

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2016 – 7:00 PM

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm and those assembled recited the pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Alberts asked for a moment of silence to honor the Orlando, Florida victims.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Alberts asked for the roll call:

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Richard Jannelli,
Patrick Johnston, Frederick Karrat, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro,

Absent: Richard Hawley, Ralph Pietrafesa and Holly Robinson

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

RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Pascarella told the Board that it was reported in the Patch Newspaper, that Niche.com did a survey of 100 school districts in Connecticut and that Danbury School district placed 40th. The survey conducted measured average score of colleges that students are most interest in as well as parent/student opinions about the educational outcomes in the district and we scored 3.5 out of 5 student diversity and cultural grade was an A+ and graduation rate was 75% of 12th grade students.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - D. Metrena moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 16-101 through 16-104, as recommended:

MINUTES

5/25/16 Board Meeting
5/31/16 Superintendent Evaluation Committee Meeting
6/1/16 Special Board Meeting

PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence: Elizabeth Frost

Accept Resignations: Michael Boucher (Coach Only) Katherine Ellis,
Maria Krafty Edwin Pena
Fanny Rodriguez James Tierney

Accept Retirements: Sharon Fusco, 47 years

New Hires:

(see Exhibit 16-104)

Motion passed at 7:12 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES - None

PRESENTATION

Westside Middle School Academy Weather Balloon Project - 8th Grade

Jon Neuhausel, WSMSA teacher, said the STEM students designed and built two payloads for two balloons. The payloads carried sensors that took atmospheric pressure and temperature readings recorded on computer chips that may be removed for download and data analysis after retrieval.

Mr. Neuhausel gave a project overview slide presentation to the Board. He said last year the one balloon reached an altitude of 80,000 and one reached 72,000 feet. This year the balloons are bigger and we were able to use more scientific equipment from WCSU. 100 students working on the project were broken up into four teams: design, weather, science and public relations. The design team tested reflectors using equipment from WCSU and constructed and tested the final payload designs. The weather team objectives were to predict weather forecasting to help model the balloon flight and create a timeline for the launch, orchestrate the launch and track the balloons. The science team coded Arduinos to send Morse code messages through an LED light and wrote the computer code sketch for their Arduino to run. The public relations team raised about \$1,200; the helium was donated by Praxair and the balloons from Kaymount.

The results are that Balloon 1 and 2's flight time was 2.5 hours, traveled approximately 120 miles with a maximum elevation of 80,000-90,000 feet and landed on the border of Connecticut and Rhode Island. The next steps are to retrieve the balloons from the trees, work with property owners and local Fire Department, work with WCSU to analyze data about flight and begin planning next year's launch.

Ms. Alberts thanked Jon for all his work with this important science project.

ACTION ITEMS

ECS/Alliance Grant

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education approve the allocations for the ECS/Alliance Grant)

Motion passed at 7:25 pm.

2016-2017 Building Rental Rates

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education approve the 2016-2017 Building Rental Rates

Motion passed at 7:26 pm.

May 2016 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education accept the May 2016 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Mr. Martino told the Board that during the month of May 2016, the district expended \$8,832,679 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$99,808,817. The FYTD expenditure represents 80.63% of the General Fund total budget.

Any surplus will be transfer to health care.

Motion passed at 7:28 pm.

May 2016 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by M. Ferguson that the Board of Education accept the May 2016 Operating Results Analysis (Grant/Projects)

Mr. Martino told the Board that during the month of May 2016, the district expended \$3,014,056 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$20,789,451. The FYTD expenditure represents 73% of the Grants budget.

Motion passed at 7:30 pm.

Teacher Evaluation Plan

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the Teacher Evaluation Plan

Motion passed at 7:33 pm.

Dr. Pascarella said we will be submitting this Teacher Evaluation Plan to the state.

Sodexo Amended Agreement and Summer Lunch Program

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to sign the Amended Agreement and Summer Lunch Program Agreement with Sodexo

Motion passed at 7:35 pm.

Revisions to Conduct Codes

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by M. Ferguson that the Board of Education approve the revisions to the Conduct Codes discussed at the last meeting.

Motion passed at 7:36 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Graduation Report

Dr. Pascarella thanked the Board for attending the graduation ceremonies. He stated that 557 students graduated from Danbury High School in 1 hour 40 minutes. He was pleased with how respectful the students were to each other, visitors and speakers. He mentioned that parking was somewhat of a problem and he will be looking into that for a possible solution for next year.

Ms. Cooper asked if at all possible could the times of the graduations be changed. There was some congestion with the graduations back-to-back. The Superintendent said he would also review the times. She said we will have to be mindful about the hours since most parents work and can't come during their working hours. Mr. Johnston said there was no place to park at Westside. He would also like that to be reviewed.

Dr. Pascarella said ACE had a good graduation. This year they eliminated the day program and had a night program.

Ms. Alberts apologized to the Board for not being able to be present due to her recent surgery.

Summer Projects – Sites and Facilities Update

Mr. Martino distributed a several page document with photos outlining the facilities updates; King Street Primary gym floor, gym floor seminar at Hayestown, Central registration at Osborne Street and then went on to list the April vacation projects. An explanation of spaces included Ellsworth media center wall installation \$8,500, DHS additional offices installed inside seminar room \$9,000 and King Street Primary adding additional wall in classroom to make 2 rooms.

Some additional updates are gym floor replacement at Stadley Rough and a new school sign. Shelter Rock cabinet replacement in café. Osborne Street, installation of security, new sidewalk and replacement of wooden floor in garage. At DHS installation of AC unit in secondary data center in "D" building; Districtwide replacement of our 2005 delivery van and minor carpet replacement work at BBAC.

We have hired an architect for Shelter Rock DHS groundbreaking will be late summer or early fall.

Lifetime Excursion Travel Company – French Field Trip

Dr. Pascarella told the Board that he sent a letter to Commissioner Wentzell explaining that Lifetime Excursion was not reimbursing Danbury students for a trip that was cancelled in April. He said he received a phone call from Amity school district who is having a similar problem. He felt the Commissioner should be aware of this in case there are other districts having a problem with this company as well.

The Superintendent went on to say that he is disappointed on how the company has been handling this. His understanding was that they cancelled the trip due to personal reasons one week before they were scheduled to travel with the students. The parents are unhappy about not getting all of their money back. The insurance will only give them 75% refund, they need to get back 100%. Dr. Pascarella said that he has also contacted the Connecticut Superintendent's Association about this situation.

Alliance

The Superintendent said out of 30 districts, only three received increases; Stamford, Hartford and Danbury. We got the largest one. We are funding \$50,000 for Head Start.

DISCUSSION - None

INFORMATION - None

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Alberts thanked the Board for their good wishes and support while she is still recuperating from surgery.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Johnston said he visited and volunteered at Westside. He took the day off to be at the eighth grade dance. Want to thank Ethan Allen for loaning us tables. We also had many people volunteer.

Mr. Jannelli said the Community Relations Committee and the DHS School Governance Council are following up on funding in conjunction with the presentation that was given at the last meeting. We will meet in the next few weeks with outsiders and Board members to have a brain storm session on how we are going to tackle this project. We are going to reach out to our legislatures that met with us originally. We should be ready to go in October/November.

Ms. Cooper said that in September they will have a Superintendent's Evaluation Committee meeting just to look at the form that CABA sent.

Mr. Jannelli asked if the Board is going to have a retreat this year. The Superintendent said he will contact Ted Carroll to see if he is available in the fall for a regular workshop.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: M. Ferguson moved, seconded by P. Johnston that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing exempt employees, with possible action in Public Session.

Motion passed at 7:57 pm.

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Richard Jannelli, Patrick Johnston, Frederick Karrat, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro,

Absent: Richard Hawley, Ralph Pietrafesa and Holly Robinson

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

Ms. Alberts called the Executive Session to order at 8:00 pm and turned the meeting over to Dr. Pascarella for a brief end-of-school year discussion.

Dr. Glass, Kim Thompson and Joe Martino left the meeting at 8:07 pm. Dr. Pascarella remained at the Executive Session to discuss cabinet and exempt employees' salary recommendations.

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: M. Ferguson moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education approve 2016-2017 salaries for Cabinet level employees as proposed by the Superintendent.

In favor: E. Alberts G. Cooper R. Jannelli
F. Karrat D. Metrena K. Molinaro

Not in favor: M. Ferguson P. Johnston

Motion passed at 8:51 pm.

MOTION: M. Ferguson moved, seconded by D. Metrena that the Board of Education approve one year contract extensions for Cabinet contracts.

Motion passed unanimously at 8:52 pm.

MOTION: M. Ferguson moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education approve 2016-2017 salaries for exempt employees as proposed by the superintendent

In favor: E. Alberts G. Cooper R. Jannelli P. Johnston
M. Ferguson K. Molinaro F. Karrat

Abstain: D. Metrena

ADJOURNMENT

M. Ferguson moved, seconded by F. Karrat that the Board of Education adjourn is meeting of June 15, 2016 and the meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm

Michael Ferguson, Secretary

(meeting was videotaped)