

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
June 2, 2015

Present: Mrs. Exum, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Dr. Greenberg, 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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The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance/ Revision to Agenda Order

Cheryl Billow, 77 Beechwood Road addressed the Board regarding mandatory practices on holidays and communication with the athletic trainers in case of an injury on the field.

Public Communications

Mr. Schmitt indicated that the Board met in Executive Session to evaluate Mr. Moore’s performance last year. He was very pleased to report that it was agreed that Mr. Moore’s performance was exemplary and that an additional year has been added on to his contract.

Unfinished Business

The motion was moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Education discuss and vote on the Superintendent’s contract.

The motion passed unanimously

Mr. Tom Moore announced that Mr. James Quinn has been appointed as the new Principal of Aiken Elementary School. In addition it was announced that Ms. Melissa Behrens has been named to be the new Assistant Principal at Sedgwick Middle School. Congratulations were extended to recent Conard graduate Brittany Jones who was selected to be one of this year’s 1000 nationwide Gates Millennium Scholars. At The WHEA/WHAA year end dinner, Hall English teacher Jen Lanese was named as West Hartford’s Teacher of the Year. Mr. Moore noted that Conard and Smith students would be launching high altitude weather balloons mounted with HD cameras as a joint project and that Unified Theater would be presenting their yearend performances.

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Moore noted his thanks to all who worked so hard this year and in particular thanked all of this year’s retirees for their years of service and for allowing all of the younger teachers to benefit from their years of experience.

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Dr. Nancy DePalma introduced a group of middle and high school students who spoke about a variety of culturally relevant and cross town activities including Unified Theater, Multi Cultural Club, Open Choice, Safe School Climate Committee, Ct Youth Forum, Community of Concern, Young Men of Color Conference, Link Crew and SRC culturally relevant training, among others. They spoke about both the impact it has had on them and the increase in communication among students as a result. Board members offered many commendations

*Equity and Excellence
Update*

Dr. Andrew Morrow, Mr. Andrew Clapsaddle and Mr. Steve Cook gave the annual Safe School Climate and Discipline report. Dr. Morrow shared the data from the end of year survey which found that the overwhelming majority of children feel safe in their school. In addition, he noted the continuing partnership with the Police Department to keep abreast of issues in the schools and community as well as the physical safety of the school facilities. Mr. Cook spoke about Bristow Cares – the motto and focus on community service at Bristow which helps foster positive school climate at the school. Mr. Clapsaddle talked about fostering relationships, acceptance and understanding. He outlined a variety of activities taking place at Sedgwick which include a character education program and team building among teachers and students. Dr. Morrow spoke for Joy Wright at King Philip about their WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) program. Board members followed up with questions and comments.

*Safe School Climate and
Discipline Report*

Mr. Paul Vicinus gave an update on the status of state reporting and accountability. With flexibility waiver that has been proposed to reframe state testing the state is waiting to hear from the US Department of Education on revisions which would likely start to take effect during the 2015-2016 school year in a more comprehensive set of measures. These would help look at education in a more comprehensive way and look at academic growth in addition to achievement. Participation rates in testing and guidelines were discussed as were twelve indicators including academic growth and achievement, college and career readiness, graduation rate, post graduate access and attendance. Schools are then rated by a compilation of points among the variety of indicators. The bar for passing is being raised.

*State Accountability
Update*

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Mr. Terry Schmitt gave the financial report. Mr. Schmitt reviewed several line item matters and explained them in Chip Ward's absence. There was a surplus in several accounts but there was a deficit in the food service account. He noted that they are still waiting to hear about the healthy food subsidy for next year.

Financial Report

The motion was moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the financial report for the period ending April 30, 2015.

The motion passed unanimously.

The motion was moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of May 19, 2015.

Approval of the Minutes

The motion passed unanimously.

Parent Leadership Training Institute will be graduating its' fourth class of parent leaders on Thursday, June 4 at Wampanoag.

Hall and Conard Board Student Representatives gave their final school reports. Paul Zeuschner (Hall) reported on year end senior activities and introduced next year's Board of Education Representative, Rachel Schunder . He then expressed his thanks to the Board for a great experience. Henley Solomon (Conard) reported on Character Day, where acting students took on and stayed in character for the entire day. He reported on upcoming Unified Theater, Art Show and concert dates, and senior year end activities. He also expressed his thanks to the Board.

Information and Reports

Dr. Overmyer –Velazquez, on behalf of the Board, thanked both Paul and Henley for their service and contribution. He also thanked everyone for their hard work as the last Board of Education meeting wrapped up for the school year.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez noted Mr. Putterman's earlier request for a report on equity.

Future Agenda Items

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Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, September 1, 2015, Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, September 15, 2015, Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

Announcement of Meeting Dates

The motion was moved and seconded:

That the Board adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Adjournment

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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

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