

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, February 11, 2015 – 7:00 PM
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:01 and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Gladys Cooper, Richard Hawley

Also present: Dr. Sal Pascarella, Dr. William Glass, Joseph Martino, Kim Thompson,
Ann Adriani

RECOGNITIONS

Michael Ferguson called for a moment of silence in honor of Frank Contorno, 20 year custodian from King St. Intermediate school, who recently lost a courageous battle with lung cancer.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jill Benner from Broadview Middle School allowed students from the cast and crew of Annie to introduce themselves, and tell the Board of Education about themselves and their production. The play is on February 26th and 27th and Broadview Middle School. Ms. Benner and the students recognized and thanked parents and staff for their continued support. The students presented Dr. Pascarella with an Annie t-shirt.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Jannelli, that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 15-28 through 15-32:

A. MINUTES

1-14-15 Policy Committee (revised)
1-23-15 Finance Committee Meeting
1-29-15 Special Board Meeting

B. PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence: Laurie Pastore, Susan DeMato
Accept Resignations: Linda Kuti-Kingham, Jacquelyne Taylor,
Melissa Teel (Coach position only)
Accept Retirements: Kenneth Allsworth, 43 years
Linda Hayward, 29 years

New Hires 1/23/15 – 2/5/15:

| Non-Certified | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Name | Location | Subject |
| Joseph Simao | RPMS | Custodian |
| Shawn Johnson | Hayestown | CRC Site Facilitator |
| Shirley Rodriguez | South St. | CRC Enrichment Assoc. |
| Claudasha Weaver | Park Ave. | CRC Enrichment Assoc. |
| Victor Mitchell | RPMS/Park Ave | Custodian |
| Amy Taylor | DECEC | Tutor |
| Maximino Veiga | | SUB Custodian |

C. DONATION

- Accept \$8,809.52 donation from Pitney Bowes through the United Way to replace broken and missing basketball hoops at King Street School
- Accept van donated by STA

E. Alberts noted the long years of service by the retirees, and thanked them for their dedicated service. Kenneth Allsworth - 43 years, and Linda Hayward - 29 years. She also thanked Pitney Bowes and STA for their generous donations.

Motion carried at 7:11 pm

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - NONE

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS: Tyler Amaral ACE: NONE

The boys basketball team has a record of 10-4, and is doing very well. DHS recently hosted a wrestling tournament, which Danbury won. Both the boys and girls track teams won 1st place at the most recent competition. DHS hosted the ACT's, and is also hosting the SAT's on February 21st. The Freshman Forum next month is on the topics of underage drinking and substance abuse.

PRESENTATION

DHS Expansion Update: Joseph Fuller, Architect; Farid Khouri, City Engineer
An update was provided on the DHS expansion project. June 30th is the deadline for the grant application for the state.

Mr. Fuller explained that there were 4 designs developed, and that design C was unanimously chosen. This concept is a building that attaches behind the current building D, and includes a gymnasium, 2 floors of classroom space, and is expandable one additional floor up if ever needed. The entire new building is air conditioned. The plan also includes expansion to the current cafeteria area, and enhancement to the front entrance.

R. Jannelli asked for a brief explanation of all 4 concepts. Mr. Khouri summarized the other options, and added that option C also had the least impact to students during regular operations.

Pr. Pascarella stated that the rough estimate of cost is 50 million, and that the design fits the requirements for enrollment projections. This would qualify for the 62% reimbursement rate. Hopefully this will go to referendum vote in June, and potential occupancy could happen for fall 2018.

A. Fluskey-Latin asked for clarification regarding the classroom spaces. Mr. Fuller explained that there were 26 spaces – 12 classrooms, 2 art rooms, 6 science rooms, 2 music rooms, 2 computer rooms, and 2 health rooms. There is also one office/floor. Ms. Fluskey-Latin also asked for the capacity of the new building. Mr. Fuller answered 540.

D. Metrena asked about wheelchair accessibility. Mr. Khouri explained there is an elevator that will also provide access from the current D building to the field, which currently does not exist.

Dr. Pascarella asked Mr. Fuller and Mr. Khouri what was needed from the Board to move forward. Mr. Khouri asked the Board to endorse proposal C, and that the next step was to present to Common Council. Ms. Alberts polled the Board for consensus, and the Board unanimously agreed on the proposal. Ms. Alberts thanked everyone for attending.

ACTION ITEMS

A. 2015-2016 Budget

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, that the Board of Education adopt the Superintendent's Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget in the amount of \$127,529,440 (a 4.89% increase) for submission to the Mayor as required by City Charter

Discussion ensued and clarifying questions were asked. M. Ferguson asked for further clarification on how the salary for the Early College Director was calculated. Dr. Pascarella explained that in 4 years the position would be full time, so the part time salary for next year was comparable to the appropriate part time equivalent to a full time AP salary. J. Martino further explained it was commensurate to 50% of a step 1 salary plus benefits.

M. Ferguson stated he was reluctantly voting yes on the budget, and stated concern that it is a much higher increase than anyone would of liked to have seen. He stated concern on how to maintain this rate of an increase moving forward, and hope that the Bloom Shapiro meetings

will yield some results. He noted that he understood that increases in health insurance and Special Education are out of our control.

A. Fluskey-Latin asked for clarification for the comparative increases for last year. J. Martino referred to page 20 for the outline of the history of increases.

R. Taborsak stated that the budget was not extravagant, and that it met the needs for next year.

Motion carried at 7:51 pm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Pascarella stated that he will be attending a conference regarding the districts coherence plan, and the alignment of the goals and objectives.

Dr. Glass updated the Board on the process and enrollment for the lottery for WCAIS Magnet School.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Alberts asked the board be provided a copy of the organizational chart for DPS. P. Tranzillo has asked for clarification regarding the hierarchy of who reports to whom. K. Thompson stated that there is a Central Office organizational chart, and that she can provide a series of charts for other buildings and positions. She stated the charts can be a bit difficult to read, as there is overlap with some certified staff due to reporting to multiple administrators for different responsibilities. Ms. Thompson will present the charts at the next meeting.

E. Alberts reminded the Board of the legislative breakfast on Friday February 13th in Newtown. She asked for more than 1 or 2 members to attend, as it is important to represent Danbury to the legislature.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Committee Reports

Operations, Sites & Facilities;
City Building

Community Relations

Finance

Policy

Superintendent Evaluation

District Committees

City-Wide PTO

DSABC

Education Connection

Magnet School Trustees

Oral Health Initiative

School Based Health

TDEC/Teacher Eval.

Other Committees

Negotiations – Administrators

Negotiations - Non Teaching

Negotiations – Teachers

Chair:

Molinaro

Jannelli

Hawley, Jannelli

Molinaro

Cooper

Members:

Pietrafesa

Ferguson

Jannelli

Metrena, Taborsak

Tranzillo

Tranzillo

Taborsak, Tranzillo

Metrena, Tranzillo

Pietrafesa, Taborsak, Tranzillo

Tranzillo

Members:

Jannelli, Pietrafesa, Taborsak, Tranzillo

Cooper, Metrena, Molinaro, Tranzillo

Cooper, Metrena, Molinaro

Ferguson, Fluskey-Lattin, Hawley, Pietrafesa

Ferguson, Fluskey-Lattin, Jannelli, Taborsak

K. Molinaro stated that the policy committee met again this evening, and will meet again before the next meeting to further discuss the acceptable use policy. The committee is recommending that no change be made to the attendance policy.

DISCUSSION - NONE

INFORMATION - NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session to discuss confidential personnel matters.

The motion carried at 8:15 p.m.

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

Absent: Gladys Cooper, Richard Hawley

Also present: Dr. Sal Pascarella, Dr. William Glass, Joseph Martino, Kim Thompson

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, to return to Public Session.
The motion passed at 8:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Jannelli, to adjourn the February 11, 2015 Board of Education Meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Michael Ferguson, Secretary

(meeting was videotaped)