

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
April 1, 2014

Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 5/6/14

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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

*Roll Call/Pledge of
Allegiance*

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

*Revision to Agenda
Order*

That the Board of Education revise the agenda order to present agenda item VIII.B.1. The Bridge following item III. Public Communications

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Putterman introduced Hall High School student Ireland Williams presentation of a national campaign, “Ban the R Word”. Ms. Williams showed a video and explained the purpose and goal of pledging to eliminate the offensive targeted word.

Student Participation

Mary Hardy, 133 Pioneer Dr., addressed the Board regarding Occupational Therapist (OT) services, staffing and reporting structure.

Public Communications

John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding student tracking recommendations and submitted a complaint concerning the bidding process.

Jeanette Becker, 15 Walbridge Rd., addressed the Board regarding support for Hall High School teacher and coach Nick Colagiovanni and emphasized a petition signed by 1251 students.

Mark Jay, 47 Conard St., addressed the Board regarding support for Nick Colagiovanni and the process.

Reid Silverhart, 59 Brainard Rd., addressed the Board to express support for coach and teacher Nick Colagiovanni.

Neil Kelly, 220 Fern St., addressed the Board regarding support for coach Nick Colagiovanni.

Dave Houpert, 344 Fern St., addressed the Board regarding his

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support for Nick Colagiovanni.

Karen Binkhorst, 300 Fern St., addressed the Board regarding her support for the students' support for coach Nick Colagiovanni.

Mr. Putterman responded to the Public Communications to explain the Board's role in making and setting policy and recognized the appropriateness of a Board meeting as an outlet to express public opinion. The strength of the administration's non-tenure review process was emphasized and the effort and enthusiasm of the speakers was applauded.

There was a brief recess at 7:42 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 7:46 p.m.

Dr. Karen List introduced Mrs. Margaret Hann, Mrs. Pat Tyler and Ms. Deb Zipkin from The Bridge Family Services. Background was provided on the organization's mission, expansion of services and the collaborative relationships that have been developed with the schools. The rate of student participation in many of the services offered was shared and gratitude for the support provided by the Board and administration was expressed. The special relationship and unique services provided at the Charter Oak Family Resource Center was highlighted.

Board members discussed the selection of students for program participation and insuring accessibility and relevant cost structures. The wide range of issues covered and services provided and appreciation for the long-term relationship between the Center and the schools was acknowledged.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

THAT the Board of Education accept the administration's recommendation for the non-renewal of non-tenured teachers' contracts and to proceed with written notification to the individuals involved

Mr. Rick Ledwith reviewed the formality of the non-renew process and explained the hiring conditions for interim teachers.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. List introduced Assistant Superintendent Mr. Tom Moore. Mr.

Brief Recess

*Non-Staff
Communications and
Reports:
The Bridge*

*Non-Renewal of Non-
Tenured Personnel*

Superintendent's Report

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Moore announced the appointment of Dr. Andrew Morrow, current principal of Bristow Middle School as the new Assistant Superintendent for Administration. Dr. Morrow's background and experience at Bristow were highlighted as uniquely qualifying from a talented pool of applicants. This position will be effective July 1, 2014. Dr. List announced that graduation for both Hall and Conard High School will be held on June 17, 2014. She shared that the graduation rate for the Class of 2013 is over 95%.

Dr. List switched the order of the Staff Reports and introduced Mr. Chip Ward, Ms. Trish Molloy and *Growing Great Schools* member Sally Mancini. They reported on their plans to improve and increase participation rates with the *Growing Great Schools* program and the marketing efforts underway to improve awareness of the effort and its benefits. The continued oversight by Board and regular meetings and collaboration with Nutrition Services Department was emphasized and appreciation expressed. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members expressed their support for the organization and the funds invested to promote the programs. Questions were raised about meeting federal guidelines and related compliance. Product rejection, increased fruit and vegetable servings and caloric intake adjustments were reviewed. The shift in dietary needs, options and preferences and the holistic approach to nutrition and health and factors influencing non-participation were discussed.

Dr. Nancy DePalma, Mr. Glenn McGrath, Ms. Aimee Heaton, Mrs. Wanda Hedman and Ms. Lynnette Kaschke provided a presentation on the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework as a practice designed to meet the needs of all students. The objectives and definitions were reviewed and the primary principles of the framework and the obstacles, differentiation and effective instruction were outlined. The definition and examples of Assistive Technology (AT) and the partnership of UDL and AT were described. A demonstration of robotic assisted instruction currently in use at Whiting Lane was provided. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board discussion included the process involved for identifying students and the transfer of information between teachers. The emphasis on differentiation, the level of master teaching required, the usage and broader implication of the framework were explored. Professional development and the ability to meet the varied learning

*Improving Participation
Rates in the School
Nutrition Program*

*Universal Design for
Learning (UDL)
Update*

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styles, stages and changes in students' development. Helping students find strengths and connecting between subjects and piloting the use of robots throughout schools was clarified. The excitement and support of the framework and program was expressed.

Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest:

Financial Report

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2014

Mr. Sarzen 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. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest:

Approval of Minutes

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the regular Board meeting of March 18, 2014

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Putterman provided an update on vacation weeks and guidelines for professional development days for the regional calendar made at the CREC calendar meeting.

Mr. Putterman stated this was an opportunity for Board members to review and discuss specific budget items. The proposed Clinical Supervisor position and the 1.5 FTE Administrative Principal support positions were highlighted. The function of those positions and the factors influencing the need for them were discussed. Concerns about allocating funds directly into the classroom, increased healthcare costs and potential options, strategic, longer-term planning and related identifying items were reviewed. Questions were raised and clarified about staffing, evaluating and supervising, and the role of forensic auditing and ECS funding.

Budget Discussions

Jordan Gelber (Hall) acknowledged the response to students provided by the administration and the scheduled SBAC testing.

Report from Student Board Representatives

Mrs. Exum expressed her appreciation for the recent *Shrek, the Musical* performance at Sedgwick.

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Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, April 8, 2014, regular BOE meeting at 7:00 p.m.,
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber,
room 314, Adoption of the 2014-2015 BOE Budget

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding evaluating students and budget item concerns.

Comments from Visitors

Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

Adjournment

That the Board adjourn at 10:35 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Bruce Putterman, Chairperson Tammy Exum, Secretary
Respectfully submitted by: Ms. K. Lawrence, Clerk of the Board

