

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, September 22, 2015 – 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.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Richard Jannelli, David Metrena and Richard Hawley

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

RECOGNITIONS

DHS Student, Rahul Malayappan, Semifinalist in the 2016 National - Merit Scholarship Program
Dr. Pascarella asked him when he would know if he was a finalist. Rahul said there is another state application that has to be done in October. The Superintendent said the Merit Scholarship Program is based on the SAT's and we are very proud that you are representing our district. The Board members individually congratulated Rahul.

DHS earns top award in the state for computer information systems

On behalf of Danbury High School, Dr. Harry Rosvally told the Board that we are number one when it comes to teaching students about computer information systems, according to the Connecticut Department of Education; and received a number two overall award which will be presented by the State Department of Education in October. We have a lot of students involved in technical education classes. To quote Mr. Bocaccio, "Our teachers are extremely knowledgeable and competent in delivering instruction and our students are hardworking, dedicated and eager to learn." DHS will be honored for its achievements at the Connecticut Career and Technical Education Conference at its annual luncheon on October 15th in Cromwell.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kathy Snow, parent of a Fifth Grade student said she send an e-mail to all Board members. She read part of it and requested that it become part of the record. She wrote "I am requesting they review the lottery process for Westside Middle School Academy before the applications are opened for the 2016/2017 school year. For incoming 6th graders into each academy, I was informed that there are 50 students accepted from the Broadview population and 50 students

accepted from the Rogers Park population. Any students not accepted are put on separate waiting lists and as a student leaves, they are replaced with someone from the waitlist of the school they would have attended. I ask the Board to please explain the rationale behind the decision to have 4 separate lotteries for INTRA-district (meaning within Danbury only) Magnet Schools? Why aren't all Danbury students put into ONE lottery for each academy? Having 2 lotteries for each academy results in an unequal (dare I say "unfair"?) chance of getting in; depending on which lottery you are in (either the Broadview lottery or Rogers Park lottery). 2015/2016 school year applications for incoming 6th grade had more applications from Rogers Park so those families had a lesser chance of getting in than those families that applied from Broadview.

<u>School</u>	<u>Global Studies:</u>	<u>STEM:</u>
Broadview:	145	200
Rogers Park:	204	230

As recorded in past BOE minutes regarding enrollment and discussion of Westside Academy, 'inherently there are issues saving seats from both schools and I don't know how we could do that'. There was also supposed to be a presentation to review the lottery. I'm not sure if that ever happened or if it was open to the public. I look forward to hearing the discussion and resolution regarding this lottery process."

Nancy Troll, of City-Wide PTO, invited the Board to participate in a "Meet the Board of Education Candidates" night at Broadview Middle School Auditorium at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 21, 2015. Each candidate will be allowed a 5 minute presentation followed by one-half hour question and answer period. We would like to have a large turnout. Please RSVP to me by October 14th.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 15-148 through 15-149, as recommended

MINUTES
September 9, 2015 Board Meeting

PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Leave of Absence: Wendy Gomez

Accept Resignations: Christina DeRosa Natalie Garrick
Doreen Goncalves Jonathan Gonzalez,
Shavonne Hill

New Hires 9/3/15-9/18/15:

Name	Location	Non-Certified Subject
Ian Ratchford	DHS	Ass't Football Coach
Tannia Cavajani	Osborne St.	Interpreter/Translator
Kathleen Basso	Adult Ed	Teacher

Jennifer Goodwin	KSI	CRC Site Facilitator
Shari Styranovski	WSMSA	L/T Sub Teach - Science
Tyler Ferreira	Hayes	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Kathy Chiem	Hayes	SPED Tutor
Veronica Buecher	Pembroke	SPED Tutor
Richard DuVivier	WSMSA	SPED Tutor
Robin McAllister	SHR	.5 Title 1 Para
Jimena Cancro	BVMS	SPED Tutor
Robert J. Wirtig	WSMSA	Custodian
Milagros Rivera	AIS	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Scarlet Rodriguez	Hayes	Head Day Custodian
Chris Matos-Rivera	BVMS	Custodian
Sasunka Peterson	Park Ave	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Joshua Halsband	Shelter Rock	SPED Tutor
Bernadette Lund		Adult Ed Sub Teach
Nuru Ssapa		Sub Custodian
Erica Schirmer		Cadre Sub
Michelle Hoetjes		Cadre Sub
Jennifer Flannery		Cadre Sub
Lynn Hungaski		Cadre Sub
Lori Buono		Cadre Sub
Nene Vargas		Sub Custodian
Frieda Soriano		Interpreter
Wilma Carreiro Napoleao		Cadre Sub
Michelle Guider		Sub Teacher

Motion carried at 7:14 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE – None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENTATION

Innovation Grant - Dr. Harry Rosvally

There has been a Health and BioScience Academy at Danbury High School for well over 15 years, with limited CNA (certified nurse’s aide training) training stretching back to when DHS was opened. Katie Tong has developed a very successful Medical Careers Program at Danbury High School and we have students placed regularly at Danbury Hospital in unpaid, supervised internships. As our program continues to grow, we are reaching a saturation point where additional students cannot be scheduled for the supervised hospital rounds. At the same time, our community has a large number of skilled nursing care facilities for post-operative patients and for the elderly. Part of our curriculum already addresses Issues in Aging, but we do not yet have cooperative agreements with the local nursing homes.

We applied for a Perkins Innovation Grant, co-written by Katie Tong and myself. The amount of the application and award was just under \$40,000. Half of that amount was earmarked for transportation. Mrs. Katie Tong has been making appointments and will make personal visits to

each of the facilities and arrange for students to come on a regular basis between November and April. Some of the students will gain specialized knowledge on a particular disorder (such as diabetes) by making visits to different nursing facilities and comparing the approaches taken at each with regard to educating patients, providing preventive care, and providing care for those patients who are diagnosed and suffering from a particular malady or disorder. Other students will gain general knowledge across the spectrum about issues in aging, from the perspective of the multiple services offered at one facility (that they will visit repeatedly).

Another aspect of this program will be increased career awareness. Students will get permission and video record interviews with caregivers, social workers, and employees (patients will not be interviewed in order to preserve their anonymity and privacy). The students will edit these recordings and archive them into a library of career interviews, accessible for future years' students (as well as on a CSDE site, where they could be accessed by other medical careers programs in communities that do not have access to as many health care specialists as we are fortunate to have in Danbury).

In summary, the grant will expand students' understanding of Embracing Issues in Aging by providing them with regular interactions in local sites and a purposeful project to become knowledgeable about particular issues. The objectives are to get students to have on-site experiences, to gain knowledge first hand in a real world setting, to learn to use digital video recording and editing equipment, to establish strong ties to the local community, and to develop a library of career opportunities. The outcomes will be positive experiences in local community facility settings, increased understanding about Issues in Aging, and increased knowledge about career opportunities.

The collateral benefits to this grant are that Katie's program becomes more widely known, we will have placement locations for students as we expand enrollment in her program, and we will provide a model for the state that can be replicated in other towns, using nursing homes and rehab facilities in addition to medical facilities and hospitals in which they can learn on the job.

ACTION ITEMS

Family Resource Centers at Morris Street & South Street Schools

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education accept the funding of \$109,500 for each FRC to continue its support at Morris Street School FRC and the establishment of a FRC at South Street School

Motion carried at 7:35 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Update on September 21st DECO ribbon cutting

Dr. Pascarella said we had a successful ribbon cutting on September 21st at Danbury High School. Mayor Boughton attended. The Mayor appreciates the work that has been done

coordinating this program and teaming up with Naugatuck Valley Community College and local corporations. Danbury is on the cutting edge. Ralph Pietrafesa said his son is in this new pilot program. It was a great ceremony. Michael Ferguson said there were a lot of speakers who said there were many people working together to achieve this. Dr. Pascarella told the Board that the Danbury Savings Bank helped us with the summer program. He stated that you will hear more about this program as time goes on. The program gives freshmen the chance to earn an associate's degree in information technology, in either computer programming or business analysis on an accelerated track. Students are given options to accelerate their high school requirements so that by sophomore or junior years they can begin incorporating college-level courses.

October 5th School Funding Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Broadview

The Superintendent told the Board that he and Mayor Boughton will be at this meeting to have a conversation about the impacts of the state's school funding system on Danbury. Danbury Public Schools are underfunded and our community needs a far more sensible funding system to meet the needs of our students and schools. We hope that the community will join us in this discussion. He said he hoped that all of you will be there on October 5th.

Update on High School Principal Search

Ms. Thompson said that she is in the process of putting together the panels. There are regulations and a policy on hiring principals. She addressed the Chair saying that they will have to meet together soon to choose two Board members to be on the panel. She is now getting together the materials and hopefully screen seven applicants to go through this initial round. Ms. Alberts stated as soon as a date is set, she will be in a position to choose two Board members.

Concerning minority hiring, Ms. Thompson said that she and Dr. Pascarella went to a NAACP meeting that discussed various Black colleges and universities. Ms. Thompson said she attended the first breakout session which was a panel that talked a lot about how to attract candidates to the Connecticut. Right now there is a lot going on at the state and national levels. The goal is to have a population that comes from similar background as the students they are serving.

Dr. Pascarella said that graduates of the mainly Black colleges and universities take jobs within 90 miles of their hometown. The University of Delaware offers many programs that we are interested in. Ms. Thompson said of the 65 new teachers hired this year, 17% are minorities; Latino and Hispanic was 13% and all others were 2%. We are closing the gap. Last year we were about 12%. I will give you an update when I get on the presentation schedule.

General Improvements to Alliance Districts' School Buildings Grant

Mr. Martino said the State has \$50 million for the fiscal years 2016 and 2017 to help maintain or repair school buildings in Alliance Districts. Danbury is up for a \$1.7 million grant. There is quite a lengthy list of eligible improvement projects. To name a few for replacement; windows and doors, boilers and other heating and ventilation components, internal communication and technology systems, lockers and cafeteria equipment. For upgrading; replacing ceiling and floor

coverings, new fixtures in restrooms and water fountains and related water supplies and drainage, lighting fixtures, entryways, driveways, parking areas, play areas and athletic fields, equipment and installing or upgrading security systems, including but not limited to video surveillance devices and fencing. Ineligible projects include; routine building maintenance and maintenance supplies, cleaning and salaries of in-house maintenance staff and other school staff.

Dr. Pascarella said they had a discussion about middle school lottery at a Cabinet meeting. There are about 100 students between Broadview and Rogers Park in order to balance the enrollments. There was an interest to go to Broadview, but for Rogers Park it was no so great. We are trying to balance it out. Our original intent was going to be to open a new middle school for 800 students, but that didn't happen. We have an unbalance at Rogers Park. We will be talking about that at the next meeting. Mr. Taborsak asked what the enrollment presently is. The Superintendent said Westside is about 500, 102 more at Broadview than at Rogers Park. We will have better numbers the next time. October 1st is what we should wait for.

DISCUSSION

INFORMATION

Heart of Women Award honoring Julia Horne, October 15, 2015

Julia Horne, retired Principal of Shelter Rock School, will be honored by the Women's Business Council's 2015 Heart of Women Award on October 15th at Ethan Allen Inn. Registering to attend before September 25th will be at a discounted price of \$45.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

CABE/CAPSS Convention Registration

A couple of Board members said they planned to attend.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education adjourn its September 22, 2015 meeting and the meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Michael Ferguson, Secretary

(meeting was videotaped)