

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
May 6, 2014

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Dr. List explained the nomination and selection process for the Teacher of the Year. She announced the 2014 Teacher of the Year candidates and provided their educational and teaching experiences. She introduced Lauren Drazen, Chinese teacher, Hall High School, Jeff Michaud, Kindergarten teacher, Wolcott Elementary School and Brittney Zieller, Grade 4 teacher, Norfeldt. She stated the finalist would be announced on May 22, 2014.</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance/Revision to Agenda Teacher of the Year</i></p>
<p>The Board had a brief recess and reconvened.</p> <p>Mr. Zydanowicz moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:</p> <p>THAT the Board move item VI.B.1. Charter Oak International Academy Building Project Update after Public Communications</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p><i>Brief Recess</i></p> <p><i>Agenda Revision</i></p>
<p>John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding transparency and the budget and Teacher of the Year process.</p>	<p><i>Public Communications</i></p>
<p>Dr. Karen List welcomed Mr. Tom Moore, Mr. Chip Ward, Mr. Bob Palmer and Mr. Hugh Schweitzer. The panel reviewed the anticipated project timeline including the cost estimates, construction timeline and bidding process. The architectural firm of Eastman Perkins was introduced and Fritz Morris and Mark McCarthy provided an update on the site and building plans. The ongoing interaction with school staff members and administration regarding the details of classroom spaces, needs, expectations and input was emphasized. The site plan including drop-off points, entrances, courtyards, green spaces and playscape areas were reviewed. Details on the interior first and second floor plans and products for exterior materials were described. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.</p>	
<p>Board members inquired about the design review and the Town</p>	

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Planning and Zoning Committee process and the review process required for the State and compliance with relevant guidelines and standards. Concerns about entrances and student safety were raised. Appreciation for the constant dialogue with all involved stakeholders and for the environmentally sustainable plans and use of materials was expressed. Some concerns were expressed regarding the exterior design of the building and the overall appeal to potential students and families.

The Fusco Management Construction Company presented the construction logistics plans with details regarding the phasing of the site, its plans for outreach and the potential to incorporate the construction process into the educational process. A timeline for the new building construction and the demolition of the existing building was offered. The goal to maintain the safety of students and safeguard the normal functioning of student activities and establish a cooperative, approachable presence for the neighborhood community was stated.

Board discussion reviewed the issue of fencing off the construction site and the degree of desired visibility and accessibility by the staff, students and community. Using the ongoing development of an exciting new space as a marketing tool was explored. Mr. Moore thanked Eastman Perkins and Fusco Management for their team collaboration and time commitment. The next steps were reviewed and community meetings, TPZ meetings, Board approval and the review and approval by the State and the bidding process were outlined. Appreciation was expressed for the excitement, energy and commitment demonstrated.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

THAT the Board of Education approve the following bylaw which was reviewed by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

8130 Number of Members: Terms of Office

Mr. Schmitt reviewed the ongoing process of the Board Policy Subcommittee to review and revise existing bylaws and policies and the differences in the substantive changes requiring a first and second reading. The background for bylaw 8130 was reviewed.

The motion passed unanimously.

*Motion by Bruce
Putterman and Terry
Schmitt to Approve
Reviewed Bylaw 8130*

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Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

THAT the Board of Education accept as a First Reading the following bylaws which were revised by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

- 8100 Purpose of the Board of Education
- 8120 Limits of Authority
- 8146 Attorney
- 8160 Board of Representatives
- 8210 Orientation
- 8353 Smoking and Other Tobacco Use When Using or Visiting Board of Education Property

Mr. Schmitt asked the Board to review and present questions and Board members requested that bylaws requiring substantive changes be reviewed and discussed. Clarification was provided behind the intention and meaning indicated with the proposed changes to the bylaws.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Putterman reviewed the process and stated that specific questions or requests be forwarded to the subcommittee for discussion.

Dr. List expressed her condolences to her colleagues in other local school districts on the recent loss of their family members. Dr. List shared the impressive recognition of two Hall High students selected as 2014 United States Presidential Scholars and other awards and noted accomplishments of students and leaders throughout the district.

Dr. Nancy DePalma, Mr. Paul Vicinus and Ms. Kerry Jones presented an update on the key elements of SRBI and the essential features of tiers I, II, III and IV. The focus on the whole child and the social and emotional health of students and the increase in the intensity and nature of the interventions, services and supports available within each tier were described. Ms. Jones reviewed the elementary and secondary literacy implementation and Mr. Vicinus summarized the secondary model for mathematics. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members noted the demonstration of SRBI as providing programs for all students and encouraging progress in spite of specific challenges. An increase in the number of co-taught classrooms and an

Motion by Bruce Putterman and Terry Schmitt to Accept Revised Bylaws 8100, 8120, 8146, 8160, 8210, and 8353 – First Reading

Superintendent's Report

Scientific Research-Based Intervention (SRBI) Update

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expansion into other subject areas was discussed. The availability of data measuring the improvement over time of students was requested.

Ms. Gilchrest moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

Financial Report

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2014

Ms. Gilchrest 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 Ms. Gilchrest:

Approval of Minutes

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of April 1, 2014

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of April 8, 2014

The motion passed unanimously.

Randa Griffin (Conard) announced AP testing was underway and plans for Safe Grad events.

Report from Student Board Representatives

Jordan Gelber (Hall) reported on the successful underclassmen dance, AP testing and upcoming fundraising events and the Junior prom.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

Announcement of Meeting Dates

1. Tuesday, May 20, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, May 27, 2014, Board Awards, 6:00 p.m., King Philip Middle School, 100 King Philip Drive, West Hartford, CT 06117, auditorium
3. Tuesday, June 3, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

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John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding the discussion of the bylaws.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

That the Board adjourn at 10:20 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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

Comments from Visitors

Adjournment

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