

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

Rogers Park Middle School Cafeteria

**6:30 P.M. Reception for Teacher of the Year,
new hires and tenured teachers.**

7:00 P.M. Board Meeting

NOTE: Due to malfunction of the recording equipment, these minutes may not accurately record Board members' comments and/or questions, as well as Administrators' dialogue.

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson Gladys Cooper, called the meeting to order at 7:10 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, Richard Hawley, Kathleen Molinaro, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo also Drs. Glass and Pascarella, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Martino from Administration.

Absent: Richard Jannelli

RECOGNITIONS

Chairperson Gladys Cooper, thanked Ed Arum, Acting Finance Director for the District over the past several months, for all his work and efforts on behalf of the Danbury Board of Education and the Board presented Mr. Arum with a gift.

Principal of Rogers Park Middle School, Patricia Joaquim, introduced the Teacher of the Year. Ms. Kristy Zaleta is a Science teacher at Rogers Park Middle School and has been a teacher in Danbury for 9 years. Dr. Harry Rosvally told the Board that he recommended Ms. Zaleta for Middle School Connecticut Science Teacher of the Year and she is most deserving of being chosen.

Dr. Pascarella thanked the new hires and the tenured teachers for attending the reception this evening. He said that he is looking forward to working with them in the coming year.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Dayna Shliger, a parent of a student in the Stem Program, told the Board that her child is experiencing a lunch account problem. In an effort to correct it, she called the Food Service Department and they said they could not do anything about it. Therefore she is here this evening to ask that the Board look into it. Ms. Cooper stated that the Board could not respond this evening to her concern, but that it will be looked into.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 12-132 through 12-136 as recommended:

MINUTES: Board Meeting 8/13/12
Board Workshop 9/5/12

PERSONNEL

Accept Leave of Absence: Bevin Ginty Rosa Middleton Lisa Patel

Accept Resignation:

Hanely Acosta	Marybeth Allo	Loraanne Azzarito
Keisha Benjamin	Susen Blume	Katharine Bobel
Florence Budge	Alexandria Composto	Dona DeGrazia
Amy Fata	Heather Fraticelli	Kim Freitas
Joel Gomes	Jackie Gronwoltd	(Advisor Debate Team Only)
Andrew Hall	Alicia Insinna	Renee Leekin
Christine Mahana	Sterling Miller	(Grant Coord. Only)
Kelly Mohr	Catherine Monroe	Kathy Pacheco
Edwin Pena	Ana Pereira-Fieschi	Jean Rivot
Debora Russell	Joann Stergue	Badia Stevenson
Bersaida Vega	Shaneeka Walker	Susan Zanard

New Hires:

Name	Location	Certified Subject
Ellen Adamski	KSI	SPED
Meghan Bakach	GRP	Kindergarten
Barbara Bogart	DHS	Bilingual Biology
Elena Buzaid	South	Kindergarten
Kirsten Callisen	MOR	Kindergarten
Bonnie Caton	STR	LA Consultant
Zulma Colon	ACE/RPMS	Nurse
Kimberly D'Auria	DHS	F&C Science
Arielle Fischer	DHS	English
Trisha Frysinger	ELLS	Grade 5
Breanne Gillespie	DHS	English
Diana Gomez	ELLS	Kindergarten L/T Sub
Tracy Guerrero	MOR	Grade 5
Brian Hayes	ELLS	Grade 3
Daniel Heitor	RPMS	Social Studies
Shannon Henggeler	STR	Grade5 L/T Sub
Nancy Herold	RPMS	Grade 6 - Bilingual
Meredith Homza	RPMS	6th Grade STEM - Lang. Arts
Amanda Johnson	DHS	Math
Jennifer Kober	DHS	English
Lisa Lack	MREC	Psychologist
Christine Liner-Robles	GRP	Grade 2
Susan Lyden	DHS	SPED
Christina Mandarino	GRP	Bilingual Teach
Patricia Mc Carthy	MRP	SPED
Jaimie Mc Grath	RPMS	Grade 6 Science
Emina Mesanovic	DHS	Chemistry
Amy Moody	GRP	SPED
Sonia Moore	DHS	SPED - Basic Academic Skills
Jarrett Newman	DHS	Math
Julie Pokrinchak	ACE	.4 English
Christine Riter	DHS	Social Studies - 1 yr LT Sub
Sandy Rodrigues	Park	Psychologist
Matthew Roumeles	DHS	Social Studies
Chip Salvestrini	DHS	Athletic Director
Tracey Scalzo	MOR	Kindergarten

Megan Seckinger	Park	Kindergarten
Eric Shetler	RPMS	Grade 8 STEM
Erica Thompson	KSI	TESOL
Rachel Torres-O'Leary	DHS	Social Studies
Kristen Troester	STR	Grade 1
Quinn Uniacke	AIS	Grade 4
Catherine Val	RPMS	Biology L/T Sub
Leigh Viviano	Pemb.	SPED
Edward Wachowski, Jr.	STR Principal	
Kathleen Watkins	District	Behavior Analyst
Ian Wendel	South	Grade 5
Jacqueline Ziegelmeier	Park	Grade 1
Rowena Zylali	DHS	TESOL
Name	Location	Non-Certified Subject
BANG, ANDREA M	MREC	Para Hd St after7/89
COLON, ZULMA I	ROGERS PARK	NURSE
FARBER, DEBORAH W.	PEMBROKE	TUTOR
FATA, AMY E	MREC	Ass't Teacher
LANE, ASHLEY L	MORRIS STREET	TUTOR
LARSON, HEATHER A	BBAC	IT TECHNICIAN
MORGAN, JAMIE L.	ELLSWORTH AVE	TUTOR
O'LEARY, CARISSA A	PEMBROKE	TUTOR
SANFORD, MICHELLE	CRC	SECRETARY 52 WEEK
SCHECHTER, LAURA S	MREC	Asst. Tchr Headstart
SENIOR, KATHLEEN F	MREC	Asst. Tchr Headstart
TRAN, MICHELLE	KING STREET PRIMARY	TUTOR
TRINKLEIN, KYLA M	KING STREET PRIMARY	TUTOR
TRUCHSESS, KELLY A.	DANBURY HIGH	ADMINISTRA 206
VELEZ, SANDY O.	MREC	HEAD START
ALLEY, MELISSA D		SUB TEACHER
BANG, KAYLA D		SUNSATONAL STAFF
BELLAMY, CARA S.		SUB TEACHER
BELOT, BRITTNEY N		ADULT ED INTERN WIA WERAC
BEN-AMI, HILARY		SUB TEACHER
BENDLIN, APRIL M		SUB TEACHER
BENICEWICZ, LINDSAY		CRC Enrich Assoc.
BOLLMAN, EMILY N		SUB TEACHER
BREITENBACH, KIMBERLY L	SUB TEACHER	
BROWN, LAUREN E		SUB TEACHER
CHILA, TARA		SUB TEACHER
CHIOCCHIO, CHRISTINA R.	Extended Learning Center	
DALEY, ALICIA M		SUB TEACHER
DALY, MARIA D		SUB PARA/TUTOR
DE RITO, PAULETTE		ADULT ED
DE VITO III, JOHN N		SUB TEACHER
DIBUONO, JOSEPH		SUB TEACHER
EVANS, DAVID W		TEMP CUSTODIAN
FRYE, MAUREEN		SUB TEACHER
GALLANT, JANELLE		SUB TEACHER/PARA/TUTOR
GEBING, TRAVIS		CRC Enrich Assoc.
GILLINGHAM, LAUREN	SUB TEACHER	
GUIDER, MICHELLE R.		BAND AIDS
GUIDOTTI, CYNTHIA M		Western Connection
HAGE, RAYAN		CRC Enrich Assoc.
HAHN, KIMBERLY E		SUB TEACHER

HENRY, JENEANE N		Summer School
HUTTON, KIM ROBIN		TEMP CUSTODIAN
INGRAHAM, EMILY		SUB TEACHER
JACKSON, ROSEMARY	SUB TEACHER	
MAHER, RENATE		Seasonal Start Up Officer
MARUSZEWSKI, MARY		SUB TEACHER
MICHAEL, WILLIAM C		SUB TEACHER
MILES, SUSAN J		ADULT ED
MUNNERLYN, CHRISTINA	SUB TEACHER	
NA, MONY		CRC Enrich Assoc.
OVERTHROW, HALEY		BAND AIDS
PETERSON, SANDY K.		ADULT ED
POODIACK, DEBORAH A	SUB PARA/TUTOR	
PORTER, VICTORIA		CRC Enrich Assoc.
PREVILLE, CHRISTINA C	SUB TEACHER	
RENJILIAN, LUCILLE		SUB TEACHER
REYNOLDS, KATHLEEN		SUB TEACHER
RODRIGUEZ, SCARLET G.	TEMP CUSTODIAN	
RUIZ, HECTOR L.		ADULT ED
RUPP, MICHAEL T		TEMP CUSTODIAN
SALEM, SASHA G.		ADULT ED
SPAKOWSKI, ALICIA M	Western Connection	
STEWART, EILEEN C		SUB TEACHER
TEICH, SHIRA A		SUMMER SCHOOL TEACHER
TRACEY, JULIA		SUB TEACHER/SECRETARY
TRACY, NANCY R		ADULT ED
TURCO-ELLIOTT, DOREENA	SUB TEACHER	
WATSON, TIFFANY		SUB TEACHER
WILLIAMS, ROBERT M		TEMP CUSTODIAN
WOOD, KAREN L		SUB NURSE

DONATIONS

Accept IBM Community Grant of \$3,000 to Morris Street School

Accept City of Danbury Grant of \$7,601 to the Family Literacy Center

Ms. Steichen had a few questions about the categories of the non-certified positions of the new hires. She stated that there were acronyms that she did not understand. Ms. Thompson explained what the acronyms stood for.

Motion carried at 7:22 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE – None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Danbury High School:

Justin Kenny introduced Nick DiNardo and Gabriella Buzaid. The representatives told the Board that the morale at DHS was high; and everything is going well. It was stated that Home Coming would be on October 20th. They are in the process of putting together an anti-bullying campaign.

Alternative Center:

Jessica Pacheco a senior at ACE told the Board that she has been at ACE for 3 years. She would like to thank and praise the students that volunteered and helped out at the Taste of Danbury. Several students worked hard in pouring rain to take down tents and secure them on Sunday afternoon - we volunteer for this activity

each year; some of the upcoming events planned include our Kick-Off Opening Event at Squantz Pond on Friday. We start the year in the ACE tradition with team building and bonding experiences that the whole school can participate in; Parent Night is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19th at 7:30 at ACE; Our first Outdoor Experience Trip will be October 4, 5 and 6 to Pennsylvania. It will be a three day Canoe trip and 14 students will experience some of the great fall foliage; some classes are planning to participate in the upcoming Westconn events for the Dalai Lama visit - this includes students building a Peace Dove and learning about the culture of Nepal.

Ms. Cooper thanked the student representatives for attending tonight's Board meeting even though they have a busy schedule.

PRESENTATION - Alliance School Application, Dr. William Glass

Dr. Glass explained to the Board the edits, questions and comments on the application. He stated that he will be resubmitting it in a day or two. He indicated to the Board that they have a copy of the application as it was originally prepared. He gave the Board some accounting on how the funds would be spent and stated that after it was accepted, the funds distribution could be readjusted although Administration would have to follow the instructions on the application.

Ms. Steichen said she would like to have a copy of the application so that she can see where the money is going. She felt she needs some time before voting on it. Dr. Pascarella responded that the Board did vote on the draft.

ACTION ITEMS

Authorized Signature Change Form

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education authorize Dr. Sal Pascarella and Mr. Joseph Martino to sign the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs and claims for reimbursement

Motion carried at 8:02 pm.

Additional Teachers

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to hire a special education teacher for Broadview Middle School (from IDEA Grant) and a first grade teacher at Ellsworth Avenue School.

Motion carried at 8:05 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Opening Day Update

Dr. Pascarella said Opening Day at DHS was a huge success. This year we had the students take the stage and they spoke about how teachers have affected their lives. They also stated what they would like to see at the various schools. Dr. Pascarella gave the Board a list of their wishes and some concerns that they would like to have addressed. The Superintendent was impressed with the students' comments including how the various programs at the schools have impacted their lives.

Enrollment/Staffing Update

Dr. Pascarella told the Board that this is not the official enrollment. The October 1st report is the official report for the district. At this time there are still students registering and other moving. He then thanked the

Board for voting in the teacher at Broadview and the first grade teacher at Ellsworth. A Board member asked if there was an extra classroom for the additional first grade – Mr. Martino responded that there was and that the only thing they needed to do was to get furniture and supplies. Dr. Pascarella told the Board as of September 4th, there are 5,128 students in the elementary grades K-5; Broadview 1,062; Rogers Park 1,164; DHS 2,802; and ACE 72. The only difference between 2011 and 2012 total students is that this year we have 19 fewer students.

The question was asked if there was a target enrollment at ACE since there are only 72 students there now, as there are more students that would qualify. Dr. Pascarella said that this is a school of choice. He asked Joyce Emmett if she would address the enrollment. She told the Board that enrollment can go up to 90 at ACE and some students are presently looking into going there.

A Board member asked about how much was saved in bus expense since more all day kindergartens were added. Dr. Pascarella asked Mr. Martino to respond. He said that he really does not like to give a guesstimate, but it would be about \$65,000. They have reduced 22 buses down to 13. The next question was how these savings would be spent; what would the funds be allocated to, would it go towards what we had to cut from the budget. Dr. Pascarella responded that the money will go back to the kids.

School Reform Initiatives

Dr. Pascarella briefly spoke about the School Reform Initiatives. He explained the calendar implementation starting in 2012 through 2015. One of the mandates for 2012 is 20 minutes of physical activity during the regular school day. For 2013, new educator evaluation process to be fully implemented; teachers must be oriented and evaluators trained prior to implementation. For 2014, teachers and administrators working with K-3 students must begin to sit for State approved reading practices assessment; students entering grade 9 are impacted by new State graduation standards; CSDE completes development and approval of end-of-courses for high school. For 2015, first statewide administration of SBAC assessments in last 12 weeks of school year.

A Board member asked if the 20 minutes of physical activity is being done in all the schools, including middle schools. Dr. Pascarella asked that Dr. Glass check on all the schools to see that this if being implemented.

Sequestration Notice

Dr. Pascarella briefly mentioned the invoice that he sent to U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal summarizing what the outstanding balances would be if the state cuts would be 7.8% (\$323,655.93) or 9.1% (\$377,598.59).

Strategic 5-Year Goals

Dr. Pascarella said that the Board will meet on the strategic 5-year goals.

DISCUSSION - None

INFORMATION

DHS field trip to Quebec, Canada, February 14-17, 2013

DHS field trip to Paris, Barcelona, April 12-22, 2013

Ms. Aline Dennison spoke about the two trips. She stated that the students are able to do fund-raisers; and they stated that for some reason the students do not like to do fund-raiser for these kinds of trips, but are

willing to do it for local trips. They are more comfortable with their parents paying. She then qualified about one of the trips that students would only miss a half-day.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Communications/Attendance

Ms. Cooper said to look over the Board attendance and let Debbie Warner know if what is recorded for you is not correct.

Board Retreat, October 13, 2012, 8:00-12:00 at BBAC

Ms. Cooper said that an e-mail had been sent to the Board advising them of the October retreat and asked for their input on what they feel the goals of the Board should be and what they would like to see the Board address. She said there would be a facilitator at the meeting. She urged the Board members to please send their goal information to Debbie Warner as soon as possible. She also told the Board that they would review them before the meeting.

CABE Convention, November 16-17, 2012

Ms. Cooper asked that they notify her if they plan on attending the CABE Convention. She said at that Convention, she and Eileen Alberts will be honored for their years of service to the Board.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS – No reports

A discussion ensued about the meeting dates at the end of the Agenda. Specifically, the next Board meeting on Monday, September 24th. It was stated that evening was the Danbury High School Open House and could the meeting be changed. Some members wanted to know why it was not on the Wednesday evening, September 26th. It was explained that it was a Jewish holiday on Wednesday and therefore they could not have a meeting after sundown. A recommendation was made that the time be changed from 7:00 pm to 5:00 or 5:30 pm on the 26th.

Shirley Chilian asked if she could add to the Agenda a motion to have the meeting changed from Monday to Wednesday. The Chairperson asked who it would affect for the Danbury High School Open House if it did not change the meeting date. Two Board members said it would affect them.

Ms. Chilian then made the motion as follows:

MOTION: that the Board of Education add to the Agenda a change in the next Board meeting date from Monday, September 24th to the regular Board meeting date on Wednesday, September 26th

The motion failed by a vote of 7 to 3.

Ms. Chilian then made a second motion as follows:

MOTION: that the Board of Education hold their Board meeting on Monday, September 24th as stated in the Agenda under future meetings.

The motion passed by a vote 8 to 2.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations/ratification of School Lunch Contract; personnel matters; with possible action in Public Session.
The motion passed at 8:50 pm.

Present: Eileen Alberts, Shirley Chilian, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley, Kathleen Molinaro, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo also Drs. Glass and Pascarella, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Martino from Administration.
Absent: Richard Jannelli

Gladys Cooper called the Executive Session to order at 8:55 pm. She then turned the meeting over to Kim Thompson for an update and discussion on negotiations: School Lunch, Custodians, Secretaries, Paras/Tutors, Administrators

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: P. Tranzillo moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education ratify the Local Union No. 677 School Lunch Personnel Contract.
Abstention: A. Fluskey-Lattin
Motion carried at 9:35 pm

ADJOURNMENT

K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education adjourn its Board Meeting of September 12, 2012 and the meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Richard Hawley, Secretary