

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
June 4, 2013

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

*Roll Call/Pledge of
Allegiance/Revision to
Agenda*

Clare Taylor, fifth grade teacher at Duffy Elementary School, introduced Duffy students and their presentation, *West Hartford Welcomes You*. The students shared their service learning project that reflected the results of their own survey distributed to town residents.

Student Participation

John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., thanked the Board members for their time and dedication and requested their consideration of the content of his previous comments.

Public Communications

Russell Trent, 52 Oak Ridge Lane, addressed the Board to share his concerns about Wolcott Elementary School and enrollment numbers.

Susan Aliberti, 140 Federal St., addressed the Board regarding Wolcott Elementary School and the class sizes for all students.

Angela Campbell, 39 Sunset Farm Rd., addressed the Board regarding concerns about enrollment numbers.

PJ Louis, 37 Briarwood Rd., addressed the Board regarding concerns about conditions at Wolcott.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:30 p.m. The Board resumed at 7:35 p.m.

Recess

Mr. Putterman presented student representative, Kendall Teare with a gift and thanked her for her extraordinary contributions to the Board meetings.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

THAT the Board of Education accept and approve as a Second and Final Reading the following bylaw which was revised by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

*Motion by Bruce
Putterman and Terry
Schmitt to Accept and
Approve Revised Policy
4010 – Second Reading*

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4010 Affirmative Action

Mr. Schmitt stated it was a second reading and reviewed the changes. Mr. Tom Moore was available to address the questions of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education accept and approve as a Second and Final Reading the following policy which was revised by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

Motion by Bruce Putterman and Terry Schmitt to Accept and Approve Revised Policy 6330 – Second Reading

6330 Homework

Mr. Schmitt reviewed the significant revisions made to the policy to reflect the changes in the approach to homework. Mr. Moore was available to address the questions of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Katz moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education approve West Hartford Public Schools take action to re-certify that all food items sold to students will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards

State of Connecticut Healthy Food Certification

Mr. Ward stated this routine action was required by the State and asked the Board for approval.

Board discussion confirmed whether the State followed through on providing the promised funds. The merits of the program were emphasized and the management of Trish Molloy was acknowledged.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education accept the educational specification dated June, 2013 for construction of a new Charter Oak International Academy and authorize the Superintendent to complete the necessary architectural drawings and submit an application to the State Department of Education for a construction grant

New Charter Oak Construction – Educational Specifications

Mr. Schmitt provided a summary of the opportunity that exists for the district with the Charter Oak project and presented the motion as a requirement to secure funding.

Mr. Moore stated the motion was the next step and introduced Capital Projects Manager for the Town, Hugh Schweitzer, along with Mr. Bob Palmer and Chip Ward. Mr. Ward provided a summary of the different sections of the educational specifications and reviewed the process and the town organization. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Mr. Putterman emphasized the opportunity that exists for community involvement and input. Board discussion reviewed the continued involvement of the original committee and the emergence and participation of new groups formed. Board members inquired about the integration of available technology and green energy resources. The goal to build an attractive, efficient addition to the town was emphasized.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Katz moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education approve the final plans and specifications for asbestos abatement and installation of finish floor systems Aiken, Duffy, and Sedgwick Schools

Ms. Katz summarized the purpose of the Board approval as routine. Mr. Bob Palmer reviewed the continued efforts toward removal of remaining asbestos throughout the schools.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Overmyer-Velazquez moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education accept the King Philip Middle School Air-Conditioning Project-Phase II, State project number 155-0219 as being complete and authorized the Superintendent of Schools to request payment of the School Construction Grant from the State Department of Education

Mr. Palmer reviewed the need for reimbursement from the State and this motion was a final administrative procedure. Mr. Putterman extended gratitude to Representative Fleischman for his efforts to

*Approval of Final Plans
and Specifications for
Asbestos Abatement and
Installation of Finish
Floor Systems at Aiken,
Duffy and Sedgwick
Schools*

*Acceptance of the
Completed King Philip
Middle School Air
Conditioning Project –
Phase II*

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secure funding.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Katz moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education approve the final plans and specifications for athletic field lighting at Conard and Hall High Schools

*Approval of Final Plans
and Specifications for
Athletic Field Lighting
at Conard and Hall
High Schools*

Board members inquired about the implementation schedule and Mr. Moore indicated a target timeframe for the Fall sports. Emphasis was placed on the fundraising efforts generated by students, parents and community and continued interest and participation was encouraged. The goal of increasing field usage by the community was also emphasized.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Karen List welcomed Mr. Zydanowicz back from his service duty. The appointment of Jasdeep Singh to the position of Wolcott principal was announced and the participation of many members of the school communities in the interviewing and selection process for the multiple vacancies was recognized and appreciated. Dr. List offered her congratulations to John Mastroianni, music teacher at Hall, as the recipient of the Teacher of Year award and to Stacy Kellogg-Shove as Connecticut School Psychologist of the Year. Many of the year-end events, activities and student accomplishments were shared.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. List introduced Mr. Tom Moore and Police Chief Tracey Gove who were prepared to review the annual data for this year's discipline report and provided a review of the safety protocols in place throughout all schools. The State's definition of bullying and the requirements of reporting acts were clarified. Emphasis was placed on the importance of communication between administration and parents and the commitment to create a safe space for learning for all students. Updates were provided on the training and drills conducted throughout the schools and the various security system options available were discussed. Efforts by members of the fire and police departments were commended. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

*Safe School Climate and
Discipline Report*

Board members discussed potential problematic scenarios with the implementation of panic buttons and access key cards including the response to false alarms and the number and deactivation of cards.

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Appreciation for the increased police presence and the respectful and collaborative relationship existing between the schools and departments was expressed. The increase of bullying incidences during the transition from middle to high school, the coding and reporting of serious incidents and the development of new technology and the vigilance and practices required regarding academic dishonesty were considered.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

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

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Katz moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of May 21, 2013

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Katz reported on the annual WHEA dinner and recognized retiring teachers.

Kendall Teare (Hall) expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to participate with the Board of Education process and shared the impact the experience had on her growth, experience and the influence on her future career path.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, September 3, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesdsay, September 17, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board and shared a written tale.

Megan Harrigan, 22 Garland Rd., addressed the Board with questions regarding Wolcott enrollment and concerns about 'Art on a Cart'.

Financial Statement

Approval of Minutes

*Reports from Boards and
Other Organizations*

*Report from Student
Board Representative*

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

Comments from Visitors

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Maggie Bourgoïn, 20 Garland Rd., addressed the Board to express her perspective on West Hartford and concerns about the quality of education.

Mrs. Ma moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

That the Board adjourn at 9:36 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Adjournment

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

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