal meeting with the Mayor to try to lobby but it was zero. He is going to keep up where we are – there is no hope for us to get anything. We are going to have to meet right away to see how we can handle this particular massive problem. Dr. Pascarella said he told the Mayor that we would be received the administrator's arbitration agreements in mid-December.

Mr. Fox told the Board that we need to set up the first Finance Committee meeting the third week of December; having the meeting when we know what our labor costs will be, say December 15th.

ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent's Goals & Objectives 2010-2011

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education adopt the Superintendent's Goals & Objectives 2010-2011 as recommended by the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee

Ms. Molinaro, Co-Chairperson of the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee, said we asked the Superintendent to give us more measurable goals and that is what he has done in line with TDEC. Mr. Taborsak said he concurs, it seems that the major areas are covered and we can see if the goals are met or not. This was an improvement.

Dr. Pascarella said we are going to a new IT management system. There isn't any way that we are going to move into the Power School arena; one that is being used in 70% of the school in the area without hiring an additional tech specialist. The new system has a lot of options, but we would start with the basics first. We asked Power School what it costs for consultants; we wanted to buy equity with the company. We decided to take the opportunity from Education Connection to bring someone in to backfill one of our program tech specialists and who will be in charge with the transfer – starting in December we are going to need more staffing in order

to do that. Everyone can't do their current job and then try to do scheduling. It will cost us, with no benefits, somewhere in the range of \$30,000. We have a full time employee at a cost of approximately \$70,000. That person will be taken off and the Education Connection person will take that place.

Dr. Glass said this is a kin to putting the switches in that we did not have the funds to do when they were needed at the high school. The person that we used to have is tied on exclusively with the on-line computing. Education Connection has a pool of staff that we can tap into. Dr. Glass went on to say that the State Department of Education has more and more requirements for on line reporting and this the economical way to do it; if we don't do Power School we can limp along, but the StarBase company will not support our system anymore because they are going to a new system.

Ms. Molinaro said she is disappointed. With the Power School we can get instant information. Sitting here at our computers we could pull up any school we would want to look at. I am disappointed that we can't come up with the money. Dr. Pascarella said it costs about \$175,000. He feels we will be okay with the Education Connection person. He stated that you will see the new budget reflect the study committee and a new IT person.

Motion carried at 7:20 pm.

Mr. Fox thanked Ms. Molinaro and her Evaluation Committee for the work is has done regarding the Superintendent's evaluation.

Interim Director of Special Services

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by K. Gailliard that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to offer employment to the candidate of choice for the position of Interim Director of Special Services

Motion carried at 7:21 pm.

Dr. Pascarella said the job has been listed and we will start collecting applications.

2011 Board of Education Meeting Dates

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by J. Scozzafava that the Board of Education adopt the 2011 Board of Education Meeting dates

Motion carried at 7:22 pm.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Annual Board of Education Meeting, December 1, 2010, 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Fox told the Board that they should arrive by 6:00 pm for the group photo; at 6:30 pm the meeting will start, followed by pot luck dinner.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Sites and Facilities Committee – *Joseph Scozzafava, Chairperson*

Mr. Scozzafava said he could not attend the meeting at that particular time, but what the Mayor said to you he said to me. We have a problem with our football field. The Superintendent said it needs repair: the City will have to authorize funding for the repair, which is expected to cost about \$500,000. We are repairing the seams, but it needs to be stripped out and replaced. He also stated that it is his understanding that we need to formalize the replacement and we are not renting it to keep it safe. Mr. Scozzafava said we will need a public vote; get this on the ballot for the November election. Mr. Longo said certain parts of the field and track area present a safety problem; the City installed the artificial track and field for about \$5 million eight years ago and it was suppose to last 10 years. Mr. Scozzafava said our buildings are getting older and we hope that we will be able to fix them. Mr. Longo told the Board that Mr. Palanzo will advise the Council that we do not want a third party regarding the boilers. Mr. Fox asked Mr. Longo if we know that those items will be on the Council's agenda. Mr. Longo said as of yesterday, there was nothing on the agenda. Mr. Longo said the Committee awaits Mr. Palanzo's recommendations.

Finance Committee – *Michael Fazio, Chairperson*

Mr. Fazio said that we need to have the Finance Committee Meeting on December 15th.

Operations/Policy Committee – *Robert Taborsak, Chairperson*

Mr. Taborsak said the Committee is holding off a By-Law having to do with cell phones; social media is the one thing left in abeyance.

Magnet School – *Gladys Cooper, Kathleen Molinaro, Robert Taborsak, Trustees*

The Superintendent said there will be a meeting next Thursday, December 2nd, at the Magnet School. He said at that time he will advise the participating districts about our budget and the tuition.

The Superintendent stated that Mr. Scails, Principal of King Street Campuses will be back to work on December 6th following his surgery. Mr. Jannelli asked how the King Street Campuses are doing. Dr. Pascarella said he has been there and it is going extremely well. Mr. Fox said he was in the building today, has been to PTO meetings and spoken to teachers. The atmosphere is much better than it was a year ago; much better sense of community than there was in the past.

ADJOURNMENT

J. Scozzafava moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education adjourn its Special Board Meeting on November 23, 2010 and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Kathleen Molinaro, Secretary