

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
May 15, 2018

Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval

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

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| 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> |
| No Public Communication at this time. | <i>Public Communication</i> |
| No Unfinished Business at this time. | <i>Unfinished Business</i> |
| Mr. Pauluk moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded: | <i>New Business</i> |
| THAT the Board of Education: adopt a revised 2018-2019 budget of \$164,351,527 by making the following reductions to the previously adopted 2018-2019 Board of Education Budget: | |
| 5111 – Department Supervisor Salaries - \$130,000 5112 – Teacher Salaries - \$70,000 | |
| Motion passed. | |
| Superintendent Tom Moore thanked administration and staff for all the hard work in helping students with the afternoon’s bad weather. Superintendent Moore invited the Board to the Veteran’s Recognition Ceremony to be held on Tuesday May 29, 2018. On June 6 th , 2018, Morley will celebrate its ninetieth anniversary with a community assembly. Superintendent Moore recognized the Hall Jazz Band on a great performance in Ellington, congratulations also went to King Philip’s Singers and Beaux Strings for their Platinum win at the Great East Music Festival. US News and World Report ranked both Conard and Hall High Schools as Gold Medal High Schools. Congratulations to Principals Dan Zittoun and Julio Duarte. | <i>Staff Communications and Reports Superintendent’s Report</i> |

Dr. Andy Morrow, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, presented the Safe School Climate and Discipline Report to the Board. Presenting alongside him were Mr. Dan Zittoun, Principal of Hall High School, Mr. Julio Duarte, Principal of Conard High School, and Mr. Eric Dency, Director of Security. This year's Safe School Climate and Discipline Report provides feedback on K-12 school climate, as well as data that reflects student behavior in our secondary schools that resulted in suspensions and expulsions. Each of our schools have a safe climate committee to review discipline data and lockdown safety and review rates and trends by grade and race to identify concerns. Highlights to the report include 175 suspensions, of which 69% are served in school, 4 cases of bullying at the secondary level, and 4 cases at the elementary level. Racial disparity has been identified and is of concern. West Hartford has taken a collaborative and proactive stand with a focus on behavior to address the negative and to reinforce the positive. Mr. Duarte reviewed some of the programs that are being put into place using a student and parent lens. A partnership has been established with UCONN that helped prepare students to interact in appropriate ways and to value the opinion of others. Another program being held is school-wide student led assemblies that help encourage students to discuss and see the perspective of others. Mr. Zittoun spoke on the importance of empowering students and giving them a voice with a focus on cultural competency where students can share their views with staff and peers in a safe environment. This helps students feel they are being heard and creates a better trusting relationship with adults. Mr. Dency added that they are working closely with our IT Department on finishing the video surveillance project and that keeping students engaged in our fire drills has had positive feedback. Dr. Morrow concluded the report noting a strong connection with the West Hartford Police Department and outlined current and future plans for police involvement. The Board thanked the panel for a great presentation and asked questions about security for the new facility at ASD, the implementation of cameras, and the process by which families are alerted in case of an emergency situation. Questions were also asked about the rates of suspension in regards to race and ethnicity, the partnering of area businesses for students who are not thinking about college, and how students are selected to participate in the UCONN program/tours.

*Safe School Climate and
Discipline Report*

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Mr. Rick Ledwith, Executive Director of Human Resources, presented to the Board his report on personnel actions. Currently there are 15 retirements and 14 resignations. The turnover rate this year is at 3%, with a 5% turnover over the last several years. Career fairs held in April provided a good pool of applicants and over the next few weeks there will be over 25 new hires. A search for a new Assistant Principal at Hall High School has begun with 14 interviews being held.

Personnel Report

Ms. Polun moved and Dr. Thomas-Farquharson seconded:

Routine Matters

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of May 1, 2018

*Approval
Of Minutes*

Motion passed.

Mr. Dave Pauluk reported to the Board on the Hall High School Jazz Bands performance at Lincoln Center. Ms. Deb Polun reported on WHCTV's upcoming 5K fundraiser on June 2, 2018. Mrs. Blanks reported to the Board on the new office at Sedgwick Middle School.

*Information and
Reports*

Mrs. Carol Blanks announced the following meeting dates:

*Future Business:
Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

1. 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.

*Request for future
Agenda Items*

No comments from visitors at this time.

*Comments from
Visitors*

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

Adjournment

THAT the Board of Education adjourn at 8:45 p.m.
Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Mrs. Carol Blanks, Chairperson

Dave Pauluk, Secretary

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

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