

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli

Also Present: Sal Pascarella; William Glass; Joe Martino; Kim Thompson

RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Boughton presented the Danbury Education Foundation Classroom Excellence Grant Awards to the following recipients.

\$1,500 Category:

Teaching Life, Liberty and The Pursuit of Happiness
Stadley Rough & Hayestown Avenue Schools

Jamie Pandolfi & Meghan Viola

Funds will be spent to finance a trip to the Statue of Liberty.

Broadview United Leadership
Broadview Middle School

Christine Miller & Jenny Casey

\$1500

Sustainable Gardening
Great Plain Elementary School

Phyllis Cohen

\$1500

The All-City Orchestra
All elementary & middle Schools

Brian Ho

\$1500

Making Math Fun through Sports
Morris Street School

Devin Nejame Sullivan

\$1500

\$5,000 Category:

Interactive Whiteboards

Hayestown Avenue School

Ashley Grenier & Stephanie Furman

Funds will be spent to purchase interactive white board for 3rd grade classroom

Supplemental Grant:

DHS Hockey Booster & Blueliner Clubs

Danbury High School (afterschool sports program)

Carol Van Tronk

\$2500

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tricia Robinson spoke in regard to the WCAIS application and lottery process, and wanted to know from the Board what data had changed to prompt the Board to change the sibling policy.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - D. Metrena moved, seconded by P. Johnston, that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 16-29 through 16-32, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

1/27/16 Revised Finance Committee Meeting

2/10/16 Community Relations Committee Meeting

2/10/16 Board Meeting

R. Jannelli requested the minutes for the Community Relations meeting be revised to read:

It was decided that all future Community Relation committee meetings will have updates and support for the following programs:

ECS funding (as it relates to Danbury)

Say Hello and Don't Sit Alone

Community engagement

B. PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence: Deniz Hinds

Accept Resignations: Sandra Alvites, Kirsten Callisen,

Liesl Fressola, Carolina Grijalba-Rodriguez

Accept Retirement: Patricia Schulze, 33 years

New Hires: (See Exhibit 16-32)

Chairperson Alberts thanked Pat Schulze for her 33 years of service.

Motion carried at 7:26 pm

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - NONE

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS: Renee Cuningham and Lizzie Newbold provided a recap of all the events happening at DHS, including the Peer Leadership visits to all elementary schools to promote the Start with Hello program.

State BOE Student Representative: Alexandra Prendergast, provided a recap of the most recent state meeting, specifically her initiative to create student advocacy groups in the district. Dr. Pascarella suggested that DHS students may want to consider attending the March 10th meeting at the State.

PRESENTATION - NONE

ACTION ITEMS

A. January 2016 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education accept the January 2016 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Motion carried at 7:33 pm

B. January 2016 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by M. Ferguson, that the Board of Education accept the January 2016 Operating Results Analysis (Grant/Projects)

Motion carried at 7:34 pm

C. School Lunch & Breakfast Price Increase

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by P. Johnston, that the Board of Education approve the increase in the price of school lunch and breakfast

Motion carried at 7:35 pm

D. Healthy Food Certification

MOTION - D. Metrena moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa, that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit form ED-099 to the Connecticut State Department of Education stating that the Board will participate in Section 3 of CT General Statutes Section 10-215f

Healthy Foods – Exemptions

As per Section 3 of CT General Statutes Section 10-215f, 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 CT General Statutes Section 10-215f Healthy Foods

MOTION - D. Metrena moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa, that the Board of Education allow the sale to students of any legal foods not listed in Section 3 of CT General Statutes Section 10-215f 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.

Motion carried at 7:37 pm

E. Revision to Board By-Law 1-3

MOTION - D. Metrena moved, seconded by K. Molinaro, that the Board of Education amend Board By-Law 1-3, New Board Member Orientation, item #9 to read:

As part of the orientation to Expulsion Hearings, it is recommended that new Board Members sit in on two Expulsion Hearings prior to being on an Expulsion Hearing Panel

Dr. Pascarella explained that the school attorney team was going to be attending a Board meeting to provide a tutorial to new Administrative Directors and Board members.

G. Cooper asked for clarification to why the change from requiring 3 hearings. Chairperson Alberts explained that the time constraints on the Board were becoming too demanding.

R. Pietrafesa supported the idea of having a presentation for training and information Purposes, and agreed 3 observations should remain in place.

M. Ferguson clarified that the language in the current bylaw states that 3 observations are required, and the new bylaw suggests change in language to recommended.

F. Karrat stated that he also supported some type of annual orientation to the process.

K. Molinaro stated she was also in support of an annual orientation training process.

Further discussion ensued around the process (part 1 to determine guilt or innocence and part 2 determining punishment). K. Molinaro reminded the Board that there is rarely an issue in determining guilt or innocence. Suggestion was made to have training, create a mock hearing as part of the presentation, provide a script for protocol, and then make determinations on what changes to the form or process need to be made. D. Metrena suggested that once a structure is put in place, perhaps the required number of hearing to sit in could be reduced to 2.

Motion defeated at 7:47 pm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. State Education Budget Meeting with House Speaker Brendan Sharkey, 3/1/16

J. Martino stated that he had a conversation with Rep Dave Arconti, who reached out to House Speaker Sharkey who agreed to meet. J. Martino stated he is also looking to get a meeting with Beth Bye.

J. Martino stated that the Governors budget came out today and has a 3.5% reduction in the Alliance Grant to Danbury.

B. Update on ROTC Program

It appears that the position has been filled and that the program will remain in place.

C. 2014-2015 Participation Rate on State Assessments

The state has taken position that they want to know what we are doing to achieve our 95 %. The financial impact to Danbury for not achieving 95% participation is up to \$ 3.5 million. As per the request of the state, the district is currently compiling a portfolio of information to show the districts plan to achieve the 95% rate.

Further discussion ensued regarding the criteria and the impact of losing funding. R. Pietrafesa asked what was being done by the Principals of the buildings that had participation rates below 95%. Dr. Pascarella stated his primary concern is the participation at DHS, since there are only two test dates for the SAT.

D. Website

New website is almost finalized. More details will be forthcoming.

E. G. Cooper asked for some clarification regarding why a charter school was being considered for Danbury.

DISCUSSION

A. ECS Grant/2016-2017 Funding Update

J. Martino explained the budget and changes. Chairperson Alberts raised a concern about maintaining the Head Start funding. Further discussion ensued surrounding the Head Start budget, and previous discussions of phasing Head Start out. The Board was surprised to see \$125,000 still in the budget. Chairperson Alberts asked how we can bring this to finality to formalizing this issue to bring the contribution to zero. . K. Molinaro suggested that Mr. Maloney should be formally notified that the Head Start contribution will be eliminated in the 2016-2017 budget. D. Metrena proposed for the district to revise the 2016-2017 budget and reduce the Head Start contribution to zero. A consensus was taken to support the reduction to zero.

INFORMATION

A. Shepaug Valley Regional Agriscience STEM Academy.

Shepaug needs commitment from Danbury to fill seats in future years. J. Martino stated we currently have 11 seats, and he suggests that the Board quantify a specific number of seats to commit to. There are 49 out of town seats in the lottery system. Cost is \$ 7,400/student. Dr. Pascarella asked the Board to propose a specific number at the next meeting. J. Martino stated that the transportation costs would not increase.

B. High School Reimagined Project District Application

Dr. Pascarella stated there are 9 schools currently applying, and the district is awaiting response.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- A. Special Board Meeting, March 2nd, 6:30 p.m.
Transportation and possible Executive Session for a candidate for Broadview Principal.

- B. Funding/Budget Meeting, March 10th, 6:30 p.m. at Broadview
Chairperson Alberts reminded the Board that all members should attend.

- C. Read Across America Day, March 3rd

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

P. Johnston reported on the Freshman orientation at DHS, which he stated was excellent and done very well.

City Wide PTO asked for emails for City Council members. Chairperson Alberts thought the Committee was still being formulated, but she would check on it and send the information to Debbie Warner.

ADJOURNMENT

P. Johnston moved, seconded M. Ferguson, that the Board of Education adjourn its February 24, 2016 meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Michael Ferguson, Secretary