

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
May 20, 2014

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

THAT the Board move agenda item VIII.B.1. FWHPS presentation to follow Public Communications

The motion passed unanimously.

Hall High School students from Ms. Elizabeth Devine’s Global Problem Solving class provided a presentation of financial literacy. They reported on the knowledge, awareness and interest of students regarding the issue of their finances.

John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding the review and revision process for bylaws.

Amy Cabbage, Co-President of the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools and Joy Wright, Principal of King Philip Middle School announced the Special Initiative Grant that had been awarded to King Philip in support of art based ventures. The dedication to grant writing demonstrated by the KP staff was applauded.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

THAT the Board of Education appoint Ms. Elin Katz as the Community Representative Trustee to the West Hartford/University of Hartford Scholarship Committee

Mr. Putterman introduced the motion. Dr. List explained the scholarship fund tradition and the eligibility for West Hartford students.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Student Participation

Public Communications

FWHPS Apples for Artists Special Initiative Grant @KPM

West Hartford/University of Hartford Scholarship Committee Community Representative Trustee Appointment

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Dr. List reported on the Annual Mentor Breakfast that recapped the 11th year of the Mentor Program and celebrated the numerous committed volunteer mentors. The dedication of Carol Wilkas as program coordinator was commended. The appointment of Kimberly Henry as Hall High School Assistant Principal was announced and Dr. List shared her experience and background.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. List introduced Mr. Glenn McGrath and Dr. Nancy DePalma and representatives from the speech and language department, Migdalia Fletcher, Anne Marie Galli and Sarah Stolz. The scope of the responsibilities of Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP) was described from the perspectives of students, teachers, family members and administrators. The areas of Prevention, Assessment, Intervention Program Design, Data Collection and Analysis and Compliance were reviewed. The SLPs shared the significance of partnerships that are forged with other professionals, the community and family members and the services provided were reviewed. The findings and outcomes of the CPDC report were summarized and the priorities of the department and the next steps required were outlined.

*Speech and Language
Pathologist Supporting
Student Learning*

Board members expressed appreciation for the comprehensive presentation and raised questions about the use of technology and the process of identifying the range of problems and the students in need of services. The different approaches of the removal of students from classrooms for services versus the presence of the provider and services brought into the classroom were described and the supervision process and the status of the SLPs positions as shortage areas were reviewed. Board members inquired about a description for a typical daily schedule.

Mr. Rick Ledwith provided the Personnel Report and reviewed the number of retirements, resignations and the average turnover rate. An update was provided on the administrative searches for principals for Morley Elementary and Bristow and Sedgwick Middle schools. The anticipated timelines, interviews, selection of finalists and expected announcement dates was shared. Additional vacancies for Department Supervisors for Social Studies and Science were reported.

Personnel Report

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of May 6, 2014

Approval of Minutes

The motion passed unanimously.

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Mr. Schmitt reported on his attendance at the National Association of Boards of Education as a representative of CREC not WHPS. He recommended the Board consider future participation for professional development.

*Reports from Other
Boards and
Organizations*

Randa Griffin (Conard) reported on the junior and senior proms, musical concerts and the wrap up of spring sports.

*Report from Student
Board Representatives*

Jordan Gelber (Hall) reported on scheduled speaker Chris Herren, Eighth Grade transition activities, the art show and the Student Government Association elections.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, May 27, 2014, Board Awards, 6:00 p.m., King Philip Middle School, 100 King Philip Drive, West Hartford, CT 06117, auditorium
2. Tuesday, June 3, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding hiring diversity and the evaluation process for the Superintendent.

Comments from Visitors

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

That the Board adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

Adjournment

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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

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