

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
May 17, 2016

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Members of Unified Theater performed three selections from their upcoming performance on June 2 and 3.</p> <p>Mark Lobato, 158 Whiting Lane regarding special services for students.</p> <p>John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, regarding the foreign exchange program.</p> <p>Dr. Greenberg moved and Ms. Exum seconded:</p> <p>THAT the Board of Education approve West Hartford Public Schools take action to re-certify that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All West Hartford Schools will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards pursuant to Section 10-215e of the Connecticut General Statutes for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.• Exemptions will be allowed for the sale of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, 2) the sale is at the location of the event, and 3) the food is not sold from a vending machine or school store. <p>Trish Molloy noted that the Board must re-certify each year that food sold to students will meet the Connecticut Nutrition standards with the noted allowed exemptions. In return the state reimburses the district ten cents per meal sold. Board members asked questions about the quality of food, portion size, and the financial effects of opting out.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance</i></p> <p><i>Student Participation</i></p> <p><i>Public Communications</i></p> <p><i>State of CT Healthy Food Certificate</i></p>
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Mr. Pauluk moved and Mr. Sarzen seconded:

THAT the Board of Education review as a First Reading the proposed revision to the 2016-2017 school calendar which was adopted by the Board of Education on March 17, 2015

Superintendent Moore explained that the adopted school calendar reflects a day off on October 10 (Columbus Day) and October 12 (Yom Kippur). Given the possibility of a high voter turnout, it made sense to change the teacher in service day to October 11 and have November 8 (election day) as a day off for both students and teachers thereby eliminating parking and access issues to polling sites throughout town.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Greenberg moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

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

- 4140---Staff Development
- 4210---Substitute Teachers
- 4220---Student Teachers

Dr. Greenberg noted that the changes reflected clarifying language rather than policy changes

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sarzen moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the following policies which were reviewed by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

- 4150---Exchange Teaching
- 4180---Moving Expenses of Teachers
- 4230---Homebound Teachers

The motion passed unanimously.

*Proposed Revision to
2016-2017 School
Calendar*

*Policy Review
and Revisions*

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Superintendent Moore explained that West Hartford would not be able to move forward with accepting foreign exchange students through Weiming as the visa certification process for the town would not be completed in time. Mr. Moore said it was necessary to notify the Chinese students by June 1 so they could make other plans if necessary. He noted that Dr. Morrow and Mrs. Haskins interviewed over 100 students and the 21 selected students were all proficient in English and were terrific kids. West Hartford will continue to explore a variety of opportunities for our students. Mr. Moore thanked former Mayor Slifka for his years of service and being a great friend to the school system. The years of service breakfast was held on Monday for those who have served the school system for 25, 30, 35 years and those retiring. He thanked Mrs. Blanks and Mr. Pauluk for representing the Board at the breakfast. He noted the reception prior to the meeting tonight where student art work was added to the permanent collection on the fourth floor. There are many events coming up: May 19-Inter-El at the Bushnell; May 24-West Hartford Public Schools is partnering with the American Legion honoring students who are entering the military. Each student will receive a red, white and blue honor cord to wear at graduation. He thanked Mr. Vicinus for all of his work with this endeavor; June 4-Celebrate West Hartford begins; June 9-both high school graduations; June 10-last day of school – a Friday with a Wednesday closing time. Board members followed up with questions about Weiming and the sponsoring school system visa process, the effect on other foreign exchange programs, and gender neutral bathrooms.

*Superintendent's
Report*

Mr. Paul Vicinus presented the Board with an update of recommendations set forth from two separate task forces regarding high school graduation requirements. The changes are slated to take effect with the class of 2021, although that may change to the class of 2022. Mr. Vicinus provided an overview of the proposed requirements, comparing the current West Hartford requirements with the current state requirements, alongside the proposed changes. Based on the recommendations and the periods available in the current high school schedule, taking into account lunch and lab periods, it appears that the structure and practices of awarding credit will have to be reviewed and changed. However, attention has to be paid to quantity vs. quality issues as well as our student population and our neediest students. Mr. Vicinus noted that implementation is not immediately forthcoming but rather the presentation was meant to keep the Board abreast of the process and its progress. Board members followed up with a variety of questions regarding the impact of the suggested implementations and

*High School
Redesign*

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the role of state vs. local decisions.

Mr. Rick Ledwith provided the Board with an updated Personnel report noting that thus far there have been 19 announced retirements and 11 resignations. Currently the turnover rate is about 3% and he expects it to grow to 4-5%. They are hiring at the middle and high school levels, and although enrollment is declining in the elementary schools he does not anticipate layoffs. The district was represented at the CREC fair in their efforts to recruit minority teachers. Finally, he expects to announce the results of hiring a number of higher level administrative positions at the next Board meeting.

*Personnel
Report*

Dr. Greenberg moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

Approval of Minutes

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of May 3, 2016.

The motion passed 6-0-1 with Mr. Sarzen abstaining.

Dr. Greenberg indicated that she would be attending the CREC annual meeting tomorrow which will include a discussion of budgets for next year. Mr. Pauluk thanked Jeff Bersin, who will be stepping down as the Chairman of the West Hartford Substance Abuse Commission, for his service. Cindy Brown will replace him. The Crisis Information card has been updated and will be redistributed. Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez welcomed Shari Cantor as the new Mayor.

*Information and
Reports*

Representative Zach Mega reported that Unified Theater will have performances on June 2 and 3. An "Ally is a Verb" panel discussion was being held tonight discussing LGBT issues. Club elections and tryouts are being held. The final Safe School Climate Committee meeting was held. A survey taken by 1200 students had very positive results. There are gender neutral bathrooms at Conard but further education is needed. A "Privilege Walk" was held. "A Day in the Life" activities were being held for incoming 8th graders. Fourth graders came in to visit the tech classes and machinery. Student Representative Rachel Schunder reported that eighth grade students are visiting Hall. The Link Crew will help with these transition visits. Last Saturday Voice of Others had a fund raising fashion show at Blue Back Square. The Hall Academic awards will be held tomorrow night. The Art show will be held prior to the ceremony in the gym. On Wednesday the Empty Bowls club will have a "Feeding Children Everywhere" event where

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thousands of meals are expected to be made. Friday will be the last pep rally. Speeches will be made for the office of President and campaign videos will be watched for the Student Association elections. Solisti will have a showcase next Sunday at 3 p.m. at Saint James Episcopal Church and the a cappella group will perform at First Baptist Church at 7 p.m.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, May 31, Board Awards, 6:00 p.m., King Philip Middle School, 100 King Philip Drive
2. Tuesday, June 7, 2016, regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber

Announcement of Meeting Dates

Dr. Greenberg requested a future presentation regarding services for students with mental health issues.

Request for Future Agenda Items

John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, regarding foreign exchange students.

Comments from Visitors

Ms. Exum moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

Adjournment

That the Board adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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

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