

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

***Wednesday, May 13, 2015 – 7:00 PM***

**Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm 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, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo.

Absent: Ralph Pietrafesa

Also present: Drs. Glass, Pascarella, Kim Thompson and Joe Martino from Administration.

**RECOGNITIONS**

**CT. Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Awards**

Eileen Alberts read the criteria for students being nominated for the CABE Student Leadership Award; and called the individual students to the Board table to receive their award. They received applause and congratulations from Ms. Alberts and Superintendent Pascarella.

Dr. Pascarella asked that the recipients gather for a group picture. He called on the Administrators of their respective schools to say a few words about their students who received the awards.

**CT Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Awards**

|                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Danbury High School               | Grace Gillotti<br>Tyler Amaral       |
| Alternative Center for Excellence | Jazmin Valverde<br>John King         |
| Broadview Middle School           | Cassandra Lanson<br>James Lukasik    |
| Roger Park Middle School          | Meghan Stepniak*<br>Lucio Bellantoni |
| Westside Middle School Academy    | Catarina Silva<br>Jacob Laham*       |

\*Meghan Stepniak and Jacob Laham are on a Washington Trip. They will attend May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and received their award at that meeting.

### **National School Nurse Day – May 6, 2015**

Kathy O’Dowd, Health and Nursing Services Coordinator, told the Board that the nurses play an important role in our schools. Their goal is to keep our students as healthy as possible. Healthy children do well academically. She said on behalf of our school nurses, I would thank the Board for their support and it gives me pleasure to introduce you to Lynne Given.

Ms. Alberts thanked the school nurses for all that they do. The Board, individually, congratulated Lynne Given, of Stadley Rough School for receiving an Honorable Mention in the 2015 Salute to Nurses in Fairfield County.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Kay Leone, teacher at Morris Street School, gave the Board an update on her school. She said everything is going well. There is a new Parents Program. 37 parents are involved in the program. Due to parent interest, we have now created a waiting list. One of the services we offer is babysitting to accommodate the parents while they are involved in the program. We also help with homework for the children of school age that are cared for while the parents are meeting. Tonight there are teachers at the school conducting the Parents Program. We are going to have some changes at Morris Street next year. We have three teachers retiring: Carm Fernandes 39 years of service, Judy Butterly 48 years of service and Sindi Magliaro 41 years of service. Ms. Leone thanked the Board for giving her the opportunity to update them on Morris Street.

Ms. Alberts thanked her for coming to the Board meeting and for her informative report.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION -** K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 15-86 through 15-92, as recommended:

#### **MINUTES**

4/8/15 Supt. Evaluation Meeting (revised minutes)  
4/22/15 Board Meeting

#### **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Accept Leave of Absence: Kristen Callisen, Liesl Fressola

Accept Resignations: Jared Emanuel                      Carla Huck  
Garrett Pagel                                  Andrew Zwart  
Christina Richa - (Key Club Advisor Only)

Mary Veach - (Mock Trial Advisor Only)

|                     |                     |                    |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Accept Retirements: | Margarita Dietter   | 22 years, 3 months |
|                     | Carmelina Fernandes | 39 years, 3 months |
|                     | Tae Hricko          | 19 years           |
|                     | Julia Horne         | 45 years           |
|                     | Sindi Magliaro      | 41 years           |
|                     | Elena Maslow        | 27 years, 8 months |
|                     | Paulette Miguel     | 27 years           |
|                     | Marie Narowski      | 12 years           |

New Hires April 17-May 7, 2015:

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Location</b> | <b>Non-Certified</b> | <b>Subject</b>               |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Anastasia Palella | Morris St.      |                      | After School Tutor           |
| Joanne Carcare    | STR             |                      | P/T Literacy Interventionist |
| Beatrice Moore    |                 |                      | SUB Safety Advocate          |
| Monica Ortega     |                 |                      | SUB Teach                    |
| Richard Kokinchak |                 |                      | RPMS L/T SPED SUB Teach      |
| Ashley LaQuesse   | DHS             |                      | L/T English SUB Teach        |

#### DONATION

Accept \$5,000 from the GE Volunteers Foundation for DHS Robotics Team

Accept \$2,500 from Sealed Air Corp in c/o Danbury Education Foundation for library-media scape project at RPMS or BMS

Accept \$1,000 from Branson Ultrasonics for library-media scape project

Accept \$100 from Winters Bros. for library-media scape project

Ms. Alberts read the names and years of service of the retirees and thanked them for they dedication to the Danbury Public School students.

Ms. Alberts also read the donations as listed above. She told the Board that it is wonderful that the community supports our schools. She publically thanked them for their generous donations.

**Motion carried at 7:30 pm.**

#### **EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE**

Sam Buck, President of NEA told the Board that this year we tried a new way to inform the Board about what is going on in our schools. We had the individual schools sign up to attend a Board meeting to give the Board members an update on the programs and activities at their respective school. The reason why we did this is because it became a problem to come to a 7:00 pm meeting

after working a long day. He apologized for the months that the Board did not hear from him. He said he attended a retirement dinner last night 245 teachers were there to send off our 12 retirees. Kathy Berman, Vice President, did some math and she said their combined total was 480 years teaching in Danbury. They will be missed.

Rich Jannelli thank Mr. Buck and was pleased with the idea that the individual school staff will be coming to the meetings to give us updates. He went on to say that he thinks it builds relationships.

Dr. Pascarella asked Mr. Buck to say something about the Hay Wagon that is being put together for the Board. He briefly said that it is kept inside every night and is presently being decorated.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES** - None

**PRESENTATION**

**Stand Together Make a Difference**

Terry Budlong, Director of Prevention Services, gave the Board a slide presentation. She told the Board that Stand Together Make a Difference (STMAD) is Danbury's local substance abuse and addiction prevention council. We form a collaborative effort to promote health life choice while expanding ownership of substance abuse prevention and avoiding addiction among our children, families and adults. During the past four years of the Best Practice Initiative (BPI) grant, we have utilized available resources from BPI to reduce underage drinking among youth ages 12-18 in Danbury. We implemented environmental strategies, process evaluation, community capacity building and data collection of parents and students related to the issue of underage drinking.

Ms. Budlong showed some statistics of underage drinking and drug addiction. One outstanding statistic that was in the hand-out that she distributed, stated that the average age of drinking onset in Danbury is 13 years old. Trying to prevent his, she stated that they initiated Media campaigns, provided keynote speakers, offered workshops and participated in Health Fairs. She is elated by the support she receives from City Hall, the Danbury Police Department, other youth services and coalitions against substance abuse, Henry Abbot and Danbury Public Schools staff and students, to name a few. She shows the Board their advertising posters and stated she believe one is still on a bill board near Triangle Street.

Ms. Budlong also handed out an Information Brief showing Summary Results over the past four years. She thanked Mr. Jannelli and Ms. Alberts for their support and giving her the opportunity to present to the Board this evening.

Ms. Alberts thanked her for her presentation and for all that she is doing to bring light to the fact that substance abuse is a serious problem with our youth.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Rogers Park Middle School Roof Replacement**

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 roof replacement at Rogers Park Middle School

**Motion carried at 8:00 pm.**

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Pascarella asked the Chairperson if he could give a brief report on the school calendar. He told the Board that there was a slight change in the school calendar. He asked Ms. Thompson to explain the change to the Board. Ms. Thompson said late in the fall the teachers union negotiated a third elementary teachers meeting. All teachers are required to have 3 meetings a month for 90 minutes. The Superintendent said we did give you the calendar at a previous meeting. A survey via robo calls were sent to all parents. Mr. Hawley asked about the response rate. Dr. Pascarella stated that the survey was sent out 2 ½ weeks ago to 7,500 parents. Three calls were made. We received 2,349 responses/voted. He stated that the calendar will be on the next agenda.

### **DISCUSSION**

2015-2016 Budget – no discussion

State Appropriation Budget/ECS/Excess Cost – no discussion

### **INFORMATION**

Updates to Wellness Policy 7-109

School lunch price increase/school lunch bid

The Board asked Mr. Martino about the school lunch price increase. He told the Board that they have to comply with the national guidelines. In that regard, the price was raised for elementary from \$2.55 to \$2.60. The secondary price remains the same at \$2.80; for the year 2015-16.

DHS trip to France, Morocco, Spain – April 15-24, 2016

The teacher that was coordinating the trip to France thought she was going to speak tonight about the trip. Dr. Pascarella told her that she will have that opportunity at the next Board meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup> at which time the Board will be presented with the trip plans for approval. Ms. Alberts thanked her for coming to the meeting tonight and apologized for the misunderstanding. Ms. Alberts said that she read the itinerary and wished she had funds to accompany them on what seems like a great trip.

### **BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Memorial Day Parade

Ms. Alberts asked the Board members who would be participating in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Pascarella said this year it will be much easier. No walking involved. The Board will be on a float riding down Main Street in the Parade.

Ms. Alberts said she would attend also a few Board members said they also would be attending. One Board member will be out of town and another Board member will be marching with her child and a couple of others could not commit at this time.

Ms. Alberts reminded the Board of the Special Meeting that would be held on Wednesday, May 20th at 6:30 pm to discuss. There will be two items on the agenda: Rogers Park Middle School authorizing submission to the State for approval and Review of the Academy for International Studies Elementary Magnet School Operations Plan.

She also reminded the Board that Danbury High School will present the “*Movement to Music*” on Thursday night.

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

Ms. Tranzillo and Mr. Taborsak attend the National Honor Society. Mr. Taborsak said what stuck out in his mind is the amount of community service the students have performed. He said being in that Society they have to have the academics, but community service was remarkable.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by P. Tranzillo that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent’s evaluation and confidential student records.

**Motion carried at 8:16 pm.**

First part of the Executive Session: Superintendent’s evaluation, only the Board members were present.

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

Absent: Ralph Pietrafesa

Also Present: Dr. Sal Pascarella

Ms. Alberts called the Executive Session to order at 8:20 pm and turned the meeting over to Ms. Cooper, Chairperson of the Superintendent Evaluation Committee. A brief discussion followed.

Second part of the Executive Session: Confidential Student Records, the following administrators joined the meeting with the Board, Dr. Glass, Kim Thompson and Joe Martino.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education return to Public Session.

**Motion carried at 8:45 pm.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

K. Molinaro moved, seconded by D. Metrena that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of May 13, 2015 and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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Michael Ferguson, Secretary

Fm

(Meeting videotaped)