

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

CALL TO ORDER

The chairperson, Ralph Pietrafesa, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Richard Jannelli,
Patrick Johnston, Frederick Karrat, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa,
Holly Robinson
Absent: Richard Hawley
Also Present: Joe Martino, Kelly Truchsess, Dr. Bill Glass, Dr. Sal Pascarella

RECOGNITIONS

Cheerleading, Coach Joann Tatarzycki: FCIAC Grand Champion, Quinnipiac Cheer Challenge Grand Champion, Watertown Cheer Fest Champions, State LL Champions, Connecticut HS Cheerleading Team of the Year, CT Open State Champions, New England Regional Championships 5th place finish.

- Coach Tatarzycki and her team were recognized. Ms. Tatarzycki stated that this year the team had nine seniors, four juniors, one sophomore and one freshman. They had outstanding senior leadership this year as well as three outstanding Senior Captains. Six FCIAC scholar athletes as well as three all state cheerleaders. Dr. Pascarella stated that there are scholarships at universities for athletic cheerleaders and it's a great aspiration to strive for.

B Track, Coach Rob Murray: FCIAC Western Division Champion, FCIAC Champion, State LL Champion, State Open Champion.

- Coach Murray and his team were recognized. Mr. Murray was not present. In his place was Mr. Nick Fraticelli who stated that this year they had 104 male students on the roster for track and field. The team worked very hard and took a team first mentality to their competitions and practices.

G Track, Nick Fraticelli: FCIAC Western Division Champion, FCIAC Champion, State LL Champion, State Open Runner Up.

- Mr. Fraticelli and his team were recognized. Mr. Fraticelli stated that the ladies on the team conducted themselves with diligence and hard work. Mr. Fraticelli thanked the Senior leaders for everything they brought to the team. They are a team who went through many growing pains to becoming two time champions.

Wrestling, Coach Ricky Shook: FCIAC Western Division Champion, FCIAC Champion, State LL Champion, State Open Champion, New England Champions, Connecticut HS Wrestling Team of the Year. Ricky Shook Connecticut Wrestling Coach of the Year, James Ascone Connecticut Assistant Wrestling Coach of the Year.

- Coach Shook and his team were recognized. Coach Shook stated that this was a very special year for the wrestling team. They were crowned six open champs out of 14 weight classes for the state

of Connecticut. They won the New England's for the first time since 1992. The team had four all Americans that placed top eight in nationals and they are all under classmates so hopefully they will do well next year. The team is graduating four starters this year.

Unified Sports Michael’s Cup: Christine Miller

- Ms. Miller and her group were recognized. Ms. Miller stated that this is the 17th year of Unified Sports at BVMS. The students compete in three sports throughout the year. Soccer, Basketball and Track and Field. They meet every Wednesday throughout the school year. They hold the Fun Club when they are not preparing for a sport. Ms. Miller stated that Unified Sports is not about the score or athletic ability, it’s about inclusion and acceptance. The group has expanded to include leadership and service to the community such as the Sandy Hook Project “Start with Hello”. The program is expanding and there is now a program at the high school.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by D. Metrena that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 17-41 through 17-42, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

3/22/17 Board Meeting

B. PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence:	Lindsey Lucchesi
Accept Resignations:	Richard Howarth
New Hires:	See Exhibit 17-42

Motion passed at 7:16 pm

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - (SPOTLIGHT YOUR SCHOOL)

Ms. Dawn Bartz, her staff and students from Shelter Rock Elementary school presented the following:

- Enrollment of 560 students.
- Second largest elementary school in Danbury and will be the largest next year.
- Added 4 new modular classrooms this year. They were able to move the four 4th grade classrooms over two weekends to the modular classrooms without an impact to instruction.
- Art Teacher Donna Gagliardi did a whole school initiative to promote the four core values of community, compassion, character and courage. Four pieces of artwork were chosen and they were made into pins that represented the four core values. The faculty was also invited to participate.
- Leadership Club.
- Start with Hello Program.
- Kind Club.
- The Media Center was renovated with 800 new books. They received new resources where students can access reading in school and online. Three new chrome carts to share amongst the school. A brand new green screen studio along with cameras, lights and movie production

software.

- Core Clicks and Book Flix. Teachers are using these in classroom for instructional practice and they are hoping these programs will have an impact to increase summer reading. The programs are accessible with any device. The school recently had two parent nights with excellent attendance. Parents learned where they can access their child's book account at home.
- Students spoke about projects such as digital math games, working on court yard, parking spots and library, creating website with slideshow, 3D model with a document. Writing opinion and persuasive letters to help fix the playground, reading strategies, DNA writing lab reports, STEM science projects, and genre studies with focus on biography, Native American homes project.
- Read Across America.
- Won a technology grant of \$2000.
- Partnered with Ridgefield Playhouse.
- 3rd grade teacher Jeffrey Rosado contacted college basketball coaches around the country. They made donations to classrooms such as jerseys, posters, etc. These donations have been used as incentives for good behavior and academics. WCSU coach invited students to the game where the students had a private meet and greet session and they are now pen paling with the players.
- Invention Convention.
- 30th year Science Fair will be held on April 18th from 7 - 9 pm.
- Golden tickets are tickets you win when being respectful, responsible, safe and caring. If you get a golden ticket you may be able to win a prize.
- PTO president Ms. Amalfitano stated that she is proud of the school and all the programs. Everyone has worked so hard including the kids. She is grateful for the teachers and all the collaboration that goes on in the school. Ms. Amalfitano thanked Principal Bartz, staff and students.

R. Pietrafesa concluded with thanking the school as well and presented them with a certificate of appreciation.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS: Samantha Mortara, Vice President; Monique Delima, Treasurer

- On 4/5/17 all juniors participated in taking the SATs. The makeup date will be held on 4/26/17.
- Current Quarter ended on 4/4/17. Report cards will be issued on 4/20/17.
- DHS Theater Program carried out an incredibly well done successful production of "Once On this Island"
- Online registration for students in grade 9 through 11 is complete for the next school year. It went very well and it proved to be an easy process. Only two out of 3251 students did not complete their registration.
- Construction update; they are done pouring the concrete and are now installing beams.
- Junior prom will be held on 4/28/17.
- Senior prom will be held on 5/26/17.
- Graduation is set for 6/19/17 at 5 pm with a rain date of 6/20/17.
- Seniors are well-along in the college application process. They have applied to over 481 different schools. Top five schools applied to have been WCSU, UCONN, NVCC, CCSU, SCSU.

ACE: Deanna Hernandez

- The Enrichment Groups initiative has completed its second cycle, which resulted in 67 students receiving intervention using the IXL program for both Math and ELA.

- On 3/28/17 and 3/29/17, 11 ACE students and two English teachers went to Camp Herrlich in Patterson, NY for an overnight academic camping trip. The trip included survival skills, hiking, learning and playing Native American games, creating a journal, drawing and sketching, and even making a dreamcatcher. It was a time of learning as well as a time for group bonding.
- The Superintendent's Award for the school year was awarded to Deanna Hernandez.
- The CABE Awards were awarded to Yolain Ortiz and Gianni Allesandro.
- On 4/5/17 ACE underwent its state testing, which saw 19 10th grade students complete the CAPT Science Test and 27 11th grade students take the SATs.
- On 4/5/17 9th graders went to the Norwalk Maritime Center and 12th graders went on a trip to the Capitol.
- ACE registered for the Clean City of Danbury Day in an effort to give back to the community that supports ACE and to provide community service opportunities for ACE students.
- ACE gardens project will begin after April break and will see the construction of four raised garden beds and a green house.
- ACE Wellness Day will be held on 4/7/17 with workshops for students that involve Art Therapy, Substance Abuse, Healthy Relationships, Conflict Resolution, Yoga and an end of day ice skating lesson for students.
- The ACE white water rafting trip to the Hudson River is planned for 5/31/17 through 6/2/17.
- The ACE Poetry Coffee House is scheduled for 4/25/17.

PRESENTATION - none

ACTION ITEMS - none

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Revisions to 2017-2018 School Calendar

- Dr. Pascarella stated that it was decided to take the two days before the school year begins for the tenure staff and put one of them during the school year. August 29th, 30th and 31st will be for new teachers. September 1st will be the first day for all staff to report. Snow days are built into the school year. This will give construction an extra four to five days to finish. After June 30th days will be deducted from the end of April recess, beginning April 20th. In cases where there is an excess number of emergency days, a day may be made up on President's Day recess. Dr. Glass stated that the calendar was shared with the Citywide PTO and they were comfortable with it.
- M. Ferguson said there was a bill passed out at the Education Committee to eliminate 30 hours of required PD training. The bill still has to get approved and signed but it did pass committee and opposition. M. Ferguson asked if the bill passes, is there a possibility that we can remove one hour early release days. Dr. Glass stated that the Tuesday PDs can provide time for teachers to get together for data teams, SRBI, and grade level meetings. K. Truchsess stated that a lot of the PD days are typically used for instruction but early release days are for different departments. Her fear would be that if the one hour PD was taken away, then you would create a problem by having to remove a teacher from their classroom so they can meet.
- D. Metrena stated that said calendar pushes late into June and certain sections of the schools get very hot. He would like administration to take that into account and ways to prepare to address those areas. K. Molinaro suggested taking a President's Day recess day back and making November 22nd a half day just for this year so we do not push so far into June. This would end the school year on June 22nd. Dr. Pascarella stated that he will look at the dates and come back with a modification.

Legislative Update, Danbury Day, May 16

- Dr. Pascarella stated that the hearings are over. There will be a subcommittee on SPED in regards to IEEs. K. Truchsess stated that an IEE is an Independent Education Evaluation. An IEE states that if a parent disagrees with an evaluation that a district employee does, they can request an IEE at the district's expense where an evaluation is done by a person who does not work for the child's school district. It used to be that a parent could request one IEE per several year periods but now the parent can request one IEE per area (academic testing, cognitive testing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language, etc). One area that poses a burden on the district is that if the district fails to evaluate in a suspected area of disability that gives the parent the right to request an IEE. K. Truchsess stated that the difficulty is that there are no set criteria on why a parent can disagree and request an IEE. There's also no set criterion on who can do the outside evaluation. The IEE Task Force has been created to set criteria on these guidelines. K. Truchsess stated that she will meet with the task force on 4/20/2017 to advocate from the district's perspective.
- Dr. Pascarella also stated that there has been a lot of discussion on how the ECS formula will be put together. He stated that the good news is that from everything he is reading the formula will benefit us if it passes. The procreation budget will be coming out in the middle of April and that will give us an idea. The graduation requirements are still headed in the same direction.
- Danbury Day will be held on May 16, 2017 from 12 - 3 pm in the Old Judiciary Room.
- J. Martino stated that the Board asked for \$5.9 million from the city and the city has approved \$2.25 million for the 2017-2018 school year. Dr. Pascarella stated that they will be meeting with the city's subcommittee on 4/6/17 at 6 pm to explain the budget request. Mayor Boughton will give the final budget the first Tuesday in May.

Magnet School Funding

Teacher Retirement Fund Proposal

- More information to come.

Teacher Recruitment

- Dr. Pascarella stated that K. Thompson will be doing a presentation in the future to the Board.

New Bus Terminal

- J. Martino stated that the bus company will be moving out of its current building to a new building owned by Rizzo. It is a nice facility. All of the propane buses are on order.

DISCUSSION - none

INFORMATION

Last day of school – June 20, 2017 – Early Dismissal
(Mill Ridge Primary last day of school – June 21, 2017)
High School Graduation – June 19, 2017 – 5:00 pm
Middle School Moving Up Ceremonies – June 20, 2017
 Broadview @ 12:30
 Rogers Park @ 4:00
 Westside @ 7:00
WERACE Graduation – June 13, 2017 – 7:00 pm at WCSU

BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

R. Pietrafesa stated the following:

- The Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 29, 2017.
- On March 25, 2017 R. Pietrafesa attended the community event held at New Hope Baptist Church and heard a great talk from the Chief of Police. He thanked G. Cooper for inviting him.
- On 4/3/17 he visited Shelter Rock and RPMS. Nice vibe as always.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

G. Cooper stated that the Superintendent Evaluation Meeting met on 4/5/17. A meeting has been scheduled for April 26th at 5:30 pm and on that day the full Board and Superintendent are requested to be present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - none

PUBLIC SESSION - none

ADJOURNMENT

K. Molinaro moved, seconded by P. Johnston, that the Board of Education adjourns its meeting of April 5, 2017 and the meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Kathy Molinaro, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)