

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2013- 7:00 P.M.

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Chairperson, Sandy Steichen, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Eileen Alberts, Shirley Chilian, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal,
Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Kathleen Molinaro, Sandy Steichen,
Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

Absent: Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rick Barton, parent of Shelter Rock student thanked the Board for the work they are doing with the renovations. The Principal, Julia Horne, is doing a fantastic job. The wall in the cafeteria is a concern. The wall doesn't jive with what the parents and teachers thought it would be. Mr. Barton was wondering if the Board can take another look at the plans and address that wall.

Kevin Haddad, Teacher at King Street Intermediate, said the teachers are stressed out. He thanked Dr. Pascarella for always being available to talk with the teachers; he seems to get how frustrated we are right now. The stressful day before school started I was given the math lessons that I never taught before; brand new teaching lessons on top of all the day to day things that had to be done. He told the Board that he hoped each of them had investigated what the common core is, and who invented it. Some states are opting out of the common core. The new evaluation system is very complex and time consuming. We need the State to know how much we are overwhelmed. He asked the Board to work with CABE to ease this burden on the teachers.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - S. Chilian moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended, Exhibits 13-172 through 13-179

MINUTES

Board Meeting 9/11/13

PERSONNEL REPORT

Accept Resignations:

Phil Cioppa, Mark Forlenzo, Joshua Giannone,
Karen Mannion, Maria Ribeiro-Garcia, Gary Treadwell
Steve Varga (ELP only)

Accept Retirements:

Jeanne Onorato, 23 years Veronica Gerhardt, 29 years

New Hires (9/5/13-9/19/13):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>CERTIFIED Subject</u>
Margaret Montinieri	BVMS	Grade 8 Reading

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>NON CERTIFIED Subject</u>
Renee Childs	RPMS	Math Interventionist
Sophia Diaz	MRP	Tutor
Jocilane Raigosa	SHR	Parent Liaison
Scarlet Rodriquez	BVMS	Custodian
Mary Tahan	Hayes	Literacy Interventionist
Lisa Tagliavento	Hayes	Literacy Interventionist
Monitha Na	RPMS	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Charmeena McCarley	KSP	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Valeria Fable	Morris	Tutor
Bridget Kline	DHS	L/T Sub
Julie Stafford	KSI	Tutor
Gregory Jacobellis	KSP	Safety Advocate
Keith Byrd	Adult Ed	Adult Ed Supervisor Evening
Kathleen Quinn	BVMS	Student Climate Specialist
Julie Mesaric	Hayes	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Marielle Bischoff-Wurstle	ELLS	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Bianca Cenatiempo	ELLS	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Kaitlyn McCabe	Various	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Kathryn Ryan	DHS	Color Guard Instr.
Alishia Esposito	KSI	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
David Evans	DECEC	Safety Advocate
Peter Vavasour	AIS	Safety Advocate
Michelle Broad		CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Rafat Fahim	SUB	CRC Enrichment Assoc.
Aline Falcao		ESL Interpreter
June Hartel		Literacy Cadre Substitute
Amy Davis		Literacy Cadre Substitute
Mary Lou Bakach		Adult ED Teach ABE
Lauren Korres		Literacy Cadre Substitute
Rita Garrett		Literacy Cadre Substitute
Simona Fraser		Math Cadre Substitute
Jenniffer Acosta		ESL Interpreter

Wendy Surovy
John MacKenzie

Sub Teach
Sub Teach

Motion passed at 7:08 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Danbury High School Representative, DHS Danielle Biele told the Board that Monday was the start of Spirit week.; this Friday night there will be a bonfire on the Baseball field; Saturday, October 28th will be DHS Homecoming football game and dance. The game starts at 1:30 at the DHS stadium and the dance starts at 7:00. The theme this year is “A Night on the Red Carpet”. DHS has started to enforce that all students wear their ID tags for student’s protection and safety in our school. On October 18-26, we are having an event called “Celebrate My Drive”. We have partnered with State Farm to keep teens aware of dangers of distracted driving. DHS also met with Microsoft and they are on board with our project. Freshman class elections are coming up in October.

ACE representatives, Samanta Webb and Maddie Batista told the Board that on Wednesday, Sept. 25th, 25 ACE and WCSU students began their mentoring project this semester. The kick off at WCSU was a success and students were paired with mentor matches. During this semester, ACE students will gain academic support and mentoring from WCSU education majors and we are all very excited about the project. ACE is also offering after school academic tutoring support. Transportation is provided for students who choose to stay after school for assistance. On Friday, Sept. 27th, 8 students and school guidance counselor Dianna Dinardo attended an Aviation Career Fair at Westchester Airport. Numerous careers in the aviation field will be explored.

PRESENTATION

Common Core – Mathematics

Dr. Harry Rosvally and the Elementary Math Specialists Team made a presentation to the Board of Education to provide some background about the changes in the elementary math curriculum. There were essentially three parts to the presentation: (1) History of the Common Core State Standards (adopted by CT in July 2010); (2) Changes brought about with the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics, along with anticipated changes to the standardized assessments; and (3) Danbury’s phase-in of the new math program. Presenting on behalf of the Math Specialists were Dr. Laura Mead, Mrs. Mary Jo Bohrman, and Mrs. Kristin Ward. The rest of the Math Specialists Team was in attendance at the presentation.

There are 6 Shifts in Mathematical Instruction that accompany the shift to Common Core, which are as follows:

- (1) Focus on Prioritized Standards;
- (2) Coherence;
- (3) Fluency;
- (4) Deep Understanding;
- (5) Application;
- (6) Dual Intensity.

The Presenters elaborated and gave examples of each of these shifts.

CT has gone with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium which will replace the CMT and CAPT standardized assessments in the coming years with assessments that are more rigorous and call for students to apply what they learn in class to real world problems.

The Team explained how in an ideal world the district would have started a new math program with Kindergarten and expanded that program each year. However, at that rate it would take a full 13 years to implement and this would not work out for the needs of the middle or high school. Therefore, a compromise was reached to address fourth and fifth grade classes first (in the 2012-2013 school year – workshops and resources were focused on just these two grades) followed by Kindergarten and Grade 3 (in the 2013-2014 school year – workshops and resources are being focused on these two grades) and culminating with the focus on Grades 1 and 2 in the 2014-2015 school year. While the Math Specialists Team has been in contact with and reviewed the products of many different vendors for a commercial math program to replace the Growing With Math program that the district adopted close to ten years ago, we determined that the best fit would be Pearson’s Investigations program for K-5 math but we are supplementing the gradual phase in with resources that the Team creates or adapts for the specific needs of our teachers.

ACTION ITEMS - None

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

High School GPA Update

Dr. Pascarella said I have been sending you information on the Power School correction. We are confident that it is corrected. We were able to get out the students new GPA and rank. To date we have not heard back with any more questions. We spent most of our time making sure it is the last time. Ms. Steichen asked Dr. Pascarella is it fixed. He stated we have fixed the problem. The Assistant Principal has fixed the problem. She asked if there are checks and rechecks. He reassured her that the proper protocol is in place and it is fixed. Dr. Pascarella said Gina Jasmine, the Power School staff person, has verified the Power School programming problem has been solved and fixed. He said we are going to manual checks. Mr. Martino said the Bristol School system had the same problem.

Technology Grant

Mr. Martino said we received positive news. We made the second round for funding. Danbury did submit \$238,000 for tech refresher across our schools. We start replacing some computer labs. It is a matching grant. We have to fund the other half of the grant; we have to come up with \$114,000. We are not approved yet, but we are in good shape. I am very positive. After this grant is approved all elementary schools will have wireless.

Annrose Fluskey-Lattin told that Board that she went to a middle school parent meeting and the parents wanted to thank the Board for working so hard.

Safety Grant Update

Mr. Martino said that Danbury did apply for the grant. Five of our schools were selected. I thought it was a bulk grant for a bulk amount of money, but it wasn't. It did encompass door locks, cameras, etc. The grant provided reimbursement. At DHS we had a lot of money tied up, but we didn't get it. Danbury. Police Department did half the grant. \$55,000 is coming back.

Redistricting Update

The Superintendent said they met last week and our population has shifted. We have provided Ross Haber with more information on where the pockets of growth are coming from. We are meeting again on October 16th 7:00 to go over the information. He will bring some scenarios. We are growing beyond what the demography thought we would. We have 276 new students. As we get to October 1st, which is our official enrollment date, we will get a better idea of how many students. Mr. Martino said we have growth across all the elementary schools. Shelter Rock grew to 50%, but has stabilized. That is what we are working on. Dr. Pascarella said we are searching out in the City for some more space for classrooms and looking around with realtors.

CCM Policy Committee on Education

Dr. Pascarella said he is Co-chairman for CAUS. We have a meeting regarding legislation; we all agreed to work together and we are going to try to look for equity access. I was delight to hear that the cities were wanting to do that. We want to see if the State looks at weighting values when they look at funds.

DISCUSSION

New Middle School Mill Ridge Exploratory Academy

Dr. Pascarella said today we know the architect. The staffing enrollment growth is going up, when you vote for the new school, you vote for new staffing that is was Mayor Boughton said. There is a strong interest according to the survey for grade 6, 7, 8 Stem.

We will have more seats available for 6th grade for academy international studies. We go out to the parents in a lottery and it will tell us if we will be able to staff a 7 and 8 grade for the international studies. We are staffing right now as if all the seats are filled. When the lottery goes out we will know. Mr. Martino said it will cost \$2.9 million in staffing; that does not count what gets picked up from the City. Early retirement was \$1,000,000 that will melt away. We are going to do a presentation in a couple of weeks. That also involves the busses.

Administrative Hiring Information

Dr. Pascarella said the Board developed the hiring process. It was really the regulations. There are two groups that would be meeting and we kept that. He asked Ms. Thompson if she would like to talk about the adjustment to the regulations. She said the policy is what the Board passes; the regulations are what the Superintendent writes for implementation. She said they looked at a lot of the feedback and the structure of those two panels. The key is that we are trying to get input from the stakeholders. We tried to preserve and keep that and put together more of a collaborative process. This will give Dr. Pascarella more information going into the interviews. Ms. Steichen asked if she would tell the Board the process. The Superintendent said we put the process together two years ago, we took everyone's ideas. We need to work through it, but do the same thing with some adjustments.

The Superintendent told the Board for their information, we will have 6 interims. For continuity, if they wish, they could be applicants for the job.

(Ms. Fluskey-Lattin left the meeting at 8:30 pm)

INFORMATION

SDE Alliance District Year 2 Plan Amendment Approval

Dr. Pascarella said we are going to update the Board with the budget. Mr. Martino told the Board at the next Board meeting he will have all the FT's and the balances on it. The Superintendent said there are people who have not had their Alliance approved that is the good news on our part. Mr. Martino said we jumped on it.

DHS Arrest Report Update – No Discussion

Common Core Standards Information for Parents – No Discussion

DHS field trip to London, Normandy, Paris, April 11-24, 2014

Aline Dennison spoke briefly about the trip to London, Normandy and Paris. A few Board members had some questions, which she answered.

DHS field trip to China, April 11-21, 2014

Aline Dennison said that the French teacher from Cambodia is taking care of this trip to China. Ms. Steichen told Ms. Dennison that they will be voting on these two trips at the next Board meeting and it wasn't necessary for her to attend, since she answered all the Board's questions tonight.

Board Retreat Strategic Plan – No Discussion

CABE/CAPSS Conference, November 15-16, 2013 – No Discussion

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Board Self Evaluation

Ms. Steichen told the Board that there is a new CABE form which is a number system. She asked the Board to come up with a date for the self-evaluation. Ms. Chilian asked if CABE has a facilitator or should we use the one we had the last time. Dr. Pascarella said that person is not part of CABE. Ms. Cooper said CABE always had a facilitator. It was decided that the Board Self-evaluation would be November 6th at 6:00 pm. Dr. Pascarella was to contact CABE about a facilitator.

Policy Committee Meeting to review hiring policy

Ms. Steichen said that she is confused by policy and regulations. Ms. Thompson said regulations are not voted on by the Board. They are written guidelines that Administrations implements to carry out the policies that are voted on by the Board.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS – No Reports

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by S. Chilian that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Teacher/Administrator Negotiations.

Motion passed at 8:45 pm.

Present: Shirley Chilian, Gladys Cooper, Gary Falkenthal, Kathleen Molinaro, Sandy Steichen, Robert Taborsak, Phyllis Tranzillo

Absent: Eileen Alberts, Annrose Fluskey-Lattin, Richard Hawley and Richard Jannelli

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

The Chairperson, Sandy Steichen called the Executive Session to order at 8:48 pm and turned the meeting over to Kim Thompson. A discussion ensued regarding contract negotiations.

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION – G. Falkenthal moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education return to Public Session.

The motion passed at 9:17 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of September 25, 213 and the meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Kathleen Molinaro, Acting Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)