

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016**  
**Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Richard Hawley

Also Present: Sal Pascarella; Joe Martino; Kim Thompson

**RECOGNITIONS**

Rahul Malayappan, DHS Student, selected as a candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Shari Styranovse, a Brookfield mother of triplets at AIS spoke on behalf of maintaining the sibling preference at AIS.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION -** D. Metrena moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa, that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 16-22 through 16-25, as recommended:

**A. MINUTES**

Revised Sites & Facilities Committee Meeting, 1/13/16  
Finance Committee Meeting, 1/27/16  
Board Meeting, 1/27/16

**B. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Accept Leaves of Absence:	Kristyn Brown, Rodney Crenshaw
Accept Resignations:	Iza Defreitas, Cynthia Duddie, Tanya Maquire (CRC Facilitator Only), Michael Nazzaro, Samatha Sim, Alexandria Tomasini
Accept Retirement:	Mary Silvestri, 37 years
New Hires:	See Exhibit 16-23

K. Molinaro clarified that the minutes from the Sites & Facilities meeting of 1/13/16 referenced R. Pietrafesa as being present, although he was not. Revised minutes were submitted.

Chairperson Alberts thanked Mary Silvestri for her 37 years of service.

**Motion carried at 7:19 pm**

## **EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE**

Representatives from Pembroke School spoke and thanked the Board for their efforts.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

DHS: Han Duong, Vice President and Irene Reichl explained past and upcoming events at DHS, including the Peer Leadership involvement with the 13 elementary schools for the Start with Hello initiative, and an overview of DHS scholarship nominees and recipients.

State BOE Student Representative: Alexandra Prendergast, has not attended another statewide meeting since last Board meeting, although work with statewide committees continues. Current focus of equity committee is looking at extracurricular activities.

R. Jannelli commented that last week's DHS presentation of Movement to Music was incredible, and thanked the students for their commitment to the Say Hello program, which K. Molinaro will be the Board representative for.

## **PRESENTATION** - None

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. 2016-2017 Budget**

**MOTION:** D. Metrena moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education adopt the Superintendent's Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget in the amount of \$129,467,777 (a 4.59% increase) for submission to the Mayor as required by City Charter

M. Ferguson commented that he had concerns regarding approving the budget, as he did last year, and cautioned the Board in regard to approving a budget that we know we cannot afford.

Chairperson Alberts polled the Board to vote individually. Motion passed 9 – 1.

**Motion carried at 7:33 pm**

### **B. Typical Tuition Increase**

**MOTION:** D. Metrena moved, seconded P. Johnston, by that the Board of Education approve the increase for the Special Education Preschool Program.

J. Martino explained that tuition is currently \$ 300. The district is considering implementing a sliding scale of \$ 300 - \$ 500. The motion was amended, to read:

D. Metrena moved, seconded, by P. Johnston, that the Board of Education approve the increase for the Special Education Preschool Program on a sliding scale of \$300 - \$500.

**Motion carried at 7:36 pm**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

ROTC program update – there is an interested candidate that is going through the interview process. Mr. Bocaccio will be conducting an interview next week.

A. Foreign Trips Approval Process – Current Board policy requires approval of trips. K. Thompson explained that the time of year is approaching where schools will ask for Board approval for trips. She asked the Board to consider if they want to make changes in the future in regard to district sponsorship of school trips.

R. Jannelli asked how a situation would be handled if there was a Board policy to not sponsor trips, however a teacher participated in supporting students in fund raising. Ms. Thompson explained there would be several factors and/or issues that would need to be considered in discussions.

R. Pietrafesa asked for clarification of which field trips are being discussed. Dr. Pascarella clarified that district policy covers domestic trips, and Board policy covers international trips.

Further discussion continued from H. Robinson and F. Karrat regarding insurance policies, premiums, and the issue of negligence and liability. K. Thompson and J. Martino stated that more information could be gathered and presented at a future meeting.

Dr. Pascarella stated that this issue is currently for information only. The Board can decide if policy changes are applicable, and then further information can be presented.

B. Technology Grant – J. Martino stated the \$ 240 K grant was approved and awarded. The funds will be spent on additional chrome book carts at the elementary school level. Dr. Pascarella thanked the bonding committee for their hard work to gain approval.

C. March 10<sup>th</sup> Citywide PTO Budget Presentation – Citywide PTO wants to support the budget approval process. Meeting will include a presentation by Katie Roy, then a budget presentation and time line explanation. Location will be at Broadview on March 10th. More details will be sent out.

D. CT State Budget Reductions – J. Martino stated that the magnet school grant and priority school district grant are in jeopardy of reductions. This is currently just an informational item.

E. CCJEF Testimony – Dr. Pascarella testified and discussed deficits and inequalities. Testimony went well. All public information and data that the district publishes was submitted by opposing side into testimony. The Judge was phenomenal and asked for clarification and explanation as necessary. Presentation will go on until March, and then the state will present their side. Testimony is also being televised.

F. Personnel update – K. Thompson reminded the Board that there are 3 Administrative positions open. BVM Principal, DHS Assistant Principal, and Shelter Rock Principal. There are internal and external candidates. The process is a multi-tiered process, which includes two different interview panels happening concurrently. First panel is curriculum based, second is those likely to be most affected by the hire. Writing sample process is also required. After panel interviews are complete, HR will de-brief the panels for candidate selection to move to last interview at the Cabinet level. Interviews begin Friday February 19<sup>th</sup> for BVM.

P. Johnston asked if the Assistant Principal position for West Side Middle School was also being interviewed. K. Thompson stated that interviewing for that position was contingent on budget approval; however the district is hopeful the other interviews will create a rich pool of candidates for future consideration.

G. Central Registration update – K. Thompson reported it is officially open and going very well.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **INFORMATION**

Climate Survey – A robo-call and parent survey will be going out shortly. It will also be posted online. Chairperson Alberts asked for a copy to be provided to the Board, and Dr. Pascarella stated he would arrange that.

### **BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

- Amendment to Bylaw 1-3, #9, “Board Member is recommended to sit in on 2 Expulsion Hearings prior to being on an Expulsion Hearing Panel”. (Currently states “required to sit on 3 hearings”). P. Johnston moved, seconded by F. Karrat, to approve. Motion withdrawn by P. Johnston as item needs to be an action item on the next agenda.
- Ceremony for inmates at ACE at 9:45 at White Hall, Midtown Campus, this Friday February 15th
- No one eats alone (which is a program to fight social isolation) will be at Great Plain School, Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 , 12:00, 12:30
- Legislative Breakfast in Newtown Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 - 9:30 am at the Municipal Center. Registration is necessary, and representation is important.
- Read Across America March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Morris St School – Chairperson Alberts will re-send emails to all Board members.
- Parent University – Dr. Pascarella will clarify dates

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

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** K. Molinaro moved, seconded by P. Johnston, that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contractual obligations involving transportation.

**Motion carried at 8:22 pm**

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

Absent: Richard Hawley

Also Present: Sal Pascarella; Joe Martino; Kim Thompson

Ms. Alberts called the Executive Session to order at 8:26 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Mr. Martino.

**MOTION:** R. Pietrafesa moved, seconded by D. Metrena, that the Board of Education return to Public Session.

**Motion carried at 8:57 p.m.**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

R. Pietrafesa moved, seconded by D. Metrena, that the Board of Education adjourn the February 10, 2016 Board of Education Meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

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Michael Ferguson, Secretary