

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
May 5, 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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Mr. Tom Moore announced the Teacher of the Year finalists. He provided an overview of their notable qualities and accomplishments as educators. Mr. Moore introduced and extended his congratulations to Ms. Jennifer Hall, Fourth grade teacher, Morley Elementary School, Ms. Jennifer Lanese, English teacher, Hall High School and Ms. Christine Newman, Kindergarten teacher, Duffy Elementary School.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

There were no Public Communications. Mr. Overmyer-Velazquez provided a brief overview of the meaning of Cinco de Mayo.

Mr. Putterman moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education accept as a Second and Final Reading the following policies which were revised by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

- 4020 Employee Smoking and Other Tobacco Use
- 4090 Employee Use of Technology
- 5520 Student Smoking and Other Tobacco Use and Possession

Mr. Putterman provided clarification on the use of smoking cessation aides.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education appoint Dr. Cheryl Greenberg as a member of the West Hartford Board of Education to fill the position vacated by Ms. Jillian Gilcrest for the Period of May 5, 2015 through November 17, 2015, and that Ms. Essie Labrot swear in Dr. Greenberg as a new Board member

Mrs. Exum nominated and Mr. Sarzen seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance/ Revision to Agenda Order Public Communications

Motion by Bruce Putterman and Terry Schmitt to Accept Revised Policies 4020, 4090 and 5520 – Second Reading

Nomination, Appointment and Swearing in of New Board Member

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Mr. Putterman moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement between Local 1303-39 of Council #4, AFSCME Custodians and the Board of Education, for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019

*Ratification of the Local
1303-39 of Council #4,
AFSCME Custodian
Contract*

Mr. Rick Ledwith provided background and the history of the negotiations. He recognized the significant contributions of the custodial staff. Key changes and highlights of the negotiated agreement were summarized.

Board members suggested future discussions to address the guarantee of employment to the union members and the minimum staffing requirement. The Board's support for this group of employees was emphasized and the balance between budget and needs was recognized.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tom Moore announced several administrative shifts including Charter Oak principal, Mary Thompson assuming the position of Gifted/Talented Program Coordinator, previously held by Nancy Eastlake. Smith principal, Juan Melian will assume the principalship at Charter Oak. Mr. Moore briefly reviewed the recruitment and interview process and stated a recommended timeline with an anticipated announcement of a new Smith principal to be made by the end of the school year. The retirements of physical education department supervisor, Rosey Bonner and Joanne O'Neil, special education department supervisor were announced. An update on the Aiken principal process was provided. Mr. Moore shared the Statewide recognition and awards received by staff and various students and clubs.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Nancy DePalma summarized the SRBI presentation. Mr. Paul Vicinus and Ms. Kerry Jones reviewed the purpose of the program, defined the model and provided an overview of Tiered Intervention. Elementary Literacy efforts included refinement of criteria, professional learning opportunities and the collaboration and alignment of services. K-5 Mathematics efforts focused on universal screening, delivery of services and monitoring progress. Secondary level SRBI efforts in Literacy included a focus on the shift and changes occurring in middle school and the assessment of needs, universal

*Scientific Research Based
Interventions Update*

screening and the delivery and expansion of Tier I, II and III services were discussed. Secondary Mathematics worked on identification and implementation of screening, progress measuring, delivery of services and establishing exit criteria. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members discussed the establishment of measurement benchmarks, clarification on accounting for the gaps in undelivered material and the decision process for the selection of programs. The plan and strategies for improvement and a discussion on the dismantling of the adjusted curriculum program was raised and whether the mandates established by the State had an impact was questioned.

Mr. Moore provided a brief introduction and overview of the presentation. Dr. DePalma, Ms. Jones, Mr. Vicinus and parent Holly Hollander explained the purpose and progress of the committee and steps involved in the process. The major focus of reviewing the assessments currently used, analyzing inventory and moving forward with a presentation of recommendations was reported. All were available to answer the questions of the Board.

*Assessment Audit
Update*

Board members inquired about an anticipated timeframe for the delivery of a report with data regarding the community and its improvement and determining whether assessments were successfully measuring what needed to be measured. The value of student opinion and the need to include a broad range of student perspectives was emphasized.

Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2015

Financial Report

Mr. Sarzen provided an oral report of the financial statement. Mr. Chip Ward was available to answer the questions of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of April 21, 2015

Approval of the Minutes

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The clerk noted correction to Announcement of Meeting Dates listing.

The motion passed 6-0-1
Abstained: Dr. Greenberg

Paul Zeuschner (Hall) offered his congratulations to fellow student rep, Henley, on his college decision. He shared the desire of the Hall student body to dedicate the Library in memory of Gayle Koffi. The start of exams, Spring Fling, prom season and the Student Association elections were reported.

*Report from Student
Board Representatives*

Henley Solomon (Conard) announced the start of AP exam time and the upcoming junior and senior proms and the emphasis on safe driving. Upcoming events including Unified Theater, Ice Cream Social, new Student Officers and representative, and the Black Box Theater were shared. He also offered his congratulations to Paul on his college selection.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, May 19, 2015, BOE meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, room 314, Legislative Chamber
2. Tuesday, May 26, 2015, Board Awards, 6:00 p.m., King Philip Middle School, 100 King Philip Drive
3. Tuesday, June 2, 2015, BOE meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, room 314, Legislative Chamber

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

That the Board adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Adjournment

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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