

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
January 19, 2010

Present: Mrs. Brassil Spinella, Ms. Katz, Ms. Kindall, Mrs. Ma, Ms. Mudge, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Schmitt (via phone), Superintendent List, Student Representatives Chloe Singer (Conard), Lia Weintraub (Hall)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall-Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

*Roll Call/Pledge of
Allegiance*

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board regarding the anticipated CIP presentation and the use of funds.

Public Communications

Cheryl Harrington, 52 Meadowbrook Rd., addressed the Board to express her support of and opinions regarding the employment of a coach.

Mike Wagner, 145 South Meadow Dr., addressed the Board to express support for the continued employment of a coach.

Michael Francoeur, 80 Westmont, addressed the Board to express his opinion regarding the circumstances surrounding the employment of a coach.

Margaret Francoeur, 80 Westmont, addressed the Board regarding the employment of a coach and the impact on the students.

Ms. Mudge moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

*Ratification of West
Hartford Public Schools
Nurses Contract*

THAT the Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement between the West Hartford Public Schools Nurses Association and the Board of Education, for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013.

Mr. Tim Dunn and Mr. Rick Ledwith provided background on the negotiations and summarized the contract agreement. They recognized and commended the nurses' cooperative approach to the negotiations during a difficult financial climate.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Karen List provided a reminder of an upcoming forum being held at Conard regarding internet safety and a panel discussion on

Superintendent's Report

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substance abuse and social pressures. Parents and community members were invited and encouraged to attend. The Board was also updated on a grant awarded to Charter Oak.

Dr. List offered highlights within the district at this midyear point and provided context for the CIP report with a reminder of some of the fears present a decade ago regarding technology compared to the vast advances in development and usage today. She provided an overview of the upcoming 2010-2011 budget and the CIP presentation. Dr. List introduced Tracey Wilson, Conard history teacher.

Ms. Wilson provided a presentation on the historical development of the town and the district. She reviewed new school construction and subsequent closings as related to the population and school districting.

Dr. List reviewed data over the past decade including student enrollment increases and changes. She offered comparisons of percentage increases in the school budgets to increases in various products and commodities during the same time period. Details of where the increases were allocated and the various programs and services created or expanded were provided. Dr. List presented a vision for the next ten years and offered a description of the experience and expectations of a graduating senior in 2019-2020.

Board members acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the initiative of the Superintendent in the development of her vision.

Mr. Chip Ward, Mr. Tim Dunn, Mr. Bob Palmer and Mr. Joe Mercieri provided background on the development of the CIP and reviewed the projects accomplished with funds from the 2009-2010 CIP budget. A summary of future project planned throughout the district was provided.

Board discussion included concern about the upcoming operating budget. The overall use, lifespan and maintenance costs of modular classrooms were discussed. An update on a meeting with the Bugbee community was provided. Procedural questions about the adoption of the CIP, the allocation of special funds received from rental revenue and concerns about the budget being sufficient to manage the ongoing maintenance of the school buildings were raised. Information on energy savings and plans to control heating and cooling costs was reviewed. Board members discussed technology planning and the ability of the current budget to support the upkeep of existing equipment or allow for the acquisition of new technology. Balancing funding for technological advances was discussed in relation to supporting the newly presented vision.

*State of the Schools
Report*

*Presentation of Capital
Improvement Plan for
2010-11 and 2011-12*

Mr. Dunn addressed concerns in light of a recent bus accident in the state. He reviewed the important responsibility for student transportation and safety. He summarized the safety records of drivers and safety standards of the vehicles. The communication with and expectations of the bus contractors was discussed. The issue of requiring seat belts was addressed.

Ms. Katz moved, seconded by Mr. Putterman:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of January 5, 2010.

The misspelling of a name was noted. Mrs. Brassil Spinella requested additional wording to reflect specific questions.

THAT the vote on the minutes be tabled until the next regular Board meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Brassil Spinella reported on a presentation to the West Hartford Health Advisory Council regarding student gambling and relayed information of the availability of the presenter to address other groups.

Ms. Katz shared a conversation with a parent of a student in the IB program that demonstrated an aspect of the IB philosophy.

Chloe Singer (Conard) reported on approaching mid-terms, fundraising efforts for Haiti, the upcoming orientation for 8th grade students and the Environmental Club's contest winning project.

Ms. Kindall announced the following meeting dates:

1. Next Regular Board meeting, Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, Room 314.

Ms. Mudge requested an update on technology and a historical breakdown of students attending magnet schools.

Mrs. Brassil Spinella requested clarification of the requirements necessary for an Executive Session and the ability to provide information to the public regarding discussions about the racial imbalance issue.

Approval of Minutes

*Vote to Table the
Approval of the Minutes*

*Reports from Other
Boards and
Organizations*

*Other Information and
Discussions*

*Report from Student
Representative*

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

Future Agenda Items

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Margaret Francoeur, 80 Westmont, addressed the Board to express concerns about Executive Sessions.

Comments from Visitors

Michael Francoeur, 80 Westmont, addressed the Board regarding the Superintendent's vision and the culture of West Hartford Public Schools.

Mr. Putterman moved, seconded by Ms. Mudge:

Adjournment

THAT the Board adjourn at 9:19 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Clare Kindall, Chairman

Bruce Putterman, Secretary

Respectfully submitted by: Ms. K. Lawrence, Clerk of the Board

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