

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**November 17, 2015**

Present: Ms. Exum, Dr. Greenberg, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Moore, Student Representatives Zacharie Mega (Conard), Rachel Schunder (Hall)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

INDEX

---

<p>The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/ Pledge of Allegiance</i></p>
<p>Ms. Exum moved and Mr. Putterman seconded:</p> <p>THAT the order of the agenda be changed to put the following agenda items before Unfinished Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recognition of outgoing Board Members</li><li>• Induction of newly-elected Board Members</li><li>• Brief Recess</li><li>• New Board Members will take seats at the Board table</li><li>• Election of Officers/Board Organization</li></ul> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p><i>Revision to Agenda Order</i></p>
<p>Board members and Superintendent Moore expressed their thanks and praise for the twelve years of public service given by outgoing Board members Bruce Putterman and Terry Schmitt. They were recognized for their time, effort, leadership and the role they have played as mentors to other Board members. Mr. Putterman and Mr. Schmitt thanked board members for their kind words, their families and the voters and offered their reflections on their tenure as Board members.</p>	<p><i>Recognition of Outgoing Board Members</i></p>
<p>Newly-elected Board members, Carol A. Blanks, Cheryl Greenberg, David Pauluk and Mark Zydanowicz were sworn in by the Town Clerk, Essie Labrot.</p>	<p><i>Induction of Newly-Elected Board Members</i></p>
<p>The Board took a brief recess at 6:23 p.m. The meeting resumed at 6:27 p.m., and new Board members took their seats at the Board table. A roll call was taken of the new Board. All members were present.</p>	<p><i>Brief Recess</i></p>

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT Tom Moore act as temporary Chairperson of this meeting for the purpose of electing a Chairperson for the Board of Education

1. Tom Moore, Superintendent, will serve as temporary Chairperson and will call for nominations and action for the position of Chairperson.
2. The newly-elected Chairperson will conduct the meeting.
3. The newly-elected Chairperson will call for nominations and action for the election of the following officers: Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and (2) Financial Examiners (one from each political party).

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Moore called for nominations for the office of Chairperson.

Ms. Exum nominated Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez for the office of Chairperson, seconded by Ms. Greenberg.

*Election of  
Officers/ Board  
Organization*

Mr. Moore called for any additional nominations for the office of 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 Vice Chairperson.

Dr. Greenberg nominated Ms. Exum for the office of Vice-Chairperson.

The motion passed unanimously.

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 for the Republican Party.

Mr. Zydanowicz nominated Mr. Sarzen for the office of Financial Examiner for the Republican Party.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for any additional nominations for the office of Financial Examiner for the Republican Party. 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 for the Democratic Party.

Mrs. Blanks nominated Mr. Pauluk for the office of Financial Examiner for the Democratic Party.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for any additional nominations for the office of Financial Examiner for the Democratic Party. 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 Secretary.

Mr. Pauluk nominated Mrs. Blanks for the office of Secretary.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Moore reported that professional development that took place on Election Day was held out of the buildings where voting was taking place to the extent possible and there were no reports of issues. However, it was noted that primary day in April will be held on a school day and they will be looking at how best to handle it. He reported on the inspiring activities that took place on Veterans Day in a variety of schools. Parent-teacher conferences are currently taking place.

*Superintendent's Report*

Mr. Moore noted that this is a great time for parent-teacher partnerships. He expressed his appreciation for the long hours and hard work teachers are putting in for preparation, as well as to parents for their participation. The Red Wagon Brigade will be travelling from Morley to Town Hall tomorrow to deliver their yearly donation to the West Hartford Food Pantry. Next Monday there will be a Pancakes and Politics event with Senator Chris Murphy at Elmwood Community Center. He will be recognizing some of our students. The Conard field hockey team and the Hall boys' soccer team made it to the state semi-finals and Conard field hockey coach, Cathy Callahan, was named the Class L Coach of the Year for the State of Connecticut. The Hall-Conard Football game will be held on Saturday at 1:30.

Mr. Chip Ward reported that the district continues to project a declining enrollment over the next ten year period. On October 1, 2015 there were 9,483 K-12 students, and this number is expected to decline to 7,988 in ten years. The decline is being driven by a lower number of births in West Hartford, as well as a decrease in the number of Kindergarten students. Mr. Ward provided an historical overview, through a series of charts and graphs, noting the Baby Boom, the Baby Boom Echo and the Baby Boom Echo Echo. He noted that the district continues to monitor private and magnet school enrollments. Based on current enrollment projections there will be no need for significant capital investment to address space needs.

*Multi-Year Enrollment  
Projections*

Board members followed up with questions relating to the declining numbers and its impact on budgets and facilities.

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

*Financial Report*

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the Period ending September 30, 2015.

Mr. Sarzen noted that the September report is the first of the year. There was a \$293,000 favorable balance largely driven by salaries. There are balances in the state and federal grant accounts to be spent which will be done so by June 30. Summer School lost approximately \$49,000 which is better than last year. Mr. Ward continues to look at the numbers. Mr. Sarzen noted that while the Nutrition Services account always looks worse in September because they have incurred expenses over the summer, he expressed concern about the overall picture. They

are expecting to lose about \$250,000 this year. Enrollment and student lunches have gone down, and the state and federal grants are, in large part, keeping them afloat. He said a plan would have to be developed in the coming years.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Greenberg moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of October 20, 2015.

The motion passed with Mrs. Blanks and Mr. Pauluk abstaining.

Mr. Sarzen thanked and commended Duffy parent Scott Falk who donated a number of computers from his law firm in Boston.

Ms. Exum noted the book Outcasts United is the choice of the One Town, One Book initiative which seeks to have the community read one common book which it is hoped will then spark discussions throughout town. There are also special events planned.

Student Representative Rachel Schunder reported on Veterans Day activities at Hall. Homecoming was held last weekend in the Hall cafeteria and was a big success. Spirit week will culminate in a pep rally on Friday. They have fan buses going to the Hall soccer semi-final match tomorrow. There is a friendly cross-town food drive competition. The Madrigal performances are this week. A computer science class presented their app proposal to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Studies class. Student Representative Zacharie Mega noted that while there are two high schools and a rivalry, they often collaborate on things. Spirit week at Conard will also culminate with a pep rally on Friday. Homecoming will be held on December 5 at Town Hall and it is sold out. LinkCrew is holding a tailgate before the freshman football game. The National Center for Community Justice brought their Bridges program to Conard last week for a two day workshop. The Black Box Theater is performing their ten minute plays. The Lead By Example groups at both Hall and Conard are conducting surveys surrounding stress and hope to use the results to come up with an action plan.

*Approval of Minutes*

*Information and  
Reports*

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**November 17, 2015**

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

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

*Announcement of  
Meeting Dates*

Mr. John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, commented about the approach of the Board in its functions.

*Comments from  
Visitors*

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

That the Board adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

*Adjournment*

ATTEST:

---

Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, Chairperson    Carol A. Blanks, Secretary  
*Respectfully submitted by: Mrs. K. Hickey, Acting Clerk of the Board*

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**November 17, 2015**

---

--	--

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**November 17, 2015**

---

--	--