

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
October 1, 2013

Present: Mrs. Ma, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Zydanowicz,
Student Representatives Jordan Gelber (Hall), Randa Griffin (Conard)
Absent: Ms. Katz, Mr. Sarzen

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

There were no Public Communications.

Public Communications

Mr. Putterman reported that responses to the survey had been received and shared the characteristics and traits desired by the community. The objective to consider the qualifications of the internal candidate and how they aligned with the created profile was explained. The anticipated timeline for an announcement was outlined.

*Superintendent Search
Update*

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

THAT the West Hartford Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement between the West Hartford Public School Nurses Association and the Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016

*Ratification of the West
Hartford Public School
Nurses Association
Contract*

Mr. Rick Ledwith commended the nurse's conduct during the negotiation process. The issues raised by both sides were summarized and the terms and changes in the proposed agreement were highlighted. Mr. Ledwith, Mr. Moore and Mr. Ward were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Board members discussed concerns about the care for students and the services provided. Staffing and nurse to student ratios, State accreditation and licensure requirements and the annual training and professional development available to nurses were reviewed.

Dr. List shared her experience of recently attending the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Conference in Washington D.C. and highlighted the major points discussed by the panel including the lack of African-American male teachers. Dr. List relayed her concern to the panel regarding the desire to recruit and retain a diverse teaching staff

Superintendent's Report

and challenged how they planned to elevate the teaching profession to appeal to younger adults as a career choice. The valuable connections made and the information gathered during the event were also shared. Dr. List offered congratulations to Bugbee Elementary School for becoming a National Blue Ribbon School, to John Mastroianni as a Finalist for Connecticut Teacher of the Year and to Jeff Cowan as Connecticut Elementary Social Studies Teacher of the Year. She also announced that Webster Hill would be featured on an upcoming WFSB News segment of “Cool Schools” and provided reminders about scheduled community meetings regarding the Charter Oak building project.

Dr. List introduced Mr. Chip Ward, Mr. Paul Vicinis and Dr. Nancy DePalma. She discussed the AP Capstone Project that is being considered for our high schools. Dr. DePalma reported on the recent visit by NEASC and the interest expressed by the committee members regarding the AP courses offered and the commitment to participating students. Mr. Ward reported on 20 years of data and summarized the participation rate and number of students taking exams in both high schools and the overall scores had all increased. The increased popularity for students to participate in the UConn Early College Experience (ECE) program was discussed. All were available to answer the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members inquired about the benefits and level of college preparedness for the students. Mr. Vicinis and Dr. DePalma explained the academic rigor, transferable credits, pathway options and support available. Discussion included the potential to track the college performance of students and the factors considered with the selection of courses offered for ECE and AP credit.

Dr. List introduced the report primarily for the benefit of Board members who were not present for an earlier presentation. World Language Department Supervisors, Lucy Cartland and Bert Neumaier summarized the goal of the World Language department to prepare students for success in a global community. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards were discussed and the curriculum and instruction at the elementary, middle and high school levels, assessment, and the qualifications of the teaching staff were reviewed. The mission statement and its alignment with the District goals and standards were summarized. Mrs. Cartland, Mr. Neumaier, Mr. Vicinis and Dr. DePalma were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the presentation and

*High School Advanced
Placement (AP) Test
Score Results*

*World Language
Program Report*

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explanations and inquired about the process and procedures used to connect with different cultures. Discussion was focused on committing to educating bilingual, globally competitive citizens and the challenges and implications of beginning that education at the Pre-K level. The timing of a new school construction project and awaiting the revisions to the graduation requirements was considered. The interest in a broader, community conversation to determine the goals, intention and options regarding the World Language program and considering previous budget cuts was recognized.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

Approval of Minutes

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 17, 2013

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Ma provided a reminder about the annual Park Road Parade. Dr. Overmyer-Velzaquez reported on the NEASC visit to Conard and participation in the Charter Oak Peace Day. Mr. Schmitt reported on the NEASC visit to Hall and Mr. Zydanowicz shared his experience at Parent Orientation at King Philip.

*Reports from Other
Boards and
Organizations*

Randa Griffin (Conard) reported on student participation and enthusiasm around the NEASC visit and the excitement to have the stadium lights on.

*Report from Student
Board Representatives*

Jordan Gelber (Hall) reported that Hall was referred to as "The Magic Kingdom" by members of the visiting NEASC committee and noted the positive climate experienced extended beyond the classrooms. The 'Lead by Example' campaign and the upcoming Fall Fest were shared.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

1. Tuesday, October 15, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Wednesday, November 6, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
3. Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

Mrs. Ma requested information on the physical education program.

*Request for Future
Agenda Items*

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

Adjournment

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That the Board adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Bruce Putterman, Chairperson Naogan Ma, Secretary
Respectfully submitted by: Ms. K. Lawrence, Clerk of the Board

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