

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
September 15, 2015

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

*Roll Call/ Pledge of
Allegiance/ Revision to
Agenda Order*

John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, requested more data about students.

Public Communications

Mr. Schmitt motioned, Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board of Education accept the following school projects as being complete and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to request payment of the School Construction Grant from the State Department of Education.

- King Philip Middle School Air Conditioning. State Project #155-0219
- Bugbee Elementary School Fire Suppression. State Project #155-0225
- Conard High School Building and Fire Code Compliance. State Project #155-0226
- King Philip Middle School Building and Fire Code Compliance. State Project #155-0227
- Norfeldt Elementary School Reroofing. State Project #155-0229 •
- Aiken Elementary School Reroofing. State Project #155-0232
- Bugbee Elementary School Modular Classrooms. State Project #155-0233
- Braeburn Elementary School Floor Tile Replacement. State Project #155-0235
- Morley Elementary School Floor Tile Replacement. State Project #155-0236
- King Philip Middle School Floor Tile Replacement. State Project #155-0237

New Business

Mr. Robert Palmer, Director of Plant and Facilities, explained that these projects are part of the closeout process with the state which retains 5% of the grant until completion. Some projects date back prior to this summer and they are included as part of the administrative

housekeeping. These projects were part of CIP budgets and the state then reimburses the town through the state grant. 95% of the grants have already been reimbursed.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tom Moore noted that we are now in to the school year. He thanked all of the elementary teachers, staff, parents and students who coped well with the recent extreme heat. He congratulated Amina Lampkin, a junior at Hall, who was appointed to be a U. S. Senate Page for the fall. He recognized Hall and Conard National Merit Semi-Finalists. Webster Hill is now in the Guinness Book of World Records for creating the largest origami butterfly. Board members followed up with questions regarding temperature in the buildings.

Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Nancy DePalma and Mr. Paul Vicinus updated the Board on the state assessment results in Math, Literacy and Science. Parents will be receiving individual student score reports. He explained the bands of achievement categories. Mr. Vicinus noted that Connecticut does well within the nation and West Hartford is strong compared to the state results. However, the results will be looked at critically to see how the district can do beyond this baseline year. He also observed that West Hartford, with significant socio-economic diversity, posted significantly higher achievement results than would otherwise be predicted in the trend model. He also made note that the SAT test would replace the Grade 11 SBAC test in literacy and math.

*State Assessment
Results*

Dr. Andrew Morrow, Mr. Chip Ward and Mr. Robert Palmer provided the Board with an update on the progress of Charter Oak School, including construction, marketing and programs. Superintendent Moore noted that invitations would be forthcoming soon for members to walk through the site. The project is currently on time and on budget. Mr. Palmer indicated that the groundbreaking took place in March and the foundation and steel framing are complete and the frame of the building is now beginning to take shape. The building should be enclosed by winter when interior work will continue. Sixty four geothermal wells are being drilled. The old building will be demolished after the completion of more than anticipated environmental hazard abatement. Principal Melian and his committee are working on the fixtures, furniture and accessories. Principal Juan Melian reviewed the programs offered at Charter Oak noting their unique approach as an IB

Charter Oak Update

school is what makes Charter Oak attractive to so many families. Mr. Chip Ward reviewed the marketing approach to attract new families including direct mailings, a social media presence, working with West Hartford libraries and using the pre-K program at Charter Oak to let them see what Charter Oak has to offer.

Hall Principal Dan Zittoun and Conard Principal Julio Duarte introduced the new High School logos. Both Principals thanked their individual committees for their work in creating their new imagery. Conard is using a family crest with four quadrants representing Academics, Athletics, Arts and Community with a red C in the middle. Hall is using an image with an H and W intertwined. Both schools will continue to use the names Warriors and Chieftains. Dr. Morrow formally thanks both Principals for their hard work.

Mr. Sarzen moved and Mr. Schmitt seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2015.

Mr. Sarzen reported that due to the careful budgeting of Mr. Ward, who he commended, the general fund ended with an approximately \$1.1 million surplus. He also reviewed some highlights including teacher salaries, benefits purchased services and supplies/materials/capital outlay. He also noted facts regarding Grant and Special funds as well as Nutrition Services. Mr. Ward answered follow up questions from the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Exum moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of September 1, 2015.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Noah Webster House, in conjunction with the Bridge, will be hosting Conversations: Mental Health focusing on nurturing our youth, mental health and suicide prevention at 7 PM on September 24.

Student Representative Zacharie Mega reported on the first Safe School Climate Committee, that the first football game took place under the

Mascot Update

Financial Report

Approval of Minutes

Information and Reports

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lights. The fan section has embraced the new logo and there was a lot of spirit.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, October 6, 2015, Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, October 20, 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, had questions about lead paint, racial imbalance and anchoring sports to Charter Oak.

Comments from Visitors

Dr. Greenberg moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 10:09 p.m. for the purpose of discussing reports related to upcoming teacher contract negotiations

Executive Session

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zydanowicz moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education return to Regular Session at 10:58 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Mr. Sarzen seconded:

That the Board adjourn at 10:58 p.m.

Adjournment

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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

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