

# DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

***WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011- 7:00 PM***  
**Administrative Center – 63 Beaver Brook Road**

Present: E. Alberts, R. Austin-James (7:23) G. Cooper, I. Fox, K. Gailliard, R. Jannelli, D. Metrena, K. Molinaro, R. Taborsak, Drs. Glass, Pascarella, Mr. Longo and Ms. Emmett and Thompson from Administration

Absent: M. Fazio and S. LeRoy

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Irving Fox, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge Allegiance.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

Mr. Fox acknowledged the retirees listed below. He read their names and also the years of service to the district. He congratulated the retirees that were present and handed our certificates of the Board's appreciation for all the years they devoted to the students of Danbury. Mr. Fox thanked them and stated without the service of these retiring employees the district would not be what it is today.

### Retirees 2010-2011:

Dorothy Baker	Kenneth Buescher	Paula Caldara	Lisa Carkner
Marie-Paul Cournoyer	Ann Marie Curran	Robert Dylewski	Joyce Emmett
JoAnn Giesen	Catherine Libonate	Margaret McKeever	Mary Pura
Joan Rogers	Ann Salamone	Gail Sansolo	Alma Shuart
Nancy Silbert	Barbara Taylor	David Valluzzo	Ellen Young
Marie Valluzzo	Donnasue Tucciarone		

Best in Show – Art Award - DHS Student, Shin Nguyen, self portrait “Broken Geisha”

Mr. Fox congratulated Shin Nguyen for the self-portrait that will be displayed in Washington DC.

### CAPSS Superintendent/Student Awards

DHS Student, Christopher Marin

ACE Students: Ryan Laskowski and Marianna Feliciano

Mr. Fox read the biographies of the CAPSS recipients. He congratulated ACE students Ryan Laskowski and Marianna Feliciano and DHS student, Christopher Marin

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Kevin Haddad – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at King Street said he is disappointed in the reconfiguration of Mill Ridge. He said that he served on the district's Building Utilization Committee and voiced his concerns even though the exact proposal was never discussed during the meetings. This news was a little unsettling. Why should the City spend millions on upgrading Mill Ridge Primary and King

Street Primary when they are under such a financial burden; wouldn't redistricting solve the problem; have the parents at Shelter Rock and Stadley Rough been approached. What about additional transportation costs for another magnet school? He feels that portable classrooms should be added to those buildings.

Sean Council asked the Board how many students were transferred from Mill Ridge to King Street and how are those students doing.

Stephany Fallat Fanning, told the Board that she feels the gifted and talented students are being ignored in Danbury; special needs and ESL students are being served, but there is nothing for gifted and talented; they are not being challenged. She asked the Board as they look into programs, would they please take a look at the Gifted and Talented Program as those students need attention also.

Billy Anderson, Custodian at Danbury High School, referred to the banner on the wall in the Board Room "It's all about kids". He is concerned that they are cutting out freshman sports in high school. He knows that the focus is on academics, but freshman sports is a great program and I think if we can find money for other things we can find \$75,000 for the program. He told the Board the square feet of the high school and said with the number of custodians they presently have, they cannot clean a building that size.

### CONSENT CALENDAR

**MOTION** - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended:

#### MINUTES

Special Board Meeting (Exp)	5/23/11
Special Board Meeting (Exp)	5/23/11
Bi-Monthly Board Meeting	5/25/11
2020 Task Force Meeting	5/31/11
Special Board Meeting (Supt Evaluation)	6/1/11

#### PERSONNEL

Accept Leave of Absence:	Kathryn Festa	
Accept Resignations:	Darren Smith	Kelly Kelly
	Suzanne Levasseur	Juancarlos Peralta
	Marcella Sullivan	Amy Schock
	Marc Heller	Carmen Vargas
Accept Retirement:	Marcia Duke	

**Motion carried at 7:25 pm**

### EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE

Kevin Haddad spoke on behalf of NEA Danbury. He told the Board that NEA gave three scholarships today: they were \$1,000 each. NEA sent out survey on professional development and they received 200 responses and we will be sharing that info with you in the future.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Danbury High School:	Not present
Alternative Center:	Vanessa Grant

Vanessa Grant thanked the Board members for getting credit recovery for the students at ACE. It is an incredible feeling to know, as a student, my opinions and concerns are valuable to the Board. She said she is still rooting and hoping for summer school in Danbury for 2011. She told the Board that their biggest ever white water rafting trip of 28 students along with 3 alumni students just arrive back from New York and all are preparing themselves for next week's exams.

### **PRESENTATION** - None

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### Staffing Results of Budget

Ms. Thompson said we have completed the staffing for next year. We still are working on a few transfers. Teachers were moved according to their seniority – it resulted in the end of one teacher being laid off. Non-certified staff – she said she is in the process of completing, bumping para-professionals which resulted with two individuals full time on the recall list. She stated that there may still be some movement during the summer. The process for Special Ed is on-going. We are in the process of eliminating one full time secretary. For all the eliminations a host of positions will be posted (our target dated is Monday). We will have some new people coming in; it will strike you as strange that we have layoffs yet we have open positions.

#### Update on Dress Code Policy

Dr. Pascarella said at the last Board meeting we asked the Middle School and High School Principals to look at the dress code policy. Ms. Pat Joaquin and Mr. Robbs talked about a uniform policy. There was a little confusion; we looked at the regulations and policy and came up with a list that is enforceable which I think the principals will be happy with.

#### Update on Student Enrollment

Dr. Glass brought the Board up to date on student enrollment. The Kindergarten classes are usually the hold up – we monitor this daily and check with the schools twice a day. Shelter Rock presently has 54 students, as of today there are 91 so there will be staffing complications. As of this past month we are up to 10,366 students in the District, not counting Head Start. At Morris Street we have a question mark there. Ellsworth is projected to be up to 26 students we used to be at 20 students. This is a new strategy for us. Great Plain has 301 students, Stadley Rough has 450 students but both schools still get the same services. Park Avenue has 400 students, 200 are English language learners. Stadley Rough has challenges. We will be coming back to the Board periodically to let them know what we have moved from time to time. Dr. Pascarella said we will be changing the time of the start of school in order for the busses to be more effective. Ms. Molinaro asked on the update on student enrollment, when you use the example of Morris Street and they got many resources, since that time

we have lost a lot of our people that would help in the resources area – do we now have those people. Dr. Glass said, the short answer is yes. We do have a all cadre of those people, we looked at using Stadley Rough \$30,000 of extra resource in grants to that building.

#### Space Utilization/classrooms

Dr. Pascarella said that on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Broadview Middle School auditorium, we will have a Superintendent Roundtable with Mill Ridge School and King Street School parents to discuss proposed building expansion projects. This is open to others as well as the parents.

It was mentioned that there was movement in the legislature in budget and education requirements; change in delay of graduation requirements; advisory council; the state may delayed this – it was attached to a bill. Mr. Fox said they did delay the date of advisory councils and governance councils unless they repeal, and asked if it does have an impact on our district. Dr. Pascarella said he does not know; about 6-7 districts implemented it in January. We are going to wait and see what their decision is. It may pass this week.

**ACTION ITEMS** – No action items

**DISCUSSIONS** – No discussion items

#### **INFORMATION**

2011-2012 School Calendar – No discussion

2012-2013 School Calendar – No discussion

Revised High School Conduct Code – No discussion

#### **BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

##### Rescheduling of June 22<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting

Mr. Fox said due to the number of events, could we move the 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting to the 29<sup>th</sup>. The 22<sup>nd</sup> is the BVMS graduation. The Board meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> will be considered a special meeting.

Mr. Fox said that we will plan on a Board Retreat in the middle of August; the week before school starts. I am looking at either a Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup>, or a Wednesday evening. He asked if anyone had a preference. Mr. Gailliard and Ms. Austin-James said they would not be available on Saturday. Ms. Cooper asked what is the point of having a Retreat? Why not have the Retreat with the Board Self Evaluation Meeting. She said, I think we need a break. She then asked Mr. Fox what the main focus was of having the Retreat. Mr. Fox said organization, self-reflection, to discuss school before it commences and several things for school, which gives us two months in the summer to take a break and reflect. Mr. Taborsak stated that unless the vast majority of the Board members would be there, it would otherwise have no meaning. Mr. Fox then set the date of Saturday, August 20 and told the Board if we don’t have most of the members there, we will reschedule. It will be here in the Board Room at Beaver Brook.

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

Sites and Facilities – K. Molinaro, Chairperson

Ms. Molinaro said they will be having a meeting before the next 20/20 Task Force meeting at 6:00 pm.

Community Relations – R. Jannelli, Chairperson - No Report

Finance Committee – R. Jannelli, Co-Chairperson - No Report

Operations/Policy Committee – R. Taborsak

Mr. Taborsak said we met today with two principals and they came up with and agreed on a dress code which I believe will be in everyone's packet the next time. The middle school policy is common sense nothing radical and I think successful; attached what the consequences would be. The first warning would go to parents and students; not to suspend students. If a Board member wants a copy we can run you copy. The question of Affirmative Action Plan was discussed briefly and it was said that we have no major changes and will put this off until the beginning of next year.

Superintendent Evaluation Committee – K. Molinaro, Chairperson

This is on-going and will be ready for it at the next Board meeting.

City-wide PTO – K. Molinaro

Ms. Molinaro said they elected new officers. They have consolidated some of the fundraising; the entire district is going to raise money for the Ski Club and also to increase the membership in the PTO. They have taken that on as a challenge. Dr. Pascarella said he received a call today and a few individuals in the community wanted to get permission to raise money for the freshman football program. You continue to hear the comments that there is a need for it. Ms. Alberts said she heard on the radio that Morris Street School has a car wash for a reading program for the summer. Mr. Taborsak asked for classification, is it freshman sports or only football. The Superintendent asked the Board to consider it if we were able to consider the freshman sports program.

Dr. Glass said concerning District Development TDEC, the State Department of Education is coming in next week to do a 2 hour meeting and we have pages after pages of responses that they need from us. We are currently preparing for the monitoring visit. We have 40 new curriculum guides that will be out in our schools in the Fall. The State has given us feedback that it will be a State model. Once we get feedback, you will be the first to know.

DSABC – R. Jannelli - No Report

Education Connections – R. Jannelli - They just wrapped up loose ends.

School Based Health - E. Alberts - No Report

Mr. Jannelli asked about the balance literacy program which was the Columbia model, can you give us an update on that. I remember that we had a presentation when we institute this program and I would like to know if it has been successful. Dr. Glass responded that the program was part of Columbia University. He said he can work with Chris Pruss and Pam Dalton and they can give us an update on its status.

Dr. Pascarella stated that the Adult Ed graduation will be at Whitehall at 8:00 pm

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** R. Jannelli moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and legal matters.

**Motion carried at 8:00 pm.**

**Present:** R. Austin-James, G. Cooper, I. Fox, K. Gailliard, R. Jannelli, D. Metrena, K. Molinaro, R. Taborsak, Drs. Glass, Pascarella, and Ms. Thompson from Administration

**Absent:** E. Alberts, M. Fazio and S. LeRoy

The Chairperson, I. Fox, called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm. He then turned the meeting over to Kim Thompson. Ms. Thompson updated the Board on the current contracts to be negotiated and negotiations strategies. A discussion ensued.

**MOTION:** R. Austin-James moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board return to Public Session.

**The motion carried at 8:30 pm.**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

K. Gailliard moved, seconded by R. Jannelli that the Board of Education adjourn its June 8, 2011 meeting and the meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Molinaro, Secretary

(the meeting was video-taped)