

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014 – 7:00 pm

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Alberts ask Mr. Jannelli to do the roll call.

ROLL CALL

Present: Eileen Alberts, Michael Ferguson, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin,
Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, David Metrena, Ralph Pietrafesa,
Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

Absent: Kathleen Molinaro, Gladys Cooper

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

RECOGNITIONS

School Construction Projects – Mayor Boughton, Antonio Iadarola, Farid Khouri, Tom Hughes, Dan Petrovich and Dan Reisert Eileen Alberts thanked the City staff for all their hard work in getting the Westside Middle School Academy ready for occupancy when school started. They did almost the impossible. We are proud of the new school. Joseph Martino said the City staff did a phenomenal job, not only at the new middle school, but at the Park Avenue school as well. They are also working on the City playgrounds. Once they are completed it will be great for our kids.

Antonio Iadarola introduced himself to the Board; then introduced his team and stated, although I have a small team, we work very closely together. Directing this statement to the Board, he said, but without your help we would never have been able to get this done. We did a lot of hand holding with your staff and that is why it got together and on time. Never in the history of this City has so much work been done in such a short timeframe. The relationship and the trust is there and I thank you. He then explained what Farid Khouri, Tom Hughes, Dan Petrovich and Dan Reisert’s jobs were in getting all this accomplished; and Dr. Pascarella and Mr. Martino brought all the pieces together. The high school project is the next undertaking. We have some options and we are still fine tuning them. We will eventually do a presentation for you.

New Assistant Principal at King Street, Gwen Gallagher

Ms. Gallagher said she joined the Danbury School System in 1997 at Park Avenue School. She said the school looks beautiful. She told the Board that she is excited to be the new Assistant Principal at King Street School and appreciates the opportunity. She stated that they are taking the two buildings and bringing them together. Dr. Pascarella welcomed her and asked if she would like to tell the Board about another connection she has with the district. With a big smile, she said her husband, Matt Gallagher, was Chairperson of the Board when they first started dating.

USA TODAY High School Sports - Chip Salvestrini

DHS Athletic Director, Mr. Salvestrini, told the Board that USA TODAY named the boys' sports program at Danbury High School one of the top five in the state. In the August online, "Best Boys Sports Competition" DHS was pitted against Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge, Madison's Daniel Hand High School, St. Joseph High School in Trumbull and Fairfield College Preparatory School. The competition began with 255 schools, five per state and Washington, DC. Online voting qualified schools for the regional round. Since 2000, the Danbury Hatters have won 38 LL and Open championships in baseball, wrestling, cross country and indoor and outdoor track. They also boast two of New England's coaches, Ricky Shook in wrestling and Rob Murray in cross country and track. DHS social studies teacher Nick Fraticelli was also named as the 2014 Connecticut Coaches Association Indoor Track Assistant Coach of the year. He thanked the Board for their support and said "we look forward to grow."

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Laura Finley - She is happy with the way the school has been finished. It did take 3 years to get the roof done and last year there was no access to the playground I am happy at Park Avenue. Last year there was no access to the playground. My kids need activity. I hope that something will be happening.

Mio Galarza - Parent of a Danbury High student. She wants administration to let parents know of the various programs that are available for special education students. Some parents do not know of the after school programs and recreation programs that are available to them. She feels the school should help get peer interactions with special education students so they don't feel isolated. More professional speakers concerning special education students are needed.

Ann Marie Caffee - Resident of Park Avenue. Ms. Caffee spoke to the Board about the cell tower that is proposed for less than 250 feet from Park Avenue School right near her house. If the tower is approved, I will have to move and I have lived there for 23 years. I can move, but the school children have no choice. Some of them live across the street from the school and go to Park Avenue School. Those children will be exposed to radiation twenty four hours a day seven days a week. Ms. Caffee read the risks of living that close to a cell tower and then asked the Board to sign a petition tonight that needs to be turned in by September 17th and also file a protest. She stated that she already has 550 names and has been turned in. This tower should not be put so close to the school. It could be put somewhere else. Someone has to speak on behalf of these children at Park Avenue School.

Connell Chambers - Mr. Chambers's lives in Abby Woods and his son would have to walk 2 miles to get to school. He asked if the Board could change the bus pick up route so his son could take the bus. He and his wife both work and they can't always take their child to school or pick him up after school.

Mr. Jannelli said he wanted to comment on the City Recognition. He stated that recognition should also go to the staff that works with these department heads; other staff, secretaries, etc. Everyone that worked with them on these projects should be congratulated for their hard work.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by David Metrena that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 14-159 through 14-164, as recommended

MINUTES

6/25/14 Board Meeting

9/3/14 Board Subcommittee Meeting

PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leaves of Absence: Susan DeMato Jeanne Kahn
Jennifer Esposito Kelly Tait
Dianna DiNardo Melissa Busnel,
Sheila Reuther

Accept Resignations:

Jayne Beckham	Anne Cunningham	Daniela Esposito
Hans Guardado	Meredith Homza	Josefina Pimentel
Raphael Torrioni	Nelly Paredes	Teresa Pesce
Craig Piven-Kehrle	Christopher Sutton	Eileen Thayer
Donna DeMayo	Joseph Maiorano	Connie Sih
Ed Wachowski	Kathleen Basso	Nur Carvajal-Clarke
Robyn Mannion	Marie Pasia	Jamie Pope
Toni Watterson	Lillian Webb	Shannon Ring
Laura Dragonetti	Kara Mendes	Talisha Foy
Claudia Sequeira	Paul Riley	Karen Hoyack
Andrea Cardillo	Priscilla Johnson	Joanne Justiniano
Michael Lynch	Jennifer Carnes	Meegan Meeks
Arleen Cumisky	Laura Laffer	Peter Vavasour
Carmen Felix	Celaine Brillon	Sonia Brust
Diane Garcia	Alishia Esposito	Michelle Holick
Sigfrido Nunez (Enrich. Only)		
Phoenix Dudley (CRC Site Facilitator Only)		

Accept Retirements:

Lona Lopez, 26 years, 6 months	Christine Burnett, 37 years
Linda Polo, 26 years months	Susan Lodzsun, 23 years, 11 months
Beverly Graham 18 years, 9 months	Ann Prybylski, 39 years

CERTIFIED NEW HIRES – 6/20/14-9/4/14

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
ABRAMS	HILLARY	PEMBROKE	NURSE
AGUAYO	STEVEN	WSMSA	SPANISH
ARMENTANO	JULIANE	DHS	ENGLISH
AUGUSTYN	MELISSA	WSMSA	STEM SOCIAL STUDIES

BAIAMONTE	DANIELLE	ELLSWORTH	SPED
BARTZ	DAWN	WSMSA	GLOBAL STUDIES THEME COACH
BATES	KELLY	MRP	KINDERGARTEN
BILBAO	SORAYA	DHS	ESL 1 YR L/T SUB
BOHAN	AMANDA	MORRIS	SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
BREHANT	SARA-BETH	PARK AVE	GRADE 4
BRESCHARD	JESSICA	SOUTH ST.	.4 ART
BROAD	MICHELLE	MRP	KINDERGARTEN
BROTHERS	NICOLE	SOUTH STREET	KINDERGARTEN
CABRAL	AMY	PEMBROKE	LANGUAGE ARTS SPECIALIST
CAMERA	CHRISTOPHER	ELLSWORTH	KINDERGARTEN
CAMPOS	PATRICIA	MRP	BILINGUAL
CARVAJAL-CLARKE		NUR	WSMSA SPANISH (RESIGNED)
CHALK	NICOLE	KSI	GRADE 4
CORAIZACA MACANCELA		JESSICA	WSMSA SPANISH
CORRAL	ASHLEY	ELLSWORTH	GRADE 2
CRISOSTOMO-LENZ		CARMEN	DHS ESL
CURLEY	MICHAEL	BVMS	SOCIAL STUDIES
DANDENEAU	ELIZABETH	WSMSA	MUSIC
DE JESUS	MARIA	DHS	ENGLISH
DE LA VEGA	ALESSANDRA	WSMSA	SPANISH
DE LOTTO	ANDREA	DHS	ENGLISH
DIGUISEPPI	JOSEPH	WSMSA	ART
DOBOSZ	JILLIAN	DHS	ENGLISH
DOMERCANT	KIMBERLY	DHS	ENGLISH
DONATY	MICHELE	MRP	GRADE 1/2 LOOP CLASS
DROUIN	NICHOLAS	WSMSA	PHYSICAL ED
DUDLEY	PHOENIX	STR	GRADE 3
DUFEL	CHRISTOPHER	DHS	SPED GRADE 9
DUFF	CHARLES	RPMS	LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST
ECKSTEIN	ALENA	DHS	SPANISH
EVANS	KYLE	WSMSA	TECH MEDIA DIGITAL MEDIA DESIGN FOCUS
FIORE	MICHELLE	AIS	GRADE 2
FITCH	RITA	ELLS / DECEC	SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
FOY	TALISHA	ELL DEPT. HEAD	DHS (RESIGNED)
FRESSOLA	LIESL	STR / PARK AVE	MATH SPECIALIST
FROEHLICH	DEBORAH	PARK AVE	GRADE 2
FURMAN	STEPHANIE	HAYESTOWN	PRINCIPAL
GARCIA	DIANE	DHS	BIL.GUID.COUNS 1 Yr. L/T SUB (RESIGNED)
GARNER	BENJAMIN	PARK AVE	MUSIC
GENCARELLI	ELAINE	DHS	LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST
GIANNONE	JOSHUA	SHR	KINDERGARTEN
GILBERT	DANIEL	BVMS	MATH GRADE 8
GILLINGHAM	LAUREN	STR	KINDERGARTEN
GLASHEEN	LAUREN	BVMS	ENGLISH
GONZALEZ	PATRICIA	DHS	WORLD LANG, DEPT HEAD
GOULART	EMILY	SOUTH / MORRIS	BILINGUAL PORTUGUESE
GRANT	RICHARD	DHS	SOCIAL STUDIES
GRECO	SERAFINA	DHS	SOCIAL STUDIES
GREENE	AMY	PEMBROKE	BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST
GUARDADO	HANS	PEMBROKE	GRADE 2
HADDAD	CHRISTINE	WSMSA	LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST
HAGE	RAYAN	DHS	BIOLOGY
HARRIS	TODD	DHS	MATH
HUNT	SCOTT	WSMSA	PSYCHOLOGIST
KELLER	DANIELLE	RPMS	READING GRADE 6

KERPEN	CARISSA	BVMS	ENGLISH GRADE 6
KETTERL	DANA	RPMS	ENGLISH
KISIELEWSKI	SARAH	DHS	SPED
KRAFTY	MARIA	WSMSA	PHYSICAL ED
LEFEBVRE	AMANDA	ACE	.6 ENGLISH
LUCAS	CHESTER	PARK AVE	GRADE 2
MACEY	KELLY	DHS	HEALTH
MACKENZIE	JOHN	KSP	.4 PE
MAHER	MELINDA	STR	GRADE 2
MAROCCHINI	LINDSEY	SHR	KINDERGARTEN
MC NAMEE	JULIA	BVMS / RPMS	READING DEPT HEAD
MEERMAN	KATHERINE	PARK AVE	GRADE 3
MELLO	ERIN	AIS	ELEM. MULTICULTURAL COACH
MIELE	SABRINA	HAYESTOWN	PSYCHOLOGIST
MOONEY	KAYLA	DHS	CHEMISTRY
MOORE	JULIE	AIS	GRADE 4
MOROS	JACQUELINE	PARK AVE	KINDERGARTEN
MUELLER	JESSICA	BVMS	ENGLISH GRADE 8
MURPHY	JAME	DECEC	SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
NEWMAN	REBECCA	PARK AVE	GRADE 2
NEWSOME	JENNA	PEMBROKE	SPED
NUEHAUSEL	JONATHAN	WSMSA	STEM THEME COACH
NIEDERHAUSER		MEGHAN	HAYESTOWN SPEECH LANG.
PATHOLOGIST - 1 YR L/T SUB			
NIEZ	KATRINA	WSMSA	SIOP COACH
ONDEK	JENNIFER	DHS	GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
PACETE	JOY	BVMS	SCIENCE GRADE 7
PACHECO	ALEXANDRA	ELLS	.4 ESL
PANNOZZO	KRISTIN	RPMS	SPED
PASCARELLI	JUDE	DHS	MATH
PETERS	ANDREA	DHS	SPED
PIEDMONT	MEGHAN	HAYESTOWN	GRADE 2
PIERRESAINT	KENNY	WSMSA	ENGLISH GRADE 6 - GENERAL STUDIES
PLIEGO	NICOLE	PARK AVE	GRADE 3
PRENDERGAST	SHERI	WSMSA	MATH GRADE 6
RANDALL	MARY	KSI, KSP, HAYES	SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
RIVERA	SONIA	RPMS	GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
PURDY	CHRISTOPHER	RPMS	SCIENCE GRADE 8
SCHULTZ	ASHLEY	HAYESTOWN	GRADE 4 - 1 YR L/T SUB
SOLINGER	CAROL	DHS	ART - 1 YR L/T SUB
SPIRIDON	STEPHANIE	DHS	BUSINESS ED
SQUILLACE	DOREEN	BVMS	READING GRADE 7
STOJA	HEATHER	DHS	SPED
SUMMERHAYS	HOLLY	DECEC	NURSE
TAGLIAVENTO	LISA	HAYESTOWN	GRADE 3 -1YR L/T SUB
TRASACCO	ALEX	DHS	TECH ED
VIOLA	MEGHAN	STR	GRADE 4
WALKER	ELISABETH	PARK AVE	KINDERGARTEN
WALTER	PROSPERE	RPMS	FRENCH
YANG	HUI-CHIN	WSMSA	.6 MANDARIN
ZOELLER	HANNAH	ELLSWORTH	GRADE 1

NON-CERTIFIED & SUMMER 2014 NEW HIRES - 6/20/14-9/4/14

Name	Location	Subject
Jennifer Carey	BBAC	IT Specialist
Carol Doran	RPMS	Level Sec'y
Mark Ecke	DHS	Tutor - Head Football Coach

Katherine Fortier	BVMS	Admin. Ass't.
Wendy Gomez	RPMS	Guid. Sec'y
Evelyn Medina	RPMS	Level Sec'y
Linda Blanco-Borkowski	DECEC	School Readiness Coord.
Barbara Savo	WSMSA	PARA - Tech. Aide
Natee Garcia	Pembroke	Tutor
April Bendlin	Pembroke	Tutor
Grace Kipp	DHS	Tutor
Leroy Johnson	DHS	Tutor
Diane Handlmaier	Pembroke	Tutor
Bernadette Maresca	Hayes	Tutor
Mayra Mesa	South St.	Tutor
Anasia Guzman	Hayes	Tutor
Kasheema Robinson	Pembroke	Tutor
Cynthia Hayum Wagnerman	Pembroke	Tutor
Niema Parker	Pembroke	Tutor
Chelsea Paden	RPMS	Tutor
Giessika Al Hayek	BVMS	Tutor
Abigail Radzimirski	Hayes	Tutor
Stephanie Shaughnessy	RPMS	Tutor
Cheyenne Skinner	Osborne	CRC Data Entry/Billing
Sonia Brust	BVMS	L/T Portuguese Bilingual Teach
Elizabeth King	DHS	L/T ESL Teach
Susanne Creaturo	GRP	Tutor
Lina Hurwitz	DHS	Tutor
Nicole Weinhaus	Pembroke	Tutor
Gregory Palanzo	DHS	Tutor - Freshman Football Coach
Michelle Botelho	RPMS	Tutor
Jennifer Warren	AIS	Tutor
Haley Ahrstrom	WSMSA	CRC Enrichment Associate
Timothy Nott	AIS	CRC Enrichment Associate
Jennifer Rasamny	Hayes	Tutor
Reena Puri	Hayes	Tutor
Monica Gorman	Pembroke	Tutor
Jeffrey Smith	WSMSA	Safety Advocate
Ashley Dovale	DECEC	Tutor
Gessika AlHayek	Hayes	CRC Enrichment Associate
Rebecca Whitney	KSP	Tutor
Amanda Pirri	Hayestown	CRC Site Facilitator
Phoenix Dudley	Ellsworth	CRC Site Facilitator
Kelly Iasiello	Morris Street	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Anthony Provenzale	WSMSA	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Sani Nabi	RPMS	PARA - Tech. Aide
Jessica Durkin	Pembroke	Tutor
Morgan Ehrler	Ellsworth	CRC Enrich. Assoc.
Andi Mead	RPMS	Tutor
Megan Mancuso	Sec. Summer Program	P/T Nurse
Lynn Given	SPED Summer School	P/T Nurse
Cherie Gardner	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Marc Brown		Temp. Seasonal Custodian
David Evans		Temp. Seasonal Custodian
Suzanne Pumroy		Temp. Seasonal Custodian
Richard Torres		Temp. Seasonal Custodian
Daniel Cataldo		Temp. Seasonal Custodian
Nicholas Zustovich		Temp. Seasonal Custodian
Soksamnang Moeun		Temp. Seasonal Custodian

Joseph Simao		Temp. Seasonal Custodian
Genna Barnes	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Kim Battocchio	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Tim Bishop	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Jean Carroll-Jones	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Rose Coladarci	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Amber Davidson	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Kali Doan-Hough	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Alison Donofrio	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Ashley Dovale	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Phoenix Dudley	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Emily Freundt	EL Summer Program	Program Assistant
Karen Gillette	EL Summer Program	Program Assistant
Iman Grey	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Alexandra Kelleher	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Mary Kelly	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Kara Mendes	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Monica Mollengarden	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Jacqueline Morgan	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Melissa Newsome	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Amy Parisi	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Emily Patton	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Elsa Rebello	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Brittney Rozum	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Anne Shields	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Thais Silva	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Simone Simon	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Kiara Vasquez	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Debra Vega	EL Summer Program	Enrichment Associate
Liz Campbell	Shelter Rock	Lead Teacher
Robert Zupperoli	Shelter Rock	Teacher
Jeff Rosado	Shelter Rock	Teacher
Elizabeth DiResto	Shelter Rock	Teacher
Tania Fernandez	Shelter Rock	Teacher
Rick Roos	Shelter Rock	Teacher
Katie Williams	Ellsworth	Lead Teacher
Michele Masi	Ellsworth	Teacher
Diana Gomez	Ellsworth	Teacher
Alex Kelleher	Ellsworth	Teacher
Caitlin Palinkas	Ellsworth	Teacher
Hannah Zoeller	Ellsworth	Teacher
Georgia Lambrakis	Ellsworth	Teacher
Julia Tracey	South Street	Lead Teacher
Sara Beth Brehant	South Street	Teacher
Jackie Moros	South Street	Teacher
Michele Parker	South Street	Teacher
Carolyn Keenan	South Street	Teacher
Tina Tenreiro	South Street	Teacher
Gwen Davidson	South Street	Teacher
Sara Downs	South Street	Teacher
Casey Duffy	STAR Summer School	Teacher
Anne Cunningham	STAR Summer School	Teacher
Julie Pokrinchak	STAR Summer School	Teacher
Crystal Rossi	STAR Summer School	Teacher
Shantay Primus	STAR Summer School	Teacher
Pam Aikman	STAR Summer School	Teacher

Rachel Saunder	STAR Summer School	Teacher
Ken Seder	STAR Summer School	Teacher
Eric Shetler	STAR Summer School	Teacher
Hillary Singer	STAR Summer School	Teacher
Meredith Kinscherf	STAR Summer School	Teacher
Barbara Bogart	Sec. Summer School	Teacher
David Colosanto	Sec. Summer School	Teacher
Ray Colletti	Sec. Summer School	Teacher
Ali El Moustakim	Sec. Summer School	Teacher
Chris Fay	Sec. Summer School	Teacher
Denise Fitzsimmons	Sec. Summer School	Teacher
Lillian Hope	Sec. Summer School	Teacher
Amy Manka	Sec. Summer School	Teacher
Elliott Smith	Sec. Summer School	Teacher
Kenneth Vasquez	Sec. Summer School	Teacher
Tom Young	Morris Street	Teacher
John Zilliox	Morris Street	Teacher
Tracey Guerrero	Morris Street	Teacher
Tracy Scalzo	Morris Street	Teacher
Rhoda Guider	Morris Street	Teacher
Tina Pote	Morris Street	Teacher
Jennifer Strohmeyer	Morris Street	Teacher
Jamie Pandolfi	Hayestown	Teacher
Melissa Radachowsky	Hayestown	Teacher
Patricia Campos	Hayestown	Teacher
Claudia Lavoie	Hayestown	Teacher
Mary Tahan	Hayestown	Teacher
Meghan Viola	Hayestown	Teacher
Zulma Colon	SPED Summer School	P/T Sub Nurse
Maryann Corcoran	Elem. Summer School	P/T Nurse
Joseph Simao	SUB	Custodian
Soksamngang Moeun	SUB	Custodian
Andrew Strauss	SUB	Teacher
Christine Merrer	SUB	Speech Lang. Path.
Melissa Arsenault	SUB	Guidance Counselor
Shannon Henggeler	SUB	CRC Site Facilitator
Roxana Dilak	WERACE	Inst. Lead Infant/Todd.
Jocilane Raigosa	SHR	Parent Liaison
Christopher Kwait		Translator/Interpreter
Nadine Crowder	WERACE	Fam. Literacy Program Coord.
Carley Irvin	SUB	Teacher

DONATIONS

Accept anonymous donation of \$10,000 for Mill Ridge Primary

Accept donation of literacy and numeracy resources from Robert Cox, valued at approximately \$129,000

Accept donation of \$6,000 from Pitney Bowes Foundation to Danbury Education Foundation: \$3,500 to Family Literacy Center and \$2,500 to School Readiness

Accept \$10,000 donation from Sodexo

Motion carried at 7:36 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS Representatives: Jamie Gherna told the Board that school got off to a great start. Transition for freshmen was fantastic. We are so excited to be here. Grace Gillotti stated that we have eight new picnic tables. With the money we raised for “Celebrate My Drive” we gave \$10,000 for the Mayor’s foundation (this was the largest donation); seed money for this year’s program for all classes for after prom party/safe driving; landscaping for front and signage landscape and we are in the process of investigating ceiling fans for classrooms. Tyler Amaral said the Board is invited to Senior Fest on Friday, football season opener on Friday, Band Jamboree is on Saturday at DHS and DHS Open House is on Monday in the auditorium. Dr. Pascarella said a lot of time was spent on landscaping.

PRESENTATION

Summer School, Terence Cunningham

Mr. Cunningham gave the Board an overview of the Summer School Program. 17 Danbury teachers were employed. They established high expectations and provided an experience to the students to rise above the challenges they faced academically. More students attended summer school this year than last year. The STAR Program was implemented last year to support our 8th grade students who had difficulty with academic success in middle school. This year the program was expanded to all middle school grades.

Dr. Mary Veach told the Board that High School Credit Recovery consisted of a 2 two-week sessions that corresponded with each of the semesters of instruction at DHS. In order for a DHS student to be eligible for summer school, he/she must have passed at least one of the quarters in the respective semester. In the high school program, 183 students were enrolled in 269 classes: 174 were DHS students, 10 were from 4 other districts. Classes with the highest enrollment were Algebra I, Biology, and English I.

ACTION ITEMS - None

The Chairperson said we usually go through the consent calendar and do not individually acknowledge the donations to the district. I would like to call your attention to the following donations:

Anonymous donation of \$10,000 for Mill Ridge Primary

Donation of literacy and numeracy resources from Robert Cox, valued at approximately \$129,000

Donation of \$6,000 from Pitney Bowes Foundation to Danbury Education Foundation: \$3,500 to Family Literacy Center and \$2,500 to School Readiness

Donation of \$10,000 from Sodexo

She thanked them for their donations on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Pietrafesa told the Board that on Customer Appreciation Day, which was back-to-back with Taste of Danbury, Anne Mead and Loren Daly were there with the Family Literacy Learning Van giving the public information on the Danbury Public Schools and how parents can be engaged in the classrooms. Each child that visited the Van left with a new book.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Transportation

Dr. Pascarella said that we added 4 more buses. We have some real challenges this year. The code tells us kids can walk 2 miles to a bus stop – others say 1 ½ miles. There is a unique situation in the code which sometimes prevents us from making the bus stops. We are adjusting the current buses. To meet state mandates the buses can't go across our boundaries.

Mr. Martino said the Abby Woods development was the former Union Carbide property – the roads in that development are termed as private roads. We have 50 students in that area. There are some long walking distances. There are many more students moving into Abby Woods – we are going to put in two common stops. There are some roads deemed as private and we will not be going into those roads. We are evaluating stop runs for going into that development.

The Superintendent said it all has to do with the State code. If we wanted to, we just couldn't do. The road has to meet specifications. Going through those steps we would like to continue to evaluate it. If there is ice or snow, we can't go there. Private roads do not meet the standards. We will have to add one bus that will help us with the situation. Our enrollments are going up.

Mr. Martino said the ridership across the city is up. We now have a bus 57 and 57a. It has been a very challenging year in buses. The Magnet School has 11 buses. We are have authorization for a fourth bus, but I think we will have to get five. Great Plain is overcrowded. The cost of each bus is approximately \$59,000. He said Melanie Lucas processes 200 changes a day plus new sign-ons.

Ms. Alberts thanked the people that take care of the bus routes. She said she has heard from numerous parents. The Superintendent said Robin Provey, Public Relations Liaison, is writing an article on the challenges we are having. He said we are working with the City in terms of road conditions. Ms. Alberts said we will visit this in October.

Facilities Update

Mr. Martino said over the summer the floors were waxed in all schools. We have major projects done: added an office at ACE; Pembroke School put up another wall for a classroom; Rogers Park we moved part of the main office for a better traffic pattern and at DHS we got some new risers, desks, chairs and cafeteria tables.

Technology Update

Mr. Martino told the Board that Ed Lathrop did an amazing job on Park Avenue and Westside Middle School Academy. He worked weekends to get everything in order for opening day. He has some unbelievable knowledge.

Mr. Martino said Yevgeniy Sklyar and his team of 5 staff members did an incredible job this summer. The team is one of the smallest in CT for a district our size but they were able to accomplish the following major projects to name a few: Fiber connection, network deployment and new equipment setup at Park Avenue, Shelter Rock, Stadley Rough schools in conjunction with the new construction as well as 500 new machines at the new Westside Middle School Academy. Re-imaging all existing students' computers in all the schools. Installation of wireless system at six schools. Upgrading LAN connection between buildings to 10Gb, and OS software on all the district servers (windows and apple) including VMware, Citrix. Deployment of new equipment for DHS lease. Deployment of new copiers.

Hiring Update

Ms. Thompson said quite a few staff members retired this year. We have a lot of people that notified us they were leaving 10 days before school started. We are still processing people. We processed 111 certified staff members and over 200 non-certified. We have had tremendous feedback. I am delighted with the demographics of this group. We will have some graphs at the next meeting to show you. I have a great team in my office. They have done a tremendous job. Laura Locke in past years hired 34-40 staff each for the beginning of the school year; this year she processed 111.

Commissioner's Back to School Meeting

The Superintendent said the Commissioner is resigning. At the Commissioner's Back to School meeting on August 19th, the focus was on teacher evaluation and teacher accountability. Testing was also discussed. Danbury is making the difference. The states have been focusing on English language learners. The teachers and the PTO are having meet the candidates' night.

CCJEF Update

Dr. Pascarella said this is the court case against the state. We had a CCJEF attorney come in and interviewed teachers and administrators. Dr. Glass and I are witnesses. We will be testifying on the case. We will let you know the outcome.

Nellie Mae Grant

Nellie Mae is the premier grant in the nation. They gave the high school quite a lot of money. Dr. Pascarella said they called him two weeks ago and asked if he would like to have \$100,000 to continue the work. We talked about the Coherence Program and we would like to get everyone focusing on those activities. At DHS we are calling it 'Twilight School'. If it works I will go back to Nellie Mae for the rest of our students.

Coherence Plan Update – No discussion

Opening day was really good opening day – No discussion

DISCUSSION

Enrollment

Dr. Pascarella said the official enrollment is October 1st. As of last Monday we asked the principals to drop students that did not show up. At the high school there is a waiting list to get in some courses. Middle schools and elementary schools are not an issue. In the redistricting we did do some balancing. This is the first year of full day Kindergarten. We expected more parents to enroll their children than did. The numbers are lower. Morris came down. Ellsworth increased in number. In October we will have a better idea of the enrollment.

INFORMATION

Building Rental Fund Financial Report – No discussion

Year-End Financial Report

Mr. Jannelli had a question about giving the City \$1.5 dollars. Mr. Martino said that was a set aside number. Mr. Jannelli asked if that can be highlighted saying what it is a part of. Can you put a line on the bottom? Mr. Martino said you will see that on the next agenda.

2014-2015 Educator Evaluation & Support Plan Approval – No discussion

Year 3 Alliance & Priority School District Consolidated Application – No discussion

Mr. Jannelli said that Education Connection will be moving to an office on Main Street. The Superintendent said they are scheduled to open in January.

Mr. Pietrafesa said Citywide PTO had a tour of the Westside Middle School Academy and they loved it.

The Chairperson, Ms. Alberts, thanked everyone who came to the opening.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Alberts said she has information on the cell tower and she will forward it to all Board members.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS – No reports

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: R. Hawley moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending legal matters.

Present: Eileen Alberts, Michael Ferguson, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, David Metrena, Ralph Pietrafesa, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

Absent: Kathleen Molinaro, Gladys Cooper

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

Motion carried at 8:40 pm.

Ms. Alberts called the Executive Session to order at 8:47 pm and turned the meeting over to Kim Thompson. A brief discussion followed concerning pending legal matters.

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education return to Public Session.

Motion carried at 9:20 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

P. Tranzillo moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education adjourn its September 10, 2014 Board meeting and the meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Richard Hawley, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)