

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, March 25, 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 p.m. and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Richard Jannelli

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

RECOGNITIONS - NONE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kevin Haddad, 4th grade teacher at King Street Intermediate spoke in regard to the state initiatives of SBAC testing and teacher evaluation. He asked the Board of Education of keep an eye on the legislation regarding these initiatives, and lobby with CABE to eliminate testing and let teachers teach. Teachers are tied up with testing and evaluation initiatives and they no longer have time to focus on teaching. E. Alberts thanked Mr. Haddad for his comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 15-57 through 15-59, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

3/11/15 Board Meeting

3/18/15 Superintendent Evaluation Committee Meeting

B. PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Resignations: Jessica Coraizaca Macancela, Damaris Morales

Accept Retirements: Joan Bybee, 42 years, 5 months

Toni Fenton, 25 years

Susan Joy, 35 years, 3 months

Theresa Capellaro, 31 years, 5 months

New Hires 3/6/15 – 3/19/15:

CERTIFIED		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Natalie Huey	BVMS	Biology
Non-Certified		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Sheetal Shringarpure	STR	Tutor
Annapurina Parimi	Hayestown	Tutor
Jeanne Kennedy	BVMS	CRC Enrichment Associate
Ashley Grenier	South St.	L/T Grade 4 SUB Teach - 5 1/2 weeks
Michele Pues	WERACE	SUB Childcare Worker
Daniel Breschard	Park	L/T Art Sub Teach - 11 weeks
Cathleen Blair		SUB Nurse
Vicky Hatzis		SUB Nurse

E. Alberts recognized and thanked retirees for their dedicated years of service.

Motion carried at 7:07

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - NONE

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS student, Grace Gillotti, reported DECA competed in states, and there are multiple teams heading to Nationals in Florida at the end of April. Honors accounting students won first place at their Junior Achievement competition. ROTC drill team placed second at the Newburgh drill meet. Boys indoor track team finished 4th in the country at the New Balance Indoor National Championship. There is a Freshman Forum on March 30th at 6:30 pm at DHS in the auditorium. This weekend DHS productions are putting on The Wiz. Shows are Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

PRESENTATION

Danbury Early College Opportunity (DECO), presented by Dan Donovan: Mr. Donovan presented the Board with a packet of information regarding the Early College opportunity. He explained that it is a comprehensive program to serve all students at Danbury High School. The only pre-requisite is a commitment to the program. The goal is to increase the employability of all students. Mr. Donovan explained the history behind the model of the program. Currently there is only one program in Norwalk; however there are 4 more opening across the state next year. Programs are built around the concept that there is a partnership between higher education, corporate, and the public school. In our case, our partners are New Oak, which is a technology focused company, and NVCC. Pitney Bowes has also agreed to work with the mentors and mentees.

The goal is for students to finish in 5 years, although it is possible to finish in 4, or extend to 6. Students will graduate with a high school diploma, and an Associate's in Computer Programming or Business Analysis. Credit requirements for graduation are 21 for DHS, and 60 for NVCC. The scope and sequence of curriculum is being developed to determine possible courses for dual enrollment. Students will be offered a summer experience as an orientation to the program.

The application process is currently open. The process was developed by CREC. There is a website, and it is linked to the DHS page, and the DPS home page.

Mr. Donovan, Dr. Harry Rosvally, Dr. Glass, and Joe Martino are members of the steering committee, and meet bi-weekly. For next year, there is a letter of understanding with the union that the Director will be a part time position in years one and two.

Discussion ensued pertaining to the application process, how graduation ceremonies would be handled, what job opportunities may be available after graduation, and how to handle parent and student concerns surrounding a 9th grader making a career choice. It was suggested to add a career pathway to the marketing strategy so that parents & students understand that they will graduate with 60 college credits which will transfer to four year programs if desired.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Directory – Employees & Students, Policy 9-111.1

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education delete Policy 9-111.1 entitled Directory – Employees & Students (to be incorporated in revised 7-125 Policy)

Motion carried at 7:44

B. Student Records Policy 7-125

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, that the Board of Education replace Policy 7-125 and regulations entitled Student Records with the revised Student Records Policy, 7-125

Motion carried at 7:45

C. February 2015 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by M. Ferguson, that the Board of Education accept the February 2015 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Motion carried at 7:47

D. February 2015 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by M. Ferguson, that the Board of Education accept the February 2015 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

Motion carried at 7:48

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Public Forum, The Color of Justice, March 10, 2015: Dr. Pascarella attended a forum sponsored by the NAACP on the topic of institutional racism. DPS has made a sub committee to keep looking into it.

DISCUSSION

ECS Information/Source/Alliance Grant: Joe Martino presented an explanation of the grant funding. Deb Mailloux-Petersen spoke regarding the number of Special Education students that we have including outplacements. Currently there are 1300 identified Special Education students in the district,

and 50 outplacements. Deb Mailloux-Petersen explained that if we don't have programs in house, we are required to provide an outplacement. There have been significant increases in DCF outplacements statewide, due to new DCF initiatives and administration. DPS goal is to increase district services, and reduce outplacements as much as possible. New programs are being developed to model outplacement programs so that DPS can meet the requests of what parents are asking for.

They explained that a tutor costs approximately \$ 35,000 annually. An outplacement costs approximately \$ 60,000 - \$ 70,000 annually. Total costs are up to \$ 3.5 million, exceeding the \$ 2 million from three years ago.

J. Martino explained the formula and cap process. He provided a list of town below the required 50% reimbursement. Danbury is at 46 %. Dr. Pascarella stated he will be testifying at a state session next week on behalf of getting Danbury fully funded.

Mr. Metrena attended a state legislative breakfast where ECS funding was reviewed. A handout was provided. In the current fiscal year, \$ 2.67 billion was budgeted, but the budget was capped at \$2 million. The remainders of the funds were never paid out. The problem is that the calculations are not being considered any longer. The suggestion was made that if the calculation was too difficult a process, that it should be re-done. Mr. Metrena reported that the state average is \$16,000 per pupil. Danbury spends approximately \$12,500 per student, showing we are fiscally sound in comparison to other districts.

R. Hawley asked if the Board should prepare letters to legislators. Chairperson Alberts said yes, and stated she would provide email addresses. She stated all Board members needed to lobby.

District Assessment Project: Dr. Glass explained the work being done surrounding looking at the District Assessment model. The goal is to remove assessments while still being able to diagnose student needs, and provide the required data. The goal is to have more instruction and less assessment. The district is working with Jonathan Costa. Dr. Glass further explained that much of the assessment process is out of the control of the district. Ms. Tranzillo requested a copy of the District Assessment Matrix, which Dr. Glass emailed to the Board. Dr. Glass suggested an information briefing at a future meeting. Dr. Pascarella stated that Danbury is critically looking at all the considerations, most importantly how to give the state and district the data they need, while providing more instructional time. Dr. Glass stated that the focus on assessment needs to shift to being driven by performance tasks.

INFORMATION

Coherence Conference

Summer Learning Opportunities Grades 9-12

NVCC Information Technology Summit

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

E. Alberts stated that J. Martino and Dr. Pascarella will be creating bullet points for Board members for communications with legislators. E. Alberts reminded Board of the Parent University on Saturday, and asked who was planning to attend.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

K. Molinaro reported on Policy Committee meeting on 3/25/15. Approval of the educational specifications for the DHS Expansion Project will be on Board of Education agenda for next meeting.

P. Tranzillo, M. Ferguson and R. Pietrafesa reported on their school visits from last week. Overall the day went very well. They visited ACE, South Street, Shelter Rock, Morris Street, and Park Avenue. P. Tranzillo commented that she was surprised at the capacity of the schools, even after all the expansions.

G. Cooper thanked everyone for attending the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee meeting. The next meeting is April 8th at 6:00 pm.

R. Taborsak asked Dr. Glass to provide an update on TDEC. Dr. Glass explained that TDEC (The District Enhancement Collaborative) serves as a subcommittee to the Board in regard to curriculum. The recommendation is for TDEC to meet twice per year, once in fall and then in spring.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing confidential personnel matters.

Motion carried at 8:51 pm

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: R. Pietrafesa moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, that the Board of Education return to Public Session.

Motion carried at 9:01 pm

ADJOURNMENT

K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of March 25, 2015. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Michael Ferguson, Secretary

(meeting was videotaped)