

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019- 7:00 PM

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairperson, P. Johnston, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Rachel Chaleski, Kate Conetta, Gladys Cooper (7:56 pm), Patrick Johnston, Emanuela Palmares, Amy Spallino, Richard Jannelli, Joseph Britton, Ralph Pietrafesa

Absent: Frederick Karrat, David Metrena

Also Present: Dr. Pascarella, Joe Martino, Kelly Truchsess, Kim Thompson, Kevin Walston, Kara Casimiro

RECOGNITIONS

WCSA Student Leadership Awards

Broadview Middle School:	Jessica DePalma & Sean Donovan
Rogers Park Middle School:	Elvia Fajardo & Higor DaSilva
Westside Middle School Academy:	Sydney Vicente & Sharva Karthikeyan
Danbury High School:	Alisha Nagarsheth & Lucas Amaral
Alternative Center:	Xinia Cruz & Justin Escobedo

Dr. Pascarella stated that WCSA students were recognized at a celebration. Student's received this award for their leadership, positive influence in their schools and for making a difference. Each Principal spoke about their students and why they were chosen for the award.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Vianny Espinal - Spoke about school uniforms. As a mom of three kids, a uniform would be beneficial. Every year there are free tax days in Connecticut. Even with those days, she spends over \$200 on clothing. Buying clothes for her children is very expensive. She had to quit her job due to a family illness and her family only has her husband's income to rely on. Mrs. Espinal has to buy clothes twice a year (spring/summer, winter/fall) for her school aged children. If there was a uniform, they only have to have to purchase two sets. There would be no issues with matching clothes, deciding what outfit to wear or having "cool" clothes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - R. Chaleski moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 19-76 through 19-80.

MINUTES

5/8/19 Policy Committee Meeting

5/8/19 Board Meeting

5/15/19 Policy Committee Meeting

5/15/19 Finance Committee

5/15/19 Sites & Facilities Committee

K. Conetta requested an amendment to the 5/15/19 Finance Committee minutes. She was not in attendance as reflected in the minutes.

Motion passed at 7:20 pm

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS Executive Board of Governors: Gabrielle D'Ostilio

- Junior prom took on the theme of “Starry Night” on April 26th at the Portuguese Cultural Center. Senior prom is this Friday, May 24th at the Amber Room, and will take on the unique theme of “Ice Ball.”
- Graduation is set for Wednesday, June 19th at 5pm. The last day for Seniors is June 11th, and the Senior trip to Six Flags, New Jersey takes place on June 12th. The rest of the school year will be utilized for graduation rehearsals.
- Yearbooks were distributed. Students of all grade levels received their books during Flex period.
- International Night took place at DHS on Friday, May 17th. There were songs performed in other languages, traditional dances from people of many ethnic backgrounds, and much more.
- The Celebration of Danbury Arts, or CoDA, took place on May 11th with performances, artwork, food, and fun for people of all ages.
- The National Honor Society Spring Induction Ceremony for new members will take place on May 23rd at 7pm. The Juniors being inducted were selected for their outstanding achievement in academics and community service.
- 50 new members were inducted into Mu Alpha Theta, the Danbury High School Math Honor Society, on May 21st. The ceremony took place in the new Black Box Theater.
- The Little Hatters preschool “Class of 2032” had their graduation on May 22nd.
- The Danbury Girls Track & Field Team were named the 2019 FCIAC champions.
- Grace Lange and Micah Chen were honored as scholar athletes in Southington on May 5th. Grace will attend Boston University, while Micah will attend Cornell.
- The boy’s lacrosse team finished their season with a 10-6 win over Bethel.
- Danbury’s Derrick Rivers received a Ruden Report “Player of the Week” reward on May 9th.
- The boys’ volleyball team will compete in the FCIAC semifinals on May 22nd, 7 pm at Staples.

ACTION ITEMS

A. April 2019 –Operating Results Analysis (General Fund/Grants/Projects)

MOTION: R. Chaleski moved, seconded by J. Britton that the Board of Education accept the April 2019 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund/Grant/Projects).

J. Martino stated that he has been in contact with the City regarding the DPS budget issues this year. He feels they will be ok, but it has been more challenging than he would like.

Motion passed at 7:22 pm

B. New Policies

MOTION: R. Chaleski moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa that the Board of Education accept for 2nd reading and adoption the following policies, as contained in the agenda

0521:	Mission, Goals, Objectives: Nondiscrimination
4118.11/4218.11	Personnel, Certified/Non-Certified: Nondiscrimination
4212.42:	Personnel, Non-Certified: Drug & Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers
4112.52/4212.52:	Personnel, Certified/Non-Certified: Security Check/Fingerprinting
3542.22:	Business/Non-Instructional Operations: Food Service Personnel-Code of Conduct

R. Jannelli abstained.

Motion passed at 7:24 pm

MOTION: R. Chaleski moved, seconded by A. Spallino that the Board of Education accept for 1st reading the following policies, as contained in the agenda:

3542.43	Business/Non-instructional Operations: Food Service Charging Policy
6172:	Instruction: Alternative Education Programs
6171:	Instruction: Special Education
6164.11:	Instruction: Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol
6172.4:	Instruction: Parent & Family Engagement Policy for Title 1 Students
6161.3:	Instruction: Comparability of Services
6164.12:	Instruction: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
5145.14:	Students: On-Campus Recruitment
5125.11:	Students: Health/Medical Records
5145.511:	Students: Exploitation; Sexual Harassment

R. Jannelli abstained.
Motion passed at 7:24 pm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Danbury Day, May 9th

Dr. Pascarella felt the event was a great gathering and successful. They recognized Schools of Distinction, spoke about laws, DECO and Mayor Boughton spoke.

CoDA Festival, May 11th

- Dr. Pascarella and several Board members were in attendance. Dr. Pascarella stated it was probably the best he has seen. The event was able to be set up the evening before. Some years ago, CoDA started because the arts weren't really prominent and known as much as athletics were. This year the new Black Box Theater was used.
- R. Pietrafesa stated that he was at the event selling ice cream. It was amazing to see all the teachers and student volunteers who were there and passionate about their arts. The Modern Rock Band program was surprisingly wonderful. They sounded like the radio was playing. Kudos to those who put in so much time to make it happen. There was such a sense of pride for the district.
- E. Palmares stated that the event was much more like a family friendly event and there was a lot of room to move around. The DHS culinary program was selling food. E. Palmares gave the suggestion to market it as a family friendly event next year. One could easily spend the whole day there with music, activities and food. The level of the art program at DHS has year after year increased. Some of the work she saw from the Seniors was incredible.
- Dr. Pascarella stated that Ms. Rachelle Wade is going to frame some of the art from the event and display it at BBAC.
- A.Spallino stated that the caliber of work was just incredible. There was so much of it and the fact that they put it all up in one night was amazing. The Band students also showcased the new band uniform and they were really cool and futuristic.

DSABC Annual Scholarship & Awards Breakfast, May 16

- Dr. Pascarella stated that the Danbury Schools and Business Collaboration will now be called Danbury Students and Business Connection.
- The breakfast was well attended, and they recognized a number of members. One has mentored for 25 years.

- K. Conetta stated that a former student who is now an author returned to speak about his experience of having a mentor. The mentor program really made a difference and changed his focus.
- There are 176 mentors in the program.

DISCUSSION

Budget & Legislative Updates

- J. Martino stated that the Finance Committee met last week. A rough outline of cuts to go through were placed in the Board packets.
- Some new initiatives will be dialed back. Math Coaches, Art, Music and PE.
- Enrollment numbers that are coming out of the schools are very large.
- Mill Ridge Primary, King Street Intermediate and Park Ave numbers are very high.
- The bill regarding styrofoam trays is half dead, half alive.
- Hasn't heard any more on the bill regarding school safety.
- No movement on bill regarding graduation requirements.
- J. Martino is looking into transportation. Dr. Pascarella's worries are that class sizes are going to be higher than usual.
- J. Martino feels that we should have an answer from Legislation on the budget by June 1, 2019.
- E. Palmares spoke about the styrofoam tray bill. She believes that the bill went through for the restaurant industry, but schools were exempt.
- J. Martino stated that the district will pursue the exploration of biodegradable trays for cost and waste efficiency.
- The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a non-pricing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas. CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications. WSMSA, DHS and AIS are not eligible. Remaining schools will have the program.

Facilities Update

- Dr. Pascarella stated that the district is exploring the possibility of creating a middle school on the King Street campus.
- Estimate was \$50 to \$60 million with a 64% reimbursement.
- Two story building with 700 to 750 student capacity. Would go where the current two baseball fields are located.
- The district would vacate the current WSMSA building and make it an additional elementary school. WSMSA would relocate to the new King Street Campus.
- This will be discussed at a Sites and Facilities meeting.
- Have explored all of our open space and this seems to be the only solution possible.
- A Sites and Facilities meeting was decided for June 12th at 5:30 pm. J. Martino will ask architect to join the meeting.

INFORMATION

Sodexo Food Service Agreement

- The district has a five-year agreement, and this is the standard contract extension agreement for the summer.
- E. Palmares asked when entire contract is up. J. Martino stated the following year.
- New bid for Sodexo will need to be done for 2021.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Memorial Day Parade

Ms. Debbie Warner will send an email with the information on where to meet and the time to the Board. Typical meeting area is behind the Kennedy Avenue apartments.

2019-2020 Board Meeting Dates

Included in Board packet for review.

E. Palmares noted that the November 26th is very close to Thanksgiving.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

- A.Spallino asked the Board if the Board Retreat could be held on September 7, 2019 from 12 to 4pm. Several members of the Board stated that is the same day as the Taste of Danbury. A. Spallino asked the Board to check their calendars to see if September 14, 2019 from 9am to 1pm will work.
- Superintendent Evaluation meeting has been changed from May 28th to June 4th at 6pm.
- A.Spallino will send Board members self-evaluation in June. Board was asked to complete evaluation so they can be ready for the retreat.
- G. Cooper is concerned with safety in the South Street School vicinity. There is no crossing guard present at 2:30 pm and she would like to know why. J. Martino stated that the crossing guards are covered by the City. It's a dangerous area and she has witnessed two children almost get hit. J. Martino stated that the middle crosswalk is the problem and the City has done a study on that. He will follow up with the head of traffic for the City of Danbury. G. Cooper suggested a flashing light similar to the crosswalks at WCSU. Dr. Pascarella agreed and said the district should push for that. R. Chaleski asked to keep the Principal of South Street in mind before changing crosswalks or getting rid of walkways.
- G. Cooper stated that all Board members will be receiving a package from the Superintendent Evaluation Committee. Requested all to read it so they are prepared for the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

G. Cooper moved, seconded by R. Pietrafesa that the Board of Education adjourns its Meeting of May 22, 2019 and the meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Gladys Cooper, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)