

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, November 25, 2014 – 7:00 PM

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Alberts asked for a moment of silence to pray for Dr. Harry Rosvally and his family. His wife Linda Rosvally, who passed away, was a secretary in the school system for 37 years.

Ms. Alberts said that Danbury High School got the \$25,000 grant for “Celebrate the Drive.” The DHS Representatives could not be here tonight but they asked me to share this with the Board.

ROLL CALL

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

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

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

Absent: Gladys Cooper, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli

RECOGNITIONS - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 14-224 through 14-227, as recommended:

MINUTES

November 12, 2014 Board Meeting

November 19, 2014 Special Meeting (Exp)

November 19, 2014 Special Meeting (Exp)

PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence: Jennifer Brissitte

Accept Resignations: Bethany Searle Morgan Ehrler Anthony Provenzale

Accept Retirement: Susan Tomaselli - 27 years, 2 months

New Hires November 7-20, 2014:

Name	Location	CERTIFIED - Subject
Teresa Pesce	RPMS	SPED Teach
Name	Location	NON-CERTIFIED – Subject
Shavonne Hill	Pembroke	SPED Tutor
Andrew Zwart	WSMSA	L/T Music SUB Teach
June Hartel	Pembroke	Literacy Interventionist
Lisette Sanchez	KSP	SPED Tutor
Danielle Santana	South St.	SPED Tutor
Regina Finney	DHS	Math Interventionist
Anne Soltes-Foscato	DHS	Literacy Interventionist
Jacy Bispo	South St.	SPED Tutor
Judith Brown	Park Ave.	Literacy Interventionist
Laura DiPaola	BBAC	19 hr. P/T HR Specialist
Diana Heitor	Ells	Literacy Interventionist
Edgardo Escribano		Sub Para/Tutor
Steven Turk		SUB Teach
Erika Behringer		ESL Interpreter
Emily Mellen		SUB Teach
Douglas Southworth		SUB Teach
Sophia Diaz		Sub Para/Tutor
Martin Donegan		SUB Teach
Suzanne Rossi		SUB Teach
Kathleen Angelou		Sub Para/Tutor
Danyelle Custodio		Sub Secretary
Ashley Grenier		SUB Teach
Lynn Hungaski		SUB Teach
Colleen Romano		SUB Teach

Ms. Alberts thanked Sue Tomasselli for her many years of service to the students in Danbury and wished her well on her retirement.

Motion carried at 7:06 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS Representatives

Dr. Pascarella said DHS Student, Tyler Amaral, sent him the following e-mail message since the students were unable to attend the meeting tonight.

“Everything in DHS has been running very smooth and efficient lately. Last night we had our biannual Movement to Music production. There was a great turn out, over one hundred people in the audience supporting the students as they demonstrated their self-choreographed dance routines. As of December 15th, the official winners of the Celebrate My Drive campaign will be formally announced. Furthermore, DHS recently had a canned food drive for charity, a great contribution to the community during this holiday season. There was an outstanding surplus of food brought. After Thanksgiving

break is over, we will also be holding a financial aid night, as well as our annual Holiday Concert. In addition to school wide events, four individual students, Noelle Daley, Laurie Stark, Ryan Ansel, and Allie Smith have signed their National Letters of Intent for athletic scholarships in college. Lastly, the Mayor recently announced an approval for Hat City Day where he encourages all to wear a hat and remember the heritage of Danbury. On this day in December, Mr. Boccaccio is not only allowing, but encouraging students to wear a hat to school. Thank you for your time.”

ACE Representative

John King, ACE Representative, told the Board that ACE participated in the first Outdoor Education trip of the year by traveling to Pennsylvania and hiking down into a coal mine. The three day trip was accompanied with a day in the mines, a day hiking at Boulder Field and opportunities for students to demonstrate teamwork, collaboration and leadership skills. On September 17th, ten students organized an International Peace Day activity/celebration for 75 sixth graders at Broadview Middle School. The event, led by John Webber, Kyle Trocolla and BMS teachers Dallas Moore, was all student created and student run and was a huge success. We are now using our new Chromebooks in almost all classes. The increased technology in the building has allowed teachers to use these as an instructional tool by having student’s complete assignments in Schoology, Moodle and Google Classroom. Students are engaged in classes and are enjoying the use of the new technology. We celebrated our annual community Thanksgiving Feast today. Hundreds of friends, family members and supporters attended. It was a great day at the Center. The students and staff are preparing for our annual Breakfast with Santa fundraiser to be held on Saturday, December 13th between 9:00 am and noon. Pictures with Santa and crafts will be available for sale.

Ms. Alberts thanked John for his report and said it was a great Thanksgiving dinner that ACE always hosts for the community. It was mentioned that Henry Abbott also helped by cooking turkeys.

PRESENTATION

Annual Testing Report – Kara Wanzer, Administrator Data Management, Analysis & Reporting

Dr. Glass introduced Kara Wanzer to the Board. He said before she does her presentation he wants the Board to know that CMT and CAPT tests do not exist anymore. He went on to say, I am sure you read the preamble to this presentation, but I want to call your attention to the second paragraph. Board members will recall that the administration has been referencing the fact that the district has made and is continuing to make a major shift in our instructional program at all grade levels in the area of reading, writing and mathematics. These changes were precipitated by the CT State Department of Education’s adoption of the Common Core State Standards and the associated assessment battery provided by the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

Ms. Wanzer told the Board the graduation rate includes the percent of 9th graders who graduate from 12th grade with a standard diploma within 4 years. Students who began their high school education in another CT district, but spent 12th grade in Danbury are counted in the graduation rate. The extended graduation rate counts students who stay enrolled in high school for longer than 4 years. The 2011 Extended Graduation Rate was 87.1%. The State releases the graduation rates during the Fall of the following school year. The 4 year Graduation Rate was 75.5 for 2013 and 75.7 for 2014. The 2014 numbers are still in draft form. The 4 year graduation rate increased 23.8% from 2013 to 2014 for reported students who qualified for Free and Reduced Lunch. The extended graduation rate for 2012-2013 is not yet available.

Please see the table below which outlines the students still enrolled that were projected to be in the numbers for the extended graduation rate.

	Graduation Rate 4 Year Cohort 2010-2011	Extended Graduation Rate 2010-2011	Graduation Rate 4 Year Cohort 2012-2013	Still in School for the 2013-14 School Year (Rates TBD)	Graduation Rate 4 Year Cohort 2013-2014 (Draft)	Still in School (Graduation Rate to be determined at end of 2014-15) Draft
Graduation Rate %	77.2	87.1	75.5	13	75.7	12.5
Students with Disabilities	57.9	84.2	46.4	38.1	51.9	34.6
FRL	65	79.1	43.9	32.8	67.7	15.2
Black	76.2	86.9	76.1	15.2	71.1	15.6
Hispanic	70.7	83	60.2	20.7	62.3	17.4
ELL	59.5	75	49.6	27.1	46.2	25.6

Mr. Taborsak is concerned about the gain over 3 years, basically the 3 year growth. Ms. Fluskey-Lattin said she is not concerned on what it comes out to each year. She asked Dr. Glass if we ever looked at the trend. He said that we have a 39% mobility rate – we took the kids that were with us and tracked them, not the kids that came in and out. Ms. Wanzer said we have vertical growth in the numbers. (The Presentation was given to the Board before the meeting so they could refer to the numbers that Ms. Wanzer addressed.) Ms. Alberts thanked Ms. Wanzer for her presentation.

ACTION ITEMS

Energy Efficiency Upgrades

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by B. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve the Energy Efficiency Upgrades at Morris Street, South Street, Mill Ridge Primary, Shelter Rock, Park Avenue and Great Plain

Motion carried at 7:46 pm.

October 2014 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by D. Metrena that the Board of Education accept the October 2014 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund) Mr. Martino told the Board that during the month of October 2014, the District expended \$13,087,381 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$32,019,891 which represents 17.94% of the General Fund total budget.

Motion carried at 7:47 pm.

October 2014 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by Ralph Pietrafesa that the Board of Education accept the October 2014 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

Mr. Martino told the Board that during the month of October 2014, the District expended \$2,386,554 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$4,698,059 which represents 44.7% of the Grants budget.

Motion carried at 7:48 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

CAS Award to AIS Elementary School of the Year, November 19, 2014

Dr. Pascarella said the reception was held at Aqua Turf. We were recognized and Helena Nitowski gave a wonderful speech. It was televised if you would like to hear what she said. We are going to use some of the comments as a recruiting tool.

City Budget Meeting, November 19, 2014

Legislative Meeting, November 21, 2014

Dr. Pascarella said there were minutes taken at the meeting. If for some reason you did not get a copy of them, I will have them sent to you. Mr. Taborsak said that he attended the Legislative Meeting and he wants it to go on record that Bob Godfrey was not there.

DISCUSSION

INFORMATION

Draft 2015-16 School Calendar without early release days, Regional Calendar for 2015-16 & 2016-17

Dr. Pascarella said this is a draft of the 2015-16 meeting. Next year is still an option; the year after that we will be required to use the regional calendar. We have to have certain holidays together. For planning purposes we did not put any half days in. It would be helpful if we could give the parents the calendar information. Dr. Glass said the calendar is similar to what we done in the past. Professional Development Day is on September 18th. We tried to stay away from September. The reason why we did this is so regional districts would be able to partner with a speaker. The Superintendent said this calendar is only for information right now. Ms. Fluskey-Lattin had a question about half days. Ms. Molinaro said this is a business model they are using. Unless they make a venue to make that happen, I don't understand how it will work. Dr. Glass said sharing resources – whether some teachers come here or we go there, is how the partnership will work. We are the large district. Mr. Martino was asked how many students were in the school that he previous worked in, he stated 700. It was mentioned that meant there not very many teachers in that school. Ms. Tranzillo asked if we can start school earlier. Dr. Pascarella answered no, but we can end on a different date. He also stated if you have a teacher's contract, the State will give some leeway.

CT-ECO (CT Early College Opportunity) 9-14 Program

The Superintendent said, this program is based on a 9-14 model originally developed by IBM. The program offers students the unique opportunity to earn an industry-recognized, two year postsecondary degree, along with their high school diploma within a six year experience. The program enables students to master the academic, technical and workplace skills necessary to obtain entry level jobs in STEM industries or continue their education in a four year institution. He went on to say that we got a \$50,000 grant for Naugatuck Valley Community College, starting November 2015.

South Street School Playground Completed

Mr. Martino said the playground is completed and it looks great. King Street is about complete as is Morris Street. All the other schools will be getting new wood chips.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Annual Meeting, December 3, 5:30 p.m. at DHS

Ms. Alberts reminded the Board that the Annual Meeting will be at Danbury High School. Please arrived in the Media Center by 5:30 for a group picture for the year book.

Ms. Alberts asked for a Motion to change the Annual Meeting date from Wednesday, December 3rd to Tuesday, December 2nd.

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board change the Annual Meeting date from Wednesday, December 3rd to Tuesday, December 2nd.

Motion carried at 8:00 pm.

CABE Convention, November 14-15, 2014

Ms. Alberts stated that she went to the Convention. She said she has been to 8 or 9 CABE Conventions, but this was the best one she ever attended. She also told the Board that she was going to e-mail them some information that she brought home with her.

Mr. Martino stated that the date to get the budget to the Mayor this year is February 16th. We expect to get budget information back from the principals on December 1st.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Pietrafesa said the CABE Convention was the first one he has attended. It was great to get input from other Board members from other districts. 90% of us in that workshop were all new members. He said there were different opinions on what a Board member is and how they work. Community information also came up a lot. It was a good event to go to, at least while you are on the Board. Ms. Molinaro said we work well together as a Board. Mr. Pietrafesa said we haven't had many disagreements. It was great to get the insight on the Superintendent and Board relationships. I have a booklet that I may be able to make some copies of and pass them out.

Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Pietrafesa said they visited AIS. It is a cool design. We also went to King Street. They are really serious about security there. There is a Safety Advocate who checks everyone in. Today we visited Great Plain and Ellsworth. Mr. Pietrafesa said he went to ACE today for the Thanksgiving Feast. Henry Abbott cooked some of the food. He stated that when we visit the schools,

people are generally happy that we are there. They welcome us and give great tours. We have 3 or 4 more schools to go back to in the springtime.

Ms. Alberts thanked them for visiting the schools. It is great that the Board visits the schools so they know that we care.

Ms. Alberts said asked that the Policy Committee meet to discuss an electronic voting policy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa to adjourn the November 25, 2014 Board Meeting and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Richard Hawley, Secretary

(Meeting videotaped)

fm/