

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
June 5, 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)

<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance</i></p>
<p>Revision of the agenda order to allow for The Equity and Excellence Update.</p>	
<p>No Student Participation at this time.</p>	<p><i>Student Participation</i></p>
<p>Sarah Raskin, 193 North Quaker Lane, West Hartford, spoke on the School Start Time Survey.</p>	<p><i>Public Communication</i></p>
<p>Jane Robinson, 21 Ledger Road, West Hartford, spoke on the School Start Time Survey.</p>	
<p>Joe Snyder, 65 Lexington Road, West Hartford, spoke on the state of King Philip Middle School.</p>	
<p>Lance Goldberg, West Hartford, spoke on the School Start Time Survey.</p>	
<p>No Unfinished Business at this time.</p>	<p><i>Unfinished Business</i></p>
<p>No New Business at this time.</p>	<p><i>New Business</i></p>
<p>Superintendent Tom Moore announced to the Board and congratulated Teacher of the Year winner, Sonya Stemmer, Language Arts Teacher from Sedgwick Middle School. Superintendent Moore also congratulated Keeper of the Light recipient Shelley Solomon, Assistant Principal, Hall High School.</p>	<p><i>Staff Communications and Reports Superintendent's Report</i></p>
<p>Dr. Roszena Haskins, Director of Continuing Education and Diversity Advancement introduced panelists from Wolcott, Whiting Lane and Hall High School for a three-part presentation on Equity and Excellence. Whiting Lane Principal, Karen Kukish introduced Mrs. Kari Nicewander who spoke to the board on unmasking and dismantling racism. This past year, Whiting lane implemented Racial Justice Training sessions for fourth and fifth grade students who were taught, in part, about the effects of racism using the analogy of farmers</p>	<p><i>Equity and Excellence Update</i></p>

June 5, 2018

Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval

who farm land with toxic chemicals, over hundreds of years and the effects it has on its soil. Educators, students and staff engaged in meaningful conversations about race and the history of racism in our country, looking carefully at defining the different realms of racism and the impact that our own conscious biases may have on our individual decision-making process. PTO President, Chris Haddad, added that none of us are immune to racism, that awareness is an important step and that more training is encouraged to reinforce love, equality and racial justices. Students Mary Haddad and Jonny Nicewander spoke on their personal experiences and goals for raising awareness.

Scott Dunn, Principal at Wolcott and Sarah Lynch, Library Media Specialist, spoke on how to nurture social and emotional well-being.

The Wolcott Library is dedicated to increasing diversity in the collection they offer, lessons taught and events they host. This year Sarah hosted a Diverse Books Tasting during a teacher meeting, which provided teachers with a preview of diverse titles from the library to help make lists of titles they could incorporate into their lessons.

Wolcott also enlisted a muralist who painted an entire hallway with characters from children's books.

Students, Omar Khalil, Chase Hamilton, and Charlie Townswick spoke as representatives of Hall High School. Together they designed and delivered a two-hour Curriculum Staff and Improvement Session (CSI) on an early release Wednesday. They discussed the challenges and positive experiences that have had an impact on raising awareness on cultural competency. The Board thanked the staff, parents and students on all the hard work they have put in toward raising awareness and starting the important conversations. Questions were asked on district wide training, including all staff, and if there has been a difference in student behaviors.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Paul Vicinus and Director of Secondary Education Anne McKernan presented to the Board the Rethinking School Start Times Committee (RTSST): Stakeholder Survey Report. The RSST Committee presents this stakeholder survey report to provide timely and detailed feedback to inform the Board of Education regarding its decision to change school start times. Ms. Anne McKernan thanked the committee, comprised of 22 teachers, parents and administrators, all of who volunteered. During the four-week period of April 18-May 15, all West Hartford Public School (WHPS) parents, staff and secondary students were surveyed. The survey was made available in both English and Spanish. Partnering with Hanover Research Group, survey questions were designed to gather information in a number of areas including;

*Rethinking School Start
Times*

June 5, 2018*Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval*

information about the respondent, knowledge of the RSST Committee, student sleep habits, satisfaction with current start times and preferred school start times, anticipated effects for earlier or later school start times for each level, effect on families, student participation in school and outside of school activities, student employment; teacher employment beyond WHPS and open-ended responses. A total of 7218 people responded to the survey, with the secondary school students submitting the largest number of responses and the highest participation rate at 3790. The survey saw 2770 parent responses and 658 responses from staff. Although responses showed support for the effort to examine school start times, they also showed a third of respondents were not familiar with the committee's work, a third had some familiarity and a third were moderately to extensively familiar. Survey results showed that 16% of students go to bed before 10:00 p.m., 34% between 10:00-11:00 p.m. and 30% between 11:00-12:00 a.m. 19% of students go to bed after 1:00 a.m. At the high school level results found that both parents and students were somewhat dissatisfied with current school start times. Teacher results showed that 42% were 'completely satisfied' with current start times. At the middle school level, common parent and teacher response was 'completely satisfied' while common student responses were 'somewhat dissatisfied'. Stakeholders at all levels were asked what effects they thought changed start times would have on many issues relating to student health. Middle school respondents indicated negative effects for sleep, stress and mood if start times were made earlier, while high school results saw a high percentage of positive effects in the area of sleep, physical health and stress levels if start time were later. The survey collected information on student's interests. Results show that 52% reported being active in sports, 33% volunteered and 25% active in the arts and religious groups. 21% of all respondents reported having a job. Staff members reported negative effects on later school start times could include ability to be an athletic coach, or serve as a club advisor. The survey also indicated that 28% of staff members have a job in addition to their teaching position. Hanover Research Group delivered an EXCEL and SPS file of raw data for WHPS to review. Over the coming weeks, the team will examine the data, clean it, and determine if there were any discrepancies or concerns. The preliminary examination of this file does not raise any concerns at this time. Mr. Paul Vicinus thanked the committee members and Ms. Anne McKernan for their continued efforts and hard work. The Board thanked Anne McKernan, Paul Vicinus, and the committee on the tremendous efforts put in to this study.

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Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the financial report for the period ending April 30,2018

Motion passed.

Ms. Polun moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Education meeting of My 15, 2018

Motion passed. (two abstentions)

Student Representative Maddy Pliskin reported on Junior and Senior Proms, the Senior Outing at Six Flags, and the Boys and Girls Outdoor Track and Field. Student Representative Grace Andrews reported on Senior Athletic Awards, Student Council Elections, as well as Unified Theater. The Board presented gifts to the outgoing Student Representatives and thanked them for their service this year.

Dr. Cheryl Greenberg announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, September 4th, 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.

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

THAT the Board of Education adjourn at 10:35 p.m.
Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Dr. Cheryl Greenberg,
Chairperson

Dave Pauluk,
Secretary

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

Routine Matters

*Approval of the
Financial report*

*Approval
Of Minutes*

*Information and
Reports*

*Future Business:
Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

*Request for future
Agenda Items*

*Comments from
Visitors*

Adjournment

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June 5, 2018
Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval

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