

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 16, 2019**

Present: Rachel Chaleski, Kate Conetta, Gladys Cooper, Richard Jannelli, Patrick Johnston, Frederick Karrat, Emanuela Palmares, Ralph Pietrafesa

Absent: Joseph Britton, David Metrena, Amy Spallino

Also Present: Sal Pascarella, Kevin Walston, Kim Thompson, Kelly Truchsess and Attorney Tom Mooney.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Johnston, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION: R. Chaleski moved, seconded by K. Conetta, that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter regarding Finance Director applicants. The motion passed at 6:05 p.m.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

MOTION: R. Chaleski moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa, to return to Public Session. The motion passed at 6:25 p.m.

1. In the Matter of a Grievance regarding teacher load for Danbury High School Special Education Teachers.

R. Pietrafesa recused himself from the discussion and left the meeting.

Attorney Mooney opened the Grievance Hearing with an explanation of the procedural rules that will apply to the hearing, including the fact-finding nature of the hearing.

The parties agreed to the entry into evidence of the following Joint Exhibits:

- Joint Exhibit 1 -- Grievance Forms
- Joint Exhibit 2 -- Memorandum containing Grievance Disposition dated 3/20/19
- Joint Exhibit 3 -- Contract Excerpt, Article IV (Teacher Load)
- Joint Exhibit 4 -- Contract Excerpt, Article VI (Class Size)

Mr. Kennedy, UniServ Representation for NEA-Danbury called Sonia Moore, a DHS Special Education Teacher in the Basic Academic Skills Program as the first witness. Ms. Moore provided testimony.

Ms. Thompson, Human Resources Director, cross examined Ms. Moore, and entered the following Exhibits:

- Administration Exhibit 1 -- S. Moore Schedule SY 2017-18
- Administration Exhibit 2 -- S. Moore Schedule SY 2018-19

Mr. Kennedy called Fred Merrill, a DHS Special Education Teacher in Resource as his second witness. Mr. Merrill provided testimony.

Ms. Thompson cross examined Mr. Merrill.

Mr. Kennedy called Christopher Dufel, a DHS Special Education Teacher in the Freshman Academy. Mr. Dufel provided testimony.

Ms. Thompson cross examined Mr. Dufel.

Mr. Kennedy rested the case for the grievants.

Ms. Thompson called Kelly Truchsess, the Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services as her witness. Ms. Truchsess provided testimony. In connection with that testimony, the District entered the following exhibits:

Administration Exhibit 3 -- Grievance document, Memorandum denying Grievance dated 1/4/13 and accompanying schedules

Administration Exhibit 4 -- S. Lyden Schedule SY 2017-18  
Administration Exhibit 5 -- S. Lyden Schedule SY 2018-19

Mr. Kennedy re-called Ms. Moore for additional testimony. In connection with that testimony, the Union entered a Document Reflecting Schedules 2012-13/2013-14. Ms. Thompson objected to the entry of the Document. The Document was entered as Union Exhibit 1.

All present Board of Education members were invited to ask questions of the witnesses.

Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Thompson presented summary arguments to the Board of Education and responded to questions from individual Board members.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION: R. Chaleski moved, seconded by F. Karrat to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of deliberating on the grievance regarding the teacher load for special education teacher. The motion passed at 8:40 p.m.

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

MOTION: R. Chaleski moved, seconded by F. Karrat to return to Public Session. The motion passed at 9:25 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

R. Chaleski moved, seconded by F. Karrat to adjourn the October 16, 2019 Special Board Meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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Gladys Cooper, Secretary