

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 27, 2011- 7:00 PM
Administrative Center – 63 Beaver Brook Road

Present: E. Alberts, G. Cooper, I. Fox, R. Jannelli, K. Molinaro, R. Taborsak,
Drs. Glass, Pascarella and K. Thompson and J. Emmett from Administration

Absent: R. Austin-James, M. Fazio, S. Leroy, D. Metrena

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Irving Fox, called the meeting to order at 8:36 pm, and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITIONS - Welcome to Domitila Pereira, DHS Assistant Principal
Mr. Fox welcomed Ms. Pereira to Danbury High School as Assistant Principal.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. King spoke on behalf of his 6 year old son asking that the bus stop be changed. He stated he spoke to Mr. Longo and he has done a sight inspection. It is becoming a running issue with Mr. Longo and feels the Board should adhere to their policy on who should be picked up and where riding the bus. He cited: no traffic light or stop sign, no walkway on either side of the road. The bus is sometimes an hour late and we can't have our babysitter waiting at the bus stop while trying to take care of our younger child. Mr. King feels his request is reasonable and the compromise is not acceptable. He would like a hearing.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended, Exhibits 11-174 through 11-175:

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes 9-14-11

PERSONNEL

Leaves of Absence: Thea Verner
Resignations: Phyllis Bartoli
Retirements: Charlotte Wisniewski

Mr. Fox wanted to recognize Charlotte for her many years of service at DHS.

The motion carried at 8:41 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Vanessa Grant, ACE representative, introduced Brandon Mikowski who will be the Student Rep from ACE with her. Mr. Fox said if you have issues at your school take them to our Board meetings as we would like to be actively involved.

Danbury High School – no representative

Alternative Center for Education: Vanessa Grant

Vanessa said she would like the Board of know how excited she is still to represent the ACE. She told the Board that every year the students and staff participate in a teen school-wide building activity, which we accomplished last week. This year we chose Squantz Pond and students contributed by engaging trust building activities. Highlight besides having Stew Leonard's catering pizza and cookies for lunch, was 100% attendance of our students and staff. Another highlight from last year was our scores as a school. ACE had an amazing 87.4% efficiency on the CAPT reading test. Also, every year the Woman's Center for Greater Danbury coordinates a walk against domestic violence. I strongly encourage everyone who has the time to register now and enjoy this Sunday, walking for a great cause, or simply being there for emotional support. I have spoken with my principal about registering ACE as a team for the annual 4k walk, which is a great opportunity to represent my school.

Brandon Mikowski said during the second week of October ACE is having a canoe trip, 25 miles long within 3 days. This will be held on the Delaware River so we are prepping for that. This will be the first field trip this semester at ACE. Our next field trip is going to be a cold weather hiking trip. Students will be hiking 21 miles in 5 days. We are not sure of the exact dates yet, however, in the next few weeks we will have more information. Between the students setting personal goals for the semester and the focus on seniors are putting into our work, this school year is off to a great start. Also this year we have a lot of previous students welcoming all of our new students.

PRESENTATION - None

ACTION ITEMS

DHS Window and Door Replacement Project

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Danbury Board of Education approve the Educational Specifications for the Danbury High School Window and Door Replacement, Energy Conservation and ACM Abatement Project

The motion carried at 8:44 pm.

Stadium Fees

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Danbury Board of Education approve the 2011-2012 Stadium Fees

In favor: K. Molinaro I. Fox G. Cooper
R. Jannelli R. Taborsak

Abstains: E. Alberts

The motion carried at 8:46 pm.

FTE/Enrollment

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Danbury Board of Education approve the addition of 1.4 FTEs due to enrollment increases.

The motion carried at 8:48 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

AESOP (Automated Substitute Placement & Absence Management)

Kim Thompson said over the summer we had implemented an automated service that greatly simplified and streamlines the process of finding and managing substitute jobs in the district. This service utilized both the telephone and the internet to assist in locating jobs in the school district. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It uses three methods to make jobs available to substitutes. The system also is able to track staff absences and will print out a report every day. This has taken a lot of burden off of other employees. I am distributing what is a weekly report; the number of absences across the district so we can track trends. Secretaries have the same responsibilities that they had before, but much more efficient – what we can do out of our office is have someone look at vacancies, she can see a teacher not working that day, and a substitute picking up that class.

Redistricting Update

Dr. Pascarella said this update is pretty aggressive. We will have a special board meeting in November. We are working with principals with the in-house plan – a District wide committee to move out to that group and a series of meetings in the affected schools and to see if we need any modifications of the plan. I spoke to Mr. Prowda, the Board hired him 3 years ago, to do the enrollment projection – he can't start his work until October. Bill and I have been following the recommendations of the Savin Report. Loosing space for math, reading, ESL programs – hoping with redistricting we will be able to deal with these things. Dr. Pascarella said he has dates set up with the schools for feed backs. Mr. Fox asked if he was meeting with only the affected schools. The Superintendent said at this time, yes. This takes two to three years and will keep the kids together for at least 5 years. We are only going to do what we can control. Mr. Jannelli said get as much publicity out there for these meetings. He said he was at Mill Ridge today and I commend the staff and principals for what they have done to work with the parameters. Mr. Fox said we should expect to see this draft at the next Board meeting. Dr. Pascarella said the middle schools are going to be facing challenges next year.

DISCUSSIONS - None

INFORMATION

RPMS field trip to Puerto Rico, January 13-17, 2012

Mr. Fox said this item will be on the agenda for a vote at our next meeting. Mr. Taborsak asked the teachers if this is similar to what they did in the past. Mr. Jannelli asked if they have a good feel that you will have a number of students going. The response was that the last 4 years the group has doubled. Students who want to go on the trip have been working towards this – the students that are interested are kind of a surprise; it is a family decision. Last year we took 22 students. Ms. Cooper wanted to know if they have to cancel the trip, how they notify the parents. The response was that we let the parents know right up front. And the parents understand that. Dr. Pascarella asked if they looked into travel insurance. The response was if we cancel from our end, it does not cover that.

Richard Jalbert, Coordinator of Sites & Facilities

Kim Thompson said Mr. Jalbert came in the office today. His previous experience was Director of Facilities Service in Region #16 District and Director of Facilities Service at the University of Hartford. We are looking forward to having him on board.

Draft Superintendent's 2011-2012 Goals

Mr. Fox told the Board that he assumes we will have a meeting to discuss these goals at a Superintendent Evaluation Committee meeting. Dr. Pascarella said he stayed with the 4 main goals.

Board Topics – no discussion

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

CABE Convention

Mr. Fox said he is going to represent the district at the Delegate Assembly.

State Task Force on Vocational/Technical High Schools

Mr. Fox stated that he had his first meeting with the Technical School Committee. They are underfunded by the State. He plans to be very active on this Committee. Three meetings are scheduled between now and December and I will be attending all of those meetings.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

AdHoc Committee DHS – R. Jannelli, Chairperson

Mr. Jannelli told the Board that he met with three people at DHS and there is a silent majority there with no problem. The minority is the one that is causing the issues. We tried to bring out the issues and focus on a criteria profile for the new principal. We have developed a survey which is on line. The majority of the staff is happy to be there. The explanation last year was some frustrations with the new principal as well.

Sites and Facilities – K. Molinaro, Chairperson

We have not had a meeting. We will be getting together with Richard Jalbert, Coordinator of Sites & Facilities

Policy Committee – R. Taborsak, Chairperson

Mr. Taborsak told the Board that we will be having a meeting soon since the State has more mandates on the bullying. The Committee will meet as soon as Ms. Thompson is ready with the policy.

Superintendent Evaluation – K. Molinaro, Chairperson

Mr. Molinaro said we have to schedule a meeting.

CITY-WIDE PTO – K. Molinaro, Member

The next meeting is the First Monday in October.

Magnet School – G. Cooper, Trustee

Mr. Cooper stated the next meeting will be on October 13 at 10:00 AM at Beaver Brook

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: E. Alberts, G. Cooper, I. Fox, R. Jannelli, K. Molinaro, R. Taborsak, Drs. Glass, Pascarella and K. Thompson from Administration

Absent: R. Austin-James, M. Fazio, S. Leroy, D. Metrena

MOTION: G. Cooper moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Danbury Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing updates on the teachers and nurses negotiations.

Motion carried at 9:30 pm

Ms. Thompson gave an update on the ongoing teacher negotiations. Dialogue continued.

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Taborsak to return to public session.

Motion carried at 10:05 pm

ADJOURNMENT

G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board adjourn its September 27, 2011 Board meeting and the meeting adjourned at 10:06 pm.

Kathleen Molinaro, Secretary

(meeting was videotaped)