

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 27, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairperson asked the Board if they would agree to have K. Molinaro give the Board some brief comments on what was discussed at the Policy Committee Meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 regarding the Review of AIS Operations Plan. This request was in light of the parents that attended the meeting this evening.

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: Drs. Glass, Pascarella, Kim Thompson and Joseph Martino from Administration

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Ms. Molinaro told the Board that the Committee Meeting was attended by the Policy Committee members, two Board members, Dr. Pascarella, the Principal of AIS and several PTO members.

Ms. Molinaro stated that Committee had a Review of the AIS Operations Plan regarding the lottery. She said it was an emotional issue. We did come to a consensus. There are many caveats to this and the Board attorney, Mr. Thomas Mooney has been advised of our consensus. For the year 2016 there will be no sibling preference for Danbury students only. Grandfathered-in all siblings until the 2016-2017 school year. New clause must be submitted in current application.

RECOGNITIONS - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Louise LaManna told the Board that she has worked for Head Start since 1996. She said when some of the children come to Head Start they do not speak English, have difficulty following directions and when they have left her class after 2 years, they were able to speak English, know their colors and shapes and the majority of them did not have difficulty solving problems. What they learn in Head Start supports the first grade teachers, as they become self-sufficient. Head Start also supports the families and they then become more involved in their children's education. The parents are comfortable coming into the school and they begin to show an interest; and we have made many house calls.

Monica Martins told the Board that Head Start prepares our children for Kindergarten. Our program services 95% of the population. We ask that you please support our program. We invite you to our school so that you can see how our program progresses and the positive environment that the children are exposed to.

Monica Bevilacqua, Director of Early Learning Programs, said she sent a letter to the Superintendent on May 27, 2015 to answer some questions raised by interested parties over the last several weeks. She stated Head Start is a collaborative Federal, State and Local Program. She said she commends the many ways that the Board has worked on closing the achievement gap and that they clearly demonstrate that Danbury Head Start is very effective in helping the system to make substantial progress toward that goal. We have scored 100% on our reviews. She stated that Head Start services a total of 307 children and 293 will be attending Danbury Public Schools. We are teaching them to read and write. A 2 year old can count to 60. It is due to this partnership that we were able to achieve this. We are proud of our high quality program and asked that the Danbury Public Schools continue to support Head Start.

Kathy Snow spoke regarding the AIS Policy. She stated it is the parent's choice to fill out the application and should know what the policy is. Not giving Danbury the benefit of having the siblings attend and giving it to the other districts is not fair to our students.

Sofia, an elementary student in the Danbury School system, told the Board that she went to Head Start when she was little and she learned a lot. She said that she is still best friends with kids she went to Head Start with and will be upset if other kids don't have this opportunity,

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by M. Ferguson that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 15-97 through 15-101, as recommended:

MINUTES

4/22/15 Policy Committee Meeting
5/6/15 Superintendent Evaluation Committee Meeting
5/13/15 Finance Committee Meeting
5/13/15 Board Meeting

PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence: Jennifer Reynolds Krista Petersen

Accept Resignations: Chase Caldwell Andre Encarnacao,
Natalie Garrick Lauren Glasheen,
Tanesha Hutchins Jennifer Reiber,
Angelina Stojakovic
Louwenta Lewis (Dance Advisor Only)

New Hires (5/8/15-5/21/15):

Name	Location	Non-Certified - Subject
Lindsay Hausmann	RPMS	SPED Tutor
Haley Ahrstrom	WSMS	CRC Site Facilitator
Maria Guaman-Minchala	DECEC	P/T Custodian
James Powell	Pembroke	Safety Advocate
Briana Rivera		Western Connection
Elianna Santiago	Osborne St	Power School Data Entry
Ashley Seymour		Sub Teach
Theresa Laird		Sub Para/Tutor
Kelly Rich		SUB Teach & Sub Para/Tutor
Kristin Sroka		Sub Teach

Motion passed at 7:25 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES - No students present

PRESENTATION

Next Generation Science Standards, Dr. Harry Rosvally

Dr. Rosvally made a brief presentation on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and the impending decision of the State Board of Regents in adopting these standards to replace the ten-year-old Connecticut Science Frameworks (CSF). Dr. Rosvally provided an overview of the adoption process, noting that the CAPT and CMT will continue for science through 2018, and that the district would hope to implement a three year transition with their curriculum in order to prepare students by the time a new assessment is in place for 2019. Dr. Rosvally noted the importance of the NGSS in preparing our students for STEM careers. The Board appreciated the presentation but had many questions regarding the logistics and anticipated expenses of revising the K-12 science curriculum, as well as wanting a better understanding of the NGSS and how they align with Common Core Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts.

The Board invited Dr. Rosvally to return for a BOE workshop, during which time they could become more familiar with many of the details. The workshop has not yet been scheduled.

ACTION ITEMS

April 2015 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education accept the April 2015 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Mr. Martino gave a brief update on the budget.

Mr. Martino told the Board that during the month of April 2015, the District expended \$10,366,341 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$86,304,477 which represents a 70.98% expenditure of the General Fund total budget.

Motion passed at 8:00 pm.

April 2015 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Piet that the Board of Education accept the April 2015 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

Mr. Martino told the Board that during the month of April 2015, the District expended \$2,608,101 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$17,322,751, which represents 64.6% of the Grant budget.

Motion passed at 8:01 pm.

Updates to Wellness Policy 7-109

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Hawley that the Board of Education accept the revised Wellness Policy 7-109

Motion passed at 8:02 pm.

School Lunch Price Increase

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the School Lunch price increase

Mr. Martino 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.

Motion passed at 8:03 pm.

School Lunch Interschool Agreements

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa that the Board of Education approve the Interschool Agreements for School Lunch Services at St. Gregory, St. Peter, Education Connection, Pathways

Ms. Cooper asked Mr. Martino how many students are being served at Pathways. He said he would get back to her with the number.

Motion passed at 8:04 pm.

DHS trip to France, Morocco, Spain

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by M. Ferguson that the Board of Education approve the DHS trip to France, Morocco, Spain – April 15-24, 2016

The staff member who is going to accompany the students on this trip briefly told the Board the activities they students would be involved in.

Motion passed at 8:05 pm.

2015-2016 State ECS Grant

Ms. Alberts made a recommendation that the Board table 2015-2016 State ECS Grant, Exhibit 15-108 Action Item until the next Board meeting. Mr. Hawley made the recommendation that the Board go into Executive Session now to discuss the Grant or have a caucus. Dr. Pascarella called on Ms. Thompson to explain tabling the motion.

MOTION - Ms. Alberts moved, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, that the Board of Education table the ECS Grant Action Item until the meeting of June 10, 2015.

Motion passed unanimously at 8:10 pm to Exhibit 15-108.

A couple of Board members wanted to know why it was necessary to table the Action Item. Dr. Pascarella said the Grant contained Head Start and it will be talked about at the next meeting.

Dr. Glass said we have until June 24th to submit the Grant.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Update on Principal Search

Dr. Pascarella deferred the update information on the principal search to Ms. Thompson. She told the Board that at the last meeting we talked about a search for a new principal at Danbury High School. We have hired a consultant. Tomorrow she will be here to form limited focus groups in order to aid in the search and we will commence the process for the replacement.

DISCUSSION

Calendar Survey Results

Dr. Pascarella said next year there will be a regional volunteer calendar, which we will not have to follow, but the year after that we will have to follow the regional plan. There are some variances in the region.

Dr. Glass said based on input from the parent survey, additional input from our principals and even more input from the training experiences of the central office curriculum and program administrators it is recommended that we remain with the professional development/training model that is currently in place for this school year as indicated on the adopted calendar for 2014-2015. Administrators have indicated that they can address a significant amount of the work that needs to be accomplished through this year's professional development approach.

Dr. Glass said one of the items that Dr. Rosvally mention is sift from procedural to conceptual. It is the math under the math. We have been years looking for ways to shape this up. The amount of instructions impact is at least one hour for the certified staff to be trained for this shift.

2015-2016 School Calendar

A few Board members had questions about PD days. Dr. Pascarella said he would put the calendar on the next agenda for the Board members to review.

2016-2017 School Calendar

INFORMATION

RPMS Puerto Rico Trip, January 15-20, 2016

The teacher from Rogers Park Middle School who will planned the student trip to Puerto Rico told the Board what has been planned for the trip. P. Tranzillo asked how many students traditionally go on these trips. She said as many as 25.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Alberts called the Board's attention to the graduation ceremonies and moving up ceremonies all which are listed on the back of the agenda under Future Meetings and Dates to Remember. She said she hopes the Board members would be able to attend these ceremonies.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by R. Hawley that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing confidential personnel matters.

Motion passed at 8:45 pm

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: Drs. Glass, Pascarella, Kim Thompson and Joseph Martino from Administration

A discussion ensued regarding the search for the principal position.

Drs. Glass, Pascarella, Kim Thompson and Joseph Martino were excused from the Executive Session.

The Board continued with the Executive Session with only Board members present and discussed confidential personnel matters.

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education return to Public Session.

Motion passed unanimously at 9:30 pm

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the salary increase for the Cabinet Members in accordance with adopted budget for 2015-2016 as agreed upon.

In favor: E. Alberts G. Cooper A. Fluskey-Lattin R Jannelli D. Metrena
K. Molinaro R. Taborsak P. Tranzillo

Opposed: M. Ferguson R. Hawley R. Pietrafesa

Motion passed 8-3

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education approve the Exempt Staff compensation as recommended by the Superintendent

In favor: E. Alberts G. Cooper A. Fluskey-Lattin R Jannelli K. Molinaro
R. Taborsak P. Tranzillo R. Hawley M. Ferguson

Opposed: R. Pietrafesa

Abstained: D. Metrena

Motion passed 9-2

ADJOURNMENT

K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education adjourn its May 27, 2015 Board meeting and the meeting adjourned at 9:44 pm.

Michael Ferguson, Secretary

Fm/

(meeting was videotaped)