

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES (Revised)**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016**

**Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa, Holly Robinson

Absent: Frederick Karrat, Richard Hawley

Also Present: Sal Pascarella, William Glass, Joe Martino

**RECOGNITIONS**

- Jericho Partnership & South Street School  
Carrie Amos and Heather Pellicone, Principal spoke on behalf of the new joint effort to support students of South Street School. They invited the Board to the ribbon cutting event for the new outdoor garden happening in the next few weeks. Ms. Pellicone will notify everyone of the date.
- 2016 DELTA Aspirants: John Webber, ACE; Jill Russell-Benner, BMS; Matt Calvanese, AIS - Dr. Glass spoke on behalf of the program, recognizing previous administrative leaders that have completed the program. Each of the aspirants briefly spoke, and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Rachel Chaleski, Irving Fox and Shari Styranovski spoke in favor of reinstating the AIS Sibling Preference to include Danbury residents. Mr. Fox also thanked Dr. Glass for the Delta Aspirant program, and also thanked Mr. Bocaccio and Mr. Robbs for their years of service to the district.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION -** D. Metrena moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 16-49 through 16-52, as recommended:

**A. MINUTES**

3/1/16 Community Relations Committee Meeting  
3/9/16 Board of Education Meeting

**B. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Accept Leave of Absence: Amy Kotach  
Accept Resignations: Monette Hamilton, Tara Sally, Matthew Kimmel (Coach Only)  
Accept Retirements: Kathy Sabbagh, 17 years, 6 months  
Janet Smith, 33 years  
New Hires: See Exhibit 16-51

C. DONATION

Accept \$13,007 donation from Praxair's Global Giving Program to the Danbury Family Learning Center to pay for the books for the REAL Program at Park Avenue and King Street Primary

Chairperson Alberts publically thanked Kathy Sabbagh for her 17 years of service, and Janet Smith for her 33 years of service.

**Motion carried at 7:33 pm**

**EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE**

Hayestown Avenue School – Meghan Smith spoke on behalf of the staff at Hayestown Avenue School. She informed the Board about the class size population, as well as recent activities including Read Across America, Start With Hello, Invention Convention, “Pi” eating contest, and fundraising efforts to enhance their Kindergarten playground.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

DHS: Emily Barese - spoke on behalf of events happening at DHS, including the Save a Life presentation, mural painting to raise money for Ann's Place, and graduation on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

State BOE Student Representative: Alexandra Prendergast- spoke on behalf on ongoing events at the State meetings. She is continuing her work on the ECS committee.

**PRESENTATION** - None

**ACTION ITEMS**

A. February 2016 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa, that the Board of Education accept the February 2016 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

**Motion carried at 7:42 pm**

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

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

**Motion carried at 7:43 pm**

C. General Improvement Grant

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by K. Molinaro, that the Board of Education approve the filing of the general improvements grant application as presented by the Superintendent.

J. Martino referred the Board to the memo provided detailing what is being done.

**Motion carried at 7:44 pm**

D. Phase 3 of Additions & Alterations at Danbury High School

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by M. Ferguson 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 for Phase 3 of the Additions and Alterations with Safety Improvements at the Danbury High School Complex project, and sign the SCG-042 form and submit it to the State of Connecticut for approval. Phase 3 work includes: a cafeteria addition, new parking lot, new fire alarm throughout existing building, fire sprinklers in Buildings 'A', 'B', and 'E', new above ground oil tank, and installation of a fats, oils, and grease separator.

**Motion carried at 7:45 pm**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

A. BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) at Middle Schools

This has been started at Westside, and it is now being introduced to Rogers Park and Broadview. It has already been successful at DHS.

R. Jannelli asked about the no cell phone policy that the Board implemented previously, and if this was a contradiction. Dr. Pascarella clarified that no cell phones was a regulation, not a policy, and stated that he would double check the regulations.

B. March 10<sup>th</sup> School Funding Meeting

J. Martino reported a summary of the meeting. Dr. Pascarella stated that more meetings with the lobbyists will continue for additional funding to Danbury's municipal budget.

C. Health Insurance Reserve Funds

J. Martino provided a summation of all the surpluses in the health insurance accounts, which is currently \$ 5.7 million, which has been through the audit process. In order to be considered fully funded the reserve needs to reach \$ 7.0 million.

R. Jannelli asked for clarification as to when this fund would be used. J. Martino explained that it is used in the event of high claim years. R. Jannelli asked if this fund could be used or borrowed against for other expenses. J. Martino explained this fund is only for health insurance reserve. He further explained the same type of reserve fund is in place for Workers Comp.

D. Graduation

Tentatively Friday June 9<sup>th</sup>, and Moving Up ceremonies for the 3 middle schools will be Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup>. All events are being held at DHS.

**DISCUSSION**

A. Standard Based Report Cards

Stephanie Furman, Principal at Hayestown has been running point on this project. This evolved from conversation with teachers stating that the report card are not reflective of what they want to be

sharing with parent's. The district has been working on this initiative and collecting information for several months. Hayestown and South Street School will be piloting a standards based report card next year. This is an important step in moving parents ahead. G. Cooper asked if the Board will be able to review the prototype. Dr. Glass provided two handouts, and Dr. Pascarella stated there would be a future workshop.

### **INFORMATION**

Family University - Saturday. April 9th at RPMS 8:30 am. Chairperson Alberts asked all Board members to attend.

### **BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Invention Convention – Chairperson Alberts recognized and thanked Dr. Harry Rosvally for his exceptional work once again with the Invention Convention. She reminded the Board that judges are need for tomorrow's event at 3:30.

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

Mr. Metrena reported that the annual DSABC breakfast is May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Amber Room.

Ms. Cooper stated that she is concerned that every Board meeting has public speakers in regard to the sibling issue. She asked if there will ever type of formal closure to this topic. Chairperson Alberts stated that there is no response protocol; however, the item can go back on the agenda for the Board. Dr. Pascarella stated the Board always has the right the reverse a decision. If that is the case, someone should contact the Chairperson to put it back on the agenda. This would need to be done by the end of the school year so that the parent handbook for next year can be edited appropriately. K. Molinaro stated that she believed that three Board members need to make the request to put it back on the agenda. The bylaw 4-2 was read by D. Metrena, and he stated that, it can be brought up tonight, agreed upon by 3 people, and then can be on the next agenda for discussion.

K. Molinaro provided a Sites & Facilities Committee update.

G. Cooper asked for clarification on the initiative at South Street School, and when it will be done. Dr. Pascarella clarified that it will be a breakfast event happening before the normal school day begins.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by H. Robinson, that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues.

#### **Motion carried at 8:27 pm**

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

Absent: Frederick Karrat, Richard Hawley

Also Present: Sal Pascarella, William Glass, Joe Martino

Ms. Alberts called the Executive Session to order at 8:31 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Mr. Martino.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by P. Johnston, that the Board of Education return to Public Session.

**Motion carried at 8:33 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of March 23, 2016. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

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Michael Ferguson, Secretary