

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

***Wednesday, April 8, 2015 – 7:00 PM***

**Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road**

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***MINUTES***

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:00 and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

**RECOGNITIONS**

Jim Russell, Danbury Fire Marshal, was present to recognize Shelter Rock student, Vatsal Vandaru, State Winner in the Fire Prevention Poster Contest, and his teacher art Donna Gagliardi. Mr. Russell explained that the poster contest has been happening for 31 years, and there are 30,000 participants statewide. It is sponsored by the Connecticut Fair Plan, State Educational System, Connecticut Fire Marshals Association, and Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association. The program is designed to teach fire safety, and the theme is Fire Prevention – Every One Every Day. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders participate statewide. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade local winners receive \$150 award, and attend a luncheon where the state winner is chosen. The state winner receives \$ 750, and their school receives a \$ 500 grant. The Board joined Mr. Russell in congratulating Vatsal on his accomplishment.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION -** K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 15-69 through 15-72, as recommended:

**A. MINUTES**

3/25/15 Sites & Facilities Committee  
3/25/15 Board Meeting

**B. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Accept Resignations: Andrea Bang, Kimberly Dunne  
Kara Gabriel, Mitch Peterson,  
Jessica Rosso, Lauren Szast

Accept Retirements: Eileen Coppa, 10 years  
 Robert Hinz, 25 years  
 Nancy McLain-Alvarez, 22 years  
 Cindy Nejame, 40 years  
 Adele Mikla, 21 years

New Hires 3/19/15-4/2/15)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Non-Certified Subject</u>
Lucas Fuentes	BVMS	SPED Tutor
Johnathan Gonzalez	Morris	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Thomas Guardado	Park	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Christopher Nazro	GRP	PARA Technology
Andre Encarnacao	BVMS	SPED Tutor
Jasmine Lewis	Ells	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Anyelina Cabrera	DECEC	School Readiness Teacher Aide
Nicole Harris	South Street	L/T Grade 3 SUB Teach - 5 weeks
Jessica Perdigoto		SUB School Readiness
Mitchell Peterson	BVMS	L/T Grade 7 Reading SUB Teach thru End of Yr.
Daniel Weber		SUB Custodian
Linda Giso		SUB Nurse
Amelia Shwartz	Morris	L/T Grade 4 SUB Teach - 3 weeks

**C. DONATION**

Accept \$2,000 IBM Community Grant for Morris Street School to recognize the volunteer efforts of IBM employee/retiree, Charles Schott

E. Alberts recognized and thanked retirees for their dedicated years of service. A. Fluskey-Lattin also recognized Cindy Nejame for her dedicated years of service to the DHS musical program.

E. Alberts also recognized Mr. Charles Scott and the IBM donation to Morris Street School

**Motion carried at 7:25 pm**

**EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - NONE**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES - NONE**

**PRESENTATION**

Dr. Meghan Martins and Kara Wazner presented information in regard to Danbury's commitment to College & Career Readiness, and graduation statistics for Danbury High School.

Dr. Martins explained the Demographic Reference Groups (DRG), and comparison of Danbury to other districts in our DRG. A handout with information regarding SAT scores, and college performance was provided.

Kara Wazner presented data surrounding the graduation rate, and the National Student Clearinghouse Report. A handout was provided. Ms. Wazner explained the 4 year cohort graduation rates, and

highlighted the gains reflected. Ms. Wazner explained that the district graduation rate is all students 9-12, which includes ACE. A. Fluskey-Lattin asked if there was data for DHS graduation for 2013. Ms. Wazner explained that there was not since 2014 was the first year that the CSDE provided this data. Ms. Fluskey-Lattin also noted that although the district graduation rate has increased overall, there are decreases in certain ethnic groups.

Various questions were asked, and discussion ensued surrounding data collection, trends and analysis.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### DHS Ed Specifications

**MOTION:** K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Danbury Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to accept the Educational Specifications and complete Grant Application ED049 for State approval for the addition and alterations at Danbury High School

### **Motion carried at 7:38**

Dr. Pascarella commented that he has spoken to the architects in regard to a re-design of the front entrance.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Testimony presented April 2, 2015 to the Appropriations Committee in support of SB816, An Act Establishing a Minimum Level of Funding under the Education Cost Sharing Grant Formula:

Dr. Pascarella explained his testimony to the committee. A copy was provided. Dr. Pascarella further explained that he was well received. Recommends that the Board follows suit as well. Chairperson Alberts suggested that the Board use the testimony provided from Dr. Pascarella for letters.

City Council Budget Presentation, April 7, 2015:

### High School Principal Recruitment Plan:

Gary Bocaccio retiring one year from September. Ms. Thompson explained there will be competition from other area high schools. The posting will be publicized starting in late spring/summer 2015. Focus groups will be formed in the early fall, and 2 panel interviews will begin in November. The goal is to have an offer to a candidate by the end of the calendar year so that a transition process can be put in place in the last quarter of the 2015-2016 school year.

A. Fluskey-Lattin asked if there were other outlets for parents than just the focus groups. Ms. Thompson stated that surveys could be implemented, and that the School Governance Council could also be utilized. R. Jannelli asked about encouraging local staff to apply. Ms. Thompson stated that internal candidates are encouraged to interview. Dr. Pascarella stated there could be other secondary vacancies as well, although those are not yet confirmed. Interviewing current candidates may potentially help identify candidates for future positions. The strategy is to interview as many candidates as possible so there is a pipeline for coming years.

## **DISCUSSION**

Dr. Glass provided a handout explaining the current draft of the ECS/Alliance grant. The overall budget will remain \$ 6.7 million. 51 % of this grant funding must be spent on achievement gap or funding will not be awarded. Initial application is due April 24<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Pascarella reminded the Board that this budget is a draft, and is not yet public information. District commitment is to keep teachers in front of students. Dr. Glass stated that even with reductions, there is a huge gap that we are still unable to close. The concern is that everything we have put into place for support for students and teachers, we are now pulling out. Dr. Glass stated we could see a future decline in achievement.

R. Jannelli asked if any of the reductions have been incorporated into district operational budget. Dr. Glass reminded the Board that this is still in draft form, and is still in the exploratory stage. Mr. Jannelli also commented that future years of the ECS grants are unknown, and echoed Dr. Glass' comments that this funding is a challenge. R. Hawley raised several questions in regard to the language in the proposed draft, as well as some of the salaries. Dr. Glass commented that the language was carried over from the previous years grant for preliminary discussion purposes only, and that the new grant would reflect current language.

## **INFORMATION**

Middle School Instructional Newsletter

Adult Education Graduation, 7:00 pm at WCSU, June 11

Alternative Center for Excellence Graduation, 9:30 at ACE, June 15

Westside Middle School Moving Up Ceremony, 12:30 at DHS, June 16

Broadview Middle School Moving Up Ceremony, 2:30 at DHS, June 16

Rogers Park Middle School Moving Up Ceremony, 5:00 at DHS, June 16

Danbury High School Graduation, 5:00 at DHS, June 17

## **BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Next Superintendent's Evaluation Committee meeting Wednesday May 6 at 6:00 pm. Requesting full Board participation.

Policy meeting will be before the next Board meeting. The Health & Wellness policy is on the agenda.

Chairperson Alberts thanked the Cabinet for their hard work in developing the ECS budget.

## **BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS**

City public hearing for DHS has not been provided yet, but it will be communicated to the Board once it is available.

Finance Committee meeting needs to be scheduled with Joe Martino. R. Hawley suggested perhaps Monday April 20<sup>th</sup>.

R. Jannelli reminded that the DECO applications end April 10<sup>th</sup>

G. Cooper commented that she is concerned on how much Danbury funding has been cut by the state

over the years. She asked if there is more that we can do than write letters to legislators. D. Metrena commented that the problem is that many legislators do not show up to meetings and committees once elected. Although it is unfair, it is politics. Chairperson Alberts reminded the Board that it takes the Board being visible to the legislators to influence change. The Board must all stand together. A. Fluskey-Lattin asked if the district can legally send letters home regarding the issue. Chairperson Alberts said she was not sure if the district could do so, but Board members could attend school PTO meetings and encourage parents to be involved. Dr. Pascarella suggested that the Board perhaps divide the list of legislators, and have Board members call them on a weekly basis. R. Pietrafesa asked for some talking points to bring to parents at PTO meetings. Dr. Pascarella will work with Joe Martino to provide this information.

A. Fluskey-Lattin reminded that Westside has their production of Aladdin this Friday at White Hall at WestConn. She also recognized Christine Haddad for her presentation to parents on SBAC

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** G. Cooper moved, seconded by K. Molinaro, that the Board of Education adjourn its April 8, 2015 meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

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Michael Ferguson, Secretary

(meeting was videotaped)