

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2011- 7:00 PM

Administrative Center – 63 Beaver Brook Road

Present: G. Cooper, M. Fazio (7:20 pm), I. Fox, R. Jannelli, D. Metrena,
K. Molinaro, R. Taborsak, Drs. Glass and Pascarella and
E. Longo, K. Thompson and J. Emmett from Administration

Absent: E. Alberts, R. Austin-James and S. LeRoy
(Note: See resignation due to relocation of K. Gailliard, Exhibit 11-164)

CALL TO ORDER

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

RECOGNITIONS

* 2012 Teacher of the Year, Judy Butterly, 1st Grade Teacher, Morris Street School
Dr. Pascarella and Chairperson Fox introduced Judy Butterly to the audience and congratulated her on being selected as Teacher of the Year and for her many years of service. Mr. William Santarsiero, Principal of Morris Street told the Board that she is in her 48 year of being a teacher and she could have gotten this award any of these years. She is a fresh and current as any person right out of school and has all the experience as well; she is one of the most respected staff in the school. Mr. Santarsiero told the Board that there will be a reception in her honor in October or November and former students and colleagues will be invited.

* Introduce Shuana Tucker, Director of Adult & Continuing Education
Mr. Fox welcomed Ms. Tucker to the staff and wished her well in her position of Director of Adult and Continuing Education.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kevin Haddad, teacher at King Street Intermediate, thanked the Board for the redistricting and putting it on the agenda; he said it needs to take place as our system really needs it and it is the most equitable way to solve our problems.

Laura Mead, teacher and personal friend of Judy Butterly, told the Board that one of the most effective educators has been selected as Teacher of the Year. She then pointed out all the projects she has been involved in since her onset as a teacher in Danbury for the last 47 years. She told some humorous stories of their personal relationship as well as their co-worker relationship.

Sondra Cherney told the Board that we now have the Freshman sports behind us and we are on track with all the kids on the field; it was a lot of work and it is a necessity in our children's life. We will work hard all year to see that Freshman sports are not cut from the budget again

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended, Exhibits 11-157 through 11-161:

MINUTES

Adhoc Committee on DHS 8/17/11
 Special Board Meeting 8/20/11
 Board Retreat 8/20/11

PERSONNEL

Leaves of Absence: Wendy Aponte Tara Carvalho Estela Marques
 Margaret Prejean

Resignations: Julie Christensen Dana Mitchell Susana Enriquez
 Amy Newman Vincent Fiddner Shane Peters
 Michelle Figueiredo Alana Radachowsky Kristy Garren
 Mia Reichl Rosa Marte Gail Siranko
 Alison Targett-Eaglin

New Hires:

Name	Location	Subject
Donald Tonic	DHS	SPED
Meghan Andreo	DHS	SPED Study Skills
Katharine Pico	STR	Grade 1
Elise Tobin	DHS	English
Christopher Eide	RPMS	Grade 8 STEM
John Tracey	DHS	Chemistry
Kelly Thompson	STR	Grade 4
Caitlin Ryan	MO & MRP	.5 AM Kind - Mor .5 PM Kind - MRP
Paul Cavanna	DHS	.6 Soc. Stud. & .4 Soc. Stud. Dep't Head
Lindsey Gatto	Pemb.	Speech Language Pathologist
Nicole Veach	DHS	.8 Soc. Stud.
Patricia Parker-Knight	RPMS	Grade 8 STEM
Sheila Reuther	KSP	Grade 3
Jennifer Strohmeier	MO	Grade 5
Krysta Howie	RPMS	Grade 7 English
Tai Little-Hall	Pemb.	Speech Lang. Path
Talia Monroy	RPMS	Grade 6 Reading
Michael Burnett	DHS	English

Teresa Dovale	RPMS	French
Stephanie Queiroz	DHS	English
Joseph DelGobbo	DHS	English
Vincent Fiddner	MRP	Grade 1
Tracy Guerrero	MO	Grade 5 L/T Sub
Natalie Locke	RPMS	Grade 7 STEM/Math
Catherine Raniolo	MRP	Grade 3
Michelle Figueiredo	MRP	Grade 1
Deborah Cole	SHR	AM/PM Kindergarten
Vilma Belato	MO	SPED
Tara Carvalho	AIS	Grade 4 L/T Sub
Kenneth Seder	BVMS	Math
Jessica Hennessey	DHS	English L/T Sub
Patricia Mc Carthy	MRP	SPED L/T Sub
Kymerly Dumoch	DHS	Art
Kristin Ward	GRP - 50%	Math Specialist
	MO - 50%	Math Specialist
Melinda Mandics	DHS	Math
Kelly Ann Shea	RPMS	SPED L/T Sub
Catherine Val	RPMS	Biology L/T Sub
Jacqueline Ziegelmeier	Park	Grade 1 L/T Sub
Samantha Harrison	RPMS	Math L/T Sub
Steven Firsch	REACH	Guidance Counselor
Cynthia Abbott	RPMS	Guidance Counselor
Deborah Conway	DHS	IT Student Data Management Associate
Shuana Tucker	CRC	Director of Adult Ed
Carmen Marrero	EAS	Sr. Sect'y
Rosanne Kiley	RPMS	Nurse
Diane Dias	CRC	1 yr LT Sub for Laura DiPaolo
Susan Conlon	Pemb.	Nurse
Sandra Sanchez	RPMS	Guidance Sect'y
William Slade	RPMS	Custodian
Victoria Megibow	RPMS	SPED Tutor
Wendy Roberts	DHS	SPED Tutor
Melissa Teel	DHS	English
Dana O'Rourke	Pemb.	Tech Aide
Lauren Kilcourse	GRP	SPED Tutor
Jeanne Phaneuf	RPMS	SPED Tutor
Shannon Turner	KSP	SPED Tutor
Stephanie Gebing	AIS	SPED Tutor
Mary Alice Anderson	KSP	SPED Tutor
Maria Theresa Chan	MRP	ELP Enrichment Assoc.
Kelly Bates	MRP	Wrap Around Kind. CCP
Jaimie McGrath	RPMS	SUB Teach
Lucia Pugliese	DHS	SUB Teach

Jennifer Britton	BVMS	ELP Site Facilitator
William Herzog	SHR	ELP Site Facilitator
Kristen Hatcher-Fontaine	Pemb.	ELP Site Facilitator
Monica Mueller	KSP	ELP Site Facilitator
Sigfrido Nunez	KSI	ELP Site Facilitator
Maryann Federko		SUB Nurse
Daniel Heitor		SUB Teach
Martha Cava		SUB Teach
Cathy Bruno		ELP Enrichment Assoc.
Phoenix Dudley		ELP Enrichment Assoc.
Melissa Teel	DHS	SUB Teach
Rick Erhardt		Temp Custodian
Norm Maldonado		ELP Enrichment Assoc.
Anastasia Palella		Head Teacher School Readiness
Patrick Bragdon		SUB Teach
Alexandra Kelleher		Child Care Provider Wrap Around Kind.
Ian Wendel		Child Care Provider Wrap Around Kind.
Laurel Schreiber		Child Care Provider Wrap Around Kind.

Grants

City of Danbury, through the United Way, awarded \$12,610 to the DPS Family Literacy Center

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Mirochine, NEA Representative, told the Board that we are currently in negotiations and thanked the Board.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES - No students present

Mr. Fox stated that he will be meeting with the Student Representatives.

PRESENTATION - None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Redistricting Process

Over the past two years a Committee studied the current space needs and the impact of the Peter Prowda Report along with the City's requested Savin Report regarding space utilization. Both of these reports have been reviewed. We were able to stabilize what we are going to have to go through with redistricting. The Board needs to establish a plan. I went through the archives to create a process it is not my work, it is the work that was done in the past. In mini-pocket redistricting; it is not necessary to do the whole City. The goal is what I propose for all grades. When we do redistrict, it will give us a year to remedy. We need to put a plan together by the November Board meeting. Dr. Pascarella referred to the Draft that was in the Board packet. The process that I suggest is that you need to put a Study Team Committee together including Cabinet, principals and City officials. Mr. Jannelli, will we have control over some of the issues – for instances Head Start. Dr. Pascarella

said he would not consider any of that, he stated that he does not have control over permits. I think they are going to achieve clearing the Head Start building by the end of the month and they will start building in February – they think that they will be in by August. Mr. Taborsak - it is better to be safe than sorry, we need to deal what we have right now. Mrs. Cooper said her suggestion is that the Superintendent should be involved in the plan which would be a great enhancement to the community and the Board so that everyone understands why we are redistricting. Mr. Fox said he was going to recommend a general meeting to explain the redistricting. We will go through the City council for a recommendation. Mrs. Cooper volunteered and Mr. Jannelli to be on the Study Committee. Mr. Fox said he is pleased about what we are seeing today and this is a positive step for us to be pro-active given the resources we control.

Staffing/Enrollment Update

Dr. Glass told the Board we previously gave you some spreadsheets on the demographics. At that point in time, some of these items were in red ink. Those have all been shifted down to manageable numbers as is normal as kids shift from in and out of the district. The bottom line as of yesterday - we are in very good shape – no school is in the tolerance levels. We are 22-23 with a maximum of 24. No school is over 27 as of yesterday. At Shelter Rock we have three 3rd grade classes of 27 and were asked not to take those kids out and redistrict them. We projected that we needed 8 teachers when we actually needed 9. Dr. Pascarella said we are still with special schedules at some of the schools. We are auditing right now. Ms. Thompson said we had quite a year for applicants; high quality pool and nice reports from the principals in the district. We are feeling good about the quality of the teachers in the district. She commended her staff on the good work they did. Dr. Pascarella said at Broadview we have 1,103 students; Rogers Park 1,101, and DHS 2,931. We have room at Rogers Park in the STEM Program, we have not moved any 6th graders as of yet. Mr. Fox asked when we cut off at Shelter Rock – how many moved to Great Plain – Dr. Glass said it was minimal.

Dr. Pascarella said the district has to make up the 2 days for the hurricane. The Superintendent said we have had some bus problems and called on Mr. Longo who said his Department is in daily contact with STA – we hope to have it ironed out in the next few days.

Freshman Sports

The Superintendent said as you know the City Council did allocate money – we thank the parents for all their hard work. Mr. Longo said the SOS organization delivered a check for \$11,000 two weeks ago shortly after the Mayor released the news to the public that the City would allocate the funds. We are prepared to work with the group – we have an estimated cost of \$24,000 – the \$11,000 will cover the cost of the program for the next 4-5 weeks. Mr. Fox asked the money that we raised and the City, will it cover all three seasons. Mr. Longo said yes. Mrs. Molinaro said if there is money left over, does it go back to the Booster Club – Mr. Longo agreed that it would be the case.

Update on Summer Facilities Projects

Mr. Longo said it was a busy summer season. We had lighting retrofits at DHS, Rogers Park and Broadview and the final payment to our contractor. The solar project at the 3 identified schools will begin in a short time. The City is undertaking the boiler replacements - e-mail from Honeywell to City officials stated that all schools will have at least one burner working by the first of October. The

City project is well underway and according to schedule. Dr. Pascarella said regarding the window replacement at the High School – we are getting information about that now. The Field at DHS is finished and repair to the tennis courts as well.

Dr. Pascarella said we still have challenges at ACE regarding the water system and that is a major deal. Mr. Iadarola is meeting with me and it is not an easy fix. Until the leak itself stops – there is no point in doing anything. Mr. Jannelli asked if this is a potential health risk – Dr. Pascarella said it is. We have 81 students at ACE. Mr. Taborsak said he assumes the City is keeping an extra eye on this. Dr. Pascarella said he is meeting with them this week. Mrs. Cooper stated we will have to think about moving those students and everyone at ACE – it is going to come to that.

NCLB Update

Dr. Pascarella referred to a memo in the Board packet – 80% of the schools that are in this category are in need of improvement. For example: we need some expansions for our tutorial for kids – but the government said we need to have special tutors. Those special tutors cost us \$250,000, therefore we cannot purchase tutorial kits for students. Mr. Dunkin, of the U.S. Department of Education, has made the statement that it is a failed program and is entertaining the idea of a waiver – but that would not help us. Some States have frozen the bar. Connecticut, unlike other states, is waiting for 2013 to reset the bar. We are asking the new Connecticut Commissioner to freeze the bar and not continue to move up. There is a topic list and we decided to update the Board. Some can be workshops or just a quick update. Hopefully this will help us.

ACTION ITEMS

Board Member Resignation

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Board Member, Keith Gailliard

Mr. Fox thanked Keith for coming tonight and for his 2 years of service on the Board. He stated that he wanted to personally thank him for his service and hard work for the youth of our great city. Mr. Gailliard said he has a house in North Haven but nothing will change, it is just that I will not be on the Board.

Motion carried at 8:02 pm.

June 2011 & FY 2010-2011 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education accept the June 2011 & FY 2010-2011 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Mr. Longo told the Board for the month of June 2011, the District expended \$16,939,408.74, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$108,139,216.56. Mr. Fox thanked Mr. Longo for closing another year of our books

Motion carried at 8:03 pm.

June 2011 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

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

Mr. Longo told the Board for the month of June 2011, the District expended \$4,162,940.63, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$21,866,270.81.

Motion carried at 8:05 pm.

School Food Service Agreement for Head Start

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve an agreement between the Danbury Board of Education and Connecticut Institute for Communities, Inc (CIFC) for School Food Service Agreement with Head Start for the period September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012. Furthermore, that the Board of Education designates the Superintendent of Schools as the authorized representative and signatory.

Motion carried at 8:07 pm.

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

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the DHS field Trip to Paris, The Riviera, Rome, April 13-22, 2012

Mr. Jannelli asked how many students have signed up. Ms. Aline Dennison told the Board that the students are not allowed to sign up because Board approval is necessary first. It was asked, how many students do you anticipate, she stated students indicated interest and the Company that she is using is EF Tours - they have monthly payments and again there is fund raising available. The students know about the trip from the past so they have been saving for this right along.

Motion carried at 8:10 pm.

Lighthouse Training

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by G. Cooper that the Board of Education participate in the Lighthouse Training Program sponsored by CAFE and the State Department of Education.

R. Taborsak said it was mentioned at the Retreat that we should get the Superintendent on board. Dr. Pascarella said we will do what we need to do so people do participate in the program. When we talk about data we need to go through the training. Mr. Fox said if we go through with this they would work with us to establish a time. Mr. Taborsak said if everyone on the Board participates it is either the whole Board does or doesn't do it. We can hold off until November when the new Board will be elected.

Mrs. Cooper said the moderator mentioned once the election is over we could involve those new Board members. Mr. Fox said he mentioned that we are going to have at least 4 new members. We don't necessarily have to start the training now; I think it is important that we commit to do this. We need to commit to this even though we do not have to do it now. Mr. Jannelli said he agrees with his assessment, I think it is an excellent management tool and as new members come on they will know the charge and what is required being on the Board. Mrs. Molinaro said she is all for teaching and learning.

Motion carried at 8:16 pm.

School Lunch

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education ratify the collective bargaining agreement for School Lunch employees (wage reopener)

Mrs. Thompson said she realizes that we want to have a discussion in Executive Session – it was a reopener in year 3 and the contract that we proposed is no wage increase. There is no other change with the exception of a floating holiday. Mr. Fox asked if there was any interest to table this motion. Everyone agreed NO

Motion carried at 8:18 pm.

Mr. Pascarella said that we can now move forward to start renting the fields. Mr. Fox said he recommends that should go the Finance Committee for discussion.

Board Attendance

Mr. Jannelli said I don't know exactly how to contain what I am going to say and I take being on this Board seriously. Based on the schedule that was in the Board packet, we have 11 members and 12 Board meeting. I think it is disservice to the Board not to have full attendance when we are dealing with budgets, labor issues, etc and I think it is wrong that we don't have 100% attendance. If the Board meetings conflict with your life, then you should get off the Board. Dealing with the budgets, we have the same 7 Board members around the table. We have to go out and campaign more and get the prospective members to understand that this is an important role. At the Retreat, we had the same 7 people and it is disheartening and embarrassing. Mr. Fox said he does agree and it is why he put this on the agenda deliberately.

DISCUSSIONS - None

INFORMATION - (no discussion on the following information items)

Start of School Updates	Back to School Guide & Calendar (handout)
Draft DPS Organization Chart	Stadium Fees Update
Board Member Attendance 2011 Meetings	

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

2011 CABE/CAPSS Convention, November 18-19, 2011

Mr. Fox said he volunteered to attend. He will also be attending the delegate assembly. For your information, a couple of days ago I got a letter asking if I would like to be on the task force for technical schools. I am going to represent schools across the State and I will keep you all informed.

Mr. Fox said due to the Jewish holiday, the Board meeting will be moved to Tuesday, September 27th. This will be considered a Special Meeting.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Sites and Facilities – K. Molinaro, Chairperson

Mrs. Molinaro said they will be interviewing for the Facilities Coordinator position. Mrs. Thompson said we had 40 candidates.

Community Relations – R. Jannelli, Chairperson

Dr. Pascarella said that he met with Judge Yamin who has been working with us in the past to get the business community to get more involved with the schools; i.e. banks, real estate brokers. We would like their participation in Adopt a School Program.

Policy Committee – R. Taborsak, Chairperson

Mr. Taborsak said we are awaiting further information on the State's changes on bullying; when we get that information we will set up our next meeting. Mr. Fox said he was happy to see the regulations on the Website.

Citywide PTO – K. Molinaro, Member

Mrs. Molinaro said at the Kick Off meeting there was a presentation about school and college bound students. It was a video for parents to help students at home. It was a good presentation. Dr. Pascarella said we will try to do an update for you.

Magnet School – G. Cooper, Trustee

Dr. Pascarella said there will be a meeting in October.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: G. Cooper, M. Fazio, I. Fox, R. Jannelli, D. Metrena, K. Molinaro, R. Taborsak, Drs. Glass and Pascarella and E. Longo, K. Thompson, J. Emmett, G. Bocaccio (left at 9:00 pm)

Absent: E. Alberts, R. Austin-James, and S. LeRoy

MOTION: G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing confidential Personnel matters and Assistant Principal position at DHS.

Motion carried at 8:40 pm.

Mr. Fox called the meeting to order at 8:45 pm and turned the meeting over to Kim Thompson for the purpose of discussing the position of Assistant Principal. Unanimous consensus of the Board for the position and will vote in Public Session for the Candidate as discussed.

Mr. Fox asked Kim Thompson to present the next item on the Executive Session agenda. Mr. Fox asked the Union to state their case regarding Level 3 Grievance.

In attendance:

Tom Kennedy Cindy Mirochine
Juanita Harris

PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: In a motion made and written by R. Jannelli and seconded by R. Taborsak the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with the candidate of choice for the Assistant Principal position at DHS.

Motion carried unanimously at 10:50 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Jannelli that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of September 14, 2011 and the meeting adjourned at 10:52 pm.

Kathleen Molinaro, Secretary

(meeting was videotaped)