

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

Rogers Park Middle School Cafeteria

Present: Eileen Alberts, Shirley Chilian, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Kathleen Molinaro, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo; Drs. William Glass and Sal Pascarella, Ed Arum and Kim Thompson from Administration

Absent: None

RECOGNITIONS - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jim Maloney has two points: Thank you to the Board, staff and Superintendent for the work they do and continue to do. He would like to see something done about the City funding Head Start.

Paula Luna spoke in support of funding Head Start.

Natalie Casanova is a student of Head Start and spoke in support of Head Start where she learned to speak English.

Louise LaManna spoke against the comments in the editorial in *The News Times* on Friday, April 20, with regard to Head Start.

Thomas Saadi, Councilman, talked about the 2020 Task Force. He would like the Board to request a substantive update from that Task Force as to where their analysis and potential responses or submissions of plans stand. Secondly, with regard to Head Start, he is here as a parent and is happy to see the reduction from \$195,000 to \$50,000 in the Head Start budget. He spoke in support of the Head Start Program.

Hayward McLain is a single parent and he spoke in favor of the Head Start program.

Sandra Cherney spoke as a parent about the damage that would be created without the Head Start Program. She feels that Danbury needs to educate their children, but she feels it is unfair to choose electives over pre-school education.

Stephen Hyer asks a question about the budget. As a taxpayer, he would like to know how much of the budget, in the opinion of the educational professionals, is being siphoned off to meet federal and state mandates that are not directly related to teacher/student contact and the educational process? Chairperson Cooper said that S. Pascarella would be happy to obtain that information for him and to phone the Superintendent at any time.

Eva Duran is a full-time employee and part-time student and is here to support the Head Start Program.

Joseph Doutney is a custodian at Broadview Middle School. Due to budget restraints, the position of night head custodian was eliminated, and the custodians at both middle schools are feeling the brunt of the problem. He is here to ask the Board to put the position back and eliminate the problem this has caused.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gladys Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Cooper asked K. Molinaro to do the roll call.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Falkenthal that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

Finance Committee Meeting, 4/11/12
Board Meeting, 4/11/12

B. PERSONNEL

Accept Leave of Absence: Kathleen Sanford
Accept Resignations: Laura DiPaola, Deborah Forte
Accept Retirements: Priscilla Eller, Susan Griggs,
Barbara Seabury, Roberta Struski

C. GRANTS

Approve grant in the amount of \$15,000 from the Fairfield County Community Foundation's donor advised fund for the support of the Danbury Family Literacy Center's "Kindergarten Enrichment Program". These funds have been provided by the Fred & Joan Weisman Fund

The motion passed at 8:05 p.m.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS: Ashley Winch, Vice-President

Ashley reports they are getting into full swing for AP testing that will be taking place in the following weeks. Fundraisers are going on throughout the school. There is a book drive. If anyone is interested in donating books, they will be donated to Pembroke Elementary School and to the Danbury Library. They are also selling saplings in honor of Earth Day to promote a better environment for Danbury. DHS is currently running elections for next year.

PRESENTATION

ACTION ITEMS

A. March 2012 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by S. Steichen that the Board of Education accept the March 2012 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

For the month of March 2012, the District expended \$10,648,922, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$75,328,710 representing 65.56% of the General Fund total budget. E. Arum said we are running a \$232,000 surplus. He reports that money was saved in fuel oil, health insurance, and a dental rebate.

The motion passed at 8:09 p.m.

B. March 2012 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by S. Chilian that the Board of Education accept the March 2012 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

For the month of March 2012, the District expended \$1,640,960, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$11,166,620, representing 52.3% of the Grants/Projects total budget. E. Arum said that some of the carryovers from the grants from last year will have to be ending, and we will have some more carryovers by May or June and we will let you know what those accounts are.

The motion passed at 8:10 p.m.

C. 2013-2014 School Calendar

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve the 2013-2014 School Calendar.

S. Pascarella said that in this calendar, we included five emergency days, and what that permits the Board of Education to do, by statute, is to announce to parents that graduation will take place no later than the 185th day of the school year. Also, it shows the early dismissal days for the students that are extended days for teachers in order for them to gain professional development. Dr. Glass said that out of the 11 half days, two of those are tied into the contract for teacher evaluation.

The motion passed at 8:11 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Update on Senate Bill 24

S. Pascarella distributed a handout to the Board with regard to Senate Bill 24 and explained the points that are creating difficulties to the Board. It is prepared by the Connecticut Consortium of Municipalities and they are supporting the reform movement in its entirety and it also does a comparison from their point of view.

Facilities Update

Ed Arum said that there was a two-hour workshop for all the custodians and the City Public Works Director and workers. He also said there were some problems with windows in some of the Rogers Park classrooms. During vacation, R. Jalbert, E. Arum, R. Palanzo and R. Anderson went through the rooms. The City called in Cutler Glass and found about 40 bad sashes and 24 bad tilt latches. It was determined that these windows are considered residential and not commercial windows. Beginning Thursday, April 26, the sashes and tilt latches will be repaired and the windows will all be oiled.

S. Pascarella said that prior to the spring break, a parent put us notice regarding the windows, and S. Pascarella publicly thanks the City for their prompt response to our problem which presented a danger to our youngsters.

DISCUSSION

2012-2013 Budget

Chairperson Cooper said we will be doing a final vote at our next regular board meeting.

INFORMATION

Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) Update, Dr. William Glass

Dr. Glass attended a meeting in Litchfield. He said that many times when the State Department of Ed create a model, they do not create the gold standard. It is a lesser version and if you want to ramp it up, you can. This is very different this time. They are giving us the gold standard. The thought behind it is if you choose not to adopt another national model or create your own up against their criteria, you will be forced to adopt their model. Secondly, R. Taborsak has served on the committee and we have really gone through a robust vetting system of the national research and, as a team, we have selected the Marzano model. There will be some fine tuning on this but it is a wonderful model. We presented that in Litchfield, and they said this would be perfectly in alignment with the thinking of the State, so we are very much ahead of the curve. The third point is that they have asked for ten districts to serve as a pilot. We have declined. The problem is that the training will start this summer and require every one of your administrators in the district to go through this training program, and we would have to implement the state model next year with no additional resources and it has not been vetted. We would be the guinea pigs. The last piece is that we have made very good progress and we will be coming before the Board, probably sometime early next year, sharing with you exactly what we are talking about. It is all very much in draft form. We will be working with both unions on this. We will be doing a significant amount of training. Our desire is to implement this in September, 2013.

Also Dr. Glass wanted to share that over the vacation he met with R. Palanzo and Mr. Fuller, who is the architect that the City has retained to do the feasibility study for the expansions that Mr. Saadi mentioned through the 2020 Task Force. Park Avenue School came through just fine, and we can put the desired amount of additions on to that. Shelter Rock School should be easy to add on also. Great Plain School is similar to Shelter Rock and the architect felt it will be easy to add the additional classrooms we need.

With regard to MREC, Head Start will move out. We will repurpose that building for a STEM program, and the thinking at this point is to move into a Phase II of the International Studies Academy. That particular aspect of 2020 seems to be moving along just fine.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Community Relations Committee

Chairperson Cooper suggested to R. Jannelli that the committee convene to have a meeting.

Superintendent Evaluation Committee

K. Molinaro reminds the committee that it will meet on Monday.

DSABC Committee

R. Jannelli reports that DSABC will have their annual breakfast at the Amber Room in a couple of weeks. Everyone should have received an invitation. It is a very nice event and he would hope that everyone will attend.

Annrose Fluskey-Lattin asks a question about the value added in the budget. She would like to know how we are going to get the part-time nurse's position reinstated and how are we going to try to reinstate the custodian's position. She asks S. Pascarella if there is a plan in place for these items.

S. Pascarella wanted to share that on Saturday, April 28, at Danbury High School, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m., Family University is being offered by Danbury Public Schools and community agencies to host a variety of workshops to parents of children from birth to high school-aged children. Many community providers have joined us in hoping to make this a great event for families. In addition, it is National Healthy Kids Day and the YMCA will be on site offering a number of different workshops for children. The main focus is on health and wellness. The guest speaker is Dr. Barbara Greenberg, who is an adolescent consultant with Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan, and her keynote speech will be on "Getting Your Child to WANT to Talk to You."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing certified staff non-renewals and collective bargaining strategies.

Present: Eileen Alberts, Shirley Chilian, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Kathleen Molinaro, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo, Board Members; Drs. William Glass and Sal Pascarella, Kim Thompson from Administration

Absent: E. Arum

Chairperson Cooper turned the meeting over to K. Thompson for updates on the interview schedules for the Director of Special Services and the Director of Finance positions. K. Thompson also updated the Board on negotiations.

The motion carried unanimously at 8:35p.m.

PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: S. Steichen moved, seconded by R. Hawley that the Board of Education adjourn its April 25, 2012 meeting.

The motion carried unanimously 9:25 p.m.

Richard Hawley, Secretary