

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
May 1, 2018

Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Dr. Greenberg, Mr. Levine, Mr. Pauluk, Ms. Polun,
Dr. Thomas-Farquharson, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Tom Moore, Student
Representatives Grace Andrews (Conard), Madeline Pliskin (Hall)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm	<i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance</i>
No Student Participation at this time.	<i>Student Participation</i>
David Hubbard, 1 Glendale Road, West Hartford, spoke on School Start Times.	<i>Public Communication</i>
No Unfinished Business at this time.	<i>Unfinished Business</i>
Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:	<i>New Business</i>
THAT the Board of Education:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pursuant to C.G.S. section 10-215f, certify that all food items offered for sale to the students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups• Allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.	

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“Location” means where the event is being held.

- Allow the sale of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location to the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

Motion passed.

Michelle Lacroix, special education teacher at Norfeldt Elementary School; Rebecca Saraceno, teacher at Smith STEM School; and Sonya Stemmer, Language Arts teacher at Sedgwick Middle School were introduced by Superintendent Moore as this year’s finalists for West Hartford Teacher of the Year. The winner will be announced at the June Board meeting. Superintendent Moore spoke regarding the Town Council’s reduction of \$200,000 to the Board of Education’s approved budget. Consequently, at the May 15, 2018 Board meeting, an amendment to the previous motion to approve the Board of Education budget will have to be moved and voted on. Superintendent Moore’s report also included congratulations to all student TSA winners at last weekend’s TSA competition. Congratulations also went to West Hartford for being recognized by the National Association of Music as 2018’s best community for music.

*Staff Communications
and Reports
Superintendent’s Report*

Ms. Anne McKernan, Director of Secondary Education, presented to the Board the third update from the Rethinking School Start Times Committee (RSST). Presenting with her was Mr. Paul Vicinus, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, and Mr. Chip Ward, Director of Finance and Planning. This report is the final in a series of three updates given during the 2017-2018 school year. Areas of focus in this update included transportation, stakeholder engagement efforts, impacts on the town of West Hartford’s programs and services, and social/emotional impacts on students. The RSST Committee found that if the district maintained the current three-tiered transportation system with its 30-35 minutes between runs, costs are expected to be in the same range as current costs. If the district

*Rethinking School Start
Times*

implemented a two-tiered system, costs would increase significantly. The cost and logistics of busing students to private schools is still an unknown. Currently, the school district shares the costs of 17 transportation units with the town. If the new schedule does not allow for the same sharing arrangements, there may be increased busing costs. Further research with specific times must be conducted to complete cost projections and logistics. Additional logistical challenges include transportation for CREC students and for middle school students who participate in advanced coursework at the high schools. The committee sent a stakeholder survey to parents, secondary school students, and teachers/staff to gather input from these groups and will report these findings on June 5. A Family Information Night will be held on May 3, 2018. The public is invited to learn more about the challenges and benefits of changing school start times; there will be a public comment period during the meeting. Committee members reported that the research suggests that moving school start times later for adolescents has a positive impact on mood, reduced stress, and wakefulness during the school day. The subcommittee reporting on the impact for the town of West Hartford contacted local daycare facilities, recreation services, and leisure services to understand the impact school start times would have on the community. All groups indicated they were unable to be more specific about the impact until they are given actual times. Groups want to be involved in the planning phase if the decision to delay school start times is made. Feedback regarding professional learning included preserving specific features of the current professional learning system. The Board thanked Ms. McKernan and Mr. Vicinus on the in-depth report and raised questions regarding the summary of sleep studies, how the athletic program may adjust, how neighboring towns that do not match our schedule may react, the benefits that result in spite of the challenges and the possibility of implementing a late start time only one day a week.

Mr. Paul Vicinus, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, presented to the Board his report on the District Profile and Performance Report. The reports, including historical SSP reports and PPR reports since 2013-14, are available on the CSDE's public reporting page at edsight.ct.gov. This report outlines district performance on all accountability measures from the Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System as well as many other metrics related to teacher demographics, student placements, district expenditures, and student discipline. The goal is to have a transparent system for parents to assess the quality of schools. Student data and

*District Profile and
Performance Report
(PPR)*

community demographics metrics show that our schools reflect growing diversity. Approximately 42% of West Hartford School’s population are among Asian, Black, Hispanic or two or more races, up 2.5% over three years. Truancy and chronic absenteeism are areas that are being monitored based on increasing trends. More accurate reporting and increases in school refusal are contributing factors. The educator by race and ethnicity table provides a metric for the district to measure our focus on the staff diversity. An analysis shows educator diversity has increased by 1.7%, a net increase of 19 teachers of color over a four-year period. WHPS saw dramatic growth in the areas of college and career readiness, one of the state’s new accountability measures. The percentage of both juniors and seniors taking two or more Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Career and Technology Education courses, workplace experience, or dual enrollment courses among juniors was up 9% to 72%, and seniors up 5% to 87%. Our 4 year graduation rate was 93.9% up slightly from 93.2% the previous year. Our 6 year graduation rate (reported only for the High Needs Students category) was 90.3% and postsecondary entrance is well above state target at 84.4%. The Board asked questions regarding the suspension and expulsion percentage with African American and White students, the graduation rate, chronic absenteeism, and suspensions. Questions were also asked regarding the introduction of AP courses to students, as well as how parents are brought into the fold.

Mr. Pauluk moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

Routine Matters

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2108

Financial Report

Motion passed.

Ms. Polun moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

*Approval
Of Minutes*

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Education meeting of April 17, 2018

Motion passed.

Mr. Dave Pauluk reported to the Board on the Art Quest presentation and upcoming Quest fairs, as well as his visit to Wolcott Elementary School. Dr. Thomas- Farquharson congratulated Charter Oak International Academy’s placing First in the Odyssey of the Mind

*Information and
Reports*

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competition. Mrs. Blanks reported to the Board on the CREC meeting held last week. Highlights to the meeting included the future of CREC funding and the formation of subcommittees. Updates to the status of tuition costs, future funding, and the effects to the local boards will be discussed.

Conard High School Student Representative Grace Andrews reported to the Board on Unified Theater's ice cream social, AP Exams, elections, TSA Competition, and extended an invitation to everyone to attend the production: *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream*, performing at the BlackBox. Hall High School Student Representative Maddy Pliskin, congratulated this year's Teacher of the Year nominees. She reported to the Board on fundraising for Abby's Army, in support of the Hall High School principal's daughter; the Sarah Lewis Poetry Awards, National Honor Society, AP Exams, and caps and gowns for graduation.

Dr. Cheryl Greenberg announced the following meeting dates:

1. May 3, 2018, Rethinking School Start Times (RSST) Parent Night, Town Hall Auditorium, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
2. Tuesday, May 15, 2018, Regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.
3. Tuesday, June 5, 2018, Regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.

No requests for future agenda items.

No comments from visitors at this time.

Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education adjourn at 9:27 p.m.
Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Dr. Cheryl Greenberg, Chairperson Dave Pauluk, Secretary

Respectfully submitted by: Mrs. C. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

*Future Business:
Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

*Request for Future
Agenda Items*

*Comments from
Visitors*

Adjournment

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