

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018 – 7:00 PM
Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Patrick Johnston, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Rachel Chaleski, Gladys Cooper, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli,
Patrick Johnston, Frederick Karrat, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro,
Emanuela Palmares, Farley Santos, Amy Spallino
Also Present: Sal Pascarella, William Glass, Joe Martino, Kim Thompson, Kelly Truchsess

RECOGNITIONS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Karen Muller, DHS Marching Band Mom, invited all to a Notable Night Silent Auction/Dinner Fundraiser on May 12th, 5:30-9:30 at St. Nicholas Church. Tickets are \$25. Proceeds will help pay for new uniforms and replace old instruments. For information go to notablenight@gmail.com
DHS Marching Band students Thalia Albano, Jacob Laham, Christopher Gonzalez and Kyle Berger spoke about the many performances they provide the community and some of the raffle items that will be auctioned off at Notable Night. They asked for support in spreading the word about the event on May 12th and encourage businesses to donate items for the auction.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - D. Metrena moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 18-53 through 18-54, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

4/11/18 Board Workshop
4/11/18 Board Meeting

B. DONATION

Accepted \$500 donation from Star Technologies, LLC to purchase high-interest books for the King Street Intermediate Media Center.
Accepted \$1,000 donation from both Mobile & Mobile Exon for the Educational Alliance Grant to purchase science materials for King Street Primary.

R. Jannelli asked that thank you letters be sent on behalf of the Board.

The motion passed at 7:10 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE (SPOTLIGHT YOUR SCHOOL)

Shelter Rock School – postponed to another date

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENTATION

Minority Bilingual Teaching Pipeline: Robert Pote, Soraya Bilbao

Rob Pote, Director of Pre-Collegiate and Access Service at WCSU and Soraya Bilbao, ESL teacher at DHS thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. They distributed an overview of the TESOL/Bilingual Introductory Practicum, currently a two-part course taught at WCSU.

The practicum is designed for Danbury High School juniors and seniors (DHS Teaching Fellows) of African-American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American descent (AHANA) who speak two languages or more, have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, and who have expressed a strong desire to become K-12 TESOL or Bilingual classroom teachers a structured vehicle for exploring a career pathway in the field. Interested students must complete an application and go through a competitive interview process. Selected students must then attend a student/parent orientation session that provides an overview of the program and the time commitment involved. Students who successfully complete all course requirements are eligible to receive college credits.

Part 1 (ED 103) is taught during the summer at WCSU and focuses on theory and application. Fellows learn about principles of second language acquisition and how they relate to teaching ESL/bilingual classrooms. They also learn how to develop lesson plans that adhere to best practices for teaching English learners (ELs). Fellows then have the opportunity to apply their knowledge of teaching, classroom management, and differentiation and assessment strategies while instructing first grade students who participate in Ellsworth Avenue School's summer program. They do so in teaching teams that are formed based on each Fellow's area of interest (ESL, history, math, or science). Finally, they conduct peer observations and reflect on teaching experiences.

Part 2 (ED 104) is taught during the fall semester at DHS and focuses on observation and reflection. Fellows are matched with certified ESL/bilingual teachers and conduct a minimum of 15 hours of in-school classroom observations. Each observation has a specific focus: classroom management, instruction, differentiation or assessment. Such focus encourages students to look for specific strategies used in the classroom. Fellows then reflect on the effectiveness of the various strategies that they observed and how they would adapt and apply these to their future classrooms. As part of course requirements, students develop a philosophy of education, a teaching resume and cover letter, and put together a professional teaching portfolio, all of which they present at a formal poster session at WCSU at the end of the semester.

WCSU and the Pre-Collegiate and Access Service are looking to add a third course to the TESOL/Bilingual Introductory Practicum. Part 3 would take place during the spring semester at DHS and would focus on research and practice. Specifically, this course would give Fellows the opportunity to learn about the educator certification process in the State of Connecticut and to research other strategies that would enhance student performance and their own teacher practice.

Three Fellows who completed the practicum spoke about their experiences in the program. They shared that it's a challenging college course and it's interesting to be in the teacher's shoes and see the different levels of learning. They also shared their thoughts on the impact of having minority teachers in the classroom: Teachers who come from backgrounds that are similar to those of minority students might help promote understanding and serve as a motivating/inspirational force.

R. Hawley asked how this impacts graduation rates. Dr. Pascarella stated it appears on their high school transcripts but is not part of high school credit. It is a WCSU course which is similar to any other extracurricular activity.

G. Cooper asked if this was only for bilingual students, are there any African American students. Title indicates Minority Bilingual Teaching Pipeline. Mr. Pote will provide a breakdown but indicated that the name was derived from the Department of Education. Recruitment counselors reach out to all students at DHS.

F. Santos congratulated the students and stated it is great to serve the community and impact future students. ESL students relate culturally, ethnically and will inspire other students.

ACTION ITEMS

March 2018 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by K. Molinaro, that the Board of Education accept the March 2018 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Motion passed at 7:50 pm

March 2018 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education accept the March 2018 Operating Results Analysis (Grant/Projects)

R. Hawley asked if we are okay for end of year. J. Martino responded we are monitoring closely, over on salary, para contract, but will close in black. AIS grant short \$100,000.

Motion passed at 7:52 pm

Rental Fund Transfer

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by F. Santos, that the Board of Education approve the use of \$55,000 from the Rental Fund for replacements (Asbestos tile replacement at Shelter Rock School in 9 classrooms for a total of \$35,000; DHS auditorium projector replacement for a total of \$25,000)

Motion passed at 7:54 pm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

2018-2019 Budget Update

Dr. Pascarella indicated the City will adopt the budget next Tuesday and expect allocation recommended by the Mayor.

Westside Middle School Academy Temporary Classrooms

J. Martino stated zoning department has requested a special drain water study be done with a water management plan. We have received State approval and will move forward on bids.

Freshman Forum, April 9

Dr. Pascarella stated the forum was well attended and was very well received.

Danbury Day, April 12 in Hartford

Dr. Pascarella stated Danbury Day was a success and had a great turnout. The DECO Program and our Schools of Distinction were highlighted.

Other

Dr. Pascarella updated the Board Members on the water main break stating the collaboration between the City, Health Department and Schools has been tremendous. There was some confusion about the water boiling advisory but the Health Department issued a statement on what schools were clear. We hope to be back to normal by Friday. He also wanted to publicly thank area businesses, Costco, Stop & Stop, Walmart, Shop Rite, for providing water to the affected schools.

Dr. Sal also indicated that 3 schools will need to make up a day. Pembroke for a power outage in October and Hayestown & Broadview for this water main break. He stated May 25 schools are closed for professional

development and suggests bring in those 3 schools for an early dismissal day to make up the day. Teachers in those schools would then continue with the PD activities.

E. Palmares stated there was confusion about Broadview & Hayestown closing Tuesday and some parents did not receive the robo call. She asked if social media could be updated with this type of announcement. Dr. Pascarella indicated that robo calls went out the BMS & HA at 5:10 Tuesday morning. He cautioned using multiple types of notifications. Robo calls are sent from our student data base and should be our primary source. He stressed the importance of parents notifying the schools of any change in their contact information. This is important not only for snow days and other cancellations but also for contacting parents in the event of an emergency with their child.

DISCUSSION

School Intervention Update

Kara Casimiro, Kara Wanzer, Pam Dalton and Shelly Rinaldi presented a K-8 Literacy Intervention Update.

Highlights included:

- Intervention strategies are provided for students who are more than 2 years below grade level. Students who are significantly below grade level should receive intervention in addition to grade level core curriculum.
- Data Wise Improvement Process – Prepare, Inquire & Act. Organize collaborative work, build assessment literacy, create data overview, dig into student data, examine instruction, develop action plan, plan to assess progress, act and access. Currently Central Office, Department Heads and Schools utilize this process to develop improvement plans.
- At the middle schools there are 42 ELA teachers and 3 reading intervention teachers. All teachers have 2 CORE classes and 1 intervention or “acceleration” class (50-75 students). They see students every day and 2x once a week where small group instruction is delivered. All students receive ELA instruction from 1 teacher and remediation or “acceleration” if needed. Students manage workload from 4 different CORE teachers.
- Middle Schools use a comprehensive ELA approach using new EL Common Core curriculum for all with focus on Close Reading of complex text at grade level. Common strategies and protocols to increase student engagement with active practice. Intentionally planned, need based, small group experience minimum of 1x weekly. Intervention for those needing remediation (445/Tier 3). Acceleration for those 90%+PR(105). Independent reading at individual level.
- All students are guaranteed a rigorous CORE ELA experience. All students are exposed to and grapple with content-based grade level texts and are expected to participate in academic conversations using high level vocabulary.
- See significant Lexile gains at RPMS & BMS intervention compared to non-intervention students.
- At the middle schools next year the intervention instructional focus will shift from mostly phonetics to mostly comprehension due to tremendous growth in students.
- Focus on continued growth through summer school opportunities, not just for students who fail.
- At the elementary level increased consistency of CORE curriculum across all schools - Heinemann UOS rollout K-3 with 4 next year and 5 in 2019-2020. TC training for all K-3 teachers. Added assessment for phonics. Time allotment charts specifically address time for foundational skills. Added Blended Intervention (Lexia at Gr.3; Imagine Learning in 6 schools; System 44 in 4 schools.
- Grade 3 fall to winter this year showed an average growth of 113 in the STAR Lexile level.
- Overall seeing high growth with intervention by mid-year with higher gains.

INFORMATION

- Realtor Day at DHS Auditorium May 23, 9:00 a.m.
- Memorial Day Parade, May 28

BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

R. Chaleski stated she attended the DHS PTO meeting and wanted to pass along that the National Honor Society is hosting a fundraiser called “Mr. DHS” this Friday at 7:00 p.m. with proceeds going to the Smile Train. \$5.00 to vote for “Mr. DHS”

Dr. Pascarella stated interviews were held today for the middle school principal position and on Friday interviews are scheduled for the High School assistant principal position.

K. Thompson stated we are looking at vacancies for the fall, and wrapping up hiring for summer school.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

K. Molinaro moved, seconded by D. Metrena to adjourn the April 25, 2018 Board of Education Meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Rachel Chaleski, Secretary

(meeting was videotaped)