

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES (Revised)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2018 – 7:00 PM

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairperson, Patrick Johnston, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Danbury High School ROTC Cadets.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: David Metrena

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

RECOGNITIONS

Jackie DiNardo (basketball) National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Finalists

- Played basketball for University of Texas and University of Tennessee.
- Started working in Danbury 31 years ago.
- 16 wins away from 500 wins.
- Inducted into CT Hall of Fame, Texas Hall Of Fame, FCIAC Hall of Fame.
- Ms. DiNardo is very excited about this award. This award is of the nation, not of the state. They have beat out great states and great coaches. Top nine of all United States to go to South Dakota.

Kathy Boucher (golf) National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Finalists

- Around 16 years ago Ms. Boucher asked the Board to fund the golf team as a Varsity Coach.
- The FCIAC only has about 10 girl golf teams.
- Pretty cool that Danbury residents competed against other teams whose players have putting greens in their backyards.
- Won State Championships twice (2004 and 2005).
- Ms. Boucher thanks the Board of Ed for supporting the teams and for the new golf bags this year.
- Sometimes sports is what gets kids to go to school.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Joseph DaSilva - Mr. DaSilva stated that he came to the meeting to talk about the last item on the agenda, the proposed calendar for 2019-2020. He read the goals on the calendar which state “To increase contiguous days of instruction. To avoid multiple full days of instructional time lost each week, i.e following a holiday. To create a pattern for dismissal that is systematic. To conduct PD early release days Oct-May”. Mr. DaSilva stated that every month we lose two hours of instruction time with the one hour early release. Mr. DaSilva believes it is inconvenient for parents. Mr. DaSilva stated that there are 10 weeks the whole year where kids are in school a full day Monday through Friday. By the time 2019-2020 calendar arrives, there are only two weeks in the first half of the year where the kids have five full days of school (Monday - Friday). Mr. DaSilva urged the Board to look at the calendar and figure out a way to avoid the one hour release Tuesdays.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - P. Johnston moved, seconded by R. Hawley, that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 18-07 through 18-08, as

recommended:

A. MINUTES

1/10/18 Finance Committee Meeting

1/10/18 Board Meeting

Motion passed at 7:18 pm

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE (SPOTLIGHT YOUR SCHOOL)

Hayestown Avenue School

● Principal Stephanie Furman presented a slideshow with some of the following highlights:

- Pi Day
- Read Across America Week
- Buddy Bench
- Star With Hello Program
- Reading Nights
- Summer Reading Pep Rally
- Connecticut School of Distinction
- Dynamite Dragon Awards
- Art Show
- Ice Cream Social
- Strong PTO
- Partner with WCSU
- Reward Attendance
- Golden Dragon Award
- Good Character Pillars
- Good Citizen awards
- Pennies for Vets, raised money for the War Memorial.

F. Santos stated that had the pleasure of visiting the school in the fall. While he is biased because he went to the school, he is happy to say that the school spirit from when he was in school is still there today. Mr. Santos went on to say that without them he wouldn't be where he is today.

PRESENTATION

A. SBAC, STAR, SAT, AP Testing Analysis

Dr. Bill Glass, Kara Wanzer and Dr. Megan Martins presented the Testing Analysis for DPS, where we stand relatively to other districts in the state.

- K. Wanzer is the Administrator for Data Reporter and Outcomes. This specific report discussed the 2016 - 2017 school year. Free and reduced lunch was at 54%, ELL was at 25%. and Special Ed was at 12%.
- SBAC - State Assessment Performance on CT Common Core Grade Level. In general, there was a downward trend across the state of CT at grade levels for proficiency in ELA and Math in grades 3-5. Same for 6-8. Interventions were planned for those students.
- STAR Overview - This is another assessment in K-12 for Reading and Math given in the district, three times a year. This helps to look at how students are progressing throughout the year and to see how quickly they're growing.
- Downward trend at Kindergarten preparedness.
- The goal is to significantly decrease early emergent students and increase probable readers.
- STAR Math- Grades 1 - 12 takes test.
- Do not take STAR Math until you are a probable reader.

- SAT - Dr. Martins - The SAT has been revised. The new one has been administered for two years. It is hard to see data with only two years of testing. Different data results from STAR than we do from SAT with Math. This is because seniors do not have to take Math, so not all seniors are taking Math.
- Incredible traction with students who are participated in the Math and Read 180 programs. This is helping teachers to make sense of what all the data means.
- The Tuesday one hour release times is very helpful to meet to review this data. For the first time, they are able to look at trends across time from the K-12 perspective.
- Targeted some special populations and targeted 9th grade. If we can get you on track in 9th grade, there is a higher likelihood you can graduate on time.
- 200 students participating in Math 180. This is in addition to their regular math class. ELL program. Twilight program. Quite successful.
- Credit bearing opportunities after school in addition to after school tutoring on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- 50% of the entire student body linked to the college board.
- Advanced placement. Now offer 24 AP classes. Students who take an AP class do better in college because they have been exposed to it.
- We have outpaced other schools.
- College credit courses at DHS. Articulation agreement with WCSU. If a students gets an 80, they still can get college credit. In some cases, a student can get a years worth of college credit.
- Dr. Glass stated that this presentation was a huge macro review of data. It goes statewide and district wide. Then school wide to the grade level then down to the teacher and last to the student. Each school has an Instructional Leadership Team that looks at the data student by student. At the Board level we go back to the macro and the question is, "How are we doing?" Dr. Glass stated that he is so proud of our instructional and administrative team. We are working harder and smarter than ever before. This has been the most daunting task he has ever had. We have the least amount of funding of any school system in the state yet we are tied in the state with the most number of schools of distinction. The district has done the impossible.
- E. Palmares asked if in the ELL population with standardized testing, are there exceptions for testing? K. Wanzer stated that teachers work with ELL to see what accommodations can be done depending on LAS (language proficiency scores) such as test being read to them or being given more time. E. Palmares asked to see the LAS score data for next meeting.
- R. Hawley asked what the graduation rate and percentage of higher education. Dr. Martins said 80% graduation rate with 70-75% going to college. The number has declined due to the economy. Free and reduced lunch has doubled at the high school level. K. Wanzer stated you have to graduate in four years to count in these numbers.

ACTION ITEMS

A. December 2017 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: G. Cooper moved, seconded by F. Santos, that the Board of Education accept the December 2017 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

- R. Jannelli asked why there was a transportation change. J. Martino stated that there was a minibus run that was added for special education services.
- R. Jannelli asked if there was anything by June that we should keep an eye on or is everything on target? J. Martino stated that we are currently operating on a freeze. Health insurance is always a big wild card. The para contract is still out to be determined. Clearly concerned about salary counts but not in panic mode. We have shifted an insane amount of staff around. It has been very complicated.

Motion passed at 8:27 pm

B. December 2017 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION: G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Jannelli, that the Board of Education accept the December 2017 Operating Results Analysis (Grant/Projects)

- R. Hawley asked if we still have two significant grants to be paid. J. Martino stated said yes, he doesn't put them in budget until he gets approval letter from the state. We will know more in February for the Alliance Grant when the Governor releases his budget.

Motion passed at 8:30 pm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

CCJEF Press Release

Dr. Sal stated that we lost the trial and he handed out brief information packet. From this packet he read the following statement: "The majority opinion in CCJEF II thus described as the constitutional standard (per Justice Palmer in CCJEF I) for determining adequacy of education funding. (1) 'minimally adequate physical facilities and classrooms which provide enough lights, space, heat, and air to permit children to learn; (2) minimally adequate instrumentalities of learning such as desks, chairs, pencils, and reasonably current textbooks; (3) minimally adequate teaching of reasonable up-to-date basic curricula such as reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies; (4) and sufficient personnel adequately trained to teach those subject areas.'" Dr. Sal stated that we need to go to the State and advocate for more.

Board Workshop, Roles & Responsibilities, February 28 at 5:45 pm

Dr. Sal stated that Jonathan Costa from Ed Advance will be in to facilitate the meeting. He will go over roles and responsibilities of the Board members. If Board members have anything specific, please let Dr. Sal know so he can incorporate into the meeting.

DISCUSSION

A. 2018-2019 School Budget

J. Martino presented the 2018 - 2019 budget to the Board.

- Danbury will receive \$8.4 million in 2017 - 2018 that continues to support programs in key instructional areas. Very importantly, providing social and emotional support district wide and instructional Curriculum support and coordination district wide.
- Time study being done of allocation of substitute teacher resources and impact of in district meetings on student instructional time.
- While Connecticut's total public school enrollment has steadily declined over the last decade, Danbury's has steadily increased. Huge enrollment growth. ELL, SPED and Free and Reduced lunch enrollment all increasing.
- Total full time salaries are budgeted at 6.94% increase.
- Health insurance renewal for 2018 - 2019 is 3.5%.
- Services and Fees are budgeted at a 4.39% increase.
- Utilities and Repairs are budgeted at .46% increase. Transportation and Tuition are budgeted at 3.59% increase.
- The new fleet is completely run on propane which will save the district in both fuel and CO2 emissions. SPED Transportation is also increasing based on contract increases. Although increasing, far lower than other districts.
- Supplies are budgeted at 3.77%.
- We are projecting an increase in our heating oil accounts. \$1.88, \$1.19 for propane per gallon.

INFORMATION

A. Draft of 2019-2020 School Calendar

Dr. Sal stated that the calendar is there for information. We plan on starting the school year again after Labor Day. We tried to move some days around so we did not have too many days off. The work that is done on Tuesday early release days is crucial. We would prefer not to get rid of those days. We don't have the resources like other district do to forfeit the Tuesday early release days. Dr. Sal realizes it can create a problem for parents but those Tuesdays are used well. We've taken advantage of eliminating some days during the school year so we don't go too long into June because we have limited cooling systems. Built in 185 days (including 5 snow days) so DHS graduation will be no later than June 18th.

- R. Hawley asked what if we went to one half day one Tuesday a month. Dr. Glass stated that the problem that we have with that is that there are building based leaders that need to look at their models and then district based leaders that need to meet to train on new materials. These two Tuesdays a month are split evenly between district and building based meetings.
- E. Palmares asked if there are surveys done asking parents, staff and students how they feel about the Tuesday PD days. Dr. Glass said the calendar goes to PTO, Unions, Certified Staff, Administrators and we try to get as much feedback as possible. While we would love to get away from any release time at all, this seemed to be the easiest.
- F. Santos asked how soon, with new PD task that Dr. Glass is spearheading will it take. Dr. Glass said it will not impact the 2019- 2020 calendar. F. Santos also asked who the members on the task force are . Dr. Glass stated they are teachers, administrators, and union reps. Once we get a good feeling it will be pushed out to City Wide PTO, parents, teachers to get as many people weighing in as possible.
- Dr. Sal stated that we have a school system that is changing. The PD time is not just Professional Development. Sal will meet with PTO and get more input from parents and Unions as well.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- P. Johnston mentioned that Dr. Glass will be leaving at the end of this school year and sorely missed by everyone.
- G. Cooper asked the Board to remember that on February 6, 2018 there will be a Special Meeting at 6:30 pm. It was decided that a Finance Meeting will be held first at 5:30 pm.
- P. Johnston asked Dr. Sal to look into an invitation for Lobbyist. Dr. Sal stated he is looking for the February 14th meeting.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

- F. Santos stated that DSABC will be holding a Wine, Beer and Food tasting event on February 9th from 6-8 pm at Max 40. They would really appreciate the support.
- G. Cooper thanked Dr. Sal for attending and helping New Hope Baptist Church Martin Luther King Jr. Ceremony.
- R. Jannelli stated they had a Community Relations Committee meeting and it was very successful. Each member will take on a different issue with a World of Opportunity tagline

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: F. Karrat moved, seconded by K. Molinaro, to amend the agenda to include an Executive Session. Motion passed.

MOTION: F. Karrat moved, seconded by R. Hawley, that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations and litigation pertaining to the labor contract between the Danbury Board of Education and

CSEA Local 2001 (Paraeducators and Tutors) union. The meeting went into executive session at 9:20 pm.

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

Absent: David Metrena

Also Present: Dr. Sal Pascarella, Dr. Bill Glass, Kelly Truchsess, Joe Martino, Kim Thompson, from Administration

The Chair called the Executive Session to order at 9:26 pm and turned the meeting over to K. Thompson. K. Thompson updated the board on negotiations and litigation to labor contract and personnel matter.

PUBLIC SESSION

G. Cooper moved, seconded K. Molinaro, that the Board of Education return to Public Session. The motion passed at 9:41 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Molinaro moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education adjourns its Meeting of January 24, 2018 and the meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Rachel Chaleski, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)