

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
December 4, 2018

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Dr. Greenberg, Mr. Levine, Mr. Pauluk, Ms. Polun, Dr. Thomas-Farquharson, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Tom Moore, Student Representatives Gus Bacon (Conard), Megan Striff-Cave (Hall)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

*Roll Call/ Pledge of
Allegiance*

The Hall High School Music Department put on a holiday music performance for the Board. Board members thanked the students for the performance.

Student Participation

*Public
Communication*

Jeremy Pressman, 39 Warwick Street, West Hartford, spoke on school start times.

Chris Corcoran, 21 Brian Road, West Hartford, spoke on school start times.

Jenn Mariano, 17 Hickory Lane, West Hartford, spoke on school start times.

No Unfinished Business at this time.

Unfinished Business

No New Business at this time.

New Business

Superintendent Tom Moore spoke on Future Educators of Diversity (FEOD) at CCSU also known as Blue Devil Direct, our partnership with CCSU. Students from our FEOD will receive increased training and opportunities as they move towards a career in education. Superintendent Moore also spoke on the school engagement program at Beechland and the upcoming holiday concerts.

*Staff
Communications and
Reports
Superintendent's
Report*

Dr. Gretchen Nelson, Director of Pupil Services presented a report on Specific Learning Disability/Dyslexia. Presenting alongside Dr. Nelson; Ms. Kerry Jones, Director of Elementary Education, Migdalia Fletcher, Melissa Caballero, and Rachele Schiappa. The panel spoke on the responsive actions that West Hartford Public Schools is taking on state legislation and guidelines. A WHPS Dyslexia Steering committee was created in 2016 with a mission to develop a shared understanding of the SLD/Dyslexia identification process and establish district-wide protocols. Ms. Caballero spoke on the WHPS timeline and the outcomes of the steering committee's three-year focus. Ms. Fletcher spoke on early intervention, screening and data collection, assessment and identification as well as eligibility and structured literacy intervention. Ms. Schiappa spoke on strategic planning in response to current legislation, developing

*Specific Learning
Disability/ Dyslexia*

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protocols for K-12 and expanding workgroups. The Board asked questions regarding structured literacy interventions, the options explored when students do not qualify for support under the SLD/Dyslexia umbrella, how we compare with other districts and partnerships formed with families.

Mr. Paul Vicinus, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment presented to the Board a report on Graduation Requirements. Presenting alongside Mr. Vicinus; Ms. Anne McKernan, Director of Secondary Education. This report is an overview of the current graduation requirements and the new state graduation requirements effective for the graduating class of 2023 (next year's freshmen class). The new graduation requirements increase the total credits required to 25.0, currently West Hartford's requirement is 21.75, adding a World Language and Capstone requirement and an increase to the Health requirement, while maintaining civics and arts requirements. Mr. Vicinus spoke on the planning process for implementation, including the formation of a District Requirement Committee and a BOE Policy Review Committee. Over the next year he will prepare and present public reports and updates to the Board. The Board asked questions regarding vocational training, college readiness, how we compare with the rest of the country as well as timing for incoming freshman and the cost associated with additional credits.

*Graduation
Requirements*

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Ms. Polun seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending October 31, 2018

Motion passed unanimously.

*Routine Matters
Approval of
Financial Report*

Dr. Greenberg moved and Ms. Polun seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the revised minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of November 20, 2018.

Motion passed unanimously.

*Approval
Of Minutes*

Hall High School Student Representative Megan Stiff-Cave reported to the Board on The Blackbox Theaters upcoming comedy "The Answer"

*Information and
Reports*

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directed by two Hall High School seniors, Unified Theaters Talent Show this coming Friday, December 7, the winter sports season and the cross country's student athlete of the season. Conard High School Student Representative Gus Bacon reported to the Board on the winter concert to be held on December 19th, Conard's choir performing at the Wolfpack hockey game, the field hockey team and the Cocoa Cola Scholarship program. Gus also reported on Gavin Sherry winning cross country athlete of the season.

Mr. Pauluk reported on his attendance of the WHCTV Board meeting. Dr. Thomas-Farquharson reported on the Star Assembly held at COIA. Ms. Polun reported on the West Hartford Human Rights Commission demonstration.

Mrs. Carol Blanks announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, December 18, 2018, Regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.
2. Tuesday, January 15, 2018, Regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.

No request for future agenda items.

No comments from visitors at this time.

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Dr. Greenberg seconded:

THAT the Board of Education adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Mrs. Carol Blanks, Chairperson Dr. Lorna Thomas-Farquharson,
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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