

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FEBRUARY 1, 2017 WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Eileen Alberts, Ralph Pietrafesa, Fred Karrat, Holly Robinson, Richard Jannelli, Michael Ferguson

Absent: Kathy Molinaro, Richard Hawley, Patrick Johnston, Gladys Cooper, David Metrena

Also Present: Joe Martino, Dr. Sal Pascarella, Kim Thompson, Kelly Truchsess, Dr. Bill Glass

The Chairperson, Ralph Pietrafesa, called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Martino introduced Ms. Rebecca Augur from Milone and MacBroom. Ms. Augur presented an overview of Comprehensive Enrollments Analysis and Projections for the city of Danbury.

● Key Points Presented:

- Growth in the 2000's unevenly distributed throughout the city.
- Overall 3% decrease in school age population from 2000 to 2010. Despite decrease in school age population, areas of city gained in ages 5-17.
- Significant increase from ages 10 - 19 years old through the 2000's.
- Slight increases in births in 2012 and 2013 are tied to next two years of entering kindergarten classes. Approximate 6% increase of 2015 estimated births for the next few years.
- Total number of housing units increased 1.3% from 2000 to 2010. Largest increases in outlying neighborhoods.
- Both condo and single-family home sales showing slow but steady increases.
- Permits for new housing construction also recovering from recession. Housing permits in Danbury are high. There has been a 4% increase in housing units in Danbury.
- 40% of occupied units in Danbury are renter occupied, concentrated in City Center. This also holds a more transient population. Very low vacancy rates for rental units are contributing to strong overall local housing market.
- Overall, 27% of owner-occupied units headed by 65+. These are units with potential turnover in the next ten years.
- While Connecticut's total public school enrollments have steadily declined over the last decade, Danbury's has steadily increased. The total school enrollment for Danbury schools has increased 8% over the last five years and 17% over the last ten years.
- K - 5 enrollments have increased 8% over the last five years and 22% over the last ten years.
- Shelter Rock and South Street have experienced the strongest growth in the last two years while Pembroke and Great Plain have declined slightly.
- Middle school enrollment has increased 15% in the last five years and 21% in the last ten years. Rogers Park increased this year even while Westside continued to roll up to full enrollment.

- High school enrollment has increased 5% in the last five years and only 6% over the last ten years.
- In 2015, there were 118 new students to the district matching home sales. There were 136 in 2016. Families are moving into the district with students ready to matriculate. Ms. Augur suggested trends in home sales should be monitored moving forward.
- Projecting increase in K - 5 next year out to 2020/2021.
- Significant increases in 6 - 8 are projected to increase 8.6% over next four years. High school impacted significantly with a 14% increase over the next five years.
- Significant increases at Ellsworth and Shelter Rock within the next two years with decreases at Morris St, Park Ave, Pembroke and Stadley Rough projected. Other schools remain stable.
- Rogers Park projected to experience more significant growth than Broadview over the next five years, assuming Westside phases in 40 students per grade beginning in 2018 - 2019 with full enrollment of 720 students.

#### Questions and Comments:

R. Jannelli asked Ms. Augur if there was a summarization of the high points of the presentation. Ms. Augur stated she would prepare one and send it to Dr. Pascarella.

Ms. Augur suggested the Board have a closer consultation with the City Council in regards to housing and the UNIT Program of Danbury.

Dr. Pascarella stated that if we consider current school enrollment, we are looking at having 3500 at the high school in five years. This is not including influx of new students. Dr. Pascarella also stated that he is researching possibilities of adding modules to certain schools to accommodate growth such as ACE and Westside Middle School Academy.

Tracy Kelly from Danbury Prospect Charter School asked the Board what the capacity was at each building. Mr. Martino did not have the exact numbers but did state that each building was either at or above utilization.

The workshop adjourned at 7:21 pm.