

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2012

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

MISSION STATEMENT (revised 10/13/12)

Our mission is to develop in all children the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values which will enable them to live a productive and self-fulfilling life and engage in responsible citizenship in a global society.

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Gladys Cooper, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Cooper asked Kathleen Molinaro to do the Roll Call.

ROLL CALL

In attendance: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Kathleen Molinaro, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo
Sandy Steichen (8:22 pm)

Also in attendance: Superintendent Dr. Pascarella, Dr. Glass, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Martino from Administration

Absent: Shirley Chilian

RECOGNITIONS - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - Robert Taborsak moved, seconded by Gary Falkenthal, that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 12-188 through 12-195, as recommended:

MINUTES

Sites & Facilities Committee Meeting	11/14/12
Board Meeting	11/14/12
Special Board Meeting	11/19/12

PERSONNEL

Accept Leaves of Absence:	Richard Davis	Marquita Hughes
	Katherine Williams	
Accept Resignations:	Shannon Turner	Rowena Zylali
Accept Retirement:	James Backus	40 years, 3 months

New Hires – 10/24/12 to 11/16/12:

	Name	Location	CERTIFIED Subject
1	Elizabeth Althen	RPMS/BVMS	SLOP Coach
2	Eric Madsen	RPMS	Library Media Specialist
3	Edwin Pena	Pembroke	Grade 4
4	Kenneth Weiss	South (60%) Ells (40%)	PE Teacher
5	Janice Zygmunt	MREC, Morris & Hayes	Occupational Therapist
			Non-Certified Subject
1	Ali, Heather	MREC	Youth Develop. Specialist
2	Anaya, Martha	BVMS	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
3	Baird, Anthony	DHS	Math Interventionist
4	Bispo, Jacy	South St.	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
5	Caswell, Ashley	South Street	Literacy Interventionist
6	Chan, Theresa	MRP	Tutor
7	Childs, Renee	RPMS	Math Interventionist
8	DiBuono, Joseph	Ellsworth	Literacy Interventionist
9	Dickson, Stephen	RPMS	Math Interventionist
10	Donohue, Leah	Park Ave.	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
11	Dovale, Ashley	Park Ave.	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
12	Fiddes, James	DHS	Science Interventionist
13	Galves, Priscila	Ellsworth	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
14	Garcia, Sara	Osborne St. CRC ELP	Data Entry
15	Haddad, Rhonda	BVMS	Math Interventionist
16	Kasper, Nichole	Ellsworth	Literacy Interventionist
17	Lupinski, Thomas	DHS	Math Interventionist
18	Morgan, Jacqueline	Ellsworth	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
19	O'Donnell, Jennifer	Park Ave.	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
20	Paden, Chelsea	Ellsworth	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
21	Renjilian, Lucille	Pembroke	Tutor
22	Takken, Asya	DHS	Math Interventionist
23	Tripp Jr., William	BVMS	Math Interventionist
24	Vargas, Marilyn	Osborne St. CRC ELP	Data Entry
25	Vicare, Christopher	Park Ave.	Tutor
26	Vilar, Jr., Victor	Ellsworth	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
1	Al Askari, Alaa		SUB Head Start
2	Baran, Lauren		SUB Teach
3	Breschard, Jessica		SUB Teach
4	Eide-Bilotta, Melissa		SUB Teach
5	Hernandez, Angelina		ESL Translator/Interpreter
6	Jacque, Kristen		SUB Head Start
7	Maldonado, Norma		SUB Para, Tutor
8	Mollengarden, Monica		ESL Translator/Interpreter
9	Natal, Aimee		SUB Teach
10	Peralta, Sandra		SUB Head Start
11	Rodriguez, Fanny		ESL Translator/Interpreter
12	Rodriguez, Scarlet		SUB Custodian
13	Saldicco, Donald		SUB Teach
14	Strait, Auriane		ESL Translator/Interpreter
15	Vargas, Marilyn		ESL Translator/Interpreter
16	Vasquez, Marisol		ESL Translator/Interpreter
17	Vega, Debra		ESL Translator/Interpreter
18	Vega, Michiko		SUB Head Start

DONATIONS

Accept final installment of \$1,000 of a \$4,500 multi-year grant from the Sodexo Foundation for the Sodexo at Danbury School District supported Backpack Food Program

Accept 15 laptops for Danbury High School from Ingersoll Automotive

In Favor: E. Alberts G. Cooper G. Falkenthal
A. Fluskey-Lattin R. Hawley K. Molinaro
R. Taborsak P. Tranzillo

Abstain: R. Jannelli

Absent: S. Chilian, S. Steichen (8:22 pm)

Motion carried at 7:06 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Danbury High School: No representative

Alternative Center: Vanessa Grant, representative of ACE told the Board that Thanksgiving luncheon was another success. Thank you to all of the Board members that attended. We served over 400 people and we appreciate the relationship we have developed with Henry Abbott Technical School. This month, we had collaboration with an education major at WESCON to present lessons on bullying to the fourth grade classes.

PRESENTATION

Sandy Atanasoff, Pupil Services Coordinator

Dr. Pascarella introduced Sandy Atanasoff to the Board and told them that Sandy is the Pupil Services Coordinator. She told the Board that for the last 18 months she has been sitting on the local LIST (Local Implementation Service Team) coalition which includes a variety of community members and agencies, such as the Danbury Youth Services, Danbury Police Department, Juvenile Court/Probation, Danbury Schools, DCF, Newtown Family Services, Wellmore Mental Health and a few more. The topic that the Juvenile Review Boards has been discussing is a viable option for students in Danbury. The mission of the Board is to divert youth from the juvenile court system and make available to them a wide array of community opportunities to prevent them from committing repeat offenses. Some of the discipline issues in schools are minority offenses also truancy. Rather than putting the students in a Juvenile system, we have found that Review Boards are meeting the support that the students need to keep them out of the court system. They are a real support for children and families. Grades below 6-12 are not included, since it would not be appropriate at that age. We will be visiting

a local district to review their policies and procedures manual and begin to identify the components that we'd like to bring to Danbury. We hope that we will be able to help our students at risk with this program. I plan to keep the Board posted on our progress.

A couple of Board members had questions regarding parents' acceptance of the program; whether the Board will be able to meet the demand; and how can the Danbury Board help. Ms. Atanasoff said we will need a Case Manager to manage the cases and to handle the paperwork. We would review cases once a month, depending on how many cases there are. So far this year, we have had 10 due to truancy, but the year is not over yet. We feel it is a proactive approach to get the students back on track. She responded that in many other towns the Police and Youth Services Bureau are involved, but Danbury Police is understaffed right now and it would be difficult for them to jump in; our school Resources Officers could help by being active on the Review Board – their involvement is critical. We would need the Board support to move forward and would love to have a Board member join our group. Ms. Cooper thanked Ms. Atanasoff for her presentation.

ACTION ITEMS

October 2012 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by E. Alberts, that the Board of Education accept the October 2012 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Motion carried at 7:30 pm.

During the month of October 2012, the District expended \$12,316,168, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$27,894,958.

Mr. Martino told the Board that the salary line will start firming up. Mr. Jannelli had questions about the legal fees and asked if it appears that line items will be favorable by the end of the year. Mr. Martino responded that we do have an accrual in there now and a pool of \$29,000 left.

Mr. Hawley asked if he is seeing any savings with the new windows and door at the high school. Mr. Martino said we are building out our budget for next year and are doing an analysis on that – the trick is the degree days. We are also doing an analysis on the solar project. Mr. Martino went on to say that the budget is frozen and he sent a letter to all staff telling them that; we do not freeze basic supplies. Mr. Jannelli asked about a multi-year budget and whether or not Mr. Martino thinks sometime in January the Board or the Finance Committee could have a presentation; not that it has to be complete, but just a run through. The response was we will be in a position to do that going forward. Mr. Jannelli also asked about self-insurance and where do we stand on that. Mr. Martino said he just had a meeting with the Mayor yesterday and the City is looking into it. We have looked into it and we would need \$7 million in reserve. We are looking at a couple of plans. He said he would have the insurance broker come in and talk to the Finance Committee, or to the Board. We have to see where the City is going with it.

October 2012 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education accept the October 2012 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

Motion carried at 7:45 pm.

During the month of October 2012, the District expended \$1,744,206 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$3,605,477.

Mr. Taborsak asked about Medicaid. Mr. Martino said that is for the nurses.

Ms. Fluskey-Lattin stated that she is having a difficult time reading the financials and asked specific questions about a couple of line items wanting to know what funds were coming into the District as opposed to what are costs to the District. She was not sure what adjusted budget amount meant. She asked Mr. Martino if he could color code what was coming in from the State in grant funds or what was going out. Mr. Hawley asked if Mr. Martino could highlight it in yellow. Mr. Jannelli said next year the Finance Committee should meet with Mr. Martino to review the presentation to talk about the details and the format which would make your life a lot easier. Ms. Cooper said over the years we have been trying to make it clearer.

Radon Testing in the Schools

MOTION- K. Molinaro, seconded by R. Taborsak, that the Board of Education approve radon testing in all schools. Cost not to exceed \$22,000 to be taken from Building Rental Fund.

Motion carried at 7:46 pm.

Ms. Molinaro said at the last Board meeting the Board decided that we should test all the schools and that the money should come from the Building Rental Fund.

School Calendar – Make Up Days

MOTION- K. Molinaro, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education revise the 2012-2013 school calendar to have February 19, 2013 as a regular in-session school day for students.

Motion carried at 7:55 pm.

Dr. Pascarella said we decided to put this on the agenda tonight to let the Board know that we have 7 days to go before we get into the April vacation days. Ms. Fluskey-Lattin was concerned about the CMT testing and how will the teachers prepare for that if there are more days off. A discussion ensued about how many days have to be taken from the April vacation or added to the end of the year if more than 7 days are needed for snow during the winter

months. Dr. Pascarella told the Board that school days cannot extend to July and the Danbury High School graduation date is set for June 20th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Juvenile Review Boards

Dr. Pascarella said now that you have heard Sandy Atanasoff's presentation earlier this evening, you can see why this is important for our students and community. He thanked Sandy for her presentation.

Education Connection Report

Dr. Pascarella said that Education Connection has done a lot of work with the Danbury District. They help with Professional Development in our schools as well as development teams and administrators; facilitate the debriefing of instructional practices used in mathematics lessons. They are involved in student programs and projects throughout our district; as well as Adult and Community Services. I felt this report would give you a better idea of all the services that they offer us.

DISCUSSION

Space Utilization Update

The Superintendent told the Board that administration met with the City concerning the tentative drawings. Mr. Martino said the expansion plans are for Stadley Rough getting 3 classrooms; Shelter Rock getting 5 and Park Avenue is getting a whole new makeover. We have done a lot of the hard work and looked at criteria for redistricting. We need to bring someone in from the outside and ask them to take a look at what we are planning to be sure we did not miss anything.

A discussion ensued on the STEM Academy as well as a third middle school. Dr. Glass explained that they are looking at all different options.

2013-2014 Budget Process

Mr. Martino said we have sent our budget request to the principals asking them what they would like for the next school year. We looked at our allocations in resources due to enrollment issues. How can we better allocate these funds across all of the schools. We have been looking at different districts to see how they work resources during the enrollment shifts. We will not have any contracts to talk about since they are all closing up this year. We have to look at staffing. We will collaborate with the City on leasing issues for technology; and looking at how the budget document is presented. Mr. Hawley asked if Mr. Martino would feel comfortable having the budget framework in January to the Finance Committee. Mr. Martino said the budget goes to the Mayor on February 15th so I hope to have it done before the Christmas break. Mr. Jannelli feels the multi-year budget should be sent to the City so the Common Council will know what our plans are with a projection for a couple of years.

Mr. Jannelli said even though what I am going to say has no relevance to the budget, I just wanted to tell the Board that we should be proud of the DECA students. They did a phenomenal job with the realtors. They were able to answer every question they were asked.

They really showed what the District can do. They are to be congratulated. All the Board members agreed.

INFORMATION

October/November 2012 Monthly Facilities Review

Dr. Pascarella said he just wanted to give the Board an update on the Facilities review. A lot of work has been done to our facilities at almost every school in the District. South Street gym floor replaced; ACE window replacement due during the Christmas break; Rogers Park air conditioning unit for several areas and 100 new lockers ordered for additional students; Pembroke roof project as well as painting doors and trim; DHS upgrades to the bathrooms were discussed with the PTO, and new lock hardware is being installed; Magnet School overhang on upper level parking lot repair is being worked on; Mill Ridge Primary has been power washed. Radon testing will be done in all schools.

Solar Project Update

Mr. Martino said we are continuing our study on the Solar Project.

State funding/ECS Update

The Superintendent said he will be meeting with the Commissioner and going over with him on how the wealth is determined. We need to be looking at that closely. They will redistribute the wealth if some towns need it. Danbury is getting \$18-20 million and I do not see losing that.

2013 Board of Education Meeting Dates

Ms. Cooper said these are the meeting dates for the 2013 year, please put them on your calendar.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Board of Education Annual Meeting, December 5th

Ms. Cooper asked the Board if the 5:30 pm time for the Annual Meeting picture taking was okay with everyone. Everyone present agreed and she said she would contact Shirley Chilian to be sure that time was also okay with her. She asked that everyone be on time as she did not want to keep the students taking the picture waiting for us to assemble.

Board Self-Evaluation

Ms. Cooper said that the self-evaluation was a successful meeting. She said she felt everyone that attended thought it was a great night. She said she learned about information and conversation. It was great that the Board got together and to talk about the District moving forward.

She mentioned that the Lighthouse training will be wrapping up and we need to get a few more people to attend so that we will have completed our training. The meeting will be on December 12th at 6:30 pm.

CABE Convention

Ms. Cooper said the CAGE Convention was not very exciting. Ms. Alberts, Ms. Molinaro and I attended and we shared some of the Committees. Ms. Molinaro said the State Board of Education was horrible; the Superintendents and teachers in that room wanted to eat everyone alive. She stated that the CAPT and CMT testing will be a common core booklet. Ms. Cooper said it has become a meeting for the Superintendents while before it was more District Board members. She stated if they want to do something with the Superintendents, then they should have them separated from the Board members. Ms. Alberts said she attend the Policies and School governance workshop and they had two lawyers conducted the workshop.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing workers compensation litigation with possible action in public session.

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

Also in attendance: Superintendent Dr. Pascarella, Dr. Glass, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Martino from Administration

Absent: Shirley Chilian

The motion carried at 8:55 pm

Ms. Cooper called the Executive Session to order at 8:57 pm and turned the meeting over to Ms. Thompson. A brief discussion ensued regarding Worker's Compensation.

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: S. Steichen moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education return to Public Session. **The motion passed at 9:10 pm.**

ADJOURNMENT

R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Falkenthal that the Board of Education adjourn its November 28, 2012 meeting and the meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.

Richard Hawley, Secretary