

West Hartford Public Schools  
 Board of Education  
 Regular Board Meeting  
**September 19, 2017**

***Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval***

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Ms. Exum, Dr. Greenberg, Mr. Pauluk, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Zydanowicz,  
 Superintendent Tom Moore, Student Representatives Grace Andrews (Conard) and  
 Madeline Pliskin (Hall)

Absent: Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance</i></p>
<p>No Student Participation at this time.</p>	<p><i>Student Participation</i></p>
<p>John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, West Hartford, spoke on the topic of students in our school district with a reading of a poem by Kahlil Gibran.</p>	<p><i>Public Communication</i></p>
<p>No Unfinished Business at this time.</p>	<p><i>Unfinished Business</i></p>
<p>No New Business at this time.</p>	<p><i>New Business</i></p>
<p>Dr. Greenberg recognized and congratulated Superintendent Tom Moore who was honored by The Bridge with the Build No Fences Award.</p>	<p><i>Staff Communications and Reports</i></p>
<p>Superintendent Tom Moore reported that both Conard and Hall received notification of their National Merit semi-finalists. Of 180 seniors in Connecticut who were notified, West Hartford had four semi-finalists: Tessora Chang of Hall; and Katie Kopp, Jack Moore and Doug Olmstead all from Conard. Of mention was the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Morley Elementary School roof work and the move of the HVAC units</li> <li>2. JCC will be holding a screening of Raising Our Kids in the Digital Age on October 18<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>3. October 27 will be PSAT day at our high schools.</li> <li>4. September 21<sup>st</sup> (Rosh Hashanah) will be observed and students will be off from school.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Superintendent's Report</i></p>
<p>Mr. Paul Vicinus and Ms. Anne McKernan reported on the 2017 School Day SAT results. Mr. Vicinus stated it was very exciting to be able to present the School Day results as it is a reflection of all the hard work from teachers, staff, students, and administration. Results reflected positive achievement rates and strong growth. Background information was given, including the College Board's plan to redesign the SAT as part</p>	<p><i>2017 School Day SAT Results</i></p>

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of an effort to provide the greatest access to the largest possible range of students. The redesign was a dramatic step toward the alignment of high school curriculum and college entrance exams. Changes to the SAT included score range and test length as well as the elimination of the guessing penalty. As a district we saw a 4 and 5 percent growth in terms of the number of students meeting the college and career readiness benchmark for literacy and mathematics, respectively. Results also showed that West Hartford scored significantly above state averages for literacy and mathematics and very competitively as compared to our Demographic Reference Group (DRG), DRG B. The achievement gap analysis included in the report shows that while there is still a gap in performance between our high needs group and those not meeting the high needs criteria, we have made strong gains in closing the achievement gap. While pleased with the progress, there is still the need for continuous effort in this area. The Board thanked Mr. Vicinus and Ms. McKernan for the in-depth report and asked questions relating to data on the high needs group, the gap in English versus the gap in math, how we rank nationally and how we measure against our DRG. The Board also asked what is done in the lower grades to better align efforts across the grades. Additional information on school results may be found at [www.edsight.ct.gov](http://www.edsight.ct.gov). Additional information on preparing for the school day SAT may be found at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>.

Mr. Sarzen moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

*Financial Report*

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2017

Mr. Sarzen reported on the general fund surplus which was given back to the town. Mr. Chip Ward was available for questions. Highlights to the report included salaries, benefits, purchased services, supplies and materials as well as grant funds and special funds. Also reported was a look at nutrition service and school lunches. The Board asked questions relating to the student lunch program over the last ten years and the performance of salad bars within the schools.

The motion passed unanimously

Mrs. Blanks moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

*Approval  
Of Minutes*

THAT the Board of Education approve the revised minutes of the Board of Education meeting of September 5, 2017

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The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zydanowicz attended the curriculum night at King Philip and Hall and commended teachers on how organized it was. Mr. Sarzen attended Sedgwick's curriculum night and commented on a wonderful job. Mrs. Exum reported on the Bristow open house and BBQ, as well as The Foundation's sale of mums fundraiser event. Student Representative Grace Andrews reported on Conard's first football game, open house, senior planning night, and the upcoming substance abuse and drug addiction program to be held on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Student Representative Maddy Pliskin reported on the Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams, the planning of the fall festival, and the planning for a Hurricane Relief Fundraiser.

Dr. Cheryl Greenberg announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, October 3, 2017, regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.
2. Tuesday, October 17, 2017, regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.

No comments from visitors at this time.

Mr. Sarzen moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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Dr. Cheryl Greenberg, Chairperson      Mrs. Tammy Exum, Secretary

*Respectfully submitted by: Mrs. C. Rogers, Clerk of the Board*

*Information and  
Reports*

*Announcement of  
Meeting Dates*

*Comments from  
Visitors*

*Adjournment*

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