

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**April 9, 2013**

Present: Ms. Katz, Mrs. Ma, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Schmitt (via phone), Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent List, Student Representative Tyree Seymour (Conard)

Absent: Student Representative Kendall Teare (Hall)  
Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance/ Revision to Agenda Order</i></p>
<p>Bristow Middle School students performed selections from <b>Annie, Jr.</b></p>	<p><i>Student Participation</i></p>
<p>John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., presented a petition opposing the ‘spot redistricting’ at Webster Hill.</p>	<p><i>Public Communications</i></p>
<p>Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:  THAT the Board of Education review the Superintendent’s proposed budget in the amount of \$140,055,899, make revisions as necessary, and adopt the 2013-2014 Board of Education Budget</p>	<p><i>Adoption of the 2013-2014 Board of Education Budget</i></p>
<p>Mr. Schmitt summarized the budget process, praised the presentation of a responsible budget and recommended a vote in support of it. Mr. Chip Ward was available to answer the questions and concerns of the Board.</p>	
<p>Board members acknowledged the work of the administration in developing a responsible budget and requested diligence in moving forward with future budget decisions. The challenge of finding the balance between district wants and needs, where to find reductions and the principle of maintaining accountability was emphasized.</p>	
<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:  THAT the Board of Education approve the West Hartford Teacher Effectiveness and Performance Evaluation: The Process for Supervising and Evaluating West Hartford Teachers</p>	<p><i>Motion by the Board of Education to Approve the West Hartford Teacher Effectiveness and Performance Evaluation: The Process for Supervising and</i></p>
<p>Mr. Schmitt offered clarification that this new system is State</p>	

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mandated and commended the district and specifically the committee on the process and effort involved.

*Evaluating West  
Hartford Teachers*

Dr. List acknowledged concerns about initiative fatigue and offered the distinction between available tools such as the UDL previously presented and mandates such as the evaluation process. Her concerns about this mandate, specifically implementation and feedback from the State and legal counsel were stated. The involvement of administrators, teachers and Mr. Patrick Flynn was commended.

Dr. Nancy DePalma, Mr. Rick Ledwith, Mr. Patrick Flynn, Executive Director of ReVision Learning Partnership and Dr. Maureen Lantner presented the Teacher Evaluation Plan and the Administrator Evaluation plan to the Board. Dr. DePalma introduced and provided a summary of the process. Mr. Flynn described the work of TRAC (Teacher Review and Advisory Committee) and the design of the Instructional Framework rubric. The high level of support and challenges for teacher development, understanding State and Federal guidelines, consideration of stakeholder feedback and the features that distinguish West Hartford and exceed core requirements were reviewed. The evaluator training, professional learning, data management system and the implications were described. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members raised concerns regarding the learning curve, maintenance, access and use of the data systems, the relationship between teacher and evaluator and controls in place to prevent potential abuse of the new system. Emphasis was placed on addressing teacher and administrator anxiety with major initiatives and channeling the vigor and determination of staff into successful goal-setting.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

THAT the Board of Education approve the West Hartford Administrator Evaluation and Development Process

Mr. Schmitt provided an overview and emphasized the Mission Framework and the Model of Continuous Improvement as the foundation for the new process.

Dr. Maureen Lantner reviewed the context of the Administrator Pilot Program and expressed appreciation to all participants. A timeframe for the evaluation cycle, State guidelines for Administrator evaluation

*Motion by the Board of  
Education to Approve  
the West Hartford  
Administrator  
Evaluation and  
Development Process*

and the support process were outlined. Comparisons between the teacher and administrator rating percentages were reviewed and the Pilot Program points summarized. Dr. DePalma, Mr. Ledwith, Mr. Flynn and Dr. Lantner were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members raised questions about measures in place to ensure all procedures and expectations are followed. The development of questions contained within the parent survey was discussed. Recognition was extended to Mr. Chip Ward for his work to address the fluctuations in survey responses.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Karen List expressed sympathy to Mary Anne Sullivan, Pupil Services Department Supervisor, on the death of her husband. Dr. List announced the appointments of Dan Zittoun as the new principal at Hall High School and Karen Kukish from interim to permanent principal at Whiting Lane. Their background, experience and qualifications were shared. The recent recognition of an elementary student as a national finalist, a video production by high school students and discussion of a play written by a recent graduate to be performed by Hall's theatre students while in Scotland at the Fringe Theatre Festival this summer.

Mr. Overmyer-Velazquez reported on the West Hartford Substance Abuse Town Meeting presentation. Mr. Putterman extended appreciation for the presentation 'After the Cap and Gown' for parents with students with disabilities and announced the 'UCEA Excellence in Educational Leadership' award received by Dr. List. He also announced an event funded by a grant received by a former Conard graduate, founder and continued operator of Unified Theatre, to attend a panel in Washington with four other individuals from the district.

Tyree Seymour (Conard) reported on the upcoming student tours and trips scheduled over April vacation.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, May 7, 2013, Teacher of the Year Reception, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 400
2. Tuesday, May 7, 2013, Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chambers, room 314
3. Tuesday, May 21, 2013, Regular Board Meeting, 7:00

*Superintendent's Report*

*Reports from Other  
Board and Organizations*

*Report from Student  
Board Representative*

*Announcement of  
Meeting Dates*

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- p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative  
Chambers, room 314
4. Tuesday, May 28, 2013, Board Awards, 6:00 p.m., King  
Philip Middle School

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

That the Board adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

*Adjournment*

ATTEST:

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Bruce Putterman, Chairperson

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Naogan Ma, Secretary

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

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