

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
February 18, 2015

Present: Mrs. Exum, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Sarzen, Superintendent Moore, Henley Solomon (Conard)

Absent: Ms. Gilchrest, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Zydanowicz, Student Representative Paul Zeuschner (Hall)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance/Revision to Agenda Order</i></p>
<p>Braeburn Elementary School Principal, Mr. Steve Woznicki provided some background on the success of the Artists in Residence program and introduced the Braeburn Jugglers. Braeburn students demonstrated their skills.</p>	<p><i>Student Participation</i></p>
<p>There were no Public Communications.</p>	<p><i>Public Communications</i></p>
<p>Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:</p>	<p><i>Proposed Calendar Options for the 2016-2017 School Year - First Reading</i></p>
<p>THAT the Board of Education review as a First Reading the proposed calendar options for the 2016-2017 school year</p>	
<p>Mr. Moore introduced the two proposed options and highlighted the key differences. Mr. Putterman discussed the CREC Uniform Regional Calendar guidelines including the allowable flex days.</p>	
<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>Mr. Tom Moore announced the prestigious recognition received by a Conard senior in becoming one of 61 U.S. Presidential Scholar Finalists. A reminder was provided about the upcoming Buena Vista Art Beat exhibit showcasing student artwork and reviewed the continued evaluation of school roofs and the availability of buses for Project Choice students.</p>	<p><i>Superintendent's Report</i></p>
<p>Dr. Nancy DePalma and Mr. Paul Vicinus provided an update on the State testing programs and compliance and the emphasis placed on the goal of equitable education for all students. New information on the details of the assessments was shared and the political implications with state testing were acknowledged. The importance of honest discussions with parents and not utilizing the test data as isolated information but rather in combination with other assessment methods. The scale, preparedness, training, types and testing platforms for the</p>	<p><i>State Assessment Update</i></p>

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Smarter Balance Field Test were reviewed and samples of student responses, relative usefulness and achievement levels were provided. Dr. DePalma and Mr. Vicinus were available to answer the questions of the Board.

Board members discussed keyboarding skills, developmental appropriateness and Universal Design Learning (UDL). The importance of students working at their own pace and continued flexibility for required extra time and awareness and guidance for principals was acknowledged.

Ms. Roszena Haskins, Director of Continuing Education, provided a summary of the opportunities, programs and classes offered to assist adult learners through the life span. Ms. Haskins and adult education teachers Ms. Elizabeth Hanlon and Ms. Nancy Hill reviewed the commitment to adult learning in areas including basic adult education, alternative routes to a high school diploma, citizenship and speakers of other languages. Maintaining accessibility, creating partnerships and outreach with the community, evaluation of the curriculum, instruction and assessment and monitoring program outcomes were all discussed. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members inquired about the costs of the programs, the sufficiency of current funding and the availability of grant assistance. The competition for participants in summer school programs and the benefits afforded to students when witnessing the dedication of their parents towards their own education were discussed.

Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of February 3, 2015

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez shared the successful turnout for the recent Town Forum on school logos and names. He expressed appreciation for the participation and tenor and perspectives presented and stated the discussion would be continued on March 17th. The resignation of Board member Jillian Gilchrest was announced.

Henley Solomon (Conard) reported on recognition received by students for the Annual Regional Scholastic Art Awards, the girls' basketball team reaching the States, the upcoming Winter Formal and

*West Hartford Adult
Education Program
Update*

Approval of the Minutes

*Reports from Other
Boards and
Organizations*

*Report from Student
Board Representatives*

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parent dance and the annual Chocolate Cafe.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, March 3, 2015, regular BOE meeting, Presentation of the Superintendent's Budget, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
2. Wednesday, March 11, Budget Workshop #1, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
3. Thursday, March 12, Budget Workshop #2, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
4. Tuesday, March 17, regular BOE meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
5. Wednesday, March 25, BOE Public Hearing followed by Budget Workshop #3, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
6. Tuesday, April 7, 2015, regular BOE meeting, Adoption of the 2015-2016 Board of Education Budget, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber

Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

That the Board adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, Chairperson Terry Schmitt, Secretary
Respectfully submitted by: Ms. K. Lawrence, Clerk of the Board

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

Adjournment

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