

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018 – 7:00 PM

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to develop in all children the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values which will enable them to live a productive and self-fulfilling life and engage in responsible citizenship in a global society.

2017-2018 Danbury Board of Education Goals

Goal 1: Growth In Student Learning and Achievement and College and Career Readiness for All Students

Goal 2: Family and Community Engagement

Goal 3: Fiscal Responsibility and Planning for Growth

Goal 4: Professionalism, Accountability, and Organizational Learning

A G E N D A

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Rachel Chaleski, Gladys Cooper, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Patrick Johnston, Frederick Karrat, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro, Emanuela Palmares, Farley Santos, Amy Spallino

IV. RECOGNITIONS

CT Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Awards:

Each year CABE offers Student Leadership Awards to two students from each middle school and high school. Principals are requested to ask their staff for the names of students who exhibit leadership skills based on willingness to take on challenges, capability to make difficult decisions, concern for others, ability to work with others, willingness to commit to a project, diplomacy, ability to understand issues clearly and ability to honor a commitment.

The 2018 CABE Student Leadership Award winners are:

Lasya Vadlamami, Broadview Middle School
Dung (Tina) Ngo, Broadview Middle School
Fabrizio Quilambaqui, Rogers Park Middle School
Gabriella Amatulli, Rogers Park Middle School
Kunal Shringarpure, Westside Middle School
Faith Lange, Westside Middle School
Andrew DaSilva, Alternative Center for Excellence
Tatianna Espinal, Alternative Center for Excellence
Nelson Neira, Danbury High School
Holly Rivers, Danbury High School

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Board welcomes Public Participation and asks that speakers please limit their comments to 3 minutes. Speakers may offer objective comments of school operations and programs that concern them. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Education personnel and students, or against any person connected with the Danbury Public School System.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

EXHIBIT

MOTION - that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 18-58, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

4/25/18 Board Meeting.....18-58(pg.4)

VII. EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE (SPOTLIGHT YOUR SCHOOL)

Rogers Park Middle School

VIII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES (once a month – 1st meeting)

DHS: Monique Delima, Samantha Mortara, Cameron Slingerland, Luana Barcelos

ACE: Ricky Hernandez and Caitlyn Delaney

IX. PRESENTATION

X. ACTION ITEMS

XI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. New Principal Chosen to lead RPMS.....18-59(pg.9)

B. Budget Update

C. The Danbury Enhancement Collaborative (TDEC)

D. Two Danbury Students Selected for National Invention Convention.....18-60(pg.10)

E. Danbury Principal one of 50 advocates chosen for STEM grant.....18-61(pg.11)

XII. DISCUSSION

XIII. INFORMATION

A. CAFE Equity Toolkit.....18-62(pg.12)

B. Celebration of Danbury Arts (CoDA), May 19, 11:00-4:00 at Broadview.....18-63(pg.14)

C. Realtor Day, May 23, 9:00 am at DHS

D. Memorial Day Parade, May 28

XIV. BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

XV. BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XVII. PUBLIC SESSION

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETINGS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

May 11	Professional Development Day, Early Dismissal
May 14	Citywide PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm
May 15	One hour early release for students/PD
May 19	CoDA Festival, 11-4, Broadview
May 22	One hour early release for students/PD
May 23	Realtor Day, 9:00 am at DHS Auditorium
May 23	Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 pm
May 25	Professional Development, Schools Closed (except BMS/HA/PE)
May 28	Memorial Day, Schools Closed
June 13	Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 pm
June 22	High School Graduation at DHS
June 27	Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 pm
June 28	Tentative last day of school, early dismissal

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

Exhibit # 18-58

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)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 3, 2018
Contact: Robin Provey or Dr. Sal Pascarella, Danbury Board of Education
Phone: (203) 942-1302 or (203) 797-4701
E-mail: robineprovey@aol.com or pascas@danbury.k12.ct.edu

New principal chosen to lead Rogers Park Middle School

DANBURY, CONN. — Dr. Kristy Zaleta has been selected as the next principal of Rogers Park Middle School beginning July 1.

Following a career as a research scientist in private industry, Zaleta began her career as an earth science teacher at Rogers Park. Twice, she was recognized as a “Teacher of the Year,” both by the Connecticut Science Teacher’s Association and the Danbury Public Schools.

For the past five years, Zaleta has served as the associate principal for instruction at the district’s three middle schools.

“We are excited to watch Dr. Zaleta take on this new administrative role, particularly after her many exceptional years as one of Danbury's leading educators of middle school students,” said Superintendent Dr. Sal Pascarella. “She brings not only a wealth of instructional knowledge, but a history of educational successes and a commitment to our Danbury community as both an administrator leader and a parent of Danbury students.”

Zaleta earned a Bachelor of Science from Montclair State University, and both a master’s degree in Instructional Technology and a doctorate in Instructional Leadership from Western Connecticut State University, where she currently teaches as an adjunct professor.

#Danbury Board of Education#

Exhibit # 18-59

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 3, 2018
Contact: Robin DeMerell Provey or Dr. Sal Pascarella, Danbury Board of Education
Phone: (203) 942-1302 or (203) 797-4701
E-mail: robineprovey@aol.com or pascas@danbury.k12.ct.edu

Two Danbury students selected for National Invention Convention

DANBURY, CONN. — Two Danbury students have been chosen to present their science inventions at the National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo (NICEE) later this month.

Ellis Solimine of King Street Intermediate Elementary School and Jeffrey Trigueros, Westside Middle School Academy are two of 500 students in grades three through 12 chosen to compete in the May 31-June 2 expo.

Jeffrey, inventor of the “Drill Blower,” watched his dad spend too much time sweeping sawdust away during construction jobs. So he came up with a telescope-like attachment to the drill that takes in air and then blows the sawdust away from the surface. Ellis, who is in the third grade, invented the “Keep Away Dog Cat Collar Clip.”

The Invention Convention is part of the science curriculum. For three weeks students engage in coming up with ideas and putting them into motion. One of the crucial learning curves for students is to figure out how to solve problems with their inventions and tweak them to perfection. The invention convention fosters interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics learning for students from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Twenty-six students from Danbury competed in the Connecticut Invention Convention held April 28 at UConn Storrs.

#Danbury Board of Education#

Exhibit # 18-60

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 3, 2018
Contact: Robin Provey or Dr. Sal Pascarella, Danbury Board of Education
Phone: (203) 942-1302 or (203) 797-4701
E-mail: robineprovey@aol.com or pascas@danbury.k12.ct.edu

Danbury principal one of 50 advocates chosen for STEM grant

DANBURY, CONN. — Dr. Frank LaBanca, principal of Westside Middle School Academy, has been chosen as a Society for Science & The Public Advocate and will receive a grant to continue his promotion of STEM education.

The Society for Science & The Public, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is the publisher of Science News and sponsor of the International Science and Engineering Fair. This year the society selected 50 advocates from 28 states to work with underrepresented students and create opportunities to participate in science research competitions that engage them in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

For the past several years, students at Westside have excelled at the Connecticut Science Fair and Connecticut Invention Convention, cited at the science fair as one of the most successful middle schools in the state. This year, Westside sent seven students went to the CIC, one of whom was recently chosen to move on to the national competition in late May.

According to the Society for Science & The Public website, each advocate will mentor a cohort of at least three underrepresented students and help them navigate the complicated process involved in entering science research competitions, supporting the students as they complete science research projects and apply to compete in science competitions.

Westside student, Khushi Parikh, is another example of how the school encourages students to explore STEM fields beyond the classroom. Khushi's project, which involved a Lyme disease detection process that is 90 percent effective, received so many awards from the Connecticut Science Fair, including first place in physical sciences, mathematics and urban school challenge awards (to name a few), that she has been invited to participate in the International Geniis Olympiad to be held in New York this June. She will also be recognized by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering at its annual meeting this month.

“Our STEM students have had incredible accomplishments under the direction of Dr. LaBanca and his dedicated faculty,” said Dr. Sal Pascarella. “Some of these students have been noticed by veteran scientists and researchers and it has given these students an opportunity to consider their projects as a stepping stone toward a future career. This award will only make it possible for more of our students to discover their passion and become part of a science community that has a positive impact for everyone.”

Exhibit # 18-61



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education

81 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1242 • (860) 571-7446 • Fax (860) 571-7452 • www.cabe.org

Robert Mitchell
President
Montville

April 27, 2018

Donald Harris
First Vice President
Bloomfield

Mr. Patrick Johnston
23 Indian Head Rd.
Danbury, CT 06811

Elizabeth Brown
Vice President
for Government Relations
Waterbury

Dear Mr. Johnston,

Christopher Wilson
Vice President
for Professional Development
Bristol

On behalf of Don Harris, Chair of the CABE Diversity Committee, I am delighted to inform you that Danbury has been selected to pilot CABE's Equity Toolkit and conduct a conversation about Equity and Diversity. You are joining only three other districts in this initiative at this time.

Michael Purcaro
Secretary/Treasurer
Ellington

Please find attached a "Letter of Agreement." We would appreciate it if you could ask your Board Chair to sign and return this at your earliest convenience so we can get started.

Ann Gruenberg
Immediate Past President
Hampton

Bryan Hall
Executive Committee
Member at Large
East Hartford

Once we receive the signed letter of agreement, we would like the opportunity to meet with the Board of Education to review the Equity Toolkit, get board members' feedback, and discuss the conversation process. Mary Broderick will call to set up a date that she and John Ramos can attend a board meeting, possibly accompanied by a member of the CABE Diversity Committee. We anticipate needing about 30 to 45 minutes. We will send copies of the Toolkit for inclusion in the Board packet prior to your meeting.

Lydia Tedone
NSBA Director
Simsbury

Please let us know if you have any questions. We really look forward to working with you. Thank you for your time and willingness to participate.

Robert Rader
Executive Director

All the best,

Robert Rader
Executive Director

Patrice A. McCarthy
Deputy Director
and General Counsel

Rebecca Adams
Senior Staff Attorney

Nicholas D. Caruso, Jr.
Senior Staff Associate
for Field Services

Sheila McKay
Senior Staff Associate
for Government Relations

Vincent A. Mustaro
Senior Staff Associate
for Policy Service

cc: Salvatore Pascarella, Superintendent, Danbury

Lisa M. Steimer
Senior Staff Associate
for Professional Development

Teresa Costa
Coordinator of Finance
and Administration

Exhibit # 18-62

CABE EQUITY TOOLKIT AND CONVERSATION

Letter of Agreement:

The Danbury Board of Education is committed to piloting CABE's Equity Toolkit. That commitment involves:

- Discussing and offering feedback on the Equity Toolkit at a Spring 2018 Board meeting;
- Convening a diverse Planning Committee this Spring to make arrangements for a Fall Community Conversation on Equity;
- Inviting diverse community members to attend the Conversation;
- Identifying a staff person to help with logistics;
- Determining Moderators and Recorders to be trained for the Fall Conversation (preferably with board members serving as Recorders);
- Participating in the Fall Community Conversation on Equity; and
- Offering perspectives and feedback on the Equity Toolkit and conversation experience.

CABE will provide materials and funding for refreshments for 50 conversation participants. CABE Consultants will guide the Planning Committee, conduct the Moderator/Recorder training, and attend and support the Conversation.

Signature of Board Chair

Print Name of Board Chair

Community

Date

Please sign, scan, and return this to mary-broderick@att.net at your earliest convenience

Danbury Public Schools
K-12 Fine & Applied Arts



a **C**elebration of **D**anbury **A**rts
May 19th 11-4 p.m.

@ Broadview Middle School

FREE!

Art! Music! Food! Robots! Fun!

FREE!

Celebrate with Fine & Applied Arts Departments from Danbury Public Schools K-12! Music performances, artwork, robotics, kids crafts, face painting, ice cream & family-friendly events all day!

CoDA

Exhibit # 18-63