

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, March 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 7:08 and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Richard Hawley

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

RECOGNITIONS

March is Board of Education Appreciation Month. Dr. Pascarella presented each member of the Board with Danbury Hatters scarves, compliments of Danbury High School.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Miranda McIntire, a junior at DHS; Peter Gutierrez a senior at DHS; and Maribel Ramirez, a senior at DHS, all spoke to advocate keeping the automotive program at DHS.

R. Jannelli complimented and thanked the students for coming forward, and speaking on behalf of the automotive program. He stated it showed great maturity and citizenship.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 15-45 through 15-49, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

2/25/15 Policy Committee Meeting
2/25/15 Board Meeting
3/4/15 Sites & Facilities Committee Meeting

B. PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence: Laurie Pastore, Sandra Taylor
Accept Resignations: Susanne Creaturo, Katherine Hull-Caceras,
Teresa Knipe, T'Arica Perkins, Linda Ward
Accept Retirement: Christine Ross, 16 years

New Hires 2/10/15 – 3/5/15:

Name	Location	Non-Certified Subject
Daylon Wilkins	DHS	JV Boys' Volley Ball Coach
Maria Perna	ESL CTR.	Interpreter/Translator
Sharon Mareno	South St.	SPED Tutor
Allison Messier	SHR	Nurse
Juliette Galeas Carrasco	AIS	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Michelle Galeas-Carrasco	Morris	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Vera Solovyeva	WSMSA	.4 TESOL L/T Sub
Jeffrey Kogan		Sub Teacher
Timothy Nott		Sub Teacher
Antonio Couras		Sub Custodian

C. DONATIONS

Accept \$700 from True Colors for DHS Diversity Club to attend the True Colors Conference

Chairperson Alberts recognized Christine Ross for her 16 years of service. Ms. Alberts also thanked True Colors for their donation, and also for making the Board aware of their organization.

Motion carried at 7:18 pm

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - NONE

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

ACE student, Eavyn Fernandez, reported on February 25th NVCC conducted an onsite acceptance day at ACE. 10 ACE students have been accepted for the fall, and 7 more have completed their applications. On March 2nd, 11 students collaborated with WCSU students at Ellsworth Avenue School in the Read Across America week. The collaboration with WCSU continues to be a valuable asset for ACE. Also on Monday March 2nd the WCSU financial aid department hosted an ACE evening for seniors. 7 out of 9 students will receive a Pell Grant in the amount of \$ 5,000 or more. On March 18th, a Job Corps representative will be presenting to juniors and seniors. On March 24th, Union Savings Bank will be presenting during Senior Seminar on topics of financial literacy and banking basics. On March 26th, students will be participating in the annual Spring into Wellness Day.

PRESENTATION

Dan Donovan, Principal of the Freshman Academy at DHS, presented an overview of the Twilight School being run at DHS. He explained the program is a drop out prevention program, and the goal is to improve instructional practices. He stated that although there is improvement each year, there are still gaps.

This year the Nellie Mae Foundation provided funding to run two afterschool courses. Based on the pass percentages for last year, DHS chose to offer English and Biology. The courses are offered one day a week (Wednesday or Thursday) from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

Discussion ensued, and several clarifying questions were asked, including if there was enrollment criteria, if the courses were College Prep or Honors, and how the courses were selected.

Mr. Donovan explained that there is no enrollment requirement for passing any number of quarters as there is with summer school. There is a screening process in place; however administration did not feel the need for a stringent policy. Dr. Pascarella clarified that the student's enrollment in the Twilight Program is in addition to their regularly scheduled course. Mr. Donovan further stated that the program is open for all students, and that the courses selected were based on an analysis of the pass rates from 2013-2014. Modifications and enhancements will be made to the program for next year, but thus far it has been a very successful pilot.

Several board members thanked Mr. Donovan for his hard work, efforts and dedication.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, that the Board of Education authorizes the Chairperson of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to approve the final plans, contract specifications, and cost estimate, and sign the ED042 forms and submit them to the State of Connecticut for approval for the following roof replacement projects: Hayestown Avenue School, King Street Primary School, King Street Intermediate School, and South Street School.

Motion carried at 7:50 pm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Governor's Budget Impact – Dr. Pascarella stated that last Friday there was a meeting with the Governor, and discussion ensued surrounding sustainability and the Alliance grant. The focus continues to seem to be on how the state can help the cities. Although the Accountability budget has been reduced, Dr. Pascarella is encouraged that the funding from the Alliance grant will remain. Dr. Pascarella further stated that it is primarily summer programs that funding is being cut for.

The Governor is reappointing top Directors next week, and Danbury will be meeting with the Director of DCF once appointed. Danbury is also working with vocational schools to allow students more opportunity. Danbury is concerned about unfairness with the selection criteria process, and plans to meet with the Commissioner.

Sites & Facilities Update – Refer to March 4, 2015 Sites & Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes.

DISCUSSION - NONE

INFORMATION

Student Records Policy 7-125: New policy is out, and will be on next Board of Education agenda for approval. The revised policy is primarily based on regulation updates.

Danbury Early College Opportunity (DECO) Communications: Will be on next Board of Education agenda for presentation.

Family University Conference, March 28th: Anne Mead was asked to speak about the Family University. A. Mead stated that the information for Family University is posted on the website. Additionally, emails are being sent to all secondary school parents, and flyers are being sent home to elementary school parents. There will also be a robo call. Dr. Pascarella and Gary Bocaccio, DHS Principal, will be attending. R. Jannelli stated it was important for the Board to attend. R. Pietrafesa stated he attended last year, and the event was very well planned. A. Fluskey-Lattin asked for the school websites to link their website to the information on the DPS home page.

Kindergarten Registration: Anne Mead was asked to speak about the Kindergarten registration process. She stated that there is a district wide orientation at Rogers Park on April 21st. All elementary principals will be present, as well as representatives of school nurses and the food program. Dr. Pascarella and Dr. Glass will also be present. School based orientations are planed for May. Meet the teacher events are planned for August. A. Mead is also working with WB Mason to provide student incentive items, and school supplies.

FLC Spring Break Enrichment Activities: Schedule is available

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

CABE Day on the Hill, March 25, 2015 – Chairperson Alberts stated it is important for the Board to have a presence at events. She has asked Joe Martino to make a palm card for board members. A. Alberts stated that legislators don't need letters from Dr. Pascarella, but that they need to hear from the Board. The Board needs to go to functions and be visible. Things can't continue to be the way they have always been. She stated there are 11 board members, and being involved with legislators at functions is part of the job. The Board can not affect change if not involved with politicians.

Invention Convention – The Invention Convention is March 19th and 20th, and judges are needed. It is an afterschool event. Chairperson Alberts encouraged board members to volunteer. She asked that members please let herself and Debbie Warner know if they are interested.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

R. Janelli stated the Community Relations Committee is working with Anne Mead to reach out to the many diverse communities within Danbury. Parents seem to have a need to understand what their children are being taught, and the Board needs to gain an understanding of their question and things they do not understand so their needs can be met.

R. Pietrafesa stated there are no big questions or issue with PTO.

G. Cooper stated the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee is meeting Wednesday March 18 at 6 pm.

M. Ferguson stated that he and R. Pietrafesa will be visiting schools on Monday March 16, and all are invited to join.

R. Jannelli stated the Dr. Suess Read Across America Day was very successful, and recognized Dave Krafic and Park Avenue School.

A. Fluskey-Lattin gave a shout out to Broadview Middle School for a job well done on their play.

Dr. Glass recognized Stadley Rough School for having 65 readers, including the Danbury Whalers hockey team, for Read Across America Day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

ADJOURNMENT – G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa , that the Board of Education adjourn it's February 25, 2015 meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Michael Ferguson, Secretary

(meeting was videotaped)