

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016 – 7:00 PM**  
**Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and those assembled recited the pledge of allegiance.

**BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL**

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Patrick Johnston, Frederick Karrat, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa, Holly Robinson

Absent: David Metrena

Also present: Drs. Glass, Pascarella and Kim Thompson, Kelly Truchsess and Joe Martino

**RECOGNITIONS**

**Danbury High School Technology & Engineering Education Department**

Members of the DHS Technology and Engineering Department spoke to the Board about the courses offered at DHS. The members were individually introduced to the Board by Dr. Meghan Martins. She told the Board that The State Department informed the District that DHS has been selected as the 2016 Connecticut Technology and Engineering Education High School Program of the year. Being selected affords our program to be representing over 600 other Connecticut Technology & Engineering Education teachers in the State of Connecticut. Along with being recognized at the annual CTEEA State Conference on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 our members will be honored by the International Technology & Engineering Association (ITEEA) at their annual conference in Dallas, Texas in March 2017. There are over a dozen Tech Ed courses offered at Danbury High School.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Gary Mummert, member of the NAACP, addressed the Board on behalf of the NAACP. He said he recently watched the October 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting video and appreciated the depth and breadth of the presentation that was given to the Board by Kimberly Thompson. He asked that the NAACP be provided with the data from the slides that was presented. He felt this would be very useful in educating their members and will add to the information in the minutes. He also said he would like to focus on the existing Board policy related to Affirmative Action. He feels the policy should be reviewed, updated and most importantly affirmed for the good of the whole, especially our youth and children. He also said he noticed that the Board's currently goals do not mention the desire for diversity of staff or action plans or goals for staffing, Mr. Mummert summed up by saying he heard about the financial challenges and lack of grants that impact our diversity goals and asked the Board isn't it now the time to make the necessary adjustments to reflect an emphasis on the policy for hiring diverse administrators and teachers.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

**MOTION** - M. Ferguson moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 16-149 through 16-151, as recommended

### MINUTES

10/26/16 Board Meeting

10/27/16 Special Board Meeting (Exp)

### PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence: Trisha Mazzariello

Accept Resignations:	Danielle Chance	Jessica Durkin	Nancy Geary
	Randal Graham	Norma Maldonado	Bonitha Na
	Mark Ottusch (Coach only)		Nellie Valentino

Accept Retirements: Joyce Burns, 21+ years

New Hires: See Exhibit 16-151

**Motion carried at 7:15 pm.**

**EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE** - None

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

DHS: Ali Primavera and Teava Mercado

Teava Mercado told the Board that at DHS they have just entered into the second quarter of the first semester. Last weekend they held a very successful Homecoming Dance with a turnout of over 600 students. The Board of Governors was able to raise over \$3,000 in ticket sales for this dance. Last Thursday they chose one advisory from each grade as the winner of a door declaring contest with the theme of school spirit. Each class that participated in the contest will receive Krispy Kreme donuts and the winners will be awarded with a full breakfast next week. Next Thursday, we will be honoring our veterans during the advisory periods by having students write letters to veterans and sending them out for the holiday season.

ACE: Deanna Hernandez

Deanna Hernandez told the Board that on October 21<sup>st</sup> 12 students and 2 ACE teachers attended the Dodge Poetry Festival in Newark, New Jersey. There were approximately 10,000 students at the event. Students heard readings and commentary from famous poets and former US Poet Laureate, Billy Collins. Students enjoyed performances from the Parkington Sisters where poetry was turned into music. The trip was both educational and inspirational for all. On October 28<sup>th</sup> twelve students at ACE participate and volunteered in the annual Halloween on the Green. Students stuffed over 500 goodie bags and ran a booth at the event. ACE is proud to recognize Danny Araujo as the Exchange Club student of the month. He spoke very eloquently at the Exchange Club ceremony and recognized many teachers and administrations that have helped him along the way. Select ACE students are participating in a weekly intervention group to strengthen their skills in reading and math. Through the use of the IXL Learning Software

program students are receiving additional support on Tuesdays and Thursdays to hopefully meet goals on their upcoming STAR assessments. ACE conducted a mock election on November 7<sup>th</sup> and were presented with a copy of an election ballot that looked very much like the real ballot to better prepare them for voting in the future.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **Board/Superintendent's Educational Goal #1 Update**

The Superintendent turned the update slide presentation over to Dr. Glass who presented Goal #1 to the Board. He stated that Goal #1 is the ***Growth in Student Learning and Achievement and College and Career Readiness for all Students***. The staff members participating and involved with this Goal were introduced to the Board. His slide presentation stated that we have 11,000 students; 18 schools plus 5 additional sites; hundreds and hundreds of teachers and dozens of administrators. The Coherence Plan is argumentation based upon evidence and 21<sup>st</sup> Century problem solving. The Coherence Plan approach is designed to achieve vertical and horizontal Instructional Alignment. The primary drivers for Goal #1 is instructional timetable, literacy enhancement, mathematics enhancement, world language and ELL support, project-based learning and student academic support. Dr. Glass explained each one of the drivers individually as it relates to all schools across the district. He gave examples of instructional support and interventions. He told the Board that for World Language at the K-5 level they are using Rosetta Stone pilot which is designed for beginner to immediate students in Spanish; development of everyday conversational skills; introduce vocabulary and grammar; immediate feedback and improvement of student's pronunciation and speaking confidence.

The Board members had questions and a discussion followed regarding sharing this information with the community and parents; the Rosetta Stone Pilot Program and how many people know about it; intervention and how many students are involved; with the administrator's doing all this work is it filtering down into the classroom; take the ideas and share them with the PTO's; is there anything a Board member can do to help the parents with some of the subjects including math.

Dr. Glass and Dr. Pascarella answer some of the questions regarding the presentation. Dr. Glass said that he would be remiss if he didn't publically thank the teachers, coaches and administration who worked their tails off on this Goal. On behalf of Dr. Pascarella and the Board, I want recognize the staff for their hard, dedicated work.

Dr. Pascarella added his appreciation for the administrators' efforts.

The Board Chair, Eileen Alberts, thanked the administrators that were present and Drs. Glass and Pascarella for the informative update.

## **ACTION ITEMS** - None

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Legislative Agenda – School Funding**

Dr. Pascarella said one of the challenging areas in funding over the last few years has been our Magnet School grant. He said the Magnet School is a good thing for us. It is based on reimbursement, but enrollment in the district has been reduced and we cannot mandate to have

the surrounding towns send their kids to our school. We are currently working with our legislatures to see what can be done.

#### Shelter Rock Portable Classrooms

Mr. Martino told the Board that they are in the process of finishing up the permits. He said the classrooms will be delivered on November 30<sup>th</sup>, but won't be in use that day. Furniture has been ordered and we are looking forward to getting the classrooms up and ready for students.

#### Transportation – Bus App

We did a pilot program on a bus at Stadley Rough School. We can send out alerts if the bus breaks down or for any other reason.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### Magnet School Funding

Mr. Martino said that Danbury received \$7,600 from the State for each out of district student and \$3,000 for each Danbury student; this amounts to over \$1.8 million in funding in last year's budget. We also charge a contribution fee from each sending district of \$1,784 per student. The arrangement with the State is that we maintain a 60/40 split. Most of the surrounding districts have seen enrollment declines forcing them to drop seats. For an example, last year Newtown had 40 seats, but now has dropped to 20 seats. Coupled with that we have a 6% cut in funding for the current school year. Over the last 4 years, we have seen a \$200,000 drop in funding which forces us to make up the loss from our operational budget.

#### **INFORMATION** - None

### **BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

#### CABE Conference, November 18-19

Ms. Alberts reminded the Board about the CABE Conference which is coming up next week. She asked for a show of hands who would be attending. R. Jannelli, R. Pietrafesa, K. Molinaro, H. Robinson, G. Cooper, F. Karrat and E. Alberts.

#### Annual Board Meeting, December 7, 5:30 p.m., WSMS

Ms. Alberts reminded the Board that the Annual Meeting will be at Westside Middle School at 5:30 pm. Photos of the Board will be taken followed by election of officers.

Alternative Center for Education will have their Annual Turkey luncheon on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The students always do a great job.

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

Ms. Robinson said on December 5<sup>th</sup> City-wide PTO will meet and discuss the "Stand Together and make a Difference" survey. Ms. Robinson said she will be there.

Ms. Cooper spoke about the Superintendent's Evaluation Form. She asked the Evaluation Committee if they would like to take 10-15 before the next Board meeting to look over the form and decided if they want to keep that form or develop one of their own. Ms. Cooper felt it was necessary to discuss the form for the Board members that will be on the new Evaluation

Committee. It was decided that the Committee would meet one-half hour before the next Board meeting on November 22nd.

Mr. Johnston told the Board that he went to DHS's Home Coming Game - which they won. He said he also went to the Cross Country Meet, which was well attended and that he stayed with the students. The students did a really nice job in setting up "The Spooktacular" at DHS – it also was well received.

Ms. Robinson said she attended the Harvest Festival. The hay rides around the parking lot of the school were a big hit. It was a great event and a lot of the kids came in costume.

Mr. Ferguson said for the Veteran's Day ceremony two students will be reading their winning essays.

Ms. Cooper said she recently read in the newspaper that other districts are experiencing the lack of minority candidates and are having problems with recruitment. So, it is not only our district. The article gave a variety of reasons why. She asked if that new program, "*Relay School of Education*" can be presented to the Board so we would be able to understand it a little better than the explanation that was in the newspaper. She also said, the minority candidates should have the education to teach our children. Ms. Thompson said there is a question on whether or not that program is going to be considered a credited program. There is some debate right now about it, but she thinks it will unfold in the weeks to come. She said she is monitoring it closely, and stated that right now they work with ARC.

Ms. Thompson said that on December 1 and 2 she will attend a Job Fair at Yale.

Mr. Martino said that we will need to have a Sites and Facilities meeting for DHS. Maybe we can do it at a Board Meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

**PUBLIC SESSION** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

R. Pietrafesa moved, seconded by H. Robinson that the Board of Education adjourn its November 9, 2016 Board Meeting and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

---

Michael Ferguson, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)