

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
January 15, 2019

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

Mrs. Carol Blanks asked for a moment of silence for our community in light of recent events.

Mrs. Carol Blanks gave a brief statement regarding School Start Times.

World Language Department Supervisor, Meghan Zingle, introduced Ms. Shoshana Luzusky, French teacher at King Philip and French teacher Dawn Manogue of Bristow Middle School, along with their 6th grade students who presented to the Board on their French Escargot Adoption Project. Students spoke on the oath they took as part of taking care of their escargot and gave their reports in both English and in French. The Board thanked the students for their report.

Student Participation

Stephanie Rauch, 68 Elmfield Street, West Hartford, spoke on the change to Bristow Middle School class size.

Public Communication

Christopher Rauch, 68 Elmfield Street, West Hartford, spoke on the change to Bristow Middle School class size.

Mary Fleischli, 28 Brunswick Avenue, West Hartford, spoke on school start times.

Jerel Rocktaschel, 545 South Main Street, West Hartford, spoke on the change to Bristow Middle School class size.

No Unfinished Business at this time.

Unfinished Business

Dr. Greenberg moved and Ms. Polun seconded:

New Business

THAT the Board of Education receive the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2019-2020 and begin the process of reviewing for final approval and adoption at the February 5, 2019 Board of Education meeting.

Presentation of the Capital Improvement Plan for 2019-2020 (CIP)

Motion passed unanimously.

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
January 15, 2019

Dr. Greenberg moved and Dr. Thomas-Farquharson seconded:

THAT the Board of Education accept the following school project as being complete and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to request payment of the School Construction Grant from the State Department of Education. Conard High School partial Re-roofing, State Project No. 155-0238.

Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Greenberg moved and Dr. Thomas-Farquharson seconded:

THAT the Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement between the West Hartford Education Association (WHEA) and the Board of Education, for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022

Motion passed, five in favor, two abstentions.

Mr. Pauluk moved and Dr. Greenberg seconded:

THAT the Board of Education review and revise as appropriate the proposed annual Board meeting schedule and adopt a final meeting calendar for the 2018-2020 school year.

Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Tom Moore spoke on the Dr. Martin Luther King Program being held on Monday at the Town Hall. Superintendent Moore spoke on the difficult month with the passing of retired teacher Jody Monroe and the tragic event that took place in December. Superintendent Moore thanked the community for the tremendous outpouring of support, especially given to staff at Sedgwick Middle School. Superintendent Moore gave special thanks to the outstanding work of the Mental Health Professionals at Sedgwick Middle School.

Mr. Chip Ward, Director of Finance and Planning, reported to the Board on the Multi-Year Enrollment Projections. This report presents the multi-year projections for the district. Projections continue to show a long-term decline in overall enrollment in West Hartford Public Schools. The trend comes from a decline in the number of births in West Hartford since 2001 and the declining trend statewide in K-12 enrollments. Projections show an average decline of 91 students per year for the next 10 years, resulting in adequate space at all school levels forecasted throughout this period. Mr. Chip Ward defined for the Board the Cohort survival ratio which accounts for families

*Acceptance of school
Construction Projects as
Complete*

*Ratification of the West
Hartford Education
(WHEA) Contract*

*Adoption of the Annual
Board Meeting Schedule for
2019-2020*

*Staff Communications and
Reports
Superintendent's Report*

*Multi-Year Enrollment
Projections*

moving in to West Hartford, families choosing private schools, families leaving the community due to economic reasons and a turn over in the real estate market. The Board asked questions regarding the response to declining enrollments, the possibility that Bristow could close and elementary projections.

Hall High School Student Representative Megan Striff-Cave reported to the Board on the start of mid-terms, the Blackbox Theater's upcoming show, Link Crew's Cocoa and Cram. Megan also congratulated the Girl's Hockey team, currently number one in the state, and Boy's Track team currently number one in the nation. Conard High School Student Representative Gus Bacon reported to the Board on the drama student's Fictional Character Day, College Knowledge Night, the Gap Year Fair and National Honor Society Study Buddy. Gus also reported on 8th Grade Parents Night and mid-terms.

Polun moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending November 30, 2018

Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Greenberg moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the revised minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of December 4, 2018.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Carol Blanks announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, February 5, 2019, Regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.
2. Wednesday, February 20, 2019, Regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Polun moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

THAT the Board of Education move the Public Hearing from March 27th to March 21st.

Information and Reports

*Routine Matters
Approval of Financial
Report*

*Approval
Of Minutes*

*Future Business:
Announcement of Meeting
Dates*

*Request for future Agenda
Items*

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
January 15, 2019

After much debate, Ms. Polun withdrew the motion.

No comments from visitors at this time.

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Dr. Thomas-Farquharson seconded:

THAT the Board of Education adjourn at 9:19 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

Comments from Visitors

Adjournment

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January 15, 2019

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Regular Board Meeting
January 15, 2019

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