

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Wednesday, April 22, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm 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, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

Absent: Richard Hawley, Ralph Pietrafesa

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

RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Pascarella recognized the DHS Robotics team

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Oscar Pesantez spoke on behalf of PLTI (Parent Leadership Training Institute). Mr. Pesantez spoke to the need for more physical education to combat childhood obesity. Ms. Maria Artiaga spoke on behalf of the importance of learning Spanish at an early age. Both participants provided letters to DPS Administration and BoE. Chairperson Alberts stated that the DPS Administration would review his letter and get back to him. Ms. Alberts thanked them for attending.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 15-77 through 15-80, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

4/8/15 Superintendent Evaluation Committee Meeting
4/8/15 Board of Education Meeting
4/20/15 Finance Committee Meeting

B. PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence: Tanya Maguire, Heather Salamone

Accept Resignations: Kelly Carpenter, Deborah Farber, Julie Jimenez

Accept Retirements: Judy Butterly, 48 years
Denise Meany, 24 years

New Hires April 6-16, 2015:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Non-Certified Subject</u>
Jennifer Callan	RPMS	Tutor
James Gonzalez	MRP	Tech Para
Amelia Hernandez	Ells	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Dennis Silva		SUB Custodian
Helayna Herschkorn		SUB Psychologist
Tatsiana Sklyar		SUB Dental Billing
Paloma Melendrez	WSMSA	SUB Spanish Teach
Luke Rosequist	South St.	SUB Teach
Kathy Pickle	GRP	SUB Teach
Lori Logan	WSMSA	SUB Teach
Cara Caputo		SUB Speech Lang. Path.
Dona Petruccelli	BVMS	SUB Teach
Sara Doble	DHS	SUB Teach
Mary McCormick	St. Peter's	SUB Teach – Reading

P. Tranzillo stated that she was not listed on the list of those present at the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee meeting on 4/8/15, and asked that a correction to the minutes be made.

Motion carried at 7:23 pm

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS: Jamie Gherna, BOG President and Ricki Jowdy, BOG member

Last Friday was the Mr. DHS show, which was extremely successful, and over \$1,600 was raised, which is enough to fund 6 smile train surgery's. Students are preparing for AP exam testing. Friday April 24th is the Word Warriors Benefit Concert at 7:00 pm in the new gym. May 1st is the Junior Prom at the Portuguese Club at 7:00 pm, and the theme is Grecian gardens. May 2nd is SAT exams. The Danbury track team pushed their undefeated record to 3-0. May 22nd is the Senior Prom at The Amber Room at 7:00 pm, and the theme is Around the World. Students are currently in the process of electing new class officers for each grade level, as well as the new BOG and Executive Council.

ACE: John King

On March 26th students participated in the annual Spring into Wellness day. Community guest speakers provided insightful workshops on the areas of health, wellness and team building. On March 27th students participated in a field trip to the Maritime Center where students participated in experiential learning as it relates to science and aquatics. On Saturday March 28th three students volunteered their time to assist with Family University being hosted at Rogers Park Middle School. They assisted with greeting guests and working with small children throughout the day. Students conducted community service at DHS during the nights of The Wiz. Students assisted at the concession stand, and represented ACE very well. On April 10th students participated in a field trip to the Long Wharf Theatre to see a play entitled Brownville Song. The play highlighted the struggles of a teenager living on the street and the perseverance needed to overcome his obstacles. There was great feedback from students regarding the play.

PRESENTATION

Mary Gregory, Director of DSABC (Danbury Schools and Business Collaborative) explained the program, what a mentor is, and why a student is referred. Ms. Gregory explained that the program provides support to DPS students, as well as scholarship opportunities. There are 230 mentors serving students grade K-12. Ms. Gregory further explained that the Danbury program is the longest running school based program in CT, and has been in place for 25 years. The average number of years of commitment of mentors to students is 6 ½ years. Additionally, Ms. Gregory provided statistics on outcomes, as well as results from end of year student and mentor surveys. Ms. Gregory will send all Board of Education members a video about reflections from a mentor, which is also posted on the DSABC website. Dr. Pascarella commented that he constantly fields phone calls and inquiries about the program, and that he featured Mary Gregory and her program on his district television show. Dialogue ensued regarding the success of the program. M. Ferguson commented that he has also been a mentor, and that he strongly supports the program. Administration and the Board of Education thanked Ms. Gregory for her commitment. Ms. Gregory invited everyone to the annual scholarship and awards breakfast, where they are also celebrating their 25th anniversary. Ms. Gladys Cooper was part of the mentor program in past years, as well as Elena Patton is celebrating her 15th year.

ACTION ITEMS

March 2015 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: K. Molinaro, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education accepts the March 2015 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Motion carried at 7:50

March 2015 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

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

Motion carried at 7:51

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Dianna Wentzell selected as Commissioner of Education: Interim Commissioner has been appointed to the position. Danbury has been working with her for several years already.

High School Principal Recruitment Calendar: Kim Thompson provided an update. An outside consultant will be attending the meeting on May 28th to brainstorm different ideas on how to identify the type of candidate that Danbury is looking for. Administration is hopeful that by starting now, good information will be gathered to work off for the spring and fall.

HR report: Ms. Thompson states there is one non-renewal, however it is from a resignation. She expects minimal hiring this year. Ms. Fluskey-Lattin asked for clarification of what is a non-renewal. Ms. Thompson explained that it is staff member that receives notification from the Superintendent that they are not being renewed.

DISCUSSION

2015-2016 Budget: City Council met last night, and the next meeting is May 5th. Dr. Pascarella believes that the point has been made in regard to the inequality of allocations to Danbury, and the impact of the reductions to the budget. DPS Administration is looking at options in regard to the reductions. Nothing is official yet, although personnel and benefits will be impacted. No hiring, except in shortage areas, is planned. P. Tranzillo asked if there will still be hiring at Westside, and Mr. Martino replied that grade 7 will still be opening. Ms. Thompson stated that there is still a concern that the district does not have enough teachers with bilingual endorsements. R. Jannelli commented to be sure that all the Board members receive the handout provided at the City Council meeting. He believes that the City Council realizes the disparity of the ECS funding, and that the City Council agrees to start momentum in Danbury to involve City Council and legislators to address the issues. He further stated this was a great opportunity for everyone to work together, and he thanked Administration and the Cabinet for the job they are doing.

Alliance Grant: Boilerplate template was provided to Board of Education. It is building on what has been in place over the last 3 years. The grant is due this Friday, but Administration wants to give Board of Education an opportunity to review the grant. 51 % of this grant needs to be spent on closing the achievement gap. Dr. Glass states that administrative positions are already very lean. Dr. Glass suggests that the best course of action is for BoE to review the grant and reconvene in two weeks with questions. A. Fluskey-Lattin asked if remaining 49% could be indicated more clearly. Dr. Glass stated he would work with Joe Martino to clarify further what is offset from the general fund.

SMARTGov Initiative Update: Dr. Pascarella provides an update about the process. He stated that it was discussed at the City Council meeting last night. Current consensus is that DPS is running efficient. Consensus seems to be that consolidation will happen, it will be in the 5 years. The City of Danbury is currently undergoing some re-alignments. Ms. Thompson stated most impact may affect departments of HR and Finance; however believe there is fine-tuning to be done and it makes sense to re-visit in 5 years. The City of Danbury seems to appreciate how lean DPS is running, and how funding is being allocated appropriately.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Alberts discussed the importance of contacting legislators regarding the budget and funding.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

R. Taborsak stated that the specials area, which includes guidance, social work, and psychologists was not fully discussed, and more conversation was needed in this area.

Ms. Thompson stated that the negotiation committee was meeting in regard to safety advocates, school lunch, and secretaries, and that the secretaries now had a new union. She stated she was working with Board representatives R. Taborsak, P. Tranzillo, and R. Pietrafesa on these negotiations.

K. Molinaro stated that the Wellness Committee will provide suggested changes at the next meeting, and requested a workshop pertaining to the AIS lottery operations process. This will be scheduled for Wednesday May 20th at 6:30 pm.

R. Jannelli commented in regard to the public participants that spoke this evening from PLTI. He stated that PLTI is an agency that advocates for rights of parents and their children, and that unfortunately the Governors budget has eliminated this funding. He asked for the Board to consider ideas on how the Board of Education could continue to support these types of excellent programs.

G. Cooper stated that all 11 Board members should attend the next Superintendents Evaluation Committee meeting, which will be at 6:30 pm. Ms. Cooper further stated she would like to see an end of year report on expulsions.

A. Fluskey-Lattin requested that an update on the Family University be provided at the next meeting. She further reminded the Board that the National Honor Board meeting.

E. Alberts encourage all Board members to review the moving up ceremonies calendar, and to attend as many as possible. She encouraged those who have not attended the Adult Education graduation to do so.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: P. Tranzillo, seconded by D. Metrena, moved that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing confidential personnel matters. **Motion carried at 8:35 pm**

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

Absent: Richard Hawley, Ralph Pietrafesa

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

Ms. Alberts called the Executive Session to order at 8:37 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Ms. Thompson.

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: R. Taborsak moved, seconded by K. Molinaro, that the Board of Education return to Public Session. The motion passed at 8:48 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

D. Metrena moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of April 22, 2015 and the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Michael Ferguson, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)