

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
November 6, 2013

Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 11/19/13

Present: Ms. Katz, Mrs. Ma, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Zydanowicz, Student Representatives Jordan Gelber (Hall), Randa Griffin (Conard)

Absent: Superintendent List

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education revise the meeting agenda order to present agenda item #VIII. B. 1. Presentation of the CT Elementary School Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award after Public Communications

The motion passed unanimously.

Sean McCann, 11 Seymour Rd, addressed the Board with concerns about the Bring Your Own Device program.

Mr. Steve Armstrong, Social Studies Department Supervisor and State Representative for the Gilder Lehrman Institute in New York City provided background on the mission and work of the Institute. Mr. Armstrong announced the recognition by the Institute of Jeffrey Cowan and presented him with the CT Elementary School Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award. Mr. Cowan's dedication to his students and accomplishments in his classroom were highlighted. Mr. Cowan accepted the award and expressed his gratitude and acknowledged the support of his family and Webster Hill principal, Jeff Wallowitz.

Mr. Putterman announced that the Board of Education selected Assistant Superintendent Mr. Tom Moore as the next Superintendent for the West Hartford Public Schools. The selection process and the development of the position profile were reviewed. Mr. Putterman acknowledged fellow Board members and all participants in the online survey. The background, qualifications and experience that Mr. Moore brings to the position was summarized. Board members reflected on the appointment of Mr. Moore and expressed their perspectives on his qualities and attributes and extended their support and congratulations.

Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Revision to Agenda Order

Public Communications

*Non-Staff Communications and Reports:
The Gilder Lehrman Institute to present Mr. Jeffrey Cowan, fifth grade teacher from Webster Hill Elementary School, with the CT Elementary School Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award*

Announcement Regarding Superintendent Search

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Mr. Putterman also shared the support and confidence expressed by Dr. List through a written statement in her absence.

Ms. Katz moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

THAT the Board of Education appoint Mr. Tom Moore to the position of Superintendent of the West Hartford Public Schools commencing July 1, 2014 at an annual base salary of \$197,000

The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:38 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 7:41 p.m.

Mr. Putterman extended congratulations to those members successfully winning the election.

In Dr. List's absence, Mr. Moore reported on the excitement regarding the athletic field lights being operational and the Laramie Project performances at both high schools.

Mr. Moore provided an introduction for the presentation of the design concepts resulting from meetings with and input from the architects, staff, parents and community members. Mr. Chip Ward stated the purpose of the presentation was to show design concepts from both site layout and building perspectives to gather feedback to assist in the continuing development of further designs. The general timeline for presenting the concepts and finalizing a design plan was shared.

The team from Perkins Eastman was introduced. Joseph Costa, Principal/Architect, Fritz Morris, Project Manager and Mike Cegan, Landscape Architect discussed some of the site design issues, including parking reviewed the architectural process and presented three design concept options. They emphasized the designs reflected the feedback and requests received included the incorporation of elements from the IB curriculum philosophy, preservation of the existing park-like setting and establishing distance from the streets. The landscaping designs for the playscape and playground, parking and drop-off areas and the impact on the existing, mature trees were explained. The team reviewed the potential benefits and drawbacks of each design option and all members welcomed the reaction, feedback and questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members praised the comprehensive and innovative design options. Concerns were expressed about emergency vehicle access,

Motion to Approve the Appointment of the Superintendent

Recess

Superintendent's Report

Charter Oak International Academy Building Project Update Design Concepts Presentation

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security and building access, finding balance between respecting mature landscape and creating exciting and practical designs. The desire to develop a legacy for Charter Oak inspired by feedback received from students to incorporate a ritualistic element or tradition as part of the building design was explored. General consensus was sought on a favored concept to assist in the direction and evolution of future designs.

Mr. Moore provided an introduction for the presentation and reminded the Board of the original charge from Dr. List and the on-going progress. Mr. Jared Morin, Mrs. Jeri Van Leer, Ms. Denise Jaffe and Mrs. Lindsey Roberts-Walstrom summarized the task, vision and goals relating to the technology integration and education mission for the district. The accomplishments during the past year as well as current projects were reviewed. The technology infrastructure, primary roles for staff, professional development training and the changes and impact to student learning and examples of students' use of technology were demonstrated. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board

Board expressed appreciation for the energy demonstrated and the comprehensive presentation and concerns were raised about the pace, additional demands in the classroom and the BYOD program. The purpose and practices of the BYOD program was explained and data was requested to determine the presence of absence of the digital divide. The need to sharpen basic typing skills for students and current glitches with the existing technology were discussed.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Statement for the period ending September 30, 2013

Mr. Schmitt provided an oral presentation of the financial report. Mr. Chip Ward was available to answer the questions of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 15, 2013

Clerk noted correction to the motion vote.

*WHPS Technology
Status Update*

Financial Statement

Approval of Minutes

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The motion passed 5-1-1.

In Favor: Mrs. Ma, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman,
Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Zydanowicz

Opposed: Ms. Katz - for the purpose of opposing on the record

Abstained: Mr. Sarzen – due to absence

Randa Griffin (Conard) reported on the Laramie Project production and subsequent classroom discussion and provided an update on sports and the games played under the lights.

*Reports from Student
Board Representatives*

Jordan Gelber (Hall) reported on the college application process, the upcoming distribution of report cards, parent conferences and the games being under the lights and provided an update on other sports teams.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, December 3, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

Mr. Zydanowicz inquired about a discussion regarding improving the voting process at the schools and the Boards involvement in streamlining.

Future Agenda Items

Kent Dunlap, 188 Warrenton Ave., addressed the Board regarding technology in schools and provided a handout.

Comments from Visitors

Mary Ann Sandberg, 95 St. Augustine St, addressed the Board regarding the experience of technology and education.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

Adjournment

That the Board adjourn at 10:33 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

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ATTEST:

Bruce Putterman, Chairperson

Naogan Ma, Secretary

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

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