

# DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

***WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2011- 7:00 PM***  
**Administrative Center – 63 Beaver Brook Road**

Present: G. Cooper, M. Fazio, I. Fox, K. Gailliard, R. Jannelli, D. Metrena, K. Molinaro, S. Leroy (7:14 pm), R. Taborsak and Drs. Glass, Pascarella and Mr. Longo and Thompson from Administration

Absent: E. Alberts and R. Austin-James

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson, Irving Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

Mr. Fox congratulated Judy Butterly for being 2010 Teacher of the Year. He stated that she was not able to be at tonight's meeting but will be invited to the September 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Dr. Glass said she has 47 years teaching in Danbury; you can go by Morris Street School at 5:30-6:00 pm at night and the light in her classroom will still be on.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Parents and students filled the Board Room to discuss their concerns about Freshman Sports being cut from the 2011-2012 Board's budget.

The following participants were on the sign-up sheet to speak before the Board:

Julian Lopez	Billie Anderson	Terry Guiry	Cindy Garnett
Sandra Cherney	Colton Cherney	Tyler Amaral	Erik Steeckle
Corey Cherney	Peter Philip	Paul Rosetti	Cindy Winch
Lisa Collings	Ashley Winch		

Several students spoke about fundraising to reinstate sports for the Fall; talked about how much sports played in their lives when they were Freshman; sports keep kids busy and cutting down on the amount of kids that are at risk; if students don't play the first year they are in High School, they won't want to play the following year; should cut world language rather than sports as he learned nothing in middle school in Spanish; a member of the Board of Governors said had she not played basketball in her Freshman year she would not be captain of the team this year.

Several parents told the Board that they are in the process of fundraising \$70,000 but only have one month to do it. Bill Anderson said he has spearheaded this program called SOS (Save our Sports) at Danbury High School. He told the Board that they have a website and a plan to have a

spaghetti dinner at DHS on July 20<sup>th</sup> with a silent auction during dinner to raise the funds. He asked the Board if we could only raise one-half the money, would the Board allow the program to go through and how would we know their decision since the Board does not meet in the summer. One parent said they don't even know how much money is required – is it \$70,000 or \$50,000 she would ask Eileen FitzGerald to put an article in the paper with the web address. Also would the Board call a special meeting and do we need a resolution for the Board to pass. A citizen of Danbury said he coaches a lot of sports and in Danbury we do pay for play; I don't know why we are not doing this for Freshman sports; short term for raising the money is great, but what about long term. A staff member stated if the students have sports then they have something to strive for.

The Board of Governors introduced themselves to the Board of Education:

Ashish Rao, President	Ashley Winch, Vice-President
Shiny Patel, Treasurer	Justin Kenr, Secretary

One member told the Board that had it not been for sports, she would not be on the Board of Governors today.

Mr. Fox congratulated them for being selected for the Board of Governors and said he looks forward to seeing them at the Board's meetings, and told the students that they do have a voice at this Board table and he encourages them to attend meetings and discuss with the Board those issues that are important to them. Mr. Fox thanked the audience for their concerns and comments.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION** - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by K. Gailliard that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended, Exhibits 11-128 through 11-137:

### MINUTES

Special Board Meeting (Supt. Evaluation)	6/7/11
Operations/Policy Committee Meeting	6/8/11
Bi-Monthly Board Meeting	6/8/11
Special Board Meeting (Exp)	6/13/11
Special Board Meeting (Exp)	6/13/11
Sites & Facilities Committee Meeting	6/13/11
2020 Task Force Meeting	6/13/11
Special Board Meeting (Exp)	6/15/11

### PERSONNEL

Accept Leaves of Absence:	Melissa Lourenco	Linda Ward	Michelle Tran
	Gary Treadwell		

Accept Resignations: Rachel Aaron Nicole Burns Larissa Camano,  
Matthew Long Jamie Morgan Catherine Raniolo,  
Dawn Valluzzo Christopher McCaffrey  
Michelle Tooker (Coach position only)

Accept Retirements: Regina Huber Douglas Morrell

Mr. Fox congratulated the Retirees for their many years of service to the students in Danbury and wished them well in their retirement

#### DONATION

Accept a donation of \$1,000 from the Regional YMCA of Western CT to assist in defraying the cost of the Hayestown/Ellsworth Summer Camp Program

Ms. Cooper asked that page 4 of the Minutes of June 8<sup>th</sup> be changed to reflect that she said the Retreat could be at the same time as the Board Self-evaluation.

**Motion carried at 7:15 pm.**

**EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE** - None

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES** - None

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

##### **Enrollment/Staffing/Administrative Staffing Budget Adjustment**

Dr. Pascarella said we are faced with challenges. We are talking with principals letting them know that we need four elementary teachers. I had put a moratorium on hiring because of what is going on in Hartford. I am also recommending, due to the growth of students at Shelter Rock, freezing some grades. We already know that 91 students have registered for Kindergarten and this year we only had 58. Dr. Pascarella said we are going to closely monitor the enrollment in the middle of August. Dr. Glass said the challenge is at Morris Street. If we do nothing, currently the numbers are 30 in each classroom. At Shelter Rock we are at 87 in Kindergarten and holding. In some of the other grades we have 27 and that may be climbing over the summer. Mill Ridge Primary also has high numbers. Dr. Glass read off some numbers of grades and students – he said he will be monitoring this constantly. The Superintendent said enrollment calls for another third grade teacher at King Street Primary, a kindergarten teacher at Mill Ridge and probably two more teachers at Shelter Rock. We are hoping that we can hold the new hires to six.

Dr. Pascarella said he met with Billie Anderson a few weeks ago concerning Freshman sports and pay for play. He went on to say that a decision had to be made and that he had talked to other school districts. We could not find \$70,000 in the budget; cutting sports came with great tension for all of us. We did talk about it and I told Mr. Anderson that I would support a fund raiser – if

someone wrote us a check in August we could be in a league for next year. It is not my decision as to how much funds we need raise: I can't make that decision on my own.

Mr. Fox said that the Board would have to take some action if it is done by fundraising. The Superintendent said if by the first Board meeting, folks raised the money, it would be okay and with the Board support we can move forward and I don't think it would be right for them to raise the funds without your support. Mr. Fox said the Board would have to approve prior to fundraising. Dr. Pascarella told the Board that they would need to direct him to develop a program; you need an action item; if and when the \$70,000 is raised as to whether or not we want to do this. I don't think there is anything that the Board has to do for the citizens to raise money. He stated that he would hate to see them raise the money and only get one-half and the Board to say "no". Mr. Jannelli said is it \$70,000 or nothing; if you want an okay from the Board and if they don't raise it, we are not going to raise any part of it. Dr. Pascarella asked if the Board would support freshman sports if the funds could be raised. Ms. Leroy said the Board should not fund it if only half was raised.

Mr. Taborsak asked about booster clubs since in the past they would raise funds. It was said that the district has not had booster clubs in years. Mr. Taborsak then said if they raise the money would the Board entertain it.

Mr. Fox said the changes we made in the budget regarding sports were later changes. We did have one or two public meetings but this is one of the changes that we made later. Mr. Fazio said if the mechanisms are in place, it would be a good idea to give the Superintendent a directive because I think it is doable. If the total money is not raise, we cannot do it.

Mr. Fox said if enough money was raised it would depend on when the money came in. Dr. Pascarella said my approach would be to look at this in the tri-semester and that you cannot fund the boys without the girls; we will see what winter looks like. Ms. Cooper said we should give the directive to the Superintendent and asked how would this money be held, how would it be put in one account or transferred to another and that she would like to have legal advice on this so that it goes to Freshman sports where it needs to go? Dr. Pascarella said we could establish an account and it would go to Freshman sports. He said Anne Meade is in the audience and she was called to the Board table. She told the Board that an account would be set up and set up separately for citizens to donate and the accounting would take place in Mr. Longo's office. Ms. Kim Thompson, said we need to be sure that we spend the money and consider Title 9. The Superintendent said we would need to have sports across the board, both boys and girls.

Mr. Fazio stated the people that are going out to raise money, it is unlikely that some corporate benefactor will be coming along, so this is going to be a grass roots effort people would be less likely to donate and have the program; are we going to direct the Superintendent to say "yes" you donate and we will have the program - I am asking my colleagues to take that in consideration.

Mr. Fox said we cannot add an action item to the agenda – the Superintendent said because it is a Special Meeting we are prohibited to add an agenda item to this meeting. We can have a consensus across the board. Mr. Fox asked how do we make people aware of the fundraisers. Mr. Jannelli said a liaison from the parents could get together with Anne Meade and publish it

that way. He also thanked all the parents for rallying around the situation. This Board does spend agonizing hours going over these budget cuts. He discussed what was lost over the last few years from the City's budget cuts. Mr. Fox said he does not think that we have yet taken a consensus of the Board. After further discussion, there was a consensus of the Board.

### Transportation Update

Mr. Longo spoke about the transportation issues this year. He stated that the district was to receive a benefit of a single bus. After an internal audit I discovered that STA did not follow through on our agreement and I brought it to their attention. We had considerable late busses mostly at Shelter Rock and Morris and financial penalties could be imposed at 15% of the daily rate of approximately \$330-340 a day. I had a meeting with STA and the remedy was a full credit of one bus for 2010-11 and equal consideration for next year. We currently have 67 full size buses so our option is to accept a credit for one bus or ask that an additional bus be added at no cost to the district for one year. My recommendation to the Board is that that we accept one bus with no additional cost to the district. I believe there is added value to accepting the extra bus. We are paying for 67 and will get services of 68. Dr. Pascarella said we had to switch Shelter Rock and Pembroke's start time and make one of them an earlier school.

### Health Insurance

Mr. Longo said at your placed there is a cost share analysis. There are two types of coverage: family and single. In the single category, the professionals went up 3.9%; secretaries 6.7%; custodians 3.1%, Paras/School Lunch 5.0% Nurses 3.1%; Medicare Supplement (retirees) 28.9%; Dental is a reduction of -6.3%. In the family category Professionals went up 3.0%; secretaries 6.9%, custodians 3.2%, Paras/School Lunch 5.1%, nurses 3.0% dental down -5.8%; Medicare supplement (retirees) 25.8%.

Mr. Jannelli thanked Mr. Longo for keeping the cost of health care down. He asked if a self-insurance plan would work for us. Mr. Longo said the district approximately 15 years ago had self-insurance. He said he has looked into many plans over the years. It could cost millions of dollars under a self-insurance plan if you have one bad year and that is what happened previously – there were three good years and one bad year.

## **PRESENTATION**

### DESICA Elementary STEM Instructional Coaching Academy - Dr. Harry Rosvally, Project Coordinator

Dr. Harry Rosvally (K-12 STEM Curriculum Administrator) provided an update to the Board about the Math Science Partnership (MSP) Federal Grant that we applied for in the Fall of 2009. The MSP Grant funded the Danbury-area Elementary STEM Instructional Coaching Academy (DESICA), which has provided nearly 200 hours of professional development, so far, to 25 elementary classroom teachers from Danbury, New Milford, Newtown, and Danbury parochial schools. DESICA was the only science or STEM grant in Connecticut that was funded for the 2010-2013 cycle, and has totaled \$615,000 in its first two years. 13 STEM coaches from

Danbury are among the cohort (currently representing 9 of our elementary schools) and are being trained to serve in leadership capacities for their buildings. Each STEM coach will earn graduate credits from WCSU and be eligible for the new “Elementary Instructional Leader in Math & Science” teaching endorsement upon completion of the DESICA training. The grant purchased professional libraries for each STEM coach and funded some science kits and supplies for Danbury public schools. Cohort members will practice coaching within their buildings during the 2011-12 school year. Anticipated benefits to students include more science instruction, better science instruction, and better performance on standardized assessments. Dr. Pascarella emphasized that this program will ultimately benefit *all* of our elementary students. Dr. Glass identified Rosvally as a leader in science education at the state level (Dr. Rosvally is president of the CT Science Supervisors Association and Co-Chair of the CT Math Science Technology Leadership Council) and said that we are lucky to have him working in Danbury.

Mr. Fox said once the staff is through the program they will be able to help others. He commended Dr. Rosvally for all his efforts. Dr. Pascarella added his leadership has put us in the position to look to the future. He has brought in a broad perspective.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Superintendent Contract**

**MOTION:** R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education extend the Superintendent, Dr. Sal Pascarella, contract one additional year, through 2014.

***In favor:*** G. Cooper I. Fox K. Gailliard R. Jannelli  
D. Metrena K. Molinaro S. Leroy R. Taborsak

***Opposed:*** M. Fazio

***Absent:*** E. Alberts and R. Austin-James

**Motion carried at 9:00 pm.**

### **Deputy Superintendent/Director of Finance Contract**

**MOTION:** R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education extend the Deputy Superintendent, Dr. William Glass, and Director of Finance, Elio Longo, contracts two additional years, through 2014

**Motion carried unanimously at 9:01 pm.**

Director of Human Resource Director

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by K. Gaillard that the Board of Education approve the agreement of the Director of Human Resources, Kim Thompson, and extend the contract three years, through 2014

**Motion carried unanimously at 9:02 pm.**

Mr. Fox thanked the administrators for all their hard work and efforts on behalf of the students in Danbury.

May 2011 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education accept the May 2011 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Mr. Elio Longo told the Board that for the month of May 2011, the District expended \$1,728,529.39, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$17,368,719.78.

Mr. Fox said one month to go, do we have a balance budget. Mr. Longo said we are operating in the black; we are going to address the text books this year and we will close in the black. Mr. Fox then thanked Mr. Longo for his efficient handling of the budget.

**Motion carried at 9:05 pm.**

May 2011 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education accept the May 2011 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

Mr. Elio Longo told the Board that for the month of May 2011, the District expended \$9,461,675.75, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$89,502,399.03.

**Motion carried at 9:10 pm.**

June 29, 2011 Transfers

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by K. Gaillard that the Board of Education approve the June 29, 2011 transfers

**Motion carried at 9:15 pm.**

## Tuition Rates 2011-2012

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the Tuition Rates for 2011-2012

**Motion carried at 9:16 pm.**

The new rate reflects a 6% increase over the year 2010—2011. As follows:

Danbury High School	12,235
Middle School and Grades 1-5	10,192
Kindergarten (1/2 Day)	5,096

## Renewal of funded Family Resource Centers

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by S. LeRoy that the Board of Education approve the submission of an Application Package to the State Department of Education for the renewal of the Family Resource Center Program

**Motion carried at 9:17 pm.**

## School Lunch Service Agreement

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by K. Gaillard that the Board of Education approve the annual School Lunch Service Agreement between the Danbury Public Schools and Sodexo Management, Inc. for the school year 2011-2012 and to grant the Superintendent the right to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education

Mr. Longo said we entered in a one year contract with rights to renew annually for four additional years. The first years of amendments are at your places. The only change was monetary. I negotiated a 1.9% increase to the management fee for 2010-2011. We have a \$307,000 performance guarantee for 2010-2011 – it is a surplus contract and by July 31st if there is a shortfall, they will cut us a check for \$307,000. We are operating under the current salary and benefits allowance – next year it will be increased by approximately \$80,000. Summer lunch program is included in the annual contract and fee structures are the only changes. The meals will increase 1 cent – my recommendation is to accept the two contracts.

**Motion carried at 9:19 pm.**

## High School Conduct Code

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education adopt the revised High School Conduct Code

**Motion carried at 9:20 pm.**

## 2012-2013 School Calendar

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education adopt the 2012-2013 School Calendar

The Superintendent stated that if we use snow days, Danbury High School can still graduate on June 20<sup>th</sup> and then they would have to go for another two days. Dr. Glass stated we also built in President Day recess for snow days.

**Motion carried at 9:21 pm.**

## Graduation Requirements

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education rescind the June 24, 2010 new graduation requirements of 25 credits for the Class of 2015 and return to the requirement of 21 credits

Mr. Taborsak said that this is his Policy Committee's work and that he feels comfortable that we are in the right direction.

Mr. Fox asked we were restricting course work. Dr. Glass said that we are not restricting. We had ended up with some pet project courses at a time when we had a curriculum council, which we no longer have. Now everything has to come through the counselors regarding electives. If we only have 7 kids signed up for an elective, we would not offer it.

**Motion carried at 9:30 pm**

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (continued)

### College Board Recognition

Dr. Pascarella said we met with the Advancement Placement and only two districts were chosen – West Hartford and Danbury. They will be working with us and our Danbury High School Staff.

### Superintendent's Roundtable, June 20<sup>th</sup>

The Superintendent said we had a Roundtable meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss with the public space options. The audience was mainly King Street, Mill Ridge and some Board members. The Mayor said it was good to have us all in one room to talk about some ideas. The mission was too focused and we were trying to convey an equitable message. I am glad we had it and it did hit a nerve. Next week there is a 20/20 Committee Meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup>. I will not be there, but Mr. Longo will. We told people to come to that meeting.

Mr. Taborsak told the Board that we need to lay down ground rules; the public should speak at the end of the meeting. In the future, when we go out to the public, we need to set up a system of being orderly. Mr. Fox said we are going to have more meetings.

Freshman Sports – (discussed earlier at the meeting)

**DISCUSSIONS** - None

## **INFORMATION**

DHS Field Trip, April 13-22, 2012, Paris, The Riveria, Rome

Dr. Pascarella said they will be coming to the Board at the next meeting. They will not be missing days of school. They will be having fundraisers as in the past.

## **BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

August 20<sup>th</sup> we will have a Board Retreat and I would like to open up the agenda which we can put together in the month of July. Please let me know what you would like on the agenda. If there are rapidly changing situations in Hartford or in the City, we will have to take that in account and have a Board meeting over the summer.

The Superintendent said we did receive something today from CCM – Danbury will have the biggest cut of approximately \$388,000 dollars, which has nothing to do with schools. He told the Board we are only hiring positions that are in the budget. Mr. Fazio asked what the latest is on technical schools. Dr. Pascarella said the State is cutting 1,700 jobs, if he does that, he is going to have to get legislature authority and operate as a magnet school.

## **BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS**

### **Sites and Facilities** – *K. Molinaro, Chairperson*

She told the Board that the lighting retrofitting in building D is 100% complete; in C building levels 3, 4 and 5 are 90% complete; the main corridor that connects C building and A building that wraps around the auditorium, is complete; the main office is complete.

Solar Panels – on Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, ASAP engineers visited Ellsworth and Park Avenue to confirm all electrical and structural requirements and the bid packet is being prepared. Should have packets by end of next week for final review prior to advertising.

Regarding City projects: Boilers–Stadley Rough's asbestos abatement work has been completed and have received complete clearance as of Tuesday. King Street Intermediate, Mill Ridge Primary asbestos abatement to begin on Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Broadview and DHS demolition work has begun. DHS boilers have been completely removed and a temporary domestic hot water system is scheduled to be installed Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> through Saturday. This will allow us use the facility for summer programs.

No other Committee Reports.

Mr. Fox closed the meeting thanking the Board for their work this year and wished them a happy and restful summer.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

K. Molinaro moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education adjourn its Board Meeting of June 29, 2011 and the meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

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Kathleen Molinaro, Secretary