

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 – 7:00 PM**  
**Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts, called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Alberts asked Kathleen Molinaro to do the roll call.

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

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

**RECOGNITIONS**

DHS student, Alexandra Prendergast, Washington Senate Page

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION** - K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Jannelli that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 14-171 through 14-174, as recommended:

**Motion passed at 7:14 pm.**

**MINUTES**

9/8/14 Special Meeting (Exp)

9/10/14 Board Meeting

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

Accept Resignations: Regina Cernik Ashley Dovale  
Matthew Hughes Keith Holick, Jr.  
Kimberly Keiser Kathryn Patchen  
Melissa Newsome (Enrichment Only)

New Hires 9/5/14-9/19/14:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b><u>CERTIFIED</u></b> <b>Subject</b>
Dawn Malone	KSP	Lang. Arts Specialist
Tara Walsh	BVMS	7th Grade English
Edward Adams	DHS	Band Director

**NON-CERTIFIED**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Jennifer Freudenberg	Pembroke	.4 OT
Andi Mead	RPMS	SPED Tutor
Mark Cordoano	AIS	Safety Advocate
Louis Andreko	KSP	Custodian
Marielle Bischoff-Wurstle	Ells	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
William Cortese	ACE/Ells	Custodian
Elaine Wohlrab	Park Ave.	PARA - Tech Aide
Radha Sud	Hayestown	SPED Tutor
June Hartel	Ellsworth	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Carmen Muniz	SHR	.5 ESL Para
Gleirys Arroyo	South St.	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Patricia Campos	MRP	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Ashley Goetz	Pembroke	SPED Tutor
Debra Vega	Park Ave.	1.0 Bilingual Para
Jessica O'Connell	AIS	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Dier Luiz De Almeida	STR	Custodian
Felipe Alonso	RPMS/Park Ave.	Custodian
Melissa Newsome	Park Ave.	1.0 Title 1 Para
Luke Rosequist	South St.	Literacy Interventionist
Lucie Rodgers	South St.	Literacy Interventionist
Pretash Nucullaj	GRP/BBAC	Custodian
Peter Caswell	WERACE	Math Teacher
Fabia Patricia Fernandes		Translator/Interpreter
Stephen Arconti		Ass't Football Coach
Chantel Comerford		SUB Custodian
Casey Trasacco		Ass't Football Coach
Kristen Sliman		Freshman Field Hockey Coach
Debra McCarthy		SUB LA Specialist
Jessica Reyes		Dental Hygienist
Shawn O'Brien		Varsity Softball Coach
Laura DiPaola		SUB Secretary
Charles Apap		SUB Safety Advocate

## **DONATIONS**

Accept donations toward purchase of van for Reach Program

First Book National Book Bank donated over \$313,250 in books and materials to the Family Learning Center

Mr. Jannelli asked the Superintendent if a letter of thank you and appreciation letter is sent to all donors. Dr. Pascarella said, we do send letters except in the case where the donation is anonymous.

Mr. Martino said that a van came up for sale. We have enough funds in donations to purchase it and it will be on our insurance. The value of the van is between \$6,000-7,000.

## **EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None**

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

DHS: Jamie Gherna, Grace Gillotti, Tyler Amaral, Allie Smith – (no representative in attendance)

ACE: John King spoke on behalf of the Alternative Center for Excellence. He told the Board a group of students from ACE visited Broadview Middle School so the 6<sup>th</sup> graders could participate in National Peace Day. Monday ACE's had an open house which was a success. Both staff and parents were present. With the principal and Ms. DiNardo, the senior students are exploring careers and doing college searches. The Chrome Books are a great help and the students are benefiting from this technology.

**PRESENTATION** - None

**ACTION ITEMS** - None

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Transportation Update**

Dr. Pascarella asked Mr. Martino to give the Board an update on the buses. Mr. Martino said we have a meeting today with STA. We did budget for 4 buses. Right now we have added 3 new buses to Westside. They will be phased in on Wednesday and Friday of this week. We also did address the Abby development. We are setting up some times on those runs. They are private roads but will become public in the future. Toll Brothers' development is separate from Abby. We will continue to monitor all the runs.

Mr. Pietrafesa asked Mr. Martino how far in advance do you find out how many kids will be riding the bus. He responded, we have clean runs then after a few days we end up picking up 8-10 more kids who enrolled late. Right now we have 11 buses for AIS.

Ms. Fluskey-Lattin asked when Abby Woods roads become City roads. Mr. Martino replied that once construction is done, it will be turned over to the City. We could be years away. She then stated if we are years away and those roads have to be plowed during the winter, and an accident happens if it wasn't plowed and it involves a bus, who is legally liable? Dr. Pascarella asked Kathy Molinaro to answer that question since her husband worked for the City. She stated that they are plowed. All roads have to be plowed. Mr. Martino said we spoke to Bill Buckley. He is involved with road maintenance and the City is very comfortable with what is going on there now. Dr. Pascarella said the school code speaks to it and to make sure during bad weather the roads will be plowed.

Mr. Hawley asked financially where the bus money is coming from. Mr. Martino said we are evaluating current runs. We have some savings and we are working with STA to delay some payments for the Board. We will get two or three buses free for a couple of months. We are looking for \$125,000. We will be able to transfer some money.

Ms. Molinaro asked in building our budget for next year, will we have to add more buses? Mr. Martino replied we will program the three additional buses and possible one more. We could be budgeting four next year.

## Coherence Plan Alignment

The Superintendent said that the Coherence Plan Alignment is still alive and kicking. Teachers are selecting goals in line with my goals. The goals are in the packet. Jonathan Costa is continuing to work with us and he is real helpful. I will keep you updated.

## DISCUSSION

### Middle School Parent Choice

Dr. Pascarella said parents on every level feel that since their children did not get into AIS their kids will be getting less of an education. Look at the transition of middle to high school. We are beginning to look at options; it won't coincide with the budget season. There are visits involved, dialogue has to happen, and we will start looking at some different models. Right now where you live defines what school you will go to as far as middle school is concerned.

The Superintendent said that Dr. Glass surveyed the parents. He stated that it is confusing because we are trying to capture the best environment for the kids. Rogers Park has a lot going for it due to the area it is in. We want to really capitalize on that; environmental approach in a comprehensive middle school. Danbury Hospital wants to have an on-going conversation with us about a health academy. Parents have a choice of a traditional or special academy. Performing arts as an intra-district academy is one option, being in the science area and health and bio-chemistry at the hospital are other options. We don't want to rush it, we want to hear from our Board members and the community and then we could launch it in phases as themes at both Rogers Park and Broadview next year.

Mr. Jannelli asked about the curriculum at RPMS and BVMS—what kind of a curriculum would be designed for the arts; would they just take that subject? Dr. Glass said that there is not a separate curriculum. It is the standard core curriculum in all schools. It is what we use as the problem solving vehicle.

Ms. Fluskey-Lattin felt it was a wonderful idea for our community. If I am in BVMS or RPMS and my child has a love for bio-science, I think we could find some way for parents to have a choice and children for them to have the traditional experience as well. I could see the headaches you would have if each school was not a choice. You are going to have community members and parents asking these questions. Dr. Glass stated, we have no secrets. We will bring all options to the Board. My hunch is that for the Board it will be busing, hours, etc. We will put that all on the table.

## INFORMATION

Danbury Education Foundation Grants, due November 17, 2014

Jillian Dobosz named girls swimming coach at DHS

Shawn O'Brien named head softball coach at DHS

Edward Adams, DHS Band Director

DHS–DECA recipient of Career & Technical Student Organization Outstanding Service Project  
Award 2013-2014

Dr. Harry Rosvally, CSDE Science Advisory Council

The Chairperson, Eileen Alberts commented on each of the above information items.

The Superintendent said the budget is going to give us a challenge. We don't believe the ECS (Educational Cost Savings) money will be going away. But if it does, we will have to figure out what else we need to do.

Mr. Jannelli said, we talked before about a 3-year budget. Do you want to go with two or three? Mr. Martino said he would like to go with a 3-year budget. Mr. Hawley asked when we should put pressure on the legislators. Dr. Pascarella said we have a meeting scheduled with our legislators' right after the election.

Ms. Cooper asked if there would be additional time for an art person to help out at the Endeavor Program; Jackie DiNardo said even if she had a couple of additional hours would be helpful. She said she talked to you last year. We have funding to support her. The person she has could stay an hour or two hours. Ms. Thompson said we had two people, now we have a full time person. Ms. Cooper said in June she needed more time. Ms. Alberts ask Ms. Thompson to check with her to see if she still needs additional help.

## **BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

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

Mr. Jannelli said the Community Relations Committee met and that they are in align with Dr. Pascarella goals. He said members are committing to take on certain topics, common core standards, etc.

Mr. Ferguson said he toured the schools. It was a great visit. Mr. Pietrafesa said Mr. Robbs, Principal at Broadview Middle School, did a great job. He was happy to see us there. The kids looked so happy. We have 8 or 9 schools planned already. Ms. Fluskey-Lattin thanked them for representing the Board. She said as a teacher we always appreciate and welcome Board member's visits.

Ms. Cooper said that she read an article about a local church mentoring at Morris Street School. She wanted to know how the church selects what community member will be mentoring in our schools. Dr. Glass said there is no formal relationship with that church. ARC is working against domestic violence. He said a long time ago a church member said they wanted to help in the school. I recently went to a luncheon to be sure that they knew they needed to separate school from state. This religious group is not affiliated with our schools.

Ms. Tranzillo asked if we had a form that people could fill out so they would know how to be a mentor in the schools other than through DSABC. Maybe Public Relations needs to get out there and say how you can become a mentor.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contractual negotiations.

**Motion passed at 8:14 pm.**

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

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

Ms. Alberts called the meeting to order. She turned the meeting over to Mr. Thompson. A brief discussion followed concerning the teachers' contract.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

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

**Motion passed at 8:55 pm.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

R. Taborsak moved, seconded by D. Metrena that the Board of Education adjourn its September 23, 2014 Board Meeting and the meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

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Richard Hawley, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)