

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Eileen Alberts asked Kathleen Molinaro to do the roll call:

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin (7:34 pm) Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

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

RECOGNITIONS

Melissa Nadeau, Teachers Global Classrooms Program

Dr. Glass introduced Melissa Nadeau and told of the many staff positions she has had since she came to the district. He said she always takes the leadership role. Mrs. Nadeau thanked the Board for recognizing her this evening. She introduced her husband, Jason, said they got married April 16th of this year. She told the Board that she applied for this Program and that she is always trying to better herself. On a trip to South Africa, she noticed the difference between their education and ours. She said she shared this experience with her students. In this Program she will be doing classroom work in Nepal, then on to Washington, DC, but she doesn't know where she will be after that. She said she will be spending three weeks traveling and it will culminate in developing a curriculum. She stated that she is happy to bring this to the students of Danbury; what we do here could make a difference elsewhere. The Board applauded.

Sikorsky STEM Challenge (Recognition took place before the Executive Session)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded G. Cooper by that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended, Exhibits 14-129 through 14-137:

MINUTES

5/28/14 Board Meeting

6/2/14 Special Meeting (Exp)

6/2/14 Special Meeting (Exp)

6/3/14 Superintendent Evaluation Committee

6/4/14 Board Workshop

PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leaves of Absence: Maria Finnerty Julie Jimenez
Amelie Sanchez Christine Liner-Robles
Amber Saracino

Accept Resignations: Deborah Casey (NEHS Advisor Only)
Susanne Creaturo Emily Doot
Uniris Estevez Allison Gale
Travis Gebing Brian Hayes, Jr.
Meredith Homza Patricia Hope
Karonie Mattarola Sandra Miranda
Michelle Murphy Wendy Snow
Robert Stowell Fara-Marie Tomarchio
Laurie Warfield

Accept Retirements:
Suzanne Haber, 29 years Patricia Moran, 20 years
Barbara Schirmer, 27 years, 4 months Susanne Boughton, 35 years, 4 months
Judith Giordano, 15 years, 8 months Mario Henriques, 11 years, 2 months
Carlos Teixeira, 26 years, 5 months Lynda Burd, 28 years
Michael Chapman, 37 years Cindy Davis, 17 years
Eileen Goodrich, 20 years Constance Grace, 41 years
Mary Ann Hinckley, 27 years Dolores Kelsey, 29 years
Elizabeth Lyons, 13 years Sandra Navarra, 40 years
Andee Nunn, 20 years Lawrence Oates, 41 years
Elizabeth Petrone, 40 years Dona Petruccelli, 34 years, 6 months
Linda Siciliano, 16 years Teresa Stahlhammer, 44 years
Kathleen Wildman, 42 years, 5 months

New Hires 5/15/14-6/5/14:
Name Location Non-Certified - Subject
Kelsey Munoz Park Ave CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Stephanie Moss South Street CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Jason Eriquez DHS Varsity Softball Coach
Tara Sally Western Connection
Jacob Nicholls Western Connection
Katty Bravo Adult Ed WIA Intern
Rebecca Antonaccio Western Connection
Nathan Pineda Adult Ed WIA Intern

GRANTS
Accept \$2,000 IBM community grant for Morris Street School

The motion carried at 7:16 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE

Cindy Mirochine said that her term ends on July 15th. She thanked the Board for the open communications with them and the NEA. She said it has been a privilege to represent 800 teachers. Samuel Buck will be taking over as President and Kathy Berman will be Vice-President.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENTATION

Grant Update, Carlyn Mueller: Ms. Mueller said she put together a brief outline on the grants. Basically our current focus is a P-Tech type program, early college initiative. Mr. Albert Schneider is helping with this initiative. Once we get that developed we will have an opportunity for other things. The second grant is a full service community grant. A Stem partnership – that will be with Westcon, Danbury High School and the Westside academy. Some grants are very specific. We had some incoming money. Dr. Glass got \$25,000 for teacher programs. Pitney Bowes, will be giving us some funds but we don't know how much – we didn't get the checks yet, but there will be two separate donations; one for School Readiness and one for School Literacy. Outstanding pending grants, total \$8 million. We had a lot of grants come through. I reached out to whoever the contact was. We check for feasibility. We then make a determination. Over the summer, we are going to have a breakfast so that we can have Dr. Pascarella speak about the P-Tech programs. I think we did a lot in a short period of time. A few board members had questions, which she answered. Mr. Jannelli asked how much the Service Community Grant would be. She replied that it is expected that it will be approximately \$275,000-\$500,000 over a 4-5 year term. We will be using Park Avenue School.

ACTION ITEMS

2014-2016 Coherence Plan

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve the 2014-2016 Coherence Plan

The motion carried at 7:29 pm.

Technology Lease

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by D. Metrena that the Board of Education approve the Phase II Technology Lease

The motion carried at 7:30 pm.

2014-2015 Calendar

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the revisions to the 2014-2015 school calendar

Ms. Hawley asked Dr. Glass to discuss the calendar. Dr. Glass told the Board that they listened to as many people as possible, for continuity in the calendar and get instructional time for kids. The calendar added 160 minutes. 240 minutes to the middle school and Danbury High picked up 1,560 minutes. Dr. Pascarella said we tried to do create a pattern for parents. Ms. Cooper thanked Drs. Glass and Pascarella for making sure we got the extra time for the teachers for instruction and all their hard work in putting the calendar together.

The motion carried at 7:32 pm.

DHS Trip to Italy

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by M. Ferguson, that the Board of Education approve the DHS trip to Italy, April 10-19, 2015

Mr. Jannelli wanted to know if it was possible for the kids to come to a Board meeting and tell what they learned when they come back from their trips. Ms. Alberts thought that was a good idea.

The motion carried at 7:35 pm.

School Construction Projects Completed

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education accept the following school construction projects as complete and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to certify and execute the following ED049F forms:

Roberts Avenue School aka Ellsworth Avenue School - State Project No.034-0130N

Rogers Park Middle School - State Project No. 034-0131 EA

Stadley Rough School Roof Replacement - State Project No. 034-0136 RR

Danbury High School Window Replacement - State Project No. 034-0137 EC

R. Taborsak said he would like to thank the people involved.

The motion carried at 7:36 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-Tech)

Dr. Pascarella said that is going to be a Pilot next year for juniors and seniors. We will present it to the Board and to the state for possible funding.

INFORMATION

2015-2016 Draft School Calendar (major holidays)

Dr. Pascarella said the calendar is for planning purposes. We were not going to do anything with the calendar because of the regional calendar that was planned. But they are not going to have a regional calendar this year and are moving it ahead. This calendar does not have dismissal times, it is on the agenda for information concerning the holidays.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Alberts reminded the Board about the upcoming graduation dates at the various schools. And urged the Board members to attend the ACE graduation.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Pietrafesa said at Great Plain School they have a new Board. We have a new Citywide representative. We are trying to get more people in Citywide PTO.

RECOGNITION

Sikorsky STEM Challenge

Mr. Jameson Parker, Danbury High School Physics Teacher, told the Board about the 4 components of engineering on which the STEM Challenge was built; doing research to understand the problem, creating a plan that uses the available resources, doing the physics/science required to understand and solve the problem and doing a cost analysis. The students engaged in 4 different projects focusing on each one of those 4 components then completed a redesign of an aircraft landing gear that combined all of those engineering components for their Sikorsky STEM Challenge. The students that attended the Board meeting talked about how much they learned and several of them reported that they are moving onto fields in STEM. The team of 10 students beat 7 other schools to make it to the CT Innovation Expo 2014 in Hartford. We competed against Ridgefield and Amity High School in this final round and won.

Dr. Glass asked Mr. Parker to tell the Board about the LearnZillion Program. He told the Board that after a highly competitive application process (4,000 applicants, 200 positions), he was chosen to be a part of the 2014 LearnZillion Dreamteam. Over the summer, he will be making online Common Core content which is accessed by hundreds of thousands of people. Dr. Glass pointed out that there were only 8 teachers from CT and 2 of them are from Danbury, Rachel Saunders, a middle school math coach, and Jameson.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by M. Ferguson that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Evaluation and the salary/contract negotiations for the Cabinet Members and Exempt Staff, with possible action in public session.

The motion carried at 8:05 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, Joseph Martino and Kim Thompson

Ms. Alberts called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to Richard Jannelli, Co-Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, that the Board of Education return to Public Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Evaluation and the salary/contract negotiations for the Cabinet Members and Exempt Staff, with possible action in Public Session

The motion carried at 8:57 pm.

MOTION: That the Board of Education approve the Superintendent' evaluation and his salary increase in accordance with adopted budget for 2014-2015 and to set during of contract as agreed upon:

In Favor: Eileen Alberts Gladys Cooper
Annrose Fluskey-Lattin Richard Hawley
Richard Jannelli David Metrena
Kathleen Molinaro Ralph Pietrafesa
Robert Taborsak Phyllis Tranzillo

Not in Favor: Michael Ferguson

MOTION: That the Board of Education approve the salary increase in accordance with adopted budget for 2014-2015 and to set duration of contract as agreed upon for the Cabinet Members

In Favor: Eileen Alberts Gladys Cooper
Annrose Fluskey-Lattin Richard Hawley
Richard Jannelli David Metrena
Kathleen Molinaro Ralph Pietrafesa
Robert Taborsak Phyllis Tranzillo

Not in Favor: Michael Ferguson

MOTION: That the Board of Education approve the Exempt Staff compensation as recommended by the Superintendent.

In Favor: Eileen Alberts Gladys Cooper
Annrose Fluskey-Lattin Richard Hawley
Richard Jannelli Kathleen Molinaro
Ralph Pietrafesa Robert Taborsak
Phyllis Tranzillo

Not in Favor: Michael Ferguson

Abstain: David Metrena

ADJOURNMENT

D. Metrena moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education adjourn its June 11, 2014 meeting and the meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Richard Hawley, Secretary