

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
December 16, 2014

Present: Mrs. Exum, Ms. Gilcrest, Mr. Putterman, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Sarzen,
Mr. Schmitt, Superintendent Moore, Mr. Zydanowicz, Student Representative Paul
Zeuschner (Hall)
Absent: Student Representative Henley Solomon (Conard)
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>Dr. Overmyer-Velzaquez recognized and honored the anniversary date of the Sandy Hook tragedy and the massacre unfolding in Pakistan.</p>	
<p>Student members of <i>Voices of Bristow</i>, from Bristow Middle School and directed by music instructor, Karla McClain performed for the Board.</p>	<p><i>Student Participation</i></p>
<p>Kerrie Massaro, 67 Spring Lane, addressed the Board in support of the use of the Chieftains name and logo.</p>	<p><i>Public Communications</i></p>
<p>Brian Wilson, 1586 Boulevard, addressed the Board to express his support for the continued use of the Chieftain name and reaching out to local tribes.</p>	
<p>Matt Cersosimo, 14 Chapman Rd., addressed the Board to express his support for the Chieftain name and logo.</p>	
<p>Chip Simplicio, 17 Walton Dr., addressed the Board to invite the public to a documentary viewing about the cross town rivalry.</p>	
<p>Michelle Tremblay Lacroix, 47 Mountain Terrace Rd., addressed the Board regarding the perspective of the historical significance and depicting accuracy regarding the use of Native American names.</p>	
<p>John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board to share a reading.</p>	
<p>Henry Fisher, 9 Stoner Dr., addressed the Board regarding the leadership example opportunities with the continued association of Native American names to sports teams.</p>	
<p>Mr. Putterman moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:</p>	<p><i>Motion by Bruce Putterman and Terry Schmitt to Accept Revised Bylaw 8360-</i></p>
<p>THAT the Board of Education accept as a First Reading the following bylaw which was revised by the Board Policy</p>	

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Subcommittee	<i>First Reading</i>
<p>Mr. Putterman summarized the consolidation of the revised bylaw.</p>	
<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>Mr. Putterman moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest:</p>	<i>Smart Start Grant</i>
<p>THAT the Board of Education approve the submission of the application for the Smart Start Grant for reimbursement of operational expenses related to expanding the preschool program at Charter Oak International Academy</p>	
<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>Mr. Tom Moore expressed his condolences on the passing of Gayle Koffi. He announced the bidding process for the Charter Oak project was underway and provided an update on the appointment of Michael Grieder as Director of Safety and Security. A January start date was anticipated.</p>	<i>Superintendent's Report</i>
<p>Mr. Moore introduced the presenters, Dr. Nancy DePalma, Ms. Beth Bye, Ms. Kerry Jones, Ms. Mary Stone and Ms. Jessica Goldenstein. Ms. Bye provided the history of the grassroots movement and the goals and funding for the organization. The commitment to working with the community, early education instructors, schools and outreach to families was emphasized. Data on student readiness, strengths and areas of growth were reviewed. Comparisons of various town neighborhoods were made and next steps in terms of balancing time and focus and thinking of assessment of children versus playtime were discussed. All were available to answer the questions of the Board.</p>	<i>Great By 8</i>
<p>Board members discussed obstacles in collecting data from a control group and references were made to a study of children in Finland regarding playtime. The inclusion of students from Hartford and special education students in the data was confirmed and the importance of modelling helping, pro-social behaviors was emphasized. The desire and benefit of sustaining the incentive for this type of work and funding were stressed.</p>	
<p>Dr. Nancy DePalma, Mr. Glenn McGrath, Ms. Stacy Kellogg-Shove and Mr. Ed D'Addio provided a report with an update and summary on the efforts districtwide to provide and deliver mental health services to address all life stages of development. The comprehensive and</p>	<i>Mental Health Services: A Collaborative Approach</i>

collaborative approach implemented was described. The key outcomes and findings of the CPDC and their guidelines and recommendations for addressing the personal, social, emotional and academic needs were highlighted. Future efforts and structures and support for these areas were reviewed. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members expressed concern about the clarity and meaning of the presentation and requested a report from the perspective of impacted students and their families reflecting their experiences and feelings. Administrators emphasized the collaborative and strategic vision in place and the support needed to build a more solid foundation. Specific cases were not discussed but assurances were provided that when there is awareness and concerns are raised, issues are evaluated and support and services are provided.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of December 2, 2014

The motion passed 6-0-1.

Mr. Zydanowicz abstained due to absence.

Mr. Schmitt reported the retirement of the Executive Director of CREC and the importance of the hiring search.

Paul Zeuschner (Hall) reported on the start of Winter Sports, Human Rights Day and issued a statement about the absence of input from Hall students regarding the use of the Warrior logo.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, January 6, 2105, Board Workshop, postponed
2. Tuesday, January 20, 2015, regular Board of Education meeting, Presentation of the CIP, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board regarding confusion about presentations and participation.

Approval of the Minutes

*Reports from Other
Boards and
Organizations*

*Report from Student
Board Representatives*

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

Comments from Visitors

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Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

Adjournment

That the Board adjourn at 9:20 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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