

# **DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 24, 2015 – 7:00 PM**

**Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Molinaro did the roll call:

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

Absent: Richard Jannelli, Richard Hawley

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

## **RECOGNITIONS**

The Superintendent told the Board that Sarah Johnson, submitted an application to the Broadcom MASTERS (Society for Science and Public) national middle school science competition and her application is under evaluation and in consideration for semifinalist and finalist status. Only 10% of science fair projects nationwide are selected for this opportunity. Sarah will receive a t-shirt and bumper stickers, and could be named one of 300 semifinalists to be announced on August 19th or one of the 30 finalists to be announced September 2nd. The 30 finalists will gather in San Jose, California for a week of competition including presentation of the research project and hands-on science and engineering challenges. Top prizes include \$25,000, trips to STEM summer camps, and more. Teachers of semifinalists receive a set of Sally Ride Science career books, and teachers of finalists receive a one year subscription to Science News magazine. Schools of Broadcom MASTERS finalists each receive \$1,000 from the Broadcom Foundation.

Alexandra Prendergast said she entered a Kids Court Competition for high school students on Civil Rights issues. She presented her paper in Hartford and she came in first place.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Tricia Coe told the Board that she has two sons that will be going to Danbury High School next school year. Tonight she is here to speak about parents sending their children to AIS. She said it is their choice to do so and if you have multiple kids you will have to face them going to different schools at some point. She said we have great neighborhood schools in our district. She chose not to enter the lottery because she wanted both her sons to go to the same neighbor school. She hopes that the Board will be fair and equitable for all students.

Kian Suri who attends AIS told the Board that the school should not change. She has a little sister that she loves and wants her to come to her school.

Tricia Robinson, Kian's parent, said she did some research in Connecticut. In some districts the principal sets the stage for the sibling policy. Ms. Nitowski talked about this and said it would disrupt

the school in a negative way. This is not fair to Danbury students to not have sibling preference. She hopes the Board does not discriminate against the students living in the Danbury zip code area.

Lynne Lukasik, member of the Citywide PTO said she believes there should not be privileges for siblings.

Jan Hamilton, member of Citywide PTO said she also believes the lottery should stay in place. I believe we should not have sibling preference. Sibling preference does not give other students an opportunity to attend AIS.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION** - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by M. Ferguson that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 15-127 through 15-129, as recommended:

**MINUTES**

6/10/15 Board Meeting (revised)

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

Accept Resignations:	Kristine March	Susan Kern	Melissa Newsome
	Eric Williams	Kate Schiff	Michael Sohonyay

Accept Retirements:	Judy Galleano	21 years
	Mary Bardani	18 years
	Clemente Sanches	33 years
	Geraldine Jackson	3 years

New Hires 6/5/15-6/18/15 --- (see Exhibit 15-128)

Ms. Alberts read the names of the retirees and thanked them for their years of service to the children in Danbury.

**GRANTS**

Accept \$40,000 grant from United Way to the Family Learning Center for Strong Start Initiative at Park Avenue School

Ms. Alberts thanked United Way for the donation to Park Avenue and also for their continued support for the Danbury Public Schools.

**Motion passed at 7:15 pm.**

**EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE** - none

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES** - none

## **PRESENTATION**

### Student accomplishments/achievements - Sterling Miller

Mr. Miller, Technology Education teacher, Video Production Advisor, Applied Arts Department Head. Showed a video to the Board on student accomplishments and achievements. Two students in the video explained what Danbury High School had to offer its students in business classes and service projects, to name a few including a cell phone drive, eyeglass drive and Halloween Bash. They also were involved with Celebrate my Drive and won \$25,000 for the second year in a row. Job shadowing at GE Capital, Cartus, the Matrix as well as other local businesses was part of the marketing project.

Family Consumer Science - 126 exams were administered (63 practicum and 63 written). The students passed 122 out of the 126 exams, giving us a pass rate of 97%. Danbury High School will be sending 59 new CNAs into the Danbury area health care setting. We passed the largest number of candidates in school history this year.

Over 20 Culinary Arts Catering Events - Danielle Polinchock actually wrote and produced her own cooking show where she demonstrated how to make a homemade apple pie. Her show has over 400 views on YouTube and was a favorite during the holidays in Comcast channel 97.

### Technology Education -

The robotics class is connected to the Robotics club which is yearly one of the top teams in Connecticut and has competed in the World VEX robotic tournament each of the 5 years of the club's existence, only the top 7% of teams around the world qualify to compete in this event.

Video Production and Broadcast Journalism - Last year in January we began streaming events live online. Since that time we have streamed live online over 35 events and activities including every home game of this year's winning football team. We have recorded as many as 5 events in 1 day and have been able to have 2 internet streams going on simultaneously from 2 different schools. We have been able to mentor students in Danbury middle and elementary schools in video production. In the last year our YouTube channels have had over 29,000 views with 87,389 minutes watched,(which is more than 60 full days of time viewers spent watching highlights of Danbury public schools). This year while broadcasting the Francis Evans Elementary Track Meet, we were told that Ms. Evans was watching the live broadcast from Florida.

Ms. Alberts thanked him for the informative video. She also thanked him on behalf of the Board for all the effort he has put in to videotaping the Board meetings all year long so that they could be broadcasted to the public.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### May 2015 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education accept the May 2015 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Mr. Martino told the Board that during the month of May 2015, the District expended \$9,757,359 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$98,352,838; the expenditure represents 80.89% of the General Fund total budget.

**Motion passed at 7:36 pm.**

May 2015 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa that the Board of Education accept the May 2015 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

Mr. Martino told the Board that during the month of May 2015, the District expended \$1,795,830 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$19,118,216; the expenditure represents 70.8% of the Grants budget.

**Motion passed at 7:37 pm.**

School Lunch Food Service Agreement

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by P. Tranzillo that the Board of Education approve the 5-year School Lunch Service Agreement between the Danbury Public Schools and selected vendor and to grant the Superintendent the right to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

Mr. Martino said we had four other lunch service providers do a walk-through. There were only two in contention and we decided to award the 5-year school lunch service agreement to Sodexo. They have 33 years of service in Danbury.

**Motion passed at 7:40 pm.**

AIS Operations Plan

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved that the Board of Education approve the modification to the AIS Operations Plan

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education table this action item, AIS Operations Plan

*In favor:* D. Metrena P. Tranzillo K. Molinaro  
E. Alberts G. Cooper

*Not in Favor:* R. Taborsak M. Ferguson Annrose Fluskey-Lattin  
R. Pietrafesa

**Motion to table action item AIS Operations Plan passed at 7:46 pm.**

Teacher Evaluation Plan

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

Ms. Tranzillo had some questions regarding the plan and Dr. Glass responded.

**Motion passed at 7:47 pm.**

Building Rental Fees 2015-2016

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the 2015-2016 building rental fees

**Motion passed at 7:48 pm.**

Use of Building Rental Funds

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa that the Board of Education approve the use of building rental funds

Mr. Martino told the Board that \$90,554 will come from this fund for various school projects: Basketball hoop replacements for Rogers Park and King Street Primary, synthetic gym floor for Stadley Rough and King Street Primary, painting at King Street Intermediate cafeteria and gym at Park Avenue, auditorium lighting at Danbury High School, Broadview Middle School and Rogers Park Middle School.

**Motion passed at 7:50 pm.**

Board of Education Goals

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the revisions to the Board of Education's goals

Ms. Cooper said for Goal #1 - *Growth in Achievement for all students and college and career readiness*. Can we substitute the word 'challenge' instead of the word 'stretch'? We had a workshop on the goals and I don't think that word came out in the workshop. Also "each and every student" I think saying all students would make more sense.

Dr. Pascarella said we can change it:

*"To assure that all students are challenged and are given the maximum opportunity to reach his or her potential, identify annual growth targets and measures for students performing at or above proficiency levels in all grades."*

**Motion passed at 7:51 pm.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Graduation update**

The graduations and moving up ceremonies were really well done. The Danbury High speeches were outstanding. Mr. Taborsak said that there was an excellent teacher turnout. Ms. Cooper said she appreciated the Danbury High School staff for thanking the Board for all the meetings we attend by giving us the beautiful sashes. She said that made our work not in vain.

### **Legislative update**

Dr. Pascarella said there is a lot going back and forth right now on corporate taxes. We are looking forward to the end of the month getting some things resolved.

A brief discussion ensued about the addition to Danbury High School. Mr. Martino said it should be ready by the fall of 2017. Dr. Pascarella said it usually takes about 18 months after they pass the referendum.

### **DISCUSSION** - None

### **INFORMATION**

2015-2016 Board Meeting Dates

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

The Board Chair, Eileen Alberts, thanked the Board for a great school year. She thanked Kathy Molinaro the Board Vice-Chairperson and Michael Ferguson the Board Secretary for all the support to the Board. She said not that the school year is basically over for the Board, the only one thing that we will have to do is set a date for our Board Self-Evaluation Meeting.

### **BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS** - None

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION: P. Tranzillo moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing confidential personnel matters, the Safety Advocates Contract and School Lunch Personnel Contract, with possible action in public session. **Motion passed at 8:04 pm.**

Present: Eileen Alberts, Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

Absent: Richard Jannelli, Richard Hawley, Dr. Glass

Also Present: Dr. Pascarella, Kim Thompson and Joe Martino

Ms. Alberts call the Executive Session to order at 8:06 pm and turned the meeting over to Ms. Thompson.

A brief discussion followed.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

MOTION: G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board return to Public Session for the purpose of ratifying the Safety Advocates Contract and the Lunch Personnel contract

**Motion passed unanimously at 8:34 pm.**

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by P. Tranzillo that the Board of Education ratify the Safety Advocates Contract.

**Motion passed unanimously at 8:35 pm.**

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education ratify the School Lunch Personnel Contract.

**Motion passed unanimously at 8:36 pm.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa that the Board of Education adjourn its June 24, 2015 Board meeting and the meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

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Michael Ferguson, Secretary

**(meeting was videotaped)**