

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2013

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Sandy Steichen, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Eileen Alberts, Shirley Chilian, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal (7:17 pm), Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

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

Absent: Kathleen Molinaro

RECOGNITIONS

National School Nurse Day, May 8th

Ms. Steichen thanked all the nurses for their dedication to Danbury's students. Dr. Glass stated that every day is a tough day for nurses and congratulated Susan Germain, the nurse at Morris Street School, who was in the audience.

CABE Student Leadership Awards

Shiny Patel, DHS	Justin Kenny, DHS
Jessica Pacheco, ACE	He-allah Morris, ACE
Katherine Jakobson, BMS	Douglas Alfidi, BMS
Brittany Martins, RPMS	Cory Struski, RPMS

Ms. Chilian read the names of the recipients and Ms. Steichen handed out the award certificates.

Dr. Pascarella read the criteria which the awards are based on. CABE has been giving out these awards for 16 years. He congratulated the students and wished them well in their endeavors. The Superintendent told the parents that this award is not only given for academics, but in all around leadership and he then thanked the parents for coming to the meeting tonight. Ms. Steichen also congratulated the awardees on behalf of the Board.

Gary Boccaccio, Principal at Danbury High School, introduced Shiny Patel and stated that she is their shining star. She has served on the Board of Education as the DHS Representative; she has eight AP classes; all honor classes; in top 5% with a 4.2 GPA; Board of Governors, Class Officer, National Honor Society and will be attending WESCON in the Fall.

Mr. Boccaccio then introduced Justin Kenny and stated that he took a challenging program; he has served on the Board of Education as the DHS Representative; six AP classes; 4.2 GPA; current President of the Board of Governors; Captain of the Varsity Baseball team; National Honor Society and will be attending University of Connecticut in the Fall majoring in Finance.

Linda Schreiner, Principal of ACE, introduced Jessica Pacheco and He-allah Morris and stated that they are outstanding students and a delight to know them. He-allah is the go-to guy for both teachers and students. They both have leadership qualities and cooperative skills, as well. Laura Blake, He-allah's guidance teacher at ACE told the Board of the outstanding work that he has done for the school and also his volunteer work. Ms. Schreiner said both of these students are exemplarily and that is what ACE is all about. It was stated that young people who have come to ACE with a lot on their plate and don't think they can do it, we always refer to He-allah and Jessica. They have worked on every event we have had at ACE and are to be commended for their success. Jessica, as you know, is the ACE representative to the Board this year.

Jessica Battaglia, Assistant Principal at Broadview Middle School, told the Board that Mr. Robbs could not be here this evening as he is on a school trip. She introduced Douglas Alfid and Katherine Jakobson and stated that they are hardworking and diligent students and we look to them as a resource for other students. They are both very deserving of the award and have shown leadership in all that they do. You are special people.

Patricia Joaquim, Principal at Rogers Park Middle School, said she is proud of these two students. There are many talented students at Rogers Park and it was hard to narrow it down to two students; Brittany Martins and Cory Struski. She mentioned that Brittany is involved in theatre club and takes on a leadership role and is an honor roll student. Corey is always looking to his group to be sure everyone is successful; he cares about his classmates. It is the message that we hope all students leave middle school with. Brittany wants to be a doctor and Corey wants to major in math.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Christine Klaut told the Board that she is concerned about the curriculum for the proposed Magnet middle school. She urged the Board to come to the school and talk to the teachers about what they are doing on the international level. Before you make your opinion, take a look at how proud these kids are about what they are learning.

Kathy Keefer, she was concerned if the curriculum can be offered for these specialized programs. Is it going to fail because of the core curriculum? The Board needs to consider the international studies. She feels that a lot questions need to be discussed before voting on the Intra-District Magnet School Policy.

Elizabeth Durkin, stated that her oldest daughter is at AIS and that she is flourishing there and has completely blossomed. She said that she encourages her children to participate and

volunteer. She stated that she wants the students to continue in the proposed Magnet middle school. It makes more sense and I still would be sitting here even if my daughter was not in that school. It is a wonderful program

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - S. Chilian moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended, Exhibits 13-90 thru 13-93:

MINUTES

Policy Committee Minutes	4/11/13
Policy Committee Minutes	4/23/13
Board Meeting Minutes	4/24/13

PERSONNEL

Accept Leave of Absence: Antonia Mostacero, Caryn MacLean

Accept Resignations: Susan Dlouhy Patricia Gallagher
 Laura Kaddis Renate Maher
 Marie Peak Lauren Scott

Accept Retirements: Nancy Berman (28 years)
 Maureen McGarrigal (20 years)
 Vonnie Neufeld (21 years)

New Hires (4/19/13-5/2/13):

Name	Location	Non-Certified Subject
Guzman, Denisse	MREC	Tutor
Kelly, Mary	Ells	CRC Enrichment Associate
Clark, Beth		SUB Teach
De Cicco, Denise		Sub CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Gray, Iman		Sub CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Pirraglia, Keith		Western Connection
Trocolla, Jennifer		SUB Teach

Motion carried at 7:28 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Danbury High School: No representative

Alternative Center: Jessica Pacheco told the Board that the 10th and 11th graders have been working on the SBAC pilot test. This past Monday they finished and participating students received community service for the time they spent helping the State of Connecticut. Many students helped selling tickets and refreshments at DHS's production of Footloose. We broke records on our annual hiking trip in the Outdoor Adventure Program; 3 students completed the hike last year competed it again; it was also the first time we completed the 15 mile hike two years in a row; 7 miles was done in one day; this year Tommy Golterman, age 14, was the youngest person to complete the hike in our program. ACE will be participating in a softball game against Hillside Alternative Program in Bedford, New York. On May 18th staff members will be running and walking in the Spring Forward for Sandy Hook road race and students are designing an inspiration station for the event. The white water rafting trip is coming up the last week in May and the students are very excited; it will be our final trip of the year. Also on May 18th ACE alumni are planning a reunion to kick-off celebrations of our 35 year existence in Danbury Public Schools.

PRESENTATION - None

Annrose Fluskey-Lattin said she would like to thank the teachers for all their hard work and dedication since this is teacher appreciation week. The Chairperson and the Superintendent added their appreciation as well. Ms. Chilian said when you refer to teachers; this means all teaching staff, substitutes and paras.

ACTION ITEMS

Intra-District Magnet School Policy

MOTION: S. Chilian moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education accept for first reading the Intra-District Magnet School Policy

Ms. Chilian, Chairperson of the Policy Committee told the Board that the Committee met three times. She stated Committee members E. Alberts, G. Cooper, S. Steichen and B. Taborsak attended the meeting together with several parents and a few Board members. The topic of conversation was whether or not there was a need to create a policy and the consensus was there was a need and that we needed to follow the framework set by the State. We all love AIS, Board members, parents, students and the community. This particular policy addresses enrollment and an opportunity for all students in Danbury. It was the consensus, but not all Board members agreed. The policy covers application/selection process as well as parent choice options, transportation and some legalese that the State Department of Education requires. This policy is offered to you by my Committee who will in fact make the decisions eventually. Board members had many questions and a lengthy discussion ensued. It was stated that this is the first reading and that it will be on a Board agenda for second reading and adoption.

Motion carried at 8:19 pm.

Healthy Foods and Beverages in Schools

MOTION - S. Chilian moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to submit form ED-099 to the Connecticut State Department of Education stating that the Board will participate in Section 3 of CT General Statutes Section 10-215f

Motion carried at 8:20 pm.

Healthy Foods – Exemptions

As per Section 3 of CT General Statutes Section 10-215f, the Board of Education may permit the sale of other food items that do not meet the Connecticut nutrition standards provided that:

- 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend
- 2) the sale is at the location of the event
- 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store

Exemptions to Section 3 of CT General Statutes Section 10-215f Healthy Foods

MOTION - S. Chilian moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education allow the sale to students of any legal foods not listed in Section 3 of CT General Statutes Section 10-215f at all co-curricular sponsored events such as sporting events, school performances, school dances, PTO sponsored events, theatrical products and school fairs provided that the exemption criteria are met.

Motion carried at 8:21 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent called on Mr. Martino to update the Board on Technology Reserve Fund and to give the Board an update on Self Insurance.

Technology Reserve Fund

Mr. Martino told the Board that at the City Council meeting last night they approved the allocation for Technology Reserve Funds. We had set aside from last year's budget \$350,000 to use for specific technology upgrades. The Tech Department will replace the Citrix involvement. Even though our network, over time, is going to cost millions of dollars, what we are buying here will flow through all the schools. It is actually going to start tomorrow.

Ms. Steichen thanked Mr. Martino for all his hard work and effort and said he has done a great job for the school system.

Self Insurance Update

Mr. Martino told the Board that we have been speaking with the City at length about our self-insurance status and went through a lot of issues with the reserve fund and where we stand. Our current standing, if the Board does self-insure right now we would self-insure in partnership with the City and the reserve fund is approximately \$2.6.

DISCUSSION

Discussion of School Safety Task Force consensus item #3, Staffing

Ms. Steichen asked Kim Thompson to speak on behalf of Kathy Molinaro since she could not be here this evening. Ms. Thompson stated that at the last Board meeting they discussed #1 the physical plans and protocol improvement and #2 mental health services. In reference to #3, Staffing – we had many discussions and public comments on personnel staffing on whether or not to have safety advocates or armed guards at the doors or to continue to work with the quadrants approach that the Chief has put in place and the SRO's. Currently we have the safety advocates in the elementary schools and the SRO's in the middle school and high schools. We were able to reach consensus on that but beyond that we were unable to reach consensus.

INFORMATION

Rogers Park Middle School trip to Puerto Rico, January 16-21, 2014

Ms. Patricia Stevens, Spanish teacher at Rogers Park told the Board and I am here to ask you to consider approving the Puerto Rico trip for the students at RPMS. We have had six successful trips and want to offer it again this year to our students. We took 25 students last year and we would like to keep it to that number of students due to the logistics of that many people. If more than 25 students wanted to go, we would have to do a lottery.

National School Lunch Program Increase for 2013-2104

Mr. Martino stated that we have not raised lunch prices in over 4 years. He stated that the current price is \$2.40 for elementary and \$2.65 for middle and high school and that he does not want to raise the prices, but we are well in line for a 5¢ increase.

Dr. Pascarella called on Barry Mollengarden of Sodexho, to address the Board on the lunch prices for the school year. Ms. Ava McGlew, dietitian for the Danbury School Lunch Program, told the Board the recommended prices would be \$2.45 for elementary and \$2.70 for secondary. To meet federal requirements, Danbury needs an average lunch price of at least \$2.55 and by raising the prices by 5¢ for all grade levels; the average price will be \$2.575, which is an acceptable price increase. Since this does not meet the recommended increase of an average price of \$2.59, there is a possibility another 5¢ increase will be required for the 2014-2015 school year. Some schools in the area have increased their prices 25¢, 30¢ and 40¢.

Mr. Martino stated that they are looking into serving supper in some of the schools to feed our kids. Mr. Mollengarden said they are presently doing that in Hartford, East Hartford and Bridgeport to name a few. Mr. Martino said he would get back to the Board on that.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - None

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS – None

Policy Committee: see discussion under action item exhibit 13-94, Intra District Magnet School

Special Task Force on School Safety: see update information under Discussion - #3 Staffing

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: S. Chilian moved, seconded by R. Jannelli that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations and personnel related issues with service providers.

Motion carried at 8:55 pm.

Present: Eileen Alberts, Shirley Chilian, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

Also Present: Drs. Glass and Pascarella, Kim Thompson and Joe Martino

Absent: Kathleen Molinaro

Ms. Steichen called the Executive Session to order at 9:00 pm and turned the meeting over to Kim Thompson.

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by P. Tranzillo, that the Board of Education return to Public Session.

Motion carried at 9:25 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

S. Chilian moved, seconded by B. Taborsak that the Board of Education adjourn its May 8, 2013 Board meeting and the meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Richard Hawley, Secretary