

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2013 – 7:00 P.M.

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Sandy Steichen, called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Shirley Chilian

Also in attendance: Drs. Glass, Pascarella, Ms. Kim Thompson and Mr. Joe Martino from Administration

RECOGNITIONS

Danbury’s 2014 Teacher of the Year – Liz Smith, Kindergarten Teacher at Hayestown Avenue Elementary School.

Laura Kaddis, Principal of Hayestown School told the Board that Liz Smith is an outstanding Kindergarten teacher; all inspiring to watch, she teaches her class all the way walking the halls to lunch; does not waste a second. She was in a half-day Kindergarten before becoming a full day. It is a privilege to be with Liz; she is a spectacular educator. Ms. Kaddis said she gets letters from parents all the time saying that she is an amazing teacher. I admire her so much. Ms. Smith thanked the Board and said she was thrilled to be Danbury’s Teacher of the Year and that it is a recognition of a life time. She then thanked the principal for the opportunity to be able to do what she likes. Ms. Steichen thanked and congratulated Mr. Smith. Since Ms. Kaddis is leaving the district, the Chairperson also thanked her for her dedicated service to the children of Danbury.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Hawley that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended, Exhibits 13-117 thru 13-22:

MINUTES

Finance Committee Meeting 5/22/13
Board Meeting 5/22/13
Special Board Meeting (Supt. Eval) 5/28/13

PERSONNEL

Accept Leave of Absence: Lindsey Stoffa
Accept Resignations: Susan Blume Rocio Hernandez Michael Holm
Jaime Newsome Theresa Rangel Jennifer Riddle

Accept Retirements:	Lynall Best	Ethel Brosz	Shirley Hill
	Linda Kayfus	Louise LaManna	Karen Omasta
	Teresa Potenziani	Nan Salamon	

New Hires 5/17/13-6/6/13:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Non-Certified Subject</u>
Little, Travon	BVMS	Safety Advocate
Pasquence, Donna	BBAC	IT Data Technician
Burrows, Samantha		SUB Teacher
Campos, Patricia		SUB Teacher
DiGuisseppi, Joseph		SUB Teacher
Krafick, Kori		SUB Teacher

GRANTS

- Accept \$5,000 grant from Procter & Gamble Fund for the Learning Together Playgroup
- Accept \$3,000 IBM Community Grant for Morris Street School

Motion carried at 7:16 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES - None

PRESENTATION

Alliance Grant/ECS

Dr. Pascarella told the Board that we have received the Alliance grant for the first year and we made some additions to it. The application is pretty comprehensive. He asked Dr. Glass to tell the Board some of the items that will be covered in this grant. Dr. Glass stated this allows us to have all day Kindergarten; phase in a math coach; feedback on teacher evaluation which was very positive; support on elementary and high school level; mobility is at 39% increases challenges for families and children; allow to reach out to students needs; instructional leadership; and studies around the common core; tutoring; enrichment opportunities; summer school; and support for ELL students. Dr. Glass elaborated on other programs, teaching staff, administrators and the data that the State is requiring. Dr. Pascarella summarized some of the items in the Alliance Grant. Dr. Glass added that an audit report on the Alliance history grant was received and is very favorable. Board members had a question about closing the achievement gap; the amount of funds and how it was being identified; additional funding; and will the gap be closed in five years when this money goes away; consider published common core programs; asked what our liability is if these funds suddenly go away; a lengthy discussion took place on what the Board will do if the State should withdraw the funds.

ACTION ITEMS

2013-2014 Budget

MOTION - R. Hawley moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve and set the School District's Budget in the amount of \$118,295,291 for the fiscal year 2013-2014

Mr. Taborsak thanked the Finance Committee for their work; they came up with a number of different scenarios. All the Board members commended them on a good job. **Motion carried at 8:08 pm.**

School Lunch Food Service Agreement

MOTION: G. Cooper moved, seconded by A. Fluskey-Lattin that the Board of Education approve the annual School Lunch Service Agreement between the Danbury Public Schools and Sodexo Management, Inc. for the school year 2013-2014 and to grant the Superintendent the Right to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education

Mr. Jannelli asked Mr. Martino if he could give the Board a recap on the school lunch funds. Mr. Martino replied that he will do that in September along with a rental report. **Motion carried at 8:10 pm.**

Tuition Rates 2013-2014

MOTION: R. Hawley moved, seconded by A. Fluskey-Lattin that the Board of Education approve the 2013-2014 tuition rates:

Danbury High School	\$13,860
Middle School	\$11,452
Grades 1-5	\$11,452
Kindergarten (all day)	\$11,452
Kindergarten (1/2 day)	\$ 5,726

Mr. Falkenthal asked Mr. Martino if we would be breaking even charging the tuition rates. Mr. Martino said actually we do not have any tuition students presently. **Motion carried at 8:12 pm.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

\$5 Million School Security Grant/Security Audit

Dr. Pascarella said the grant has been approved. It is actually a \$15 million dollar grant but is being release at \$5 million at time. Mr. Martino said an audit was done by the Police Department; it is a competitive grant not a guaranteed grant. Safe Havens International was in for 4 days last week and met with the principals and secretaries. They looked over the buildings both in and out and did a very thorough assessment. We will get an executive summary. I thought it was a good value for what they have done. Kim Thompson said their focus is on human response; the training piece is very overwhelming - Mr. Martino said the safety advocates are high caliber people that we have in place and they add a lot of value; he said when we have our opening day, we are going to have Michael Dorn, Executive Director owner of Safe Havens speak to our staff. Kim and I heard him at a conference in Hartford and we asked him to come to Danbury for the first day. Ms. Thompson said we want all our teachers to hear him and it will be feed into the two middle schools with the presentation at the high school. It is a big event for us and we want people to participate.

Year-end expenditures

Mr. Martino said we promised the Board a summary. Balloon checks are the key item right now; space issues in our schools; new desks for new classes; calculators for high school; security being another; upgrading door locks; issues in technology, etc. At the next Board meeting we will have a motion for moving \$500,000 for self-insurance.

Administrative Hiring Update

Ms. Thompson said we have been through part of the process for the replacement of both administrators and there were no successful candidates. She stated that she is going to work with a consultant on advertising, where we should be looking; how the process is, etc. On Tuesday of next week, we are going to run another pool for Hayestown. We are continuing to get applicants – hopefully we can find both positions before summer. Mr. Taborsak asked if we still had an interim program. Dr. Glass responded, we had a Delta Program and then he went on to list the names of staff members who were hired for positions who went through the program. He said we then stopped it because we did not have any positions so we put it on a hiatus. We have a program on the shelf, but we did not active it. Mr. Taborsak said it is a morale booster in the system. Ms. Thompson said there are a lot of issues, pros and cons, and that is what I want to discuss with the consultant. Ms. Cooper said a she feels if we get to the interview committee either outside or inside, why do we put that person anyplace; we look to have our home grown move up to the next level but we have to make sure they are the right people.

Redistricting Committee Update

Dr. Pascarella said we had a meeting on redistricting with Ross Haber Associates. Did a lot of verification and used your criteria. Another meeting is set for September 18th and we will have all the information by then. December 1st we will need to incorporate it in our budget. We are probably talking about 200 students. Mr. Martino said there will be a monthly mobility analysis across our district; checking from years 2007-08; as far as route changes we will be adding more buses next year. Ms. Cooper thought it was a great information session and hopes more Board members could attend the next meeting where we will be considering 225 kids. Mr. Taborsak said he was very impressed, we got an excellent company and we need to get the word out to public as fast as possible. Ms. Cooper said we need to do that before we put out the information.

DISCUSSION

Technology Lease Update

Mr. Martino told the Board included in the 2013-14 proposed budget is financing for the initial phase of the replacement cycle. We are in contact with several lenders. We will begin a 5-year replacement cycle for technology, totaling \$750,000 over the span of the 5 years with a yearly payment of \$150,000. All the information is to be submitted to the City Council for approval because it is a capital financing plan. The oldest equipment is in the middle schools. Listed are the items to be financed:

208	13” Macbook Air and apple care
120	Apple iMac
630	Chromebook
60	Citrix – T10 plus monitor
22	Ergotron Tablet Charging Cart

Carl D. Perkins Innovation Grant

Mr. Joe Martino, Finance Director, told the Board that Dr. Harry Rosvally has applied for a \$20,000 Carl D. Perkins Innovation Grant that would help provide opportunities to expand Manufacturing in Tech Ed at Danbury High School. The funding would enable us to purchase both an Additive and a Subtractive 3-D printer to enhance our Tech Ed programs, as well as funding to receive professional

development on the use of the printers and to write curriculum for either a new elective course or an independent study course in the department.

Teacher/Administrator Evaluation Update

Dr. Pascarella spoke briefly about the teacher/administrator evaluation update.

INFORMATION

Summer Learning Programs

Dr. Pascarella said the Summer Learning Opportunities includes the following: Acceleration Program grades 8-12; Star Program grade 8; Summer School grades 6-7; Elementary Summer School; and Sunational Summer School grades 1-6.

School Governance Councils –new schools-(South Street, Ellsworth Avenue, Pembroke, Rogers Park)

Dr. Pascarella told the Board that the State is requiring South Street, Ellsworth, Pembroke and Rogers Park to set up governing councils. Each council needs to be made up of parents, school staff and community leaders who help the principal make program and operational changes to improve students' academic achievements. He stated that since we already have three governance councils in our district, its experience will be useful in setting up the four new ones. These councils need to be set up by November 1 (election of parents and teachers must be held and the first council meeting must have taken place by this date). We are trying not to make this a negative for the principals. The councils offer a different perspective many times.

SG System Bus Cooperative Safety Pilot Program Agreement

Mr. Martino said over the summer we will be putting cameras on the side of two school buses – if someone does not stop, the mounted camera on the bus will take a picture of the license plate. It is a safety measure for all, it gives us another set of eyes and ears and I do see it as a safety benefit. This is currently being done in other cities. This will not be costing the Board as it is being supplied by the City. We will come back to you in September and talk about it then letting you know how it worked out. Right now the cameras will only be on two of the buses that are used for summer school use.

Video Production Highlights

Dr. Pascarella told the Board that 70 students completed over 650 hours spent out of class volunteering time for Video Production club/classes. The students have recorded sports, school events, extended learning program events, middle school concerts and plays. The technology went from an analog studio to a digital workflow which allows them to have show broadcasts much faster. It is a wonderful program for students who would like to use this as their career path – the technology is amazing.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

City Council Member on Redistricting & Finance Committees

The Chairperson asked if it would be beneficial if a City Council Member would be on the Redistricting and Finance Committees. She stated that they were on the TDEC Committee. Ms. Alberts said it would not hurt. Mr. Taborsak said we should extend the olive branch. Ms. Steichen then asked if they wanted her to send out an invitation. It was decided that Mr. Martino would send a letter to the Mayor.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Finance Committee

Mr. Jannelli, co-chair of the Finance Committee, told the Board that he has written a formal letter to Mayor Boughton and Joe Cavo, President of the City Council, inviting them to attend all of the Board of Education's Finance Committee Meetings next year. We want them to be part of the process to benefit from their constructive input and better understand what the Board's needs are in the schools. We feel working in harmony will make the budget process easier. Mr. Jannelli said upon Board approval he would mail the letter out. The Board unanimously approved the letter.

Sites and Facilities

Ms. Molinaro, Chair of the Sites and Facilities Committee, told the Board at the next meeting there will be an action item to present as a proposal for high efficient motors and increase controls at KSI, KSP, Stadley and Hayestown as an energy conservation measure that will cost \$392,500 with a 50% reimbursement from NE and remaining financing at zero percent through Northeast utilities. Mr. Martino distributed to the Board copies of "zero" bills from Northeast Utilities, to show how well the solar the panels are working.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters related to Exempt and Cabinet Staff, hiring and reduction in workforce, with possible action in Public Session. **The motion carried at 9:07 pm.**

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

Also in attendance: Drs. Glass, Pascarella, Ms. Kim Thompson and Mr. Joe Martino from Administration

Absent: Shirley Chilian

Ms. Steichen called the meeting to order at 9:10 pm and turned the meeting over to Mr. Thompson. Twenty people are exempt. A brief discussion ensued regarding personnel matters related to Exempt and Cabinet Staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Molinaro moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of June 11, 2013 and the meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm.

Richard Hawley, Secretary