

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017**  
**Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**RECOGNITIONS**

- Western CT Superintendents Association (WCSA) Student Awards:  
Broadview Middle School – Avery Marquis and Rafiel Luna were recognized by Principal Edie Thomas.  
Rogers Park Middle School – Ria Rana and Christopher Andreko were recognized by Principal Pat Joaquim.  
Westside Middle School – Grace Seibert and Andrew Talarico were recognized by Principal Dr. Frank LaBanca.  
Danbury High School – Stephanie Lopez and Chris Rodriguez were recognized by Principal Dan Donovan.  
Alternative Center – Deanna Hernandez was recognized.
- Ellen Calle was recognized as a Peer Leader by the Association of School Nurses of CT. National School Nurses Day was on May 10, 2017. Kathy O’Dowd recognized Nurse Calle for her 20 years at Great Plain Elementary School. R. Pietrafesa also recognized the school nurses in attendance.
- 2016-2017 Retirees:  
The following Danbury Public School staff members were congratulated by the Board on their retirement:  
Elizabeth Anderson, Benefits Coordinator, 31 years  
Susan Barnam, School Lunch, 34 years  
Joyce Burns, Park Avenue, Social Worker, 22 years  
Deborah Christensen, King Street Intermediate, Grade 5, 25 years  
Maria Esteves, Broadview, Custodian, 17 years  
Gail Fesh, Danbury High, Secretary, 30 years  
Diana Galletta-Bruno, DHS, Psychologist, 41 years  
Deborah Hocking, King Street Intermediate, LA Specialist, 26 years  
Mary Ann Howley, King Street Intermediate, Grade 4, 18 years  
Marion Kallinikos, Hayestown, Tutor, 10 years  
Marci Kaminski, Great Plain, Grade 3, 20 years  
Brooks Kelly, Broadview, SPED, 24 years  
Roseanne Koveleski, Park Avenue, Grade 4, 31 years  
Joan Mandzuk, DHS, Nurse, 25 years

Karen Margolis, Broadview, Reading, 14 years  
Lynn Meeker, Park Avenue, Nurse, 29 years  
Linda Mitten, Danbury High, Family Consumer Science, 16 years  
Helena Nitowski, AIS Magnet School, Principal, 15 years  
Chester Osiecki, Broadview/Danbury High, SPED Vocational, 20 years  
Susan Petsch, BBAC/School Lunch, 23 years  
Nancy Pond, Danbury High, Guidance Counselor, 31 years  
Linda Soter, Hayestown, SPED teacher, 20 years  
Linda Stark, Mill Ridge Primary, Grade 2, 41 years  
Karen Stites, Nurse, Non-Public, 18 years  
Donald Tonic, DHS, SPED, 6 years  
Valerie Tracey, Rogers Park, Assistant Principal, 42 years  
Georgianna Traver, Stadley Rough, Grade 2, 22 years  
Sandra Turner, DHS, Secretary, 45 years  
Laura Wood, Broadview, Reading, 32 years

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION** - R. Hawley moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 17-68 through 17-71, as recommended:

**A. MINUTES**

5/8/17 Superintendent Evaluation Meeting  
5/9/17 Special Meeting (Exp)  
5/10/17 Board Meeting

**B. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Accept Leave of Absence: Ashley Fandel  
Accept Resignations: Soledad Bertola-Akbas (ESL Only)  
Michael Bronitsky, Daniel Bohman,  
Jean Carroll-Jones (Peer Leadership Only)  
Taylor Cocchia (CRC Only)  
Michele Donaty, Ali El Moustakim  
Christina Grenier, Michelle McCabe,  
Joshua Mead, Christian Mormile,  
Katrina Niez, Heather Pellicone,  
Haresha Samaranayake, Cheyenne Skinner (CRC Only),  
Leakhena Un, Katherine Williams, Robert Zupperoli

Accept Retirements: Deborah Christensen, 25 years  
Maria Esteves, 17 years  
Diana Galletta-Bruno, 41+ years  
Deborah Hocking, 26 years  
Mary Ann Howley, 18 years  
Marci Kaminski, 20 years  
Brooks Kelly, 24 years

Roseanne Koveleski, 31 years  
Joan Mandzuk, 25 years  
Karen Margolis, 14 years  
Lynn Meeker, 29 years  
Linda Mitten, 16 years  
Helena Nitowski, 15 years  
Chester Osiecki, 20 years  
Nancy Pond, 31 years  
Linda Stark, 41 years  
Karen Stites, 19 years  
Donald Tonic, 6 years  
Valerie Tracey, 42 years  
Georgianna Traver, 22 years

New Hires:

See Exhibit 71

### **Motion passed at 7:29 pm**

#### **EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE**

Principal Tina Hislop and Assistant Principal Gwen Gallagher of the King Street Campus presented the following achievements:

- KSI has 358 students and KSP has 422 students.
- KSI has 14 classrooms and KSP has 20 classrooms.
- KSI has 21% ELL students and KSP has 38% ELL students.
- KSP has an EAS Kindergarten Program.
- New district initiatives implemented at the King Street Schools include Instructional Pacing, Curriculum Pacing, Reading Workshop (K-1), Writing Workshop (K-1), Journeys Vocabulary Program (K-5), Phonetics Professional Development (4-5), Math Investigations (K-3) and Math PD on Effective Student Feedback (4-5).
- Supportive and strong PTO. Supplemental teaching materials, field trip funds, assemblies and classroom technology.
- Committed staff members.
- School to home communications.
- Roots of our Learning Tree.
- Tiger STRIPES.
- Positive discipline techniques.
- KSI Red Carpet Initiative to welcome incoming 4th graders.
- Pilot Teachers College “Up the Ladder Units”.
- Accountability funding.
- Geography Bee.
- Invention Convention.
- Odyssey of the Mind.
- Walking club / Red Dixon Marathon.
- Junior Achievement.
- Book Buddies.
- Reading partners with the Greater Danbury Jewish Coalition.
- Little Kids Rock Grant.
- Newtown Strong R.E.A.D Therapy Dogs.

- Pitney Bowes Community Garden.
- UCONN Grow Lab.
- Danbury Bar Association with a court house visit.
- Mobil Grant of Science books.
- Danbury Education Foundation Classroom of Excellence \$5,000 Grant with a heart rate monitoring system for PE classes.
- Donors Choose: desk cycles, iPads, kindle fire.
- Bridgewater Association with 40 iPads.
- ESL Trips to Maritime Center and Howe Caverns.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Monique Delima from DHS presented the following notes to the Board:

- 27.5% of DHS seniors are going to a two year college. 54% are going to a four year college. 2.8% are going into the Military. 2.6% are taking a gap year, which means they will begin their college career in the fall of 2018.
- Some notable colleges students will be attending are Cornell, Dartmouth, Yale, Westpoint, Rochester Institute of Technology, New York University, Virginia Tech, Purdue University, George Washington University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Worcester Polytechnic Institute.
- 670 students will be attending the senior prom at the Amber Room on May 26, 2017.
- On May 18, 2017 seniors and staff signed the last I-beam which will be built into and part of the new building.
- Dr. Sal Pascarella asked how the construction was going and if the noise was disturbing students. M. Delima stated that in the D building construction is loud but can barely be heard in the other buildings.

### **PRESENTATION** - None

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### A. April 2017 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: R. Hawley moved, seconded by P. Johnston the Board of Education accept the April 2017 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)  
**Motion passed at 7:58 pm**

#### B. April 2017 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION: R. Hawley moved, seconded by P. Johnston that the Board of Education accept the April 2017 Operating Results Analysis (Grant/Projects)  
**Motion passed at 7:59 pm**

#### C. Increase in School Lunch Prices

MOTION: R. Hawley moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the increase in School lunch prices for 2017-2018  
**Motion passed at 7:59 pm**

#### D. Interschool Lunch Agreements

MOTION: R Hawley moved, seconded by H. Robinson that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute interschool lunch agreements with St. Peters, St. Gregory and Pathways.

**Motion passed at 8:00 pm**

E. CIFC Agreement – Dental Services

MOTION: R. Hawley moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute the agreement with CIFC for dental services

**Motion passed at 8:00 pm**

F. Small Improvement Grant

MOTION: R. Hawley moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Small Improvement Grant

**Motion passed at 8:01 pm**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

A. Danbury Day, May 16, 2017

Dr. Pascarella stated that Danbury Day at the Capitol went well. There were 13 to 14 groups with different tables representing Danbury. Schools of Distinction were recognized as well as all the other good things going on in Danbury. Dr. Pascarella thanks M. Ferguson for organizing the day.

B. Budget Update

Agreed concession from Governor which will put Danbury in good standing. Hopefully there will be a final budget recommendation by June 7, 2017. Medical claims are trending. Fuel bids are close to predicted spending. J. Martino stated that he currently does not see any major shifts.

C. Additional Reporting

- a. Union elections did not go forward. Dr. Pascarella needs to verify. Suggested that if that is the case, the Board does not go forward either.
- b. There is a very active charter group that has been holding meetings and calling parents. Dr. Pascarella and J. Martino don’t currently see available funding for a charter. Dr. Pascarella will bring back information to Board after he speaks with Ms. Mahoney.
- c. K. Thompson said that Principal interviews are at in process. The first round of interviews have been completed. Teams are meeting across the district to figure out which positions are most needed. It’s a much more abbreviated list compared to years prior. Many retirees from tonight's meeting will need to be filled.

**DISCUSSION** - None

**INFORMATION** - None

**BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

R. Pietrafesa confirmed that he along with P. Johnstons and Dr. Sal Pascarella will attend the parade. Schools of distinction, DHS cheerleaders and the DHS band will also participate.

**BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS**

J. Martino requested a Facilities meeting in the near future. A decision will be made and shared with the members.

P. Johnston went to the DHS Chorus Choir Concert. It was very well done and a lot of alumni also sang. A very nice show was put on.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

**PUBLIC SESSION** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

G. Cooper moved, seconded by K. Molinaro, that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of May 24, 2017 and the meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

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Kathy Molinaro, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)