

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
May 19, 2015

Present: Mrs. Exum, Dr. Greenberg, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Moore, Student Representatives Henley Solomon (Conard), Paul Zeuschner (Hall)

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/Revision to Agenda Order</i></p>
<p>Juan Melian, principal of Smith STEM School introduced the students and teachers and provided an overview of the presentation on coding. The students shared their experience with coding and their perspectives on the process.</p>	<p><i>Student Participation</i></p>
<p>There were no Public Communications.</p>	<p><i>Public Communications</i></p>
<p>Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Dr. Greenberg: THAT the Board of Education approve the following policy which was reviewed by the Board Policy Subcommittee: 5550 Safe School Climate Plan – Anti-Bullying</p>	<p><i>Motion by Bruce Putterman and Terry Schmitt to Approve Reviewed Policy 5550</i></p>
<p>Dr. Andrew Morrow and Ms. Kimberly Boneham provided an overview of the nature of the changes included in the proposed policy. Mr. Schmitt explained that the policy was in response to the changes mandated by the State and the district was limited in any discretionary changes that could be made.</p>	
<p>Board discussion included clarification on the categories and reporting of bullying and the timing of implementing safeguards and support plans. The Board inquired about the efficacy of existing plans and procedures for evacuations. The advantages of school-based leadership and the function of school Safe Climate Committees were reviewed. The distinction between teacher and employee code of conduct and the legislative mandates for student safety was made and emphasis was placed on a holistic approach to expectations of behaviors.</p>	
<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>Mr. Tom Moore shared the recent report in U.S. News and World</p>	<p><i>Superintendent's Report</i></p>

Report with the national ranking of Hall and Conard High Schools. Mr. Moore extended his congratulations on the accomplishments and recognition attained by Bristow Middle School and a sixth grade classroom at King Philip. The groundbreaking for the Charter Oak project was shared and upcoming events including the Whiting Lane Walk and Run, Inter-El and Unified Theater were announced.

Mr. Moore introduced the presenters, Department Supervisor, Rosey Bonner and teachers, Kathy Sweetland (Elementary School), Kevin Lillie (Middle School) and Michael DiDomenico (High School). The mission statement of the Physical Education and Health Department was reviewed and the significance of the health and physical education curriculum impacting every student was highlighted. The challenges of complying with district and National Standards within the allotted hours available were discussed. Key components and strengths and best practices of the Sports Education Models including technology integration, LGBTQ appropriateness and awareness, peer coaching, responsibility, modified concepts and skills and an environment of inclusion were reviewed. Identifying priorities, streamlining next steps and responding to standards to incorporate stress management, fitness and nutrition were reported. All were available to answer the questions of the Board.

Board members remarked on the challenges and enthusiasm of the students and expressed concerns about balancing the fun and novelty with key life skills. The differences between physical activity and physical education were presented. Board discussion included the issue of recess and its value, timing and scheduling and the incorporation of differentiation and stress management techniques such as yoga and meditation. Student representatives commented on the value of the presentation in answering long-standing questions of why physical education was a requirement.

Mr. Rick Ledwith reported on the number of retirements received and compared the turnover rate with past years. He shared the positive recruitment results of attending the UConn NEAG School of Education Career Fair and the CREC Minority Teacher Recruitment Fair. An update on the recruitment process and anticipated timelines to fill open leadership positions was provided. Appointments to those administrative positions were expected to be announced by the end of the school year.

Mrs. Exum moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

*Health
Education/Physical
Education Report*

Personnel Report

Approval of the Minutes

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THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of May 5, 2015

The clerk was informed of a grammatical correction.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced a conversation open to the public to be held at Faxon Library to discuss the tragedy in Nepal and relief efforts for the Nepalese people and community.

Other Information and Discussion

Henley Solomon (Conard) reported on the end of SBAC testing and the upcoming Spring Concert, a special Breast Cancer Awareness event and the Senior Prom.

Report from Student Board Representatives

Paul Zeuschner (Hall) reported on the conclusion of AP exams and SBAC testing, the opening of the Hall Art Show, basketball and dodgeball tournaments and the success of Spring Fling. Paul acknowledged the retirements of several veteran teachers who will be missed by students. He shared the excitement building among seniors with upcoming senior activities.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

Announcement of Meeting Dates

1. Tuesday, May 26, 2015, Board Awards, 6:00 p.m., King Philip Middle School, 100 King Philip Drive
2. Tuesday, June 2, 2015, BOE meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, room 314, Legislative Chamber

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

Executive Session

THAT the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the performance of the Superintendent

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Exum moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

Return to Regular Session

THAT the Board of Education return to Regular Session at 10:00 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

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Mr. Zydanowicz moved, seconded by Dr. Greenberg:

Adjournment

That the Board adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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

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