

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to develop in all children the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values which will enable them to live a productive and self-fulfilling life and engage in responsible citizenship in a global society.

Present: E. Alberts, S. Chilian, G. Cooper, G. Falkenthal (7:25 p.m.), A. Fluskey-Lattin, R. Hawley, R. Jannelli (7:24 p.m.), K. Molinaro (7:22 p.m.), S. Steichen, R. Taborsak, P. Tranzillo, Board Members; Drs. W. Glass and S. Pascarella (7:33 p.m.), J. Martino (7:40 p.m.), Atty. K. Thompson (7:29 p.m.) from Administration

Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. Steichen called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Steichen asked S. Chilian to do the roll call.

RECOGNITIONS - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Christiane Wiseman, parent of an AIS student, is here about the curriculum at the school. She wants the same curriculum continued at the new middle magnet school. She asks if all the students cannot go forward to the new magnet school, is there a way the curriculum can continue at Rogers Park and Broadview Middle Schools.

Kathy Keefe has a question for the Policy Committee. She would like to know why the second survey asked the question if the person filling out the survey is an AIS parent. She would like a breakdown of whom participated in the second survey. She would like the STEM teachers to be asked their thoughts about the requests from the AIS parents. She also reported to the Board that AIS had students go to Odyssey of the Mind and all did wonderful. The fifth grade team scored a perfect score and placed first and is on its way to the world championship!

Jill Amalfitano, is a parent of two AIS students and a STEM student at Rogers Park Middle School. She is concerned about the AIS students having to participate in a lottery to continue on at the new magnet school. She feels that everyone at AIS hoped that they could continue on with that curriculum and now there is no guarantee that these children who have worked so hard will continue on the same academic path in middle school.

Tom Saadi, Councilman, is here to talk about the Sites and Facilities Committee Meeting and revamping the four schools. He suggests recommending a five-year plan instead of a ten-year plan. The second issue is with regard to the Task Force. He commends the members and support staff on their diligence and deliberations. He agrees with uniform and standardization of emergency plans. With regard to hiring the safety consultant, he feels there is a large difference in the two. He recommends strongly considering that any armed personnel be trained in law enforcement not private

employees of a private contractor. He asked about safety advocates and what kind of background checks and training they go through.

Kathleen Peachman is here to request that a change be made to the DHS Athletic Handbook with regard to choosing academic events over a sports event and the ramifications for doing so.

Joseph Naber, parent of children at AIS, and occupational therapist. He is concerned about the children continuing with the same curriculum at the new magnet school. He is in favor of having the AIS students grandfathered in the new magnet school.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - S. Chilian moved, seconded R. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

Sites & Facilities Committee Meeting, 3/27/13
Board Meeting, 3/27/13
Policy Committee Meeting, 4/3/13

B. PERSONNEL

Accept Leaves of Absence: Jennifer Colabatistto, Amy Kotach
Accept Resignations: Karlene Baila, Tara Nygaard
Accept Retirements: Linda Harris (21 years)
Claudia Anderson (24 years)
Sandra Carroll (15 years)
Terry Beninson (41 years)

New Hires 3/22/13 - 4/4/13

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>CERTIFIED</u> <u>Subject</u>
Arroyo, Cesar	South St.	Bilingual Teach

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Non-Certified</u> <u>Subject</u>
Rivero, Albert	Pembroke	Tutor
Coles II, Antonio	KSP	Temp Safety Advocate
Mesaric, Julie	BVMS	Tutor
Ortiz, Jenny	SHR	CRC Site Facilitator
Schwarz, Michele		Sub ELP Associate

The motion passed unanimously at 7:31 p.m.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Danbury High School: None

Alternative Center: Jessica Pacheco is here to talk about the March Into Wellness Day at ACE. They had an adventurous practice hike. It was a two-day trip. This was practice for a three-day event after the spring break. ACE will be participating in a Smarter Balanced Scientific Sample Pilot Test in mathematics from April 29 to May 10. The next ACE Parent Night will be April 29 where students and parents will get one-on-one time to discuss grades and upcoming events and invites everyone to attend.

PRESENTATION

Danbury High School Governance Council Members – Update on activities/initiatives

G. Bocaccio would like to thank the Board and Superintendent to allow the Danbury High School Governance Council to make a presentation. He acknowledged Joe Vas, teacher member, and Devang Patel, Vice-President of the Governance Council. G. Bocaccio said the group has worked very hard and has broken down to four sub committees: Technology, Curriculum, Parent Engagement, and Attendance. They have worked countless hours. They have done a tremendous amount of online research. They have made many recommendations which have been put into implementation and have been very successful. He publicly thanked his Committee for all they have done for DHS parents and students, staff, and the district as a whole.

Devang Patel is here to give insight into the Governance Council, a summary of work done, and some recommendations they believe would help performance at the school as well as throughout the district. He distributed a handout to each member and he explained the handout in detail. He would like the Board to review the recommendations. He would like to see closer working collaborations with the Board. A. Fluskey-Lattin asked what you do about a student who realizes they are not doing well in a class and might not attend. She asked what system is in place for these students. G. Bocaccio said at the beginning it is made very clear to the students what the expectation of the class will be and they have a three-week window. At that time, they are allowed to make a change. There is a Tutoring Center and interventionists in place for students who are failing a class. R. Jannelli applauded the work of the committee members. He would like to recommend that the Community Relations Committee sit down and work with the School Governance Council on some of the recommendations. Chairperson Steichen said this is fantastic work and thanked the committee members very much. S. Chilian asked about the work of the subcommittee on Curriculum. G. Bocaccio responded saying the Dean of Students is working with ninth grade repeaters. They are the ones we have seen a great deal of success. R. Taborsak asked if about the turnover in the people on the Governance Council. He asked if there will be an outreach program. G. Bocaccio said there is a procedure in place.

Alternative Center School Governance Council – Linda Schreiner and Rob Melillo

- Update on activities/initiatives

L. Schreiner reported that Council began with all it had to offer with trainings and support from the State with five teachers and three parents. They are down to one parent.

R. Melillo said they adopted a set of bylaws and elected officers. They did a start-up on the first Parents Night in September. It became increasingly difficult to gain parent contribution. There is not a lot of progress to report due to the logistics of their population. L. Schreiner talked about what the school is doing to make students achieve success.

Dr. Pascarella said the school is in a real dilemma because the State is treating ACE as if it is a school such as Danbury High School. He does not have an answer as the State has not given them one.

Stadley Rough School Governance Council – Edward Wachowski, Minnie Dineen-Herzog, and John Arizzi - Update on activities/initiatives

Minnie Dineen-Herzog talked about the work the Governance Council has done the first year. They have five teachers and seven parents and held an election and they formed bylaws. The biggest problem last year was getting a community member. This year there was a big turnover with teachers and parents. Mr. Wachowski came on board in the second year of the Council's inception and said his first goal was to get a sense of what was done in the first year. They attended a workshop on SGC and it was very helpful. It gave them some concrete ideas. He compiled as much data as he could with regard to school performance. They analyzed some areas of strength and weakness and they also looked at parental involvement. They found a relatively high percentage of parental involvement with fun activities as opposed to attending workshops and activities that involved presenting information. He said one of the major areas they wanted to focus on to help improve the student achievement data was to work toward the improvement of parental involvement and engagement in school. He also talked about creating a school/parent/family compact. He gave examples of events and projects they are working on to bring all of this to fruition. Their hope is to finalize it by the end of this school year to present at the beginning of the next school year. J. Arizzi feels one of the pluses for Stadley Rough is they have a strong PTO and there is good collaboration with them and the staff, and that has been helpful as well.

R. Jannelli thanked everyone for participating. He feels certain aspects of the School Governance Councils should be communicated to other schools and share what they are doing so we act as a district and not individual bodies.

ACTION ITEMS

Draft Teacher Evaluation Plan/Administrator Evaluation Plan/Professional Development Plan

MOTION: S. Chilian moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Draft Teacher Evaluation Plan/Administrator Evaluation Plan/Professional Development Plan to the State Department of Education by April 15, 2013 (copies available at Central Office)

R. Taborsak asked if the State makes recommendations, will it go to Administration or to the Teacher Evaluation Committee and Dr. Glass responded that it will be presented to the committee.

The motion passed unanimously at 9:03 p.m.

2014-2015 School Calendar

MOTION: S. Chilian moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar as recommended.

A. Fluskey-Lattin talked about what the School Governance Council had to say about adjusting the calendar. Dr. Pascarella recognized that but said it is impossible for our teachers to do what they do without professional development days. He said full days were put in whenever possible to minimize the loss of instructional time. S. Chilian questioned the number of professional days in the calendar and Dr. Pascarella told the Board he feels it is necessary for the teachers to have this time. K. Molinaro said that when Danbury was identified as a failing district, the State recommended that we increase our professional days. R. Taborsak said that done correctly, professional development will increase productivity.

In Favor: E. Alberts, G. Cooper, G. Falkenthal, R. Hawley, R. Jannelli, K. Molinaro, S. Steichen, R. Taborsak, P. Tranzillo

Opposed: S. Chilian

Abstained: A. Fluskey-Lattin

The motion passed at 9:27 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Marzano Training Update

Dr. Pascarella said the training has been ongoing.

DISCUSSION - None

INFORMATION

School Safety Task Force Report Consensus Items (Minutes attached)

K. Molinaro asked the Board to look through it and questions will be answered at the next meeting.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Board Retreat – Chairperson Steichen said at this time the Board will not participate in a retreat.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

R. Jannelli reported from the Finance Committee met on Monday, April 8, and there were adjustments to the \$122 million dollar budget that was proposed. There were savings in insurance

cuts. In addition to that, the Superintendent is proposing \$1.7 million dollars be allocated for ECS funding and we are going to add back \$296,000 for security guards. That figure brings us to \$2.5 million dollars and we'll have a shortfall of about \$110,000.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: S. Chilian moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the selection of a Security Consultant with possible action in public session regarding retention; and, discussing the Paraprofessional negotiations with possible action in public session.

The motion passed unanimously at 9:31 p.m.

Present: E. Alberts, S. Chilian, G. Cooper, G. Falkenthal, A. Fluskey-Lattin, R. Hawley, R. Jannelli, K. Molinaro, S. Steichen, R. Taborsak, P. Tranzillo, Board Members; Drs. W. Glass and S. Pascarella, J. Martino, and Atty. K. Thompson from Administration; Paul Estefan, Civil Preparedness Director

Absent: None

Chairperson Steichen called the Executive Session to order at 9:35 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Atty. Thompson and a brief discussion ensued.

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

The motion passed unanimously at 9:55 p.m.

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: S. Chilian moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board hire Safe Haven International to complete a school safety analysis.

In Favor: E. Alberts, S. Chilian, G. Falkenthal, A. Fluskey-Lattin, R. Hawley, K. Molinaro, S. Steichen, R. Taborsak, P. Tranzillo

Opposed: G. Cooper, R. Jannelli

The motion passed at 9:57 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education adjourn its April 10, 2013 meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Richard Hawley, Secretary