

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**September 6, 2016**

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Ms. Exum, Dr. Greenberg, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Pauluk, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Moore, Student Representatives Taylor Steer (Conard), and Sarah Berman (Hall)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/ Pledge of Allegiance</i></p>
<p>No Student Participation</p>	<p><i>Student Participation</i></p>
<p>Ms. Judy Wyman Kelly, 52 Thompson Road, spoke regarding suggestions for the Special Education Program.</p>	<p><i>Public Communication</i></p>
<p>No Unfinished Business to report</p>	<p><i>Unfinished Business</i></p>
<p>No New Business to report</p>	<p><i>New Business</i></p>
<p>Superintendent Tom Moore welcomed everyone back to the 2016-2017 school year. The first day of school was an inspiring start. We had over 9,500 students enter our schools. He also commented on the opening of the new Charter Oak International Academy and how receptive everyone was. Special thanks were given to Bob Palmer, Director of Plant and Facilities, and his staff who worked hard over the summer on projects to make our buildings better. Tom also thanked the Board for all their support with Convocation.</p>	<p><i>Staff Communications and Reports</i></p>
<p>Mr. Paul Vicinus spoke in regard to the first day of school and the energy surrounding it. He reviewed District Development Plan and Goals as well as Professional Development and programs including Summer Connections and the Summer ESOL Program. The Board asked questions regarding Universal Design for Learning, State Accountability and the Quest Program. Questions were also asked</p>	

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about Project Spark and the Curriculum Review and Renewal Council.

Dr. Andrew Morrow discussed the opening of Charter Oak International Academy and thanked all who helped to bring it together. He highlighted other summer projects including district-wide interior and exterior cameras, new and updated door entry systems and increased security at Hall High School. The Board asked questions in regard to the roof on King Philip, the Smith STEM School gym floor, and the Conard gym floor completion. The Board commented on the great job by Bob Palmer and his crew noting how efficient, effective and friendly they all were.

Mr. Rick Ledwith spoke on recruitment results for the 2016-2017 school year. There were 52 new contracted teachers and 17 interim teachers who joined the professional staff of West Hartford Public Schools. In addition, 12 new administrators joined the leadership team. He spoke about the diversity of the new staff and how it closely reflects the diversity of our students. The West Hartford Administrators' Association negotiations process will start this fall. Rick asked that if any of the Board would like to join in on the negotiations to please let him know. The Board asked questions with regard to the number of positions for teachers leaving and moving into leadership roles. Also, the Board asked about other forms of diversity such as LGBTQ and disability.

Dr. Gretchen Nelson discussed additions to staffing within the Pupil Services Department. The department hired 17 new certified staff; 14 teachers, 2 nurses and a new department supervisor, Emily Daigle. Gretchen also spoke on the State Department of Education, the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children), the State of Connecticut mandates affecting Pupil Services, the School Counseling Department, the Summer Program, and Extended School Year Services. The Board asked questions regarding the meaning of PLAAFP (Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance), para evaluations, and SEPTO engagement. Questions were also asked about dyslexia screening and disproportionality. Suggestions were made on transparency of what is available to parents. A question was raised on a parent advisory committee. Paul Vicinus clarified and answered noting open forums were available.

Ms. Roszena Haskins spoke on the Continuing Education programs and how they continue to do well. The department had a very productive summer and although there was a slight dip in enrollment, 76% of students took courses to 'get ahead', 12% of student took

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courses for credit recovery, 12% of students enrolled in non-credit courses. Roszena spoke on the nice partnership between Continuing Education and Pupil Services Department to help students continue to learn throughout the summer. She also touched on the Adult Enrichment Program and the courses offered. Continuing Education has a Facebook page to help understand the needs of the community. Questions were asked by the Board regarding the challenges to programs, enrollment and the elementary students' demand for programs

Chip Ward talked about the first snapshot of enrollment and discussed the total percentages of students between this year and last year. He explained the classroom sizes and the differences with what was projected from last year. October 1st will be the official enrollment count as that is the date we report to the state. Board members asked questions regarding the classroom space at Bugbee, as well as the number of students who came to Charter Oak International Academy across the district.

Tom Moore's additional comments included Dr. Michelle Graveline, Math Department Supervisor of Conard High School and Sedgwick Middle School, who received the 2016 Computer Science Teachers Association Administrative Impact Award. Our district has the largest number of students in CT taking AP Computer Science. Mr. Moore noted the student representative to the State Board is Amina Lampkin from Hall High School. Also mentioned was the Be The Match bone marrow registry drive and the PLTI (Parent Leadership Training Institute) – Youth Suicide Prevention Forum, as well as the Bridge breakfast with topics to include mental health and partnership with the Bridge.

Dr. Greenberg moved and Mr. Sarzen seconded :

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of June 7, 2016.

The motion passed unanimously.

*Approval  
Of Minutes*

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Representative Taylor Steer reported on freshman orientation and returning students ready to start the new year. In freshman orientation he saw many students excited to come to Conard. Representative Sarah Berman reported on fall sports and teachers having Google Classroom. She also noted that the LED lights make the hallways brighter.

*Information and  
Reports*

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, September 20, 2016, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.
2. Tuesday, October 4, 2016, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Rom 314, 7:00 p.m. Legislative Chamber.
3. Tuesday, October 18, 2016, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.

*Announcement of  
Meeting Dates*

No comments from visitors at this time.

*Comments from  
Visitors*

Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

That the Board adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

*Adjournment*

ATTEST:

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

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