

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016

6:30 Reception for Retirees

Board Meeting – 7:00 PM

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, the Secretary of the Board, Michael Ferguson, called the meeting to order 7:03 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Ferguson welcomed the retirees and thanked them for their many years of service to the children in the Danbury Public Schools.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Jannelli was asked to conduct the roll call:

Present: Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Patrick Johnston, Frederick Karrat, Kathleen Molinaro, Holly Robinson, Ralph Pietrafesa (7:07 pm)

Absent: Eileen Alberts and David Metrena

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

Kim Thompson thanked the retirees for coming tonight and for their years to service. She also stated that this is the best part of the evening when she is able to meet the retirees individually. She asked the teachers, administrators and staff that were present to come up to the Board table to be congratulated by the Board and administrators. Mr. Ferguson presented them with a gift. Dr. Pascarella also thanked them and said they are always welcomed back. He wished them a happy and healthy retirement. Mr. Ferguson said one of the Board members added up the number of years of service and it was close to 900 years. Everyone applauded.

RECOGNITIONS

2015-2016 Retirees

Thomas Agnes, 14 years, Social Studies Teacher, DHS
Elvia Andrade, 16 years, Custodian, Ellsworth Avenue
Diane Arifian, 14 years, F&C Science Teacher, DHS
Catherine Baker, 16 years, Media Specialist, Ellsworth Avenue
Gary Bocaccio, 42 years, Principal, DHS
Roseanne Britton, 23 years, Speech/Language Pathologist, Broadview
Marguerite Calderwood, 10 years, Tutor, Stadley Rough
Lisa Carriero, 29 years, Special Ed Teacher, DHS
Mary Anne Ciccarone, 22 years, Special Ed Teacher, Early Childhood Center
Mary Connell, 18 years, Speech/Language Pathologist, Hayestown Avenue
Aline Dennison, 43 years, French Teacher, DHS
Rosalia DesBiens, 43 years, Italian Teacher, DHS
Debra Fantel, 22 years, Nurse, ACE & BMS
Norma Fearn, 22 years, 3rd Grade Teacher, Park Avenue
Paul Gagain, 20 years, Special Ed Teacher, Reach
Roberto Gomez, 20 years, Custodian, Pembroke
Maryann Healey, 17 years, Reading Specialist, South Street
Maria Henriques, 10 years, Custodian, Broadview
Hector Hernandez, 21 years, ROTC, DHS
Helga Jensen-Ruopp, 30 years, Biology Teacher, DHS

Janice Kramer, 25 years, Science Teacher, Rogers Park
 Katherine Leone, 14 years, TESOL, Morris Street
 Anita McAteer, 28 years, Special Ed Teacher, South Street
 Mary Marston, 27 years, Paraprofessional, Early Childhood Center
 Sharon O'Loughlin, 23 years, Special Ed Teacher, Mill Ridge Primary
 Edward Robbs, 18 years, Principal, Broadview
 Michelle Rosenthal, 25 years, Social Studies Teacher, Broadview
 Kathy Sabbagh, 17 years, Speech/Language Pathologist, Park Avenue & Westside
 Patricia Schulze, 33 years, Secretary, DHS
 Patricia Seeley, 17 years, 2nd Grade Teacher, South Street
 Ellen Shea, 17 years, 2nd Grade Teacher, South Street
 Mary Silvestri, 37 years, Hearing & Impaired Teacher, DHS & Pembroke
 Janet Smith, 33 years, Speech/Language Pathologist, South Street & Shelter Rock
 Bahige Swanson, 11 years, Math Teacher, ACE
 Stephen Varga, 30 years, Special Ed Teacher, Broadview
 Stanley Watkins, 21 years, Social Worker Crisis Intervention, DHS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

Shelter Rock School

The Principal of Shelter Rock School, Dr. Alison Villanueva, told the Board on behalf of the parents and the PTO she wanted to thank the Board for their support of Shelter Rock School. She introduced Sharon Amallfitano, President of the PTO and Wendy Wright, Treasurer of the PTO to the Board.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by P. Johnston that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 16-92 through 16-95, as recommended.

MINUTES

5/17/16 Special Board Meeting (Exp)
 5/24/16 Finance Committee Meeting
 5/25/16 Policy Committee Meeting

PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence: Terriann Vittti

Accept Resignations:	Heather Ali	Doreen Fitzpatrick	Christina Kowalewski,
	Lt. Col. John Lussi	Milagros Rivera	

New Hires: (see Exhibit 16-95)

Motion carried at 7:20 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS – no representative present
 ACE – no representative present

Alexandra Prendergast, State BOE Student Representative told the Board of Education about a presentation to the State Board of Education on extracurricular equity. We suggested that the state BOE include a 13th indicator to its list of "12 Indicators of School Success" that highlight the success of a school in offering extracurricular

opportunities to its students. This would benefit Danbury High School in that it offers a significant number of extracurriculars to its students (essentially, it would effectively meet this indicator).

Alexandra said that she truly enjoyed her time working with Danbury Board of Education members this year, and that she was grateful for the opportunity to represent the voices of her peers.

ACTION ITEMS

2016-2017 Budget

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by P. Johnston that the Board of Education approve and set the School District’s Budget in the amount of \$125,986,000 (1.78%) for the fiscal year 2016-2017.

Motion carried at 7:24 pm.

Shelter Rock School Temporary Classrooms

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa, that the Board of Education approve the Educational Specifications for the temporary classrooms at Shelter Rock Elementary School.

Mr. Martino stated that the funds for these four classrooms is coming from City dollars. The question was asked when the temporary classrooms would be available for the school. He stated that we are on a tight timeline; he thinks they would be available by mid-September. We can’t do anything until the State blesses the project. It needs to go through the City and the State.

Motion carried at 7:26 pm.

2016-2017 Tuition Rates

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa that the Board of Education approve the 2016-2017 Tuition Rates:

ACE	\$22,668
Danbury High	\$15,112
Middle School	\$12,487
Grades 1-5	\$12,487
Kindergarten (all day)	\$12,487

Motion carried at 7:27 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Perkins Innovation Grants

Dr. Pascarella told the Board that the district is applying for three Perkins Innovation Grants this year. If we are successful in our application, we will develop College Career Pathways and identify connections with the Student Success Plans. The Superintendent stated that we were successful in our application last year for a Perkins Innovation Grant for \$40k that was used to expand the Nursing Program at DHS. As a result of DHS receiving this grant, Katie Tong reached out to Nursing Homes and local Geriatric facilities and programs to increase the number of outplacements possible for her CNA students, since we had reached capacity in the number of students who were able to be placed and supervised at Danbury Hospital. The three grants we are applying for this year will provide funding to:

- (1) Refurbish and update the School Store at Danbury High School. We are applying for approximately \$30k for this.
- (2) Increase students' mastery with the Digital Video Production program and create a library of 50 or more instructional videos. We are applying for approximately \$30k for this.
- (3) Create a Robotics Systems Design curriculum with an annual culminating project and material resources to support the project. We are applying for approximately \$30k for this.

Racial Imbalance Report from SDE

Dr. Pascarella asked Dr. Glass to speak about the racial imbalance. Dr. Glass stated that there are two key indicators: if you are 25% above the district average or 25% below, you have to submit a report to the State. Impending racial imbalance exists when the proportion of minority students fall outside a range from 15% points less to 15% more. Morris Street and South Street schools are drifting towards those percentages based on the October 1st enrollment data, which goes up and goes down. Although we are not required to file a plan to address these impending imbalances, we are encouraged to address the matter to avoid future identification. We need to look at pocket redistricting. Mr. Johnston asked if it has been going in a gradual number. Dr. Glass said he hasn't looked at it that way, but there is an ebb and flow and no spike right now.

Update on May 26th DHS School Governance Council Meeting

Dr. Pascarella said he, Joe Martino, Richard Jannelli and Lobbyist Jessica Stram, met on May 26th with the DHS School Governance Council. A round table discussion took place. There is an active group that wants to work with all the schools in Danbury. He said we are happy to have that kind of support from the legislatures. They are going to start their conversation in early August with some of the legislatures. Mr. Jannelli said we are going to spirit it through the Community Relations Committee so we could have a plan of attack in the fall of the year. The issue we want to advocate for is targeting individuals that we would like to meet. We are going to do the planning in the summer. It is going to be a City Community Project with individual leaders, parents and students. Most of all it is getting organized, and this is one of the agenda items on the Community Relations Committee. This is going to be for multiple years. They committed to work through the summer to accomplish the plan.

Grossman Family Foundation

The Superintendent told the Board that on Wednesday he, along with Dave Krafick, Principal of Park Avenue School, Maria Vargas, the family liaison, Mark Boughton, the United way CEO Kim Morgan and their program people, Elizabeth Goehring, Coordinator of Danbury Promise for Children Partnership and Anne Mead met with Linda Franciscovich, Executive Director and a few of the trustees from the Grossman Family Foundation. The trustees came for a visit to see the Park Ave Strong Start program they are currently funding and to gather more information and data on the current landscape of Danbury's Education. They are very interested in supporting the district's initiatives to closing the achievement gap, and DPS and their Executive Director will be meeting to discuss further proposals for programming in the schools. Over the past 3 years the Grossman Family Foundation has contributed \$1,303,819 to the Danbury Community to assist families and to get their children ready for school through home visits, playgroups, outreach, infrastructure building for the Promise Partnership and Professional Development of the preschool and grade K & 1 teachers.

DISCUSSION

Teacher Evaluation Plan: Dr. Pascarella briefly mentioned that the teacher evaluation plan has taken a different venue. He said working with teacher groups it seems that folks were not taking risks. Unless they takes risks, we are not going to get anywhere. The teachers are more concerned about scoring points. What we have to do as teachers is put the students in a positon to learn.

INFORMATION

ECS/Alliance Grant Allocations

The Superintendent said there were changes to the ECS/Alliance Grant as follows and that \$50,000 was allocated to Head Start:

Head Start cut in ECS	\$250,000	Reallocated to ELL and Social Workers
Administrator FTE 1.0	\$135,000	Reallocated to Interventionist
New ECS funding	\$850,000	Reallocated to ELL and Social Workers
Cut in ECS Dean of Support	\$ 70,000	Reallocated to additional Kindergarten Teachers
Cut in ECS Interventionists	\$134,000	Reallocated to Health Insurance

Revisions to Conduct Codes

Dr. Glass said there were a few changes. He held up the sheet showing the conduct codes and referred the Board to the elementary section stating there was a change in the law; to the middle school section with no change and the high school section with a change addressing inappropriate use of technology.

Ms. Molinaro asked about students that are out of school for 2-3 months during the year. Dr. Pascarella said that is a family decision. Students who are out that long during the year have had to re-apply to the Magnet School. In the high school it impacted credits. Ms. Molinaro then asked when they do come back do they go to the same grade and if so, how do they catch up. The Superintendent said in some cases they are able to catch up, but it is a difficult issue for the teachers. Students have been dropped from the Magnet School. Some families' feel it is their choice and they have to suffer the consequences.

Comment [fM1]:

CoDA (Celebration of Danbury Arts) Festival, June 4th, 2:00-8:00 pm at DHS Courtyard.

The Fine and Applied Arts Departments from Danbury Public Schools K-12 will celebrate with music performances, artworks, robots, kids' crafts and family friendly events all day.

It was mentioned that Broadview students did a great job painting rocks with the words "Gratitude" and "Honor" for Memorial Day.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Ferguson stated that all the graduation ceremonies are listed at the end of the agenda.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Johnston that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing status of the Superintendent's evaluation.

Motion carried at 8:03 pm.

Present: Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Patrick Johnston, Frederick Karrat, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa, Holly Robinson

Absent: Eileen Alberts and David Metrena

Also Present: Dr. Pascarella

Mr. Ferguson called the Executive Session to order at 8:13 pm and turned the meeting over to Ms. Cooper, Chairperson of the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee. After a brief discussion, the Board returned to Public Session to vote on two motions.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Motion passed at 8:58 pm.

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by P. Johnston that the Board of Education approve a one year extension of the Superintendent's contract for 2016-2019.

Motion passed unanimously at 9:00 pm.

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by P. Johnston that the Board of Education approve a 2.25% salary increase for the Superintendent for the 2016-17 school year:

In favor: G. Cooper K. Molinaro R. Jannelli
H. Robinson P. Johnston F. Karrat

Not in favor: M. Ferguson R. Hawley R. Pietrafesa

Absent: E. Alberts and D. Metrena

With a six to three vote the motion passed at 9:01 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Hawley that the Board of Education adjourn its June 1, 2016 meeting and the meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Michael Ferguson, Secretary

(meeting was videotaped)