

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2018

Danbury High School Media Center

6:00 p.m. Tour of DHS new addition

7:00 p.m. Board Meeting in Media Center

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairperson, Patrick Johnston, called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Danbury High School ROTC Cadets.

ROLL CALL

Present: Rachel Chaleski, Gladys Cooper, Patrick Johnston, Frederick Karrat, Emanuela Palmares, Farley Santos, Amy Spallino, David Metrena, Richard Jannelli

Absent: Richard Hawley, Kathleen Molinaro, Dr. Bill Glass

Also Present: Dr. Pascarella, Joe Martino, Kelly Truchsess, Kim Thompson

RECOGNITIONS

Western CT Superintendents Association (WCSA) Student Awards:

Nia Sterling, Broadview Middle School
Curtis Rodriguez, Broadview Middle School
Viviana Flores, Rogers Park Middle School
Connor Stone, Rogers Park Middle School
Kayla Costa, Westside Middle School Academy
Vincent Trombetto, Westside Middle School Academy
Sarah Foster, Alternative Center for Excellence
Eddie Cortes-Torres, Alternative Center for Excellence
Nelson Neira, Danbury High School
Holly Rivers, Danbury High School

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Parents Teresa Lopez, Ilka Smith, Darryl Smith and Bob Evans all came to speak about the STEPS Program at Broadview Middle School. Mr. Patrick Johnston stated that due to it being an ongoing situation, it was advised by counsel to terminate the conversation and not discuss it in public at that time. Ms. Kim Thompson, the Legal Counsel to the Danbury Board of Education, stated that in this public forum we cannot have a conversation about members of our staff due to state laws and Board bylaws. Ms. Thompson did state that parents are welcome to stay after the meeting and speak to the Board or contact the Central Office for a meeting with the Superintendent's Office.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - D. Metrena moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 18-64 through 18-66, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

5/9/18 Board Workshop

5/9/18 Board Meeting

5/14/18 Finance Committee Meeting

Motion passed at 7:21 pm

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE (SPOTLIGHT YOUR SCHOOL)

Danbury High School

- Presented by Dr. Meghan Martins and Dan Donovan
- Mission statement: Empowering ALL students to be informed and productive students.
- Enrollment around October 1st was at 3061.
- Large English language learner enrollment.
- Large free and reduced lunch enrollment.
- 118 students were able to achieve GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- To date, 166 college courses have been taken by DECO students.
- 92 students in National Honors Society.
- 65 Arts Honor Society.
- Around 700 graduates.
- 3,198 college applications processed this year through Naviance.
- Almost 1100 AP classes being taken.
- 78% of students in CT University system returned for a sophomore year of college.
- \$210,000 in college scholarships to be distributed to students this year.
- Continuously improving professional practice.
- New teacher support sessions led by a teacher.
- Coach for SIOP program.
- Instructional Rounds that faculty participate in.
- Hatters Herald won award for excellence, one of highest achieving in New England.
- Future Business Leaders of America.
- Connecticut DECA and National Conference winners.
- Jack Tracy, Physics teacher, won special grant to go to Hawaii to study volcanoes.
- Susan McKenzie, involved with School of Rock, won award for writing original song.
- Nicole Martone, selected as an Emerging Leaders Fellow through the National Council of Teachers of English.
- Dr. Meghan Martins, selected to be a member of the Nellie Mae Foundation Speaker's Bureau.
- Family connections such as open house, conferences, college applications nights, financial aid and scholarship nights, Special Ed transition nights, international night, etc.
- Family survey was sent out to parents. Didn't get as many responses as they were hoping for but responses received were favorable. This survey is what staff will focus on next year as a school.
- Athletic accomplishments such as track teams, wrestling, basketball, softball, lacrosse, volleyball, soccer, baseball. Teams and coaches are doing extremely well.
- Looking ahead at block scheduling, new buildings, flex time, NEASC self-study, district vision of a Danbury Public School graduate.

ACTION ITEMS

A. 2018-2019 Budget

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve and set the School District's Budget in the amount of \$132,236,000 (3.11 %) for the fiscal year 2018-2019.

Motion passed at 7:42 pm

B. April 2018 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education accept the April 2018 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

- R. Jannelli asked if we are still having problems with substitutes.

- K. Thompson said we have trouble having subs in the pool committing to the vacancies.
- Doing interviews with a recruiter for the pool. Recruiting process over the summer.
- When we interviewed the recruiter companies, which were outrageously expensive, we learned a lot on what we can change.
- Working on what we can change with the pre-planned day meetings that can use five subs at a time.
- Our base rate is competitive with our neighboring towns for subbing.
- Administrators are doing excellent job at identifying chronic absenteeism.
- Administrators learning not to use building based subs until the morning of for call outs.
- Looking at incentives.

Motion passed at 7:51 pm

C. April 2018 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

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

Motion passed at 7:51 pm

D. Completion of School Construction Projects

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by R. Chaleski that the Board of Education accept the following school construction projects as complete and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to certify and execute the SCG-049F form.

034-0138	Mill Ridge School
034-0139	Park Avenue School
034-0140	Shelter Rock School
034-0141	Stadley Rough School
034-0142	King Street Intermediate Roof
034-0143	Hayestown Roof
034-0144	Morris Street Roof
034-0145	South Street Roof
034-0147	Rogers Park Roof
034-0148	Shelter Rock Portables

Motion passed at 7:53 pm

E. Inter-school Lunch Agreements

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by F. Santos that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute inter-school lunch agreements with St. Peters, St. Gregory and Pathways.

J. Martino stated that this is a partnership that Sodexo makes that facilitates food to go to those schools.

Motion passed at 7:55 pm

F. Healthy Food Certification

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by R. Chaleski that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to submit form ED-099 to the Connecticut State Department of Education stating that the Board will participate in Section 3 of CT General Statutes Section 10-215f

Healthy Foods – Exemptions

As per Section 3 of CT General Statutes Section 10-215f, the Board of Education may permit the sale of other food items that do not meet the Connecticut nutrition standards provided that:

- 1) The sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend
- 2) the sale is at the location of the event
- 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

Exemptions to Section 3 of CT General Statutes Section 10-215f Healthy Foods

Motion passed at 7:56 pm

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by F. Santos that the Board of Education allow the sale to students of any legal foods not listed in Section 3 of CT General Statutes Section 10-215f at all co-curricular sponsored events such as sporting events, school performances, school dances, PTO sponsored events, theatrical productions and school fairs provided that the exemption criteria are met.

F. Santos asked if there was something recent with Hatters Cafe with a food issue and what was end result? J. Martino stated that the State of CT Health Board came and reviewed the menu and found that some of the foods were none complaint such as white bread versus whole wheat bread. Worked with the Sodexo dietitian and changed menu to meet criteria.

Motion passed at 7:58 pm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Update on school closings

- Due to water main break, three schools had to close in April. Hayestown, Broadview and Pembroke. That put these schools not able to meet the 180 mandatory days of school.
- Due to recent storms, the rest of the DPS now needs to pick up an additional day of school to meet the 180 mandatory days. Last day of school will be June 29, which gives DPS 179 days.
- May 25, 2018 was a PD day for teachers. It has been changed to a full school day for students.
- Dr. Sal will be petitioning the commissioner for the one extra day that we are missing and two extra days for the three above mentioned schools that had the water issue.
- J. Martino thanked our district nurses who pitched in at the WCSU shelter.
- Dr. Sal also thanked members of the city for the hard work and effort they did with the storm response and keeping them informed.

B. District copier lease and technology lease

- J. Martino stated we have a technology lease that sits with the city of Danbury. Five years lease. Lease is ended.
- We now own our machines.

- Some of our machines are worth keeping.
- As part of that, copier lease ends this summer.
- We will do an extension on the current and replace about half the fleet.
- New lease for \$50,000 and take a chunk of that and put it towards the technology capital fund.
- Current copiers we have are integrated into everything we do based on our badges. If we get rid of these copiers, we will lose out on all the work and money we have put into them.
- J. Martino does not see a reduction in paper usage. A lot of curriculum is paper based. Waste paper has gotten better but a lot of manipulatives and curriculum paper are still used.

C. Upgrade of District financial and human resource package

- J. Martino stated our current financial package dates back to 15 years old.
- We had looked at partnering with the city but there wasn't enough savings to justify the cost.
- Current package is \$50,000 a year. New package is \$85,000 a year. Probably won't roll this out until next budget cycle.
- A lot of employee savings between HR and payroll.
- There is a statute about partnering with the city with these packages. J. Martino had a meeting with the financial advisor and they did feel it ill advised to do that because the cost is just far greater.
- Met with vendor already.
- This is hosted in the Cloud so there are benefits if we lose power.
- Product is PowerSchool which is under our current PowerSchool system so it is integrated.
- The fact that it speaks to the other systems we are using just makes it a much easier process.
- The budget the Board received tonight is built by hand essentially from Excel. J. Martino believes this new system will be able to create these reports.

DISCUSSION

- K. Thompson stated she is in need of Board members for the upcoming interviews.
- Candidates for ACE Principal (5/24/18).
- Assistant Principal for Rogers Park Middle School interviews (5/30/18). Seven candidates. One Board member needed.
- Director of Instruction and Assessment interviews (6/5/18). Tremendous number of applicants.
- Assistant Superintendent interviews (6/6/18).
- Shelter Rock Principal interviews (6/12/18). G. Cooper will attend.
- Two Board members for 6/5/18 and 6/6/18. R. Jannelli and E. Palmares with R. Chaleski as an alternate.
- 5/30/18 still needed.
- K. Truschess said Unified Race that was planned for Rogers Park will be held on June 4th at 4pm. A follow up email will be sent to Board members.
- J. Martino stated we got 80% on portables for Westside Middle School. Bids are out and due back June 2, 2018.

INFORMATION

A. AIS named U.S.Department of Education "Green Ribbon School"

- R. Chaleski stated that it was quite an extensive application process to even be considered and it was a true collaborative effort between parents and teachers.

B. RPMS trip to Puerto Rico, January 17-22, 2019

C. Shelter Rock Principal Update

- Principal will be leaving mid-June. His assistant will be assigned the last two weeks.

D. WERACE Program Enhancement Project Grant

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

- DECA presentation this morning by DHS students to realtors was outstanding per R. Jannelli. The pens handed out with booklets had a flash drive and in the flash drive the presentation was held. It was very clever.
- G. Cooper spoke about Sodexo. Stated that it is in the best interest for parents if there is a balance for Sodexo to inform them ahead of time. J. Martino stated we do weekly robo calls now and it has been much improved where parents are coming and paying negative balances.
- G. Cooper expressed her concern to Principal Donovan as she looked at the DHS presentation tonight. Asked how do we recruit students going to southern colleges into teaching profession? Mr. Donovan stated they have used their connection with WCSU with the teaching fellowship pipeline. G. Cooper said as we look for a diversified staff here in Danbury, how do we get our kids to start looking at the teaching profession? Mr. Donovan stated mainly because of where we are located, students tour state schools and we don't travel as far as down south. K. Thompson stated she usually finds that it's a community member that fuels that fire and gets that bus to travel farther away for college tours. Mr. Donovan stated it's a calling to be a teachers and a lot of high school kids aren't ready for that yet while they're still in school. K. Truchsess stated that middle schools do Career Fair and School Counselors do bring in educators as presenters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: D. Metrena moved, seconded by F. Karrat that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with the bargaining groups related to the school year. Status of pending litigation.

Motion passed at 8:48 pm

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

PUBLIC SESSION

F. Karrat moved, seconded F. Santos, that the Board of Education return to Public Session. The motion passed at 9:36 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

F. Karrat moved, seconded D. Metrena, that the Board of Education adjourns its Meeting of May 23 2018 and the meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm.

Rachel Chaleski, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)