

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**December 3, 2013**

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

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*

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez chaired the meeting in Mr. Putterman's absence.

Dr. Karen List introduced the Hall High School Choraliers and the students performed for the Board.

*Student Participation*

Robert Milne, 3 Osage Rd., addressed the Board regarding unfair assessment practices.

*Public Communications*

Linda Dinapoli, 214 Mohegan Dr., addressed the Board regarding uncollected funds.

John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding the PBIS program in the schools and communication with parents.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

*Ratification of the West  
Hartford  
Administrators'  
Association (WHAA)  
Contract*

THAT the West Hartford Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement between the West Hartford Administrators' Association and the Board for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017

Mr. Rick Ledwith provided an overview of the composition of the union members and the negotiation and mediation process. The proposed changes and key elements of the contract were summarized. Mr. Rick Ledwith, Mr. Tom Moore and Mr. Chip Ward were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members inquired about an anticipated ceiling for contributions, the increased costs of health care benefits and differences in the process of public and private sector negotiations. Concerns about remaining competitive with other districts and potential costs related to the 'Cadillac Tax' for the district and tax payers were raised.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. List extended her congratulations to the new Board members and shared the excitement about the stadium lights being in full use. Dr. List reported on Connecticut's participation and ranking in the PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) Testing for international comparisons in reading, math and science. Dr. List shared her recent participation in the launching of the Ana Grace Project, created in the memory of the first grader killed in the Sandy Hook Tragedy. Dr. List also reported on a recent symposium about Secondary School Reform, specifically competency-based credits/diplomas. She extended congratulations on the accomplishments and recognition of Jacqueline Corricelli for Conard's participation in 'An Hour of Code' and John Mastroianni, Connecticut Teacher of Year. An announcement of the upcoming design presentation for Charter Oak School for the community was made.

*Superintendent's Report*

Dr. Nancy DePalma and Ms. Kerry Jones presented the K-12 Reading Report and defined Reading Intervention and the role in student learning. The Tiered Intervention Model (SRBI) and the CMT/CAPT reading performance results at the elementary, middle and high school levels were reviewed. Identifying students in need of services and the impact of the new model on teacher efficacy and student learning and instruction was summarized. Dr. DePalma and Ms. Jones were available to answer the questions of the Board.

*K-12 Reading Report*

Board members expressed their appreciation for the presentation and their encouragement for the evolution and changes and inquired about incorporation into summer school programs. Some concerns about teacher preparedness and potential stigmas for students were raised. The importance of engaging families and communities and creating partnerships was emphasized.

Mr. Rick Ledwith provided a summary of the purpose of the Personnel Report for the benefit of the new Board members. He reviewed the hiring process and general timeline for the replacement of Norfeldt principal Caryn Falvey and stated it was anticipated that the posting for Assistant Superintendent for Administration, the position currently held by Tom Moore, would be made simultaneously. Mr. Ledwith was available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

*Personnel Report*

Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Ms. Gilcrest:

*Financial Report*

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending October 31, 2013

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Mr. Sarzen provided an oral presentation of the financial report. Mr. Chip Ward was available to answer the questions of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 19, 2013

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt reported for Mr. Putterman on the delay of the Legislative Task Force on Mandated Reduction for High Performing Schools to report its findings as the organization has not yet met. Mr. Schmitt stated he was a member of this task force.

Randa Griffin (Conard) reported that tryouts for winter sports and auditions for the spring musical were underway and that the food drive for donations to Food Share was a success.

Jordan Gelber (Hall) reported on the efforts of the Student Association to work with Nutrition Services to increase awareness and appreciation for the cafeteria and address issues around food options and preferences. He also reported on the timing of inputting grades into Power School.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, December 17, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, January 7, 2014, BOE workshop, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
3. Tuesday, January 21, 2014, 6:00 p.m., Board Awards at King Philip Middle School, followed by BOE meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314, Presentation of the CIP

Mr. Sarzen requested a review on security procedures.

John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding assisting students and providing guidance.

*Approval of Minutes*

*Reports from Other Boards and Organizations*

*Report from Student Board Representatives*

*Announcement of Meeting Dates*

*Request for Future Agenda Items*

*Comments from Visitors*

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Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

*Adjournment*

That the Board adjourn at 9:12 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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Bruce Putterman, Chairperson

Tammy Exum, Secretary

*Respectfully submitted by: Ms. K. Lawrence, Clerk of the Board*

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