

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

Administrative Center – 63 Beaver Brook Road

Present: Eileen Alberts, Shirley Chilian, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal, Annrose Flusky-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo; Drs. William Glass and Sal Pascarella, Ed Arum from Administration

Absent: Kathleen Molinaro; Kim Thompson from Administration

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gladys Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Cooper asked R. Hawley to do the roll call.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS Representatives: Ashley Winch, Vice-President and Shiny Patel, Treasurer attended the meeting. Ashley talked about “A Night at the Matrix,” on March 23. Proceeds will go to the Dorothy Day Center and the Home for Female Forgotten Heroes. Also, a contest was held with BOG advisories. The advisories had to create a goal for themselves for the remainder of the year, and it was displayed on their door. Whoever won the contest received a free breakfast at the Café.

ACE: None

RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Harry Rosvally, K-12 STEM Curriculum Administrator, was the recipient of the first Paul Heilman award for outstanding volunteer service at the 12th Annual Southern CT Invitational Science and Engineering Fair.

Dr. Pascarella said we are very fortunate to have Dr. Rosvally with us in Danbury. He is very active in the sciences with the Academy and was instrumental with working with STEM teachers three years ago. He is a mentor to a lot of programs throughout the State and we are very, very fortunate to have someone with his leadership and knowledge. Dr. Rosvally said it has been a privilege for him to be associated with the Southern CT Invitational Science and Engineering Fair for a number of years. He has a passion for a lot of the sciences and the STEM competitions, and he has been active with the State Science Fair. He feels Science Horizons has been a wonderful organization for the Danbury community as well. As of late, we have become involved with a few more, Odyssey of the Mind, through AIS, and also Invention Convention. The Danbury-wide Invention Convention will be on March 21 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Bill Williams Gymnasium at WCSU Midtown Campus. He thanked the Board for their support of all the science and math and STEM initiatives that we have.

PRESENTATION

Extended Day Program, Anne Mead

Anne Mead gave a PowerPoint Presentation and distributed a handout. She introduced Francine Shoffner and Marlene Ho-Yen, Program Managers, and they spoke about the program commonalities and the 21st Century Learning Centers housed at Ellsworth Avenue and South Street Schools. The idea of the extended day program is to give students the opportunity to have more time to practice what they learned during the day along with a multitude of learning activities. There is also an After School Program at the middle schools as well. Board members asked A. Mead various questions and a discussion ensued. For the Board's information, Dr. Pascarella said that everyone that works in the program has a background check. The focus has been extending time and building connections for youngsters, so what Anne has been doing, not only with kids that do not need extensions, but with all kids, is providing experiences off campus to build those connections so that kids have a better understanding of a language and the application of that language. Dr. Pascarella commended Anne and her team for doing a great job for us.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Monica Bevilacqua thanks the Board for their continued support of the Head Start program. She invites everyone to visit their programs at MREC and other sites. She gave data and talked about the progress the children have made.

Stephany Fallat-Fanning is here to support the gifted and talented children. She attended a meeting where the Mayor reported that Danbury is not getting their fair share of money from the State, and she intends to investigate the reasoning behind this. She would like the Board to email her with the names of legislators she can contact to get more money for Danbury.

PRESENTATION

District Technology Update, Dr. William Glass

Dr. Glass gave a PowerPoint Presentation showcasing the plan that will be submitted to the State. He said we have a critical need to develop an ongoing sustainable 3-5 year financial plan for replacement/updating of equipment to support teaching, learning, and educational business requirements. A lot of our equipment needs to be replaced and updated, and because the budget allocation over the last three years has been so poor, we have not been able to do this. Dr. Glass also talked about the staff in our Tech Department going from 16 people down to 10. The estimate cost to the district would be approximately \$250,000 per building. He said we are looking at a significant outlay because we have not adhered to our plan. Dr. Glass stated that when we talk about cutting the budget, we are going to have to look at this. Dr. Glass said technology is a black hole and once you put money into it, you will always have to add to it. Dr. Pascarella talked with the Board about options that might be available. E. Arum said we are trying to look at a leasing program, and we are working with the City to try to get funds set aside. Board members asked clarifying questions, and a discussion ensued. Chairperson Cooper and Dr. Pascarella thanked everyone for the presentation.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Falkenthal that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

2020 Task Force, 2/6/12

Board Meeting, 2/8/12

Finance Committee, 2/13/12
Special Board Meeting, 2/13/12
Sites & Facilities Committee, 2/14/12
Special Board Meeting (Exp), 2/14/12

B. PERSONNEL

Accept Resignations: Deborah Conway, Ariel Jaquez
Accept Retirement: Mary Lue Fuller

C. DONATION

Accept \$101 donation for the Family Literacy Center
from Mr. & Mrs. Tushar Patal

The motion carried at 8:47 p.m., with one abstention.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE – No report

ACTION ITEMS

A. January 2012 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by S. Chilian that the Board of Education accept the January 2012 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

For the month of January 2012, the District expended \$10,285,829, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$57,982,318, representing 50.0% of the General Fund total budget. E. Arum referred to the Monthly Financial Report attached to the Board's packet and explained the items contained in that report.

The motion carried at 8:52 p.m.

B. January 2012 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by S. Chilian that the Board of Education accept the January 2012 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

For the month of January 2012, the District expended \$1,357,500.90, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$7,562,301.44, representing 35.3% of the Grants/Projects total budget.

The motion carried at 8:53 p.m.

C. Healthy Foods and Beverages in Schools

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak by that the Board of Education authorizes the Chairperson of the Board to submit form ED-099 to the Connecticut State Department of Education stating that the Board will participate or will not participate in Section 3 of Public Act 06-63.

Healthy Foods – Exemptions

As per Section 3 of Public Act 06-63, the Board of Education may Permit the sale of other food items that do not meet the Connecticut nutrition standards provided that:

- 1) The sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend
- 2) the sale is at the location of the event
- 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

Exemptions to Section 3 of Public Act 06-63 Healthy Foods

The motion carried at 8:55 p.m.

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education allow the sale to students of any legal foods not listed in Section 3 of Public Act 06-63 at all co-curricular sponsored events such as sporting events, school performances, school dances, PTO sponsored events, theatrical products and school fairs provided that the exemption criteria are met.

The motion carried 8:56 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Rogers Park Middle School Air Quality Update

R. Jalbert, Director of Sites and Facilities, said Honeywell is doing indoor air quality testing and CT OSHA will do a walk through on February 28. He continued to say they also are doing additional indoor air quality testing, and we will be receiving results from them as well. Clarifying questions were asked by Board members and R. Jalbert addressed those concerns. Dr. Pascarella thanked R. Jalbert for a fine job.

AIS Magnet School and STEM Lottery Update

Dr. Pascarella reported the AIS lottery was completed and letters were sent on February 21. Parents have a few weeks to respond. The STEM lottery was done and it is not a selective process. Any student who has an interest can apply. There are 100 sixth grade spots open. We will take 50 students from Broadview and 50 from Rogers Park. Presently, there are 68 students from Broadview, and we have offered it to the first 50, and Rogers Park had about 80 to 100 students apply. This should be done shortly. A. Fluskey-Lattin wanted to publicly thank Deborah Stanton in Dr. Glass's office for being so gracious and timely in her response to the parents with their concerns for both the STEM program and AIS.

CommPact Schools

Dr. Pascarella went to Boston five years ago to look at a model. It is an alternative to charter schools. It is the working together of a school board and the association putting together a model that is collaborative and allows a faculty to have more flexibility. This model that we started looking at and has come to Connecticut is called a CommPact school. Everything would have to go through our Board and with the union in setting it up, and if it is set up, it operates with local control being rescinded in a way, other than the basic contract, in terms of salaries. The individual teachers and the faculty have a collaborative right to maybe extend a day and do some other activities that they cannot do in their regular school program. It is one of the options the Governor is looking at for his funding mechanism. Dr. Pascarella feels there is some potential there for us. We have ACE that is operating somewhat in that manner, and it would greatly give them a comfort level knowing what those parameters are because it has grown over the years. He said that if we are looking at

opening up some new schools, there might be something with the academies we can look at. If it does come to fruition, there is more potential to receive more funds for our own kids. Dr. Pascarella referred to the CommPACT Schools FAQs the members of the Board received in their packet. He said that as we move forward, Dr. Shuana Tucker will be taking a leadership role and helping us with it. S. Chilian said something like this could be done on our own grounds in our own buildings and it would bring money in. R. Taborsak said just having read this it seems that there is collaboration with UCONN and he asked if there are limits to that. He would like someone to come here and answer some of these questions. Dr. Pascarella said when we talked with Dr. Bagwell that was something that was funded and UCONN picked up on it and Bassick in Bridgeport has participated in it, and it is pretty rich in terms of working with faculty. Dr. Bagwell said the University is frustrated that they cannot supply the level of support needed. He feels that as they come into our district and they assist us, then we need to develop our own local talents to pick it up and move it ahead. The richness of the program is that we are getting support from the Governor which was not part of the original plan. It is one of the five that he is willing to fund. When Dr. Bagwell talked with us, she was very encouraged to see that it is one of the turnaround models, and the Governor is willing to put some extra money in. Dr. Bagwell said the funding may be longer and down the road. Dr. Pascarella further said the WCSU has an interest and we will continue talking with them.

Audit Report for year ended June 30, 2011

Ed Arum referred to the report contained in the packet the Board received indicating some deficiencies, observations, and recommendations. He explained the audit report in detail.

DISCUSSION

INFORMATION

Field trip to Wallops Virginia, NASA/NOAA, Chincoteague Island, Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, April 18-19, 2012, 30 Summer STEM students

2012-2013 Budget Letter to Mayor

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Operations/Policy B. Taborsak E. Alberts, R. Hawley, S. Steichen, K. Molinaro

There is a meeting scheduled on March 5, at 4 00 p.m.

Lighthouse Meeting is scheduled for March 7.

R. Jannelli told the Board that on Feb 23, at 9:30 a.m., at Danbury High School, a former DHS graduate, who is an executive with Boehringer Ingelheim, and who went on to further his education with advanced degrees, will be speaking to students. He is the most incredible type of role model for our students. If you have an opportunity to attend, it is a very riveting speech basically to motivate the students to be more productive in their lives.

Chairperson Cooper wants to thank each and everyone for the wonderful representation at our meetings. She said the attendance is where it should be, and thanks the members for continuing to work together for all of the children.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: S. Steichen moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education adjourn its February 22, 2012 meeting.

The motion carried unanimously at 9:21 p.m.

Richard Hawley, Secretary