

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**September 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)

<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance</i></p>
<p>No Student Participation at this time.</p>	<p><i>Student Participation</i></p>
<p>No Public Communication at this time.</p>	<p><i>Public Communication</i></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 welcomed the Board back to the 2018-2019 School Year and reported to the Board that Convocation, the official start of the school year was last week. Superintendent Tom Moore congratulated Conard High School Junior, Sam Rothfarb as a finalist in the Breakthrough Junior Challenge. This is an annual global competition for STEM-related videos. Sam submitted a video on the flu vaccine and of the thousands submitted his video made it in the top 30 across the nation. Voting will begin this Thursday and winners will be announced.</p>	<p><i>Staff Communications and Reports Superintendent's Report</i></p>
<p>Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Paul Vicinus introduced Dr. Gretchen Nelson, Director of Pupil Services, Dr. Roszena Haskins, Director of Continuing Education, Dr. Andrew Morrow Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Rick Ledwith, Director of Human Resources and Mr. Chip Ward, Director of Finance for purposes of the opening of school briefing. Dr. Roszena Haskins briefed the Board on the West Hartford Inter district Summer High School program, <i>Maker it So MakerSpace</i> program, the Intercambio Exchange Program, Adult Education Enrichment, and credit recovery summer offerings, and the <i>Summer Jazz Jam</i>. All programs were held at Conard High School throughout the summer. Dr. Roszena Haskins also reported to the Board on the Summer Pre-Grade One program held at Whiting Lane, the life long enrichment program and the Adult</p>	<p><i>Opening of School Briefing</i></p>

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Education- High School Diploma Program and the Citizenship Class. The Board asked questions on funding for these programs as well as the Summer Jazz Performances and citizenship testing and graduation. Dr. Gretchen Nelson briefed the Board on the Extended School Year (ESY) program, thanking Mr. Mike Davis and Ms. Susan Holt for putting the program together. This year there were 32 classes offered and 348 students participating. Dr. Nelson also reported to the Board on the state mandates and standards, reporting that West Hartford has maintained its NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accreditation. Dr. Nelson spoke on staff hiring and welcomed Melissa Cook as a new Department Supervisor to Pupil Services. The Board asked questions regarding the ESY programs attendance numbers and instructional time.

Assistant Superintendent Paul Vicinus reported to the Board on the summer course offerings including Summer Connections, Summer ESOL program, the HANOC Race through the summer program, Project SPARK, AP Boot Camp, Intercambio (Spanish Exchange Program), Chinese Summer and Fall Programs, the Student Leadership Program and the Summer Reading Program. Mr. Vicinus also briefed the Board on the District's Professional Development, including Extended Leadership, Advanced Placement Teacher Training, New Teacher Orientation, and Convocation. The Board asked questions regarding the Intercambio and Chinese programs, costs and contributions, and Project SPARK.

Dr. Andrew Morrow briefed the Board on the summer activities in the areas of buildings and grounds, information technology and transportation. Dr. Morrow spoke in regard to Plant and Facilities capital improvements, smaller improvement projects, and routine maintenance and cleaning. The Information and Technology Department implemented Accela Ecollect for PowerSchool, a flexible online data collection platform to facilitate the transition to paperless across all facets of school business, and School Messenger with direct PowerSchool integration, which will replace Blackboard Connect, saving the district \$10,000 per year. Dr. Morrow reported on a new contract with First Student Transportation which includes new buses with digital visual/audio monitoring system and a child check system where each bus is equipped so that the driver must walk to the back of the bus to engage a switch indicating they have walked to the rear of the bus while checking for students. The Board asked questions regarding the parking at Hall High School, the air conditioning at Conard and the food diversion program. The Board also asked on feedback from the Hall High School neighbors with regard to construction.

Mr. Rick Ledwith briefed the Board on the recruitment results of the 2018-19 School Year, the retirement and resignation of staff and new contracted teachers and administrators. Mr. Ledwith also reported to the Board on the diversity of professional staff and gave an update on the teacher negotiations timeline. The Board asked questions regarding the teachers and administrative contract.

Mr. Chip Ward briefed the Board on the 2018-19 first day of school enrollments, noting we opened the school year successfully with a total K-12 enrollment of 9,339 students, which is 61 students lower than last year, and with 28 fewer students than projected. Mr. Ward also noted that these are just preliminary numbers as enrollments change during September as class rosters are reviewed and updated. The official enrollment report will be given at the second Board meeting in October reflecting the October 1 enrollment data. The Board asked questions regarding the enrollment numbers, class size and projections.

Ms. Polun moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes, as revised, of the Regular Board of Education meeting of June 5, 2018.

Motion passed.

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting of June 18, 2018.

Motion passed.

Student Representative Gus Bacon reported on Conard's LinkCrew, orientation and the beginning of fall sports. Student Representative Megan Striff-Cave reported on Hall's LinkCrew, fall sports, the clubs and activities fair, and the positive feedback on the new Science classrooms.

Mrs. Blanks reported on Smith STEM's great first day of school. Mr. Pauluk reported on the flagpole ceremony held at Bugbee. Dr. Thomas-Farquharson reported on first day of school at Charter Oak.

*Routine Matters*

*Approval  
Of Minutes*

*Information and  
Reports*

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Dr. Cheryl Greenberg announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, October 2, 2018, Regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.
2. Tuesday, October 16, 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.

Ms. Polun moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

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

ATTEST:

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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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