

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

***WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2012***

**Administrative Center – 63 Beaver Brook Road**

**RECEPTION FOR RETIREES AT 6:30 P.M.**

The Superintendent, Dr. Sal Pascarella, told the audience this evening we are honoring the retirees in our District. Due to many functions already planned for the end of the school year, the following four retirees were able to attend this evening of the 16 that were invited.

The Deputy Superintendent, Dr. William Glass introduced Barbara Seabury to the Board. He spoke about her dedication to the District and her 34 years of teaching service to the students in Danbury.

Ms. Marnie Schork, principal of South Street School, introduced Joanne Kaltenstein to the Board and spoke about her 26 years of service to the students as a paraprofessional. She also told the Board about various events she was involved in and her present challenge was to have a sidewalk put in what has always been a dirt walkway.

Ms. Chris Pruss, Director of Literacy, introduced Priscilla Eller to the Board and told them of her work as a reading consultant in the district. She also mentioned her untold hours during her 19 years of service to the students in Danbury.

Mr. Greg Scails, Principal of King Street School, introduced Anne Tracey to the Board. He said before he became principal of King Street he did not know Anne. He thanked her for her 18 years of service and said that it was a pleasure knowing her for the short time he has been at the school.

The Chairperson, Gladys Cooper, read a certificate of appreciation individually to each of the above retirees, congratulated and thanked them for their many years of service to the District.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson, Gladys Cooper, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Cooper asked Kathleen Molinaro to do the Roll Call.

**Present:** Eileen Alberts, Shirley Chilian, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Kathleen Molinaro, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo and Drs. Glass and Pascarella and Ms. Joyce Emmett and Mr. Arum from Administration

**Absent:** Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Sandy Steichen and Kim Thompson

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION** - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended, Exhibits 12-102 through 12-117

**MINUTES**

Board Meeting	5/9/12 – Revised (page 6)
Board Workshop Meeting	5/22/12
Board Special Meeting	5/22/12
Board Meeting	5/23/12
Sites & Facilities Committee	6/5/12
Board Workshop Meeting	6/6/12

**PERSONNEL**

Accept Leave of Absence:	Megan Calderwood	Jennifer Riddle
Accept Resignations:	Mercy Adegbesan Carol Gardella Jennifer Roche, Lauren Scott (coach only)	Donna DeLuca, Bryan Holmes Daniel Scavone
Accept Retirements:	Mary Henebry Lamai Wyness	Anne Tracey

**GRANTS**

Approve submission of the Special Friends Grant in the amount of \$25,000 for the period September 1, 2012 through June 15, 2013 to the State Department of Education

**Motion carried at 7:05 pm.**

**EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE** - None

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Danbury High School - None

Alternative Center for Education representative Vanessa Grant told the Board that the teachers are in the process of meeting once a week after school as sub-committees to examine some of the best practices to get the best results from the students at ACE. We are also in the process of enrolling new students. Teachers and returning students have been busy interviewing students over the last two Saturdays (June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>) as well as before and after school. The interviews will continue until the end of next week and the week before school opens in the Fall. Graduation will be at 9:30 AM on the 19<sup>th</sup> at ACE and in the evening at Wesconn starting with dinner at 5:30 and the ceremony at 7:00 PM. Many students are headed off to some post secondary education at Norwalk Community, Naugatuck, Porter and Chester, just to name a few. Some will be headed directly in the work world. Some of the students have overcome amazing amount of challenges to become successful graduates. We are very proud of their accomplishments.

## **PRESENTATION**

Superintendent – revised Educational Specifications for Park Avenue, Shelter Rock, Stadley Rough and Mill Ridge Education Center expansions.

Dr. Pascarella turned the explanation over to Mr. Arum. He told the Board that the specs that you received in the mail did have changes on the front page “kitchen area” – we thought we put in something about the equipment and that is the only change in the elementary schools. We added a number of things about the furniture and equipment and we wanted to make sure the fire alarm was in compliance with ADA. There are other changes in Mill Ridge. We will be meeting with Mr. Iadarola on Monday morning to fill out all the documents. We will ask for the Board’s approval at the next meeting. Once we have all the necessary documents together we will drive them to Hartford on the 28<sup>th</sup> since they are due on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Pascarella will be signing the EDO’s.

Ms. Molinaro asked about the cafeteria addition for Stadley Rough School and asked if that includes a kitchen. Mr. Arum said not at this time. Ms. Molinaro mentioned that the school only has a warming kitchen and they need a kitchen where they can actually cook. Ms. Chilian asked if all the cafeterias are set up to cook. Ms. Molinaro said Stadley Rough is the only one with a warming kitchen. Ms. Fluskey-Lattin said she thought all the school lunches were made at one of the middle schools and brought to the other schools. Ms. Molinaro said a long time ago that was the case, but now the food is prepared at the individual schools. The food is sent in bulk to the schools to be cooked on site.

Ms. Molinaro asked Mr. Arum what he needs from the Board tonight. He said based on our conversation on Monday, I will come back to the Board at the next meeting and we will sign the paperwork.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **RPMS trip to Puerto Rico**

**MOTION -** K. Molinaro moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education approve the Rogers Park Middle School trip to Puerto Rico, January 17-22, 2013

Staff member in charge of the trip said this will be our 6<sup>th</sup> trip to Puerto Rico. Ms. Cooper asked if Board members had questions regarding the trip. Mr. Taborsak said he is concerned about the cost – are there any students going on the trip that needed financial aid and was it gotten. The response was that in the past we have had specific needs and were able to work with them in various ways. We have made accommodations and we do have fun raisers. The complete trip is costing \$950.

**Motion carried at 7:25 pm.**

### **May 2012 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)**

**MOTION -** K. Molinaro moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education accept the May 2012 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund).

Mr. Arum told the Board that for the month of May 2012, the District expended \$9,008,238, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$95,740,648.

**Motion carried at 7:30 pm.**

May 2012 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

**MOTION** - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education accept the May 2012 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

Mr. Arum said we are trying to be conservative this year. A number of those federal accounts whether it is IDEA or Title I – we never know what the government is going to give us.

**Motion carried at 7:31 pm.**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Kids Marathon & CoDA – June 2, 2012

Dr. Pascarella told the Board that we started this Kids Marathon & CoDA two years ago to inform the public on what we are doing. This year we had it at the High School. The kids' marathon has been a wonderful program and has gotten a lot of press. There were 500 students participating from area schools other than Danbury, but we did have the most kids. It was a community effort. Mr. Taborsak said he thought it was really great at the high school. All the art displays and the music it was almost overwhelming. He said he hopes they will do that in the future. Ms. Emmett said it was a tremendous success and that students and staff were very involved and did a great job in helping out. The free event was open to the public. All Danbury schools had students' artwork on display. There were art activities and face painting, plus music performances and family activities.

Staffing (FTE), Kindergarten Update

Dr. Pascarella said the memo to the Board regarding full day kindergarten seats talks about the pending alliance funding from the State and stated that we will be adding 240 new all day kindergarten seats at 5 of our elementary schools this fall; Park Avenue, Great Plain Pembroke, Hayestown Avenue, Morris Street. This is combined with our existing full day kindergarten at the Magnet school and one section at each of our other elementary schools. To achieve this we will need to add 5.0 FTE using the alliance funding. We are monitoring enrollment number to better assess staff levels across each of the schools. We anticipate a three to four year time horizon for universal all day kindergarten across our district. A discussion ensued concerning space and how to get the information out to the community. Dr. Pascarella said the best way to get the information out is through the principals to the parents saying that they are on the list and also put something on the website. I need to be careful on how to say this.

Dr. Glass said at Morris Street we dismantled the computer lab and moved to a wireless environment; putting the computers on movable carts. The \$1.7 is contingent on closing the achievement gap. We repurposed a room at ACE. When the Mayor talked about it, it was a 4-year plan. The principals are all for all day kindergarten. If you are a kindergarten parent for September it matters to you, if you are a parent for next year, it doesn't matter to now. The best model is to go full day kindergarten. We will add teachers for STEM and at DHS; at ACE an English teacher; and two teachers at the high

school for the Math Lab and one in Science. We may not need to have any additional teachers at the elementary level.

#### Facilities Review/Summer Usage DHS Fields

Dr. Pascarella said the windows will be replaced at Danbury High School. It was originally said that we would have to close the whole facility which would be a problem since we have committed events. Mr. Arum said in a conversation with the City, there will be two open areas that people can go into the facility: access from the concession stand and by the baseball field, everything else will be fenced in. The Superintendent asked if there would be a watchman on duty, Mr. Arum said at the meeting tomorrow he will discuss that.

#### Boehringer Foundation Presentation

Dr. Glass said that a team lead by the teacher of the year, Kristy Zaleta and Pat Joaquim continue the STEM initiative. Boehringer said your goals are our goals. Dr. Glass said it is possible that we could receive approximately a \$200,000 award from them if things fall in line. He stated that the STEM program is very successful and thanked all the staff that worked so hard to achieve this success.

#### CT Waiver ESEA (Conditional Funding/Commissioner's Network)

Dr. Glass gave a slide presentation to the Board on "Alliance District Initiative". He outlined the timetable starting on May 25<sup>th</sup> with the district being designated by the Alliance through to September 2012 when implementation begins. He explained the district process which included the district must submit a 5 year plan, plan reviewed by the SDE annually and approval of subsequent plans (years 2-5) based, in part, on demonstrated progress in initial year. Dr. Glass explained the eligibility the application process notes, funding application requirements district plans overview, overall district improvement strategy and options, K-3 literacy interventions, additional learning time, talent development strategy training for state evaluation models early childhood services and wraparound services. The waiver for NCLB enables the CSDE and districts to: replace annual yearly progress under NCLB with CT-designed annual measurable objectives, replace NCLB sanctions for schools and districts with more effective interventions and use Title I funding more flexibly. Dr. Glass also showed a side-by-side measurement overview showing present NCLB and the NCLB Waiver. He spoke about Connecticut State targets, and performance targets. He explained several NCLB requirement waived and only three that are not waived.

Ms. Fluskey-Lattin asked about the draft grid and wanted to know which one was the latest and also wanted to have explained the difference since she now has two of them. She asked the difference between May draft vs. the June draft. Dr. Glass explained the differences.

Board members had several questions on the presentation which Dr. Glass responded to.

Mr. Falkenthal asked Mr. Maloney, who was in the audience, about the \$50,000. It was stated that if Head Start was put into the funding, it would surely be approved. Ms. Fluskey-Lattin asked if that was a guarantee and if we know that, we would absolutely approve that. She also asked could we moved the \$585,000 into the \$1.7 and put back into our budget some of the things that would be questionable. Dr. Pascarella that and we are still studying the possibilities. That money cannot be manipulated – if we put in kindergarten and next year we get less money from the City, I don't know how I am going to handle kindergarten.

Mr. Maloney addressed the Board and said Head Start is specified in the legislation because the Department of Education recognizes the importance of Head Start. In the Superintendent's proposal he is striking the right note. Danbury is already investing in Head Start. A substantial majority of the money is for new initiatives. It could violate the whole spirit of what this is about.

Dr. Pascarella said we submitted the draft to the State for advice. At the next Board meeting the Board will have to approve the submission in order to meet the July 13<sup>th</sup> deadline.

### **INFORMATION**

Strategic School Profiles (handout at meeting)

AIS Operations Plan (change meeting from 4 to 2 times a year)

Summer School Schedules

### **BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Ms. Cooper told the Board if they are going to participate in the High School graduation on June 20<sup>th</sup> they need to be there in time to march on to the field at 5:00 pm.

### **BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS**

Sites and Facilities Committee *K. Molinaro, Chair*

Ms. Molinaro said that the information is at your places.

Community Relations Committee *R. Jannelli, Chair*

Mr. Falkenthal said that he is giving the report since Mr. Jannelli is not present this evening. He told the Board that the realtors meet quarterly and the next meeting is on the 21<sup>st</sup>. They will be giving out scholarship to the various high schools. Dr. Pascarella will be the speaker.

Ms. Cooper said the Board will take a 5 minute recess.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel decisions regarding the Director of Finance, Director of Special Education and Athletic Director positions, with possible action in public session.

**Motion carried at 9:05 pm.**

**Present:** Eileen Alberts, Shirley Chilian, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Kathleen Molinaro, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo, Dr. Glass and Pascarella and Joyce Emmett from Administration.

**Absent:** Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Sandy Steichen and Kim Thompson

Ms. Cooper called the Executive Session to order at 9:15 pm and asked Dr. Pascarella to update the Board on Personnel matters.

Ms. Joyce Emmett updated the Board on Special Education candidate. A discussion ensued and the consensus was taken and it was unanimous, 8 yeses out of 8.

Dr. Pascarella updated the Board on the Athletic Director position. A discussion ensued and consensus was taken and it was 7 yeses and 1 abstention.

Dr. Pascarella updated the Board on the Director of Finance position. A discussion ensued and consensus was taken and it was unanimous, 8 yeses out of 8.

Dr. Pascarella updated the Board on Technology shortage.

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

**MOTION** – E. Alberts moved, seconded by Mr. Falkenthal, that the Board return to Public Session.

**Motion carried at 10:15 PM**

**MOTION** – S. Chilian moved, seconded by E. Alberts, to accept Chip Salvestrini as Athletic Director.

**Motion carried with 7 in favor and 1 abstention**

**MOTION** – E. Alberts moved, seconded by R. Taborsak, to accept Joe Martino as Director of Finance.

**Motion carried unanimously**

**MOTION** – S. Chilian moved, seconded by E. Alberts to accept Deborah Peterson as Assistant Director of Special Education for 2012-2013 school year.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

K. Molinaro moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of June 13, 2012 and the meeting adjourned at 10:18 pm.

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Richard Hawley, Secretary

(meeting video taped)