

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
March 3, 2015

Present: Mrs. Exum, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Schmitt,
Superintendent Moore, Mr. Zydanowicz

Absent: Student Representatives Henley Solomon (Conard), Paul Zeuschner (Hall)

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. Sarzen:

*Revision to Agenda
Order*

THAT the order of the agenda be changed to put the following
agenda item before Public Communications:

- Election of Officers

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez explained the vacancy was due to the
resignation of Jillian Gilchrest. Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for
nominations for the office of Vice-Chairperson.

Mr. Schmitt nominated Mrs. Exum for the office of Vice-
Chairperson, seconded by Mr. Sarzen

Election of Officers

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for any additional nominations for the
office of Vice-Chairperson. None were made. The nominations were
closed and a vote was taken.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for nominations for the office of
Financial Examiner (Democratic Party).

Mr. Sarzen nominated Mr. Schmitt for the office of Financial
Examiner (Democratic Party), seconded by Mr. Putterman

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for any additional nominations for the
office of Financial Examiner (Democratic Party). None were made.
The nominations were closed and a vote was taken.

The motion passed unanimously.

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Kate Wilson, 1586 Boulevard, addressed the Board with concerns regarding a perception that a teacher's opinion about the use of Native American mascot and logo is being promoted in a way that limits student's voices on the subject.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

THAT the Board of Education receive the Superintendent's recommended 2015-2016 Education Budget and begin the process of reviewing and modifying for final approval and adoption as the Board of Education Budget at the April 7, 2015 Board of Education meeting

In recognition of Board Appreciation Month, Mr. Tom Moore expressed gratitude to the dedication and work of the Board members.

Mr. Moore presented the 2015-2016 Budget Recommendations and summarized West Hartford Public Schools as a large organization. Details were provided on the number of employees, number of students enrolled and transported daily, the number of buildings including total square footage requiring attention and maintenance and total number of bargaining units involved in the budget planning. The salary and benefits for employees were summarized and the decrease in per pupil spending ranging over several decades from 2nd to 125th out of 169 school districts was described. The comparisons to other DRG B districts, the shortfall in ECS funding and the ability to provide a quality education efficiently was emphasized.

Mr. Moore described the Roll-Forward Budget and highlighted the decrease in medical expenses, changes in enrollment, increase in FTEs, salary and benefits, transportation and other expenses and summarized the 2015-2016 budget with a \$148.58 million or 1.84% increase. The next steps and budget process timeline were outlined.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tom Moore provided a reminder of The Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools annual fundraiser, *West Hartford's Cookin* and encouraged all to attend.

Mr. Sarzen expressed concern regarding earlier statements made during Public Communications and called for action. Mr. Putterman emphasized the statements were allegations and prudent steps would include understanding all concerns.

Public Communications

*Presentation of the
Superintendent's 2015-
2016 Budget
Recommendations
Superintendent's Report*

*Staff Reports and Board
Discussions*

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Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Mr. Putterman:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of February 18, 2015

The motion passed 6-0-1.

Abstained: Mr. Zydanowicz due to absence

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced a Community Connections meeting at the Elmwood Community Center.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Wednesday, March 11, Budget Workshop #1, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
2. Thursday, March 12, Budget Workshop #2, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
3. Tuesday, March 17, regular BOE meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
4. 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
5. 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. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

That the Board adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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

Approval of the Minutes

Communication and Reports

Announcement of Meeting Dates

Adjournment

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