

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
April 19, 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>Ms. Exum moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:</p> <p>THAT the agenda order be revised to allow the Foundation’s presentation of the Special Initiative Grant to Morley Elementary School be moved to follow Public Communications.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance</i></p> <p><i>Revision to Agenda Order</i></p>
<p>Foundation Co-President Jennifer Shiffman and Board member Ms. Sherry Feinglass presented Morley Principal Mr. Ryan Cleary and Curriculum Specialist Ms. Kelly Brouse with a \$9,200 Special Initiative Grant which will allow Morley to partner with a school in Haiti through art and technology.</p>	<p><i>Foundation Presentation</i></p>
<p>Dr. Greenberg moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:</p> <p>THAT the Board of Education accept as a Second and Final Reading the following policies which were revised by the Board Policy Subcommittee:</p> <p>4010-----Affirmative Action 4011-----Sexual Harassment</p> <p>These were reviewed at the last meeting. Dr. Greenberg noted that there were some small language changes to #4010 and that #4011 had not been revised since 1993.</p>	<p><i>Unfinished Business</i></p>
<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mr. Sarzen moved and Ms. Exum seconded:</p> <p>THAT the Board of Education accept the administration’s recommendation for the non-renewal of non-tenured teachers’ contracts and to proceed with written notification to the individuals involved</p>	<p><i>New Business</i></p>

Mr. Rick Ledwith explained that the Board is required to vote on the list of 33 interim teachers whose contract expires June 30.

The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Moore shared the good news that both Conard and Hall had been named among the top 2% of schools nationally by *US News & World Report*. Conard was ranked 6th in the state and 309th nationally (gold medal), and Hall was ranked 13th in the state and 558th nationally (silver medal). Mr. Moore noted that the Board passed the school budget for next year at the last meeting. This was prior to the release of differing budgets at the state level. Acknowledging the state fiscal problems, he indicated that the state and town budget timing were different so that efforts were being made to find cost savings now. Plans are being discussed to keep surplus money from this year in reserve and deducting the amount of money to be contributed to the health reserve account in order to help fill the potential gap. A final decision will be voted on at the next meeting. He again reiterated that he expected the budget situation to be worse next year. Primaries will be held in Connecticut on Tuesday, April 26. As a significant voter turnout is expected, Mr. Moore noted that a decision was made to have schools remain in session and that the administration is working with the Registrar's Office and the West Hartford police to ensure the safety and convenience of both students and voters.

*Superintendent's
Report*

Mr. Jared Morin, Director of Technology, Mr. Craig Diamond, Education Technology Specialist, Lindsey Roberts-Walstrom, Curriculum Specialist for Technology Integration, and Bugbee fifth grade teacher Anthony Weber, provided a technology update. Mr. Morin reviewed Cyber Security, including perimeter security, safeguards, cyber liability insurance, and the internal network. He noted that the district is now on a town owned fiber optic network and that 80 physical servers from around town had been condensed to several housed in the Data Center resulting in a considerable cost savings as well. Mr. Weber gave a demonstration to the Board how Google Classroom is used in his fifth grade classroom. He noted that it is a central hub for learning and that it provides for instant feedback and the sharing of ideas. Mr. Diamond and Ms. Roberts-Walstrom discussed the SeeSaw Learning Program and the role parents can play. Board members commended the presentation and followed up with questions about equity, cyber security, access for those with disabilities, device to student ratio, utilization of SeeSaw, communication with parents, and how the student's portfolio is exported to the student at the completion

*Technology
Update*

of their high school career.

Mr. Paul Vicinus presented the Board with information regarding the state's new accountability system which will be used to assess school performance, academic performance and, most importantly, academic growth. The previous model of assessment was replaced with the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in December of last year. While the old model no longer applies, the new regulations will not take effect until the 2017-2018 school year. The new model incorporates three major Connecticut State Department of Education goals: 1) to improve overall academic achievement and reduce academic achievement gaps, 2) to produce college and career ready graduates, and 3) to prepare well rounded civically engaged students. Mr. Vicinus went on to explain the 12 new indicators used to measure school performance in support of these goals. The indicator scores are then compiled to determine into which of five categories the school will be placed. He explained how West Hartford fits in to the model. Mr. Moore noted that while scores will inform us, they will not be used to make decisions. Board members followed up with questions about the standards, rankings, data collection, and how we as a district are going to use the numbers.

Dr. Greenberg moved and Mr. Sarzen seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the Period Ending February 29, 2016

Mr. Sarzen noted that there were modest changes throughout the accounts. The Nutrition Services account continues to do better than expected. However, the contract has not yet been settled which will have an impact. They also had three additional operating days.

The motion passed unanimously.

Chip Ward reported on the possible effects of the state budget issues on West Hartford and the Town Manager's plan to deal with the worst case scenario of a \$3.2 million shortfall in state aid to West Hartford. One part of the Town Manager's proposal included a reduction of \$350,000 in the BOE Appropriation for health care expenses. Mr. Ward noted the Board's 2016-17 budget allowed for a projected increase in the health care reserves of \$350,000. Mr. Ward indicated the reserves are in good shape and the \$350,000 proposed reduction would not have an impact on this year's programs but could have an impact on the 2017-18 budget. Should this budget reduction come to pass, a

*Connecticut's
"Next Generation"
Accountability System*

*Financial
Report*

State Budget Issues

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motion would be presented to the Board for approval at an upcoming meeting.

Dr. Greenberg moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of April 5, 2016.

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

Mr. Pauluk attended the Art Quest exhibit which will continue to be on display in Room 400 for the next week. Drug Take-Back Day will take place on Saturday, April 30, in the Town Hall parking lot from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The Charter Oak Homecoming will be held on Saturday, April 30, from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Student Representative Rachel Schunder reported that students had good experiences abroad, got recharged over break, and are coming back to AP exams and proms. The Choir Broadway Revue Show will be on Thursday. Student Representative Zach Mega reported that students helped hand out water at the 15K CT Fast Track Running Race and organized the second annual West Hartford Freedom Run which will be on May 22, at 10:00 a.m. starting at Town Hall. The proceeds will be used to support veterans and troops.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, May 3, 2016, regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall. 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
2. Tuesday, May 17, 2016, regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall. 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
3. Tuesday, May 31, Board Awards, 6:00 p.m., King Philip Middle School, 100 King Philip Drive
4. Tuesday, June 7, 2016, regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall. 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber

Dr. Greenberg moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

That the Board adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

*Information and
Reports*

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

Adjournment

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ATTEST:

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

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